

**From:** Carey Strombotne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:59 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Pilot trail project

Dear OC Parks Commissioners:

I've recently heard of a pilot project to re-district some trails in Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and/or Laguna Coast Wilderness Park for bikes only, bike uphill, and bike downhill. As an avid hiker who uses these trails regularly, I don't agree with penalizing hikers because mountain bike riders don't adhere to park rules. Prioritizing safety on the trails is a given for most, but it's not hikers who constantly disregard park rules, and ruin habitat. If anything, the bike riders should have more constrained re-districting of trail use, not hikers.

Recently while hiking we saw two park rangers placing grass over unauthorized downhill tracks made by mt. bikers, hoping to curtail more damage done to the habitat around the authorized trails.

Mountain bikers do not adhere to 10 mph speed limits, this alone creates unsafe conditions for hikers who share the trails, often leaving us to scramble off the trail, or risk injury. In order to prioritize safety, the speed limits must be enforced. Bikers ride off-trail and create new tracks that devastate habitat, they carve into existing trails that make it difficult for hikers to navigate.

Allowing E-bikes on wilderness trails would most certainly exacerbate each of these situations, habitat destruction, unsafe speeds leaving hikers at risk of injury, and existing trail destruction.

I urge commissioners not to allow E-bikes on wilderness trails, and not to employ this new pilot project, but to enforce rules that already exist. We need more rangers patrolling and enforcing park rules. But if it's decided that hikers and bikers should be kept separate, give hikers who are more likely to adhere to park rules and regulations more access, and bikers less.

Sincerely,

Carey Strombotne  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

**From:** Laurie Lairson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:20 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** NO E-BIKES ON OC PARKS TRAILS

PLEASE save us from E-Bikes on OC Park trails!!! They will ruin our parks and outdoor experience/hiking adventures in so many ways. They are a clear and present danger. NO E-BIKES!

Sincerely,

Laurie Lairson

[REDACTED] Costa Mesa, CA 92627

**From:** Beatriz Malvestio Roberts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:29 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** RE: No e-bikes on OC trails!!

OC Parks are ever more popular, and the addition of e-bikes will inevitably lead to conflicts between e-bikers and other users of the wildernesses, whose narrow trails are busy, especially on weekends, with families, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians looking for relaxation, exercise, peace and quiet in beautiful surroundings. The addition of e-bikes to this muscle-powered public will create tensions and conflicts, the very thing the park user is trying to get away from.

We do not oppose e-bikes as such, in fact, we very much support e-bikes as an alternate, fossil-fuel free means of transportation, and enjoy riding e-bikes on designated, paved bike trails. **But they have no place on wilderness trails of OC Parks.** Please make sure they stay this way.

Thank you!!

•

**Beatriz Malvestio Roberts**  
[REDACTED]  
**Dana Point, CA**

**From:** Bob Hansen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 2:49 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E BIKES

Please get e bikes out of our parks.  
They are illegal.  
Bob Hansen  
Mission Viejo

**From:** pjpurdy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 4:33 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes in our wilderness parks

E-bikes should not be allowed in our wilderness parks. They can go too fast, they are too heavy, and would create great injury to a hiker if they hit one. They would also, with their greater weight create more damage to the trails. Please do not approve e-bikes in our Orange County wilderness parks.

Patricia Purdy  
[REDACTED]  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691  
[REDACTED]  
Orange County resident

**From:** Norman Lacourciere [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:55 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** No E-bikes

I think that E -bikes should not be allowed on OC Parks trails as they can be a hazard to hikers and walkers who use the trails,

Norman Lacourciere

[REDACTED] Costa Mesa, CA 92627 [REDACTED]

**From:** Mary Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 11:39 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes

To the OC Parks Commission,

These are stressful and challenging times! We need to protect our wilderness trails so they can always be a place where people can find some peace and relaxation.

**Please don't allow e-bikes on our wilderness trails in OC Parks.** E-bikes will not only be a safety hazard, but they will definitely destroy the peaceful atmosphere and beauty of the trails.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mary Allen  
Laguna Woods, CA

**From:** Warren Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:12 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** No e-bikes on OC trails, please!

E-bikes are a hazard on trails. As an avid hiker, I've already had a few too many close calls on our trails with e-bikes. Thanks to the risk of being hit by one, I now feel vulnerable to injury while hiking... something I've never had to be concerned about until last summer. These machines are not only way too fast for narrow, twisting trails with poor visibility, they are heavy. Having one crash into a hiker -- especially a child -- could result in serious injury, or worse.

