



County of Monterey

Item No.85

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: ORD 25-017

December 09, 2025

Introduced: 10/31/2025

Current Status: Public Works, Facilities &
Parks - Consent

Version: 1

Matter Type: Ordinance

Adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 14.12 of the Monterey County Code to update the definitions of “bicycle” and “electric bicycle”, to add language permitting the use of electronic bicycles in the same manner and locations as traditional bicycles, and to add language concerning which type of trail users must yield to other trails users within County Parks.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 14.12 of the Monterey County Code to update the definitions of “bicycle” and “electric bicycle”, to add language permitting the use of electronic bicycles in the same manner and locations as traditional bicycles, and to add language concerning which type of trail users must yield to other trails users within County Parks.

SUMMARY:

The ordinance to Chapter 14.12 of the Monterey County Code will update the definitions of “bicycle” and “electric bicycle”, to add language permitting the use of electronic bicycles in the same manner and locations as traditional bicycles, and to add language concerning which type of trail users must yield to other trails users within County Parks. This is consistent with the California Vehicle Code.

DISCUSSION:

On December 2, 2021, the County of Monterey Parks Commission (Commission) received a comprehensive informational report regarding the use of electric bicycles within various jurisdictional boundaries including the County of Monterey.

On December 1, 2022, an Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) was formed to research e-bikes and meet with local community members regarding the use of e-bikes in County parks. The newly formed Committee consisted of Commissioners Getzelman, Sanchez and Stracke.

On July 2023, the Commission released a County-wide survey to gather information regarding a possible update to the ordinance for e-bike use within County parks which was posted on social media platforms, advertised in local media, and distributed to user groups previously involved with trail use at County parks. This survey was also distributed to specialty use groups such as the Monterey Offroad Cycling Association (MORCA), community members, park visitors, and County employees.

The survey results were presented between November 2023 through October 2024. The results showed the public was in favor of allowing e-bikes to be used in County parks. There were further

discussions between the Commissioners and staff regarding speed limits, trail etiquette and whether other electric transportation modalities should be allowed.

On October 2, 2025, the Commission considered and voted to move forward with the recommendation that Chapter 14.12 of the Monterey County Code be amended.

On November 18, 2025, the Board of Supervisors introduced and waived the first reading of the ordinance and advanced the ordinance for consideration of adoption at the meeting on December 9, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Department of Public Works, Facilities, and Parks - Parks Division conferred with the Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks, and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District regarding existing e-bike regulations. Comments were received from the Transportation Agency of Monterey County, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

FINANCING:

There is no fiscal impact with this item.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

This action will help users combine the benefits of active transportation with inclusivity. The electric motor will help riders cover greater distances, making e-bikes more suitable for a wider range of cyclists, including those individuals with disabilities.

- ☒ Well-Being and Quality of Life
- ☐ Sustainable Infrastructure for the Present and Future
- ☐ Safe and Resilient Communities
- ☐ Diverse and Thriving Economy

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Reviewed by: Bryan Flores, Chief of Parks

Approved by: Mike Whilden, Deputy County Counsel

Approved by: Kelly L. Donlon, Assistant County Counsel, x 5313

Approved by: Randell Ishii, MS, PE, TE, PTOE, Director of Public Works, Facilities, and Parks

Attachments:

Attachment A - Chapter 14.12 Electric Bicycle Ordinance Amendment (clean)

Attachment B - Chapter 14.12 Electric Bicycle Ordinance Amendment (redline)