Because e-bikes can climb steep hills with ease, we are now seeing them on trails that have been inaccessible to traditional bikes. If they are made legal on wilderness trails, they will likely become ubiquitous. That will ruin the wilderness experience for everyone but their riders. That can't be right, and it's surely not what our trails were intended for.

Please keep e-bikes illegal on our trails, and start actively enforcing that law.



**From:** William Brackett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:06 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Please oppose E-bikes In OC Parks

**From:** Philip Fraser [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:09 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E bikes

E BIKES ARE MOTORIZED VEHICLES AND, AS SUCH, HAVE NO PLACE IN ANY NATURE PRESERVE OR WILDERNESS.....WHETHER THEY BE CITY, COUNTY, STATE OR FEDERALLY MANAGED!!!

PLEASE PROHIBIT THEIR USE!!!

Thanks, Phil Fraser, [REDACTED], San Juan Capistrano, CA. 92693... [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Teri White <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:40 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E bikes on wilderness trails

Please ban and enforce all evoked off OC parks wilderness trails. They can possibly cause fires and are very dangerous to hikers, horses and other bikers. They are bad for our wilderness.

Teri Joens-White

**From:** Rolf Neuschaefter <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:43 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Ebikes

I urge the OC Board to restrict ebikes from all OC trails. Hikers already have to contend with dirt bikes on pedestrian trails but ebikes travel at much higher speed and weigh more than two times most dirt bikes.

Ebikes should only be permitted on paved bike paths and prohibited on sidewalks and dirt trails.

Rolf Neuschaefter

[REDACTED]

Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

[REDACTED]

**From:** Fred Marsh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:43 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E Bike Vote

No E Bikes in OC Parks. Riders should use their own God given muscles  
Fred Marsh

There is no **PLANET B**

**From:** Jamie Brown <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:47 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Please allow Class I ebikes

Please allow class I ebikes in OC Parks. There is an important difference between class I ebikes and all others. By design, class I ebikes cannot employ electric power unless the rider applies spinning muscle torque to the pedals. Motors also automatically cut out once the class I ebike reaches 20 mph. Class I ebikes, by design, cannot have a throttle which powers the ebike.

When deliberating the issues, please note that nearly all objections to ebike usage in OC Parks are no different than the challenges all bicycles create for Parks staff. Class I ebike riders as a group are neither more nor less respectful to fellow trail users than non-electrified bike riders.

James W. Brown  
North Tustin

**From:** Karen Garber <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:50 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Oppose e bikes on nature trails

Please prohibit use of e-bikes on dirt trails in our county parks. They disrupt the natural ecosystem , create more noise , and present a clear danger to pedestrians who have to dodge them constantly so they don't get injured. The bikes are fine for travel on paved roads outside the park and away from pedestrians.

**From:** Flo Carroll <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:53 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Ebikes

Having been a near victim of an ebike encounter on the trail from North Park to the San Clemente pier, I request that ebikes be banned from use on all trails in public parks. They do not follow 10 mph laws and they scare the heck out of me. They belong on streets along with cars and motor scooters.

Sincerely,  
Flo carroll (79 yr old daily walker)  
OC resident at Marea, Dana Point



**From:** Lynn Walsh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:04 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** e-bikes

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to voice my disapproval of any legalization of e-bikes in any wilderness parks or trails in Orange County. I frequently walk and cycle on the Aliso Creek Trail, as an example, and have recently seen a large increase in e-bike riders SPEEDING at very dangerous speeds on the trail and many of them also play LOUD MUSIC. This ruins the experience in nature for humans who are out to relax, rest and rejuvenate or who want to exercise in peace away from traffic. It is also unfair to wildlife. The speed is very concerning. I feel it's just a matter of time before somebody is hurt by one of these e-bikes on our trails or in our parks. The last thing I want if I go for a hike in nature is a e-bike speeding past me.

Please do not allow this. As it is, Orange County is a highly-populated area with much traffic, hustle and bustle. We need our natural areas in order to slow down, breathe, enjoy nature and peace and quiet. Please preserve what sanity we have left.

Thank you for your consideration of this.

Lynn Walsh  
Lake Forest, CA

**From:** Barbara Janeway <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:24 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Electric Bikes in Wilderness Parks

My husband and I would like to voice our opposition to the proposal to allow electric bikes on dirt trails in OC wilderness parks. As frequent campers and hikers at O'Neill Regional Park and hikers at others we are very concerned at the prospect of electric bikes on these trails for the following reasons:

1. Safety - we've already had near misses with regular bikes on trails - one can only imagine the threat to hikers with these faster bikes. The up and down nature of many trails contributes to an increase in potential accidents as visibility is extremely limited.
2. Environmental — electric bikes will further contribute to the erosion of trails and potentially the grounds around them.
3. Overall experience— we enjoy hiking at OC Parks for the peace and serenity of the surroundings. A few mountain bikes here and there are manageable as riders are experienced. Adding e-bikes opens the door to too many and possibly inexperienced riders on these trails that many are not equipped to handle.

There are many paved bike paths and roads available for electric bikes. Please don't add them to our dirt trails in our wilderness parks.

Thank you,  
Barbara & Don Janeway  
Residents of Placentia

**From:** Judy Cawley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:25 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** electric bikes in wilderness parks

I urge you NOT to allow these motorized bikes on wilderness walking trails. As a Senior who loves to walk in our wilderness areas, these heavier bikes will rut the trails, and make them uneven for our less-steady for walkers.

**From:** Patricia Jonk <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:27 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Opposition to e-bikes in OC Parks and wilderness areas

Hello, I am a hiker and oppose having e-bikes allowed in OC Parks. While regular bikes can pose their own danger to others on trails, as they often exceed 10 mph, especially on down slopes, having an e-bike could make an encounter deadly. The idea of getting out in the parks is to exercise and do that in relative safety, but e-bikes provide little exercise and would cause everyone to always be fearful. Please do not allow e-bikes on trails and parks in OC. Thanks, Patricia Jonk, Irvine

**From:** Dee <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:38 AM

**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>

**Subject:** E Bikes

Hello,

I am writing about bikes in our wilderness parks and areas. Last week hiking in Laguna Canyon I was nearly taken out by one. They are dangerous due to the speeds, young people riding without full frontal lobe development and sharp turns where you cannot see them coming. I know they are an alternative form of transportation but please do not allow in our wilderness parks.

Thank you for considering.

Respectfully,

Dee and Jim Perry

**From:** Lexington Kalvi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:42 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes

Please please please do NOT let e-bikes on the trails. There are unsafe for walkers/hikers.

Thank you!

**From:** Lexington Kalvi <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:45 AM

**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>

**Subject:** No e-bikes

Please do NOT allow e-bikes on the OC Park trails. They are a danger to walker/hikers. Not to mention hard on the trails you have to maintain.

Thank you!

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:26 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes on our wilderness trails

I writing to express my concern of the increasing presence of E-bikes on trails. I am very opposed to the use of these motorized vehicles on trails where they are starting to show up.

As a frequent user of the local trails for hiking and mountain biking..these vehicles are becoming a common site. My concerns are as follows:

1. Safety issues for hikers and families with small children
2. The impact on the environment and the increased erosion and destruction of the trails.
3. Impact on the local wildlife and domestic animals like horses.
4. Increased chances of accidents and injuries requiring additional resources to be spent on enforcement and emergency response.

I am strongly opposed to the presence of any motorized recreational vehicle in these heavily used and environmental sensitive areas.

Sincerely  
David Johnson  
Mission Viejo Resident for 40 years



**From:** Liga Auzins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:26 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes

Dear Commissioner,

AS an avid hiker I see the destruction the bikes do to the park. Please, please designate them to paved areas only. You will have a beautiful open field and then you see the permanent cut path through it opening up the path to permanent erosion. Thank you.

Liga Auzins  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

**From:** Hauw Suwito <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:36 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** e-bikes in OC wilderness parks

Dear OC Parks Commission team,  
My name is Hauw Suwito, my wife and I use our wonderful trails regularly as a hiker and biker. We have noticed increasingly more motorized bicycles are also sharing the trails lately. Those e-bikes are heavier and faster than normal mountain biker that lead to trail damage and safety issues. We would like to see better enforcement to maintain enjoyable outdoor activities for majority of OC dwellers.  
Thank you for your attention.

Hauw Suwito  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Patricia Heilig [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:38 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-Bikes should be barred from the trails

Dear OC Parks Commission members,

If we can find anything to agree on I believe that's the value of escaping into nature to be restored and refreshed during this lock-down period. The peace and calm we need can be enjoyed on the trails, but not when concerned about bikes speeding from behind to disrupt and alarm hikers.

I'm speaking up to protect the trails from damage from the heavier e-bikes, and to ask you to find ways to stop their access to our open spaces.

I trust you to do your best to keep our natural assets safe.

Thank you for your work.  
Patricia Heilig

**From:** Yolanda Alvarez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:52 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Beautiful OC trails

Dear OC Commissioners,  
Our region has wonderful vistas and trails. The serenity is needed to calm the soul and help us carry on.  
We love to hike.

The trails are becoming hazardous, our family elderly find the ruts hard to navigate and twisting the ankle is a real possibility. God forbid an ankle breaks, we'd have to call for emergency rescue. Helicopter? Costly.

The smaller children also have to watch the steps in certain areas where it looks like cyclists or motor bikes have created cuts into the soil.

Motorcycles or some kind of motor bikes can be heard on the trails and disrupt the bird sounds and peace.

I fear if one comes at us on a downhill slope, there could be a terrible accident.

I thought such motorbikes were outlawed on hiking trails.

PLEASE ENFORCE SUCH RULES WITH HEFTY FINES.

We want avoid a tragedy with any of our families seeking healthy outings in our beautiful county.

This is really important.

Thank you.  
E. Czaban.

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:54 AM

**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>

**Subject:** E Bikes Wilderness Parks

Please block and prohibit E bikes in wilderness parks. It's dangerous enough with regular bikes and hikers on single track trails.

Thanks

Stephen

**From:** Judy Teverbaugh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:09 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes on the trails

Dear Parks Commissioners,

Please do not legalize e-bikes on our hiking trails. Regular bikes zooming by at unsafe speeds are bad enough. They pose a safety hazard and create degradation of our trails. Add the noise pollution and accessibility of e-bikes, and where can the rest of us safely hike and get away from it all?

Perhaps you could designate certain trails open to cyclists in areas vast enough to allow the rest of us to avoid those trails and still enjoy the wilderness. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Judy Teverbaugh

**From:** Thomas Wilson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:18 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** I am against E-bikes in OC Parks.

Dear Commission Members,

I enjoy the quiet trails of the OC park system as it currently exists with hiking trails predominating. I am against the proposal being considered to allow e-bikes in the parks and on the trails. They will create conflict not only between hikers, but just those out for a Sunday stroll. Often, the trails are narrow and I am sure it will be up to hikers to jump off the trail when a speeding e-bike comes suddenly around the turn or from behind. E-bikes defeat the entire purpose of a nice quiet stress free getaway that the parks promote, not to mention the entire point of actually exercising. Plus, many e-bikes will cause erosion and damage to trails and native flora...unforgiveable. So too, many e-bikes that I have heard are not soundless and are in fact noisy...so much for listening to the sounds of nature!

I wanted to express my opinion on this proposal and hope that you will strongly support those of us who use the parks as a quiet relaxing getaway, as well as a little sightseeing adventure including the native plants and animals (which will be scared by e-bikes) we sometimes see along the way.

Please do not allow e-bikes to destroy much of the ambience of our OC Parks by letting them gain access.

Sincerely,

Thomas Wilson  
Orange, CA

**From:** juan bernal <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:23 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** electric motorized bikes on trails

Please keep those things off our hiking/biking trails. They're a menace!



**From:** m c <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:30 AM

**To:** 20ocparkscommission@ocparks.com; OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>

**Subject:** Fw: E-bikes on trails are unsafe

I live in 92805 and ride trails regularly in OC & LA Counties. E-bike limitations should be enforced on hiking and biking trails. E-bikes are dangerous because they a disproportionately faster than anything else on the trail.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** m c <[REDACTED]>

**To:** "[20ocparkscommission@ocparks.com](mailto:20ocparkscommission@ocparks.com)" <[20ocparkscommission@ocparks.com](mailto:20ocparkscommission@ocparks.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021, 11:25:25 AM PST

**Subject:** E-bikes on trails are unsafe

E-bike limitations should be enforced on hiking and biking trails. E-bikes are dangerous because they a disproportionately faster than anything else on the trail.

**From:** Breanne Eagleson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:42 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** e-bikes in oc parks March 4 mtg

Dear OC Parks Commission,

I wanted to share my opinion as an OC Parks visitor and hope that you will take it into consideration for your March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. I would find it greatly disturbing for my own experience and for the state of our parks if e-bikes become legal on our wilderness trails. I think e-bikes are great, my husband and I are considering a pair to get to coastal cities nearby. But for the safety of hikers and equestrians and for the degradation of our trails and the potential to start fires, it would be unwise to legalize e-bikes on our wilderness trails.

Thank you for your time,

Bre Eagleson  
Laguna Niguel

**From:** Fred McGregor <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:45 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes in OC Wilderness Areas

I personally oppose authorizing e-bikes in our Orange County wilderness system. My reasoning is consistent with the views of Sierra Sage and Orange County groups as follows:

- **Safety Issues:** E-bikes can easily travel at speeds up to 29 mph, way over 10 mph, which remains the speed limit in all OC Parks. Weighing on average between 35 and 70 pounds, e-bikes are substantially heavier than non-motorized bicycles. This combination of weight plus speed could be severely damaging, if not deadly, in a surprise encounter between an e-bike and a walker/hiker/conventional biker (let alone the occasional horse!). In addition, most e-bikes use rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, which can pose catastrophic fire hazard if they fail.
- **Environment:** Due to their weight, e-bikes cause more trail damage, erosion, and degradation, requiring more costly trail repair. A [field study](#) of the International Mountain Biking Association showed that a “Class 1 eMTB (electric mountain trail bike) could allow users to approach the turn more quickly [than a traditional MTB] leading to greater soil movement upon breaking and/or simply the weight difference [of ca. 20 lbs].” The increased traffic brought by e-bikes will also put further stress on wildlife.
- **Conflicts:** OC Parks are ever more popular and the addition of e-bikes will inevitably lead to conflicts between e-bikers and other users of the wildernesses, whose narrow trails are busy, especially on weekends, with families, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians looking for relaxation, exercise, peace and quiet in beautiful surroundings. The addition of e-bikes to this muscle-powered public will create tensions and conflicts, the very thing the park user is trying to get away from.

Please deny any attempt by groups seeking to authorize e-bike usage in our wilderness areas.

Sincerely,  
Fred McGregor  
Dana Point resident

**From:** Laurence Lerner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:16 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Ebikes

As a senior (77) and ebike rider I feel ebikes should be allowed on public park trails where normal bikes are allowed. However the 10 mph limit must be enforced for all bike riders and they are not enforced. My efforts re same in Orange County have fallen on deaf ears. Larry Lerner

**From:** Diana Marder <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:13 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** ebikes

No ebikes on wilderness trails!!!

**From:** Phil Walker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:19 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** E-Bikes in Our Wilderness Parks

To whom it may concern,

After reading the overview from the local Sierra Club chapter, my wife and I are very concerned about the presence of e-bikes in ANY wilderness park! We frequent the local Orange County parks and have an annual pass so that we can go on hikes and take photos of the local wildlife. It's bad enough having mountain bikers coming down the hiking paths, but the prospect of having e-bikes zooming down AND UP at a high rate of speed is unfathomable!

I'm also an avid road cyclist who rides the bike trails in the county, and the e-bikes are a major cause for concern anyways. Many of the e-bike riders are inconsiderate, ride at excessive speed and ride on sidewalks and against traffic in the public areas. I understand that e-bikes can prove to be beneficial for those cyclists who have limited physical capacity to have some assistance while riding, but believe that most of the riders that I see on a given day are perfectly capable of riding a human-powered bike.

Specifically, I want to share my belief that ALL e-bikes be banned from wilderness parks altogether. Besides the danger of sharing hiking trails with an inordinate number of inconsiderate riders, the noise generated from these bikes will ruin the experience of having peace and enjoying nature as well as the negative effect on local wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Phil

Phil Walker  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Mel Herlin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:23 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-BIKES in parks

I strongly disagree with banning E-Bikes from trails in wilderness parks and wild lands in general.

I am a backpacker, kayaker, rafter, 4X4 off-road car camper, dirt biker, mountain biker, and now E-Biker. I am also 74 years old with a pacemaker.

E-Bikes make it possible for me to still enjoy our wild and scenic trails more fully.

1. Speed: E-Bikes only have the speed advantage going up hill. Down hill, or on the flat, standard mountain bikes are much the same hazard.
2. Damage to trails: Bikes do damage trails more than hikers, but horses do more damage than bikes.
3. Hazards to others: Collisions with others is more a behavior factor than whether you are walking, horse riding, mountain biking, or E-Biking. Respect for others is the real issue, not what you are riding. We have multi-use trails everywhere. There is no good reason not to have them in wilderness areas as well.
4. Horses, in size, weight, speed, and damage to trails are a greater threat than E-Bikes, yet we have no real issues with horses in the wilds.

Issues like this are more about narrow group self interests than real threats. Each group wants it all for themselves. It too often comes down to which group has the greatest political clout, rather than intelligent management. We need to share, respect, and be more tolerant. Let's focus on access for all, and mitigate abuses by the few that don't share with, respect, and tolerate others. Our national lands belong to all of us, and should be accessible to as many as possible, even old adventurers like me.

Thank you.

Mel Herlin  
Sierra Club Member  
NRDC and many other wilderness organizations supporter.

**From:** Mary Ann Gaido <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:43 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E Bikes

I oppose the authorization of electric bikes on County Parks trails. E bikes play an important role in addressing climate change, and should be supported as a form of transportation or recreational sport. However they are dangerous on the trails!  
Thank you.

MaryAnnGaido  
[REDACTED]  
Irvine, CA 92603



**From:** mike sloan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:47 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes on wilderness trails?

I understand that you will take up this issue at your March 4th meeting, and I urge to continue the present policy of barring them from our wilderness trails. Fossil fuel - free modes of transport, e-bikes are a big help in caring for our environment, yet they are exceeding dangerous when used on trails, as some are - illegally now. With top speeds approaching 30 miles an hour and weighing as much as 70 pounds, they are obviously a threat to hikers, riders on horseback, and conventional mountain bikers. They also pose a significant risk for their riders, given that if legalized, many novices will try them out on unfamiliar and rugged terrain.

I hope you will vote to continue the ban of e-bikes for wilderness trails. They are great on our city streets, but have no place in the wilderness.

Thanks so much for reading this.

Respectfully,

Michael D. Sloan  
[REDACTED]  
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

**From:** David D <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:11 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes on trails

Good afternoon,

We all know the hazards of having motorized bikes on trails. Please keep our trails foot or pedal power only. I ride my bike at the beach and have several instances where e-bikes come racing by me at high speeds, it's a growing problem that needs to be addressed.

Thank you,  
David Delprato

**From:** Jeff Peiffer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Please don't allow ebikes in wilderness parks

I recommend that ebikes are NOT allowed in O.C. Wilderness Parks. They travel too fast and weigh more than a regular bike (resulting in more injuries when they collide with hikers, etc.).

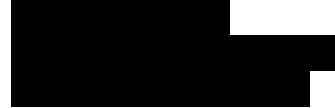
I use Whiting Ranch Park and the mix of regular bikers and hikers is already a challenge.

Thank you,  
Jeff Peiffer  
Lake Forest

**From:** Guy Kirkpatrick <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:46 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** No ebikes!

Motorized vehicles of ALL TYPES NEED TO BE BANNED from parks. Electric is no different than gas...it's a motorized vehicle. No.

Guy L. Kirkpatrick  
Anaheim Hills, CA



Sent from my iPhone

**From:** bob tran <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:01 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Regarding the proposal to allow e-bikes on County trails.

Hello, I am an avid user of the OC Park system trails. I frequent the Santiago Oaks and Aliso Woods parks for mountain biking and hiking. I ride a non-motorized mountain bike.

I am entirely against e-bikes on County trails and have seen the negative impacts to the trail system due to the proliferation of e-bikes. An e-bike is a motorized vehicle. The e-bike industry has tried to subvert trail systems which many years ago were established specifically for non-motorized recreation. The argument that e-bikes only provide pedal assist is not valid because the bikes can provide power to go uphill at speeds impossible by any person. A motorized vehicle that can go 28 mph uphill where other trail users are going 3-6 mph should not be treated the same way as other trail users.

I've witnessed and experienced in many occasions e-bike riders running myself or others off the trail without any warning. It is an easily observable fact that e-bike users have much less regard for other users because of the sheer power and capability offered by their motors. They treat other trail users as obstacles because they can go so much faster than others, and because they did not have to gain experience and fitness to access the trails, they often do not observe trail etiquette.

If e-bikes were simply pedal assisted bicycles offering additional support for people of disabilities, that would be a separate consideration. However, the e-bike industry has seen an opportunity to open up vast new markets by selling more powerful motorized vehicles to a class of people who largely have no desire to learn and earn trail experience alongside others. E-bikes are ridden by otherwise perfectly healthy individuals who want to go faster than others. It would be no different if cars traveling 200 mph were allowed on freeways.

There will be many arguments that people will make for allowing e-bikes on trails. Unfortunately, e-bike regulations were designed to allow e-bikes to safely share class 1 paved trails with other users. An e-bike speed governed for a class 1 paved trail should not be allowed on trails with mountain bikes, hikers, and horses. Simply put, the e-bikes on the market today we're not designed to operate safely with other users on unpaved trail systems.

**From:** Michael Schwager [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:01 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Ban electric bikes from all walking/hiking/bike/horse trails

Please act to not allow electric bikes on OC park trails, whether paved or unpaved. They are out of their place on these trails, not safe for other users, and not good for the health of many of the trail surfaces. Electric bikes are great for transportation and some kinds of recreation, but please keep them out of our Parks.

Thanks, Michael  
Michael Schwager  
[REDACTED]  
Irvine CA 92620 USA  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Charlotte Masarik <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:32 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes on our trails

I oppose Electric Bikes or any class of vehicle with a motor, including all classes of e-Bikes, which by definition have a motor, to be allowed on non-motorized trails including all our backcountry trails, Open Space and Wilderness Parks. Habitat protection and Public Safety are the issues. It is dangerous and an accident waiting to happen if you allow them and there is evidence that since they are equipped with lithium batteries they are a fire hazard, it only takes one accident for this to happen. Noise, pollution and safety are also main reasons why not. I am sure there are some asphalt trails that are wide enough to accommodate electric bikes, but we already have the degradation from the mountain bikes and this will add further to the destruction of our trails. There is a limit to the number of people who can safely and practically be on our Wilderness Trails and there will inevitably be breakdowns of e-bikes that will add to the Parks overload of rescue missions. There are lots of places e-bikes can travel throughout our communities other than our wilderness trails. PLEASE NO ON E-BIKES. Thank you,  
Charlotte Masarik

Charlotte Masarik



**From:** Rory Clarke <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 4:06 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Ebikes

OC Parks Commission,  
Good day, just wanted to comment on the issue of E-bikes being legal in wilderness parks

- **Safety Issues:** E-bikes can easily travel at speeds up to 29 mph, way over 10 mph, which remains the speed limit in all OC Parks. Weighing on average between 35 and 70 pounds, e-bikes are substantially heavier than non-motorized bicycles. This combination of weight plus speed could be severely damaging, if not deadly, in a surprise encounter between an e-bike and a walker/hiker/conventional biker (let alone the occasional horse!). In addition, most e-bikes use rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, which can pose catastrophic fire hazard if they fail.
- **Environment:** Due to their weight, e-bikes cause more trail damage, erosion, and degradation, requiring more costly trail repair. A [field study](#) of the International Mountain Biking Association showed that a “Class 1 eMTB (electric mountain trail bike) could allow users to approach the turn more quickly [than a traditional MTB] leading to greater soil movement upon breaking and/or simply the weight difference [of ca. 20 lbs].” The increased traffic brought by e-bikes will also put further stress on wildlife.
- **Conflicts:** OC Parks are ever more popular and the addition of e-bikes will inevitably lead to conflicts between e-bikers and other users of the wildernesses, whose narrow trails are busy, especially on weekends, with families, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians looking for relaxation, exercise, peace and quiet in beautiful surroundings. The addition of e-bikes to this muscle-powered public will create tensions and conflicts, the very thing the park user is trying to get away from.

Thank you for your time,  
Rory Clarke



**From:** David Chittenden <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 6:09 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Ebikes

Attention: This email originated from outside the County of Orange. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

NO ELECTRIC BIKES ON TRAILS IN PARKS!!!

DAVE CHITTENDEN

**From:** Don Hansen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 6:15 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** No E-bikes please

Please keep E-bikes off the OC park trails. It's already hazardous with speeding regular bicyclists, hikers, and horseback riders sharing the one-track trails. As a regular, longtime trail hiker, I've see the E-bike impacts. E-bikers go way too fast because they don't have to be pedaled and can cause environmental damage when they veer off the trails or create their own trails, because they can!!! Thank you.

Don Hansen  
[REDACTED]  
Anaheim Hills, CA 92807

**From:** Kathy Hanson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 6:30 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-books on trails

I understand you are now taking comments on a motion to consider allowing e-bikes on Orange County trails.

As a hiker, I strongly object to the possibility of allowing e-bike usage on our trails. It's bad enough to often need to leap off the trail to avoid mountain bikes, but the heavier, faster e-bikes are certain to cause more conflicts and injuries. While e-bikes have their place, that place should only be where motorized vehicles are already allowed.

Please do not allow their use on our trails, for sake of hikers, wildlife and trail maintenance.

Thank you for your considering.

- Kathy Hanson

**From:** Melanie Reilly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:03 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Please preserve hiking trails for non motorized bikes

E-bikes are great for roadways but dangerous on hiking trails. Please help preserve our natural resources by enforcing a prohibition on motorized bikes on trails.  
Sincerely

Melanie Reilly

**From:** Melissa Waters <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:00 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Ebikes On Backcountry Trails

Hello,

Please consider not allowing ebikes and other noisy and fast vehicles on trails that are located in the few wilderness and non-built up areas that remain! The wildlife and native plants needs a place to exist and people need places that are quiet and move at nature's pace so we can recharge. We have so few backcountry areas left when considering our population of 3.2 million people. Let's please value them and preserve them. Our children and grandchildren will thanks us as would so many other species, if they could speak. Thank you.

Stay safe and well,

Melissa Waters  
Laguna Niguel

**From:** Jonathan Light <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:20 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** No e-Bikes on Backcountry Trails

To OC Parks Commission,

As someone who enjoys hiking and bike riding, I have thoughts on both. Sometimes the two can be on the same trails (mountain biking comes to mind), but other times they should not. Specifically I don't want to see e-bikes on our backcountry hiking trails. E-bikes are great for roads, especially making hills so much easier to get up. However, they are too noisy and too fast to share back country trails. Besides making it less peaceful and enjoyable to hikers, they risk killing our vegetation and flora, as well as scaring our animals. We need to protect our environment and therefore I hope backcountry trails are left to foot traffic only.

Thank you.

**From:** Flora Camaj <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:24 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Ban ebikes on wilderness trails

We live in Orange County and enjoy riding e-bikes on paved bike trails. **But e-bikes have no place on wilderness trails of OC Parks.**

**They are dangerous to walkers, hikers and other bikers!** E-bikes can easily travel at speeds up to 29 mph, and are substantially heavier than regular bicycles. The weight plus speed combination could easily cause extreme injury or even death to a walker, hiker or conventional biker.

Plus, most E -bikes use lithium-ion batteries, which are a fire hazard if they fail.

Another factor to consider is that because of their weight and speed, e-bikes cause more trail damage, erosion, and degradation. This in turn requires more costly repair and over time may permanently degrade trails. Ebikes are not for our natural trails!

Please BAN e-bikes from all wilderness trails and fire roads.

Flora Camaj, Esq.

**From:** Cher <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:37 AM

**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>

**Subject:** Please vote "No" against ebikes on trails

Please, ebikes are heavy and unwieldy and more of a threat to hikers than are bikes and a fire hazard because of their lithium batteries.

Please keep these off our trails which are so hard to maintain already.

Thank you.

Cheryl Czyz

Laguna Beach resident



**From:** janine robinson [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:22 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Please ban dangerous ebikes in our parks!!!

As someone who has hiked the wilderness trails around our home in Laguna Beach for the last 25 years, I have had many scary encounters with mountain bikers almost crashing into me. And I have seen young children almost mowed down as well. I have never complained about them, even though I believe they have been the main reason our hills are carved up with eroding, illegal paths and their numbers and behavior are out of control.

Then add heavy ebikes, many ridden by people with little experience on trailriding or bikes. Not only will they continue to rip up our trails, but they could literally kill someone in a collision. Bikers need to slow down, not speed up. I can't even believe large, these heavy machines would ever be allowed on hiking paths. It's so dangerous and destructive and makes NO sense.

I know the parks face a lot of pressure from biking groups, but please take a stand for our wilderness parks and the safety of those who enjoy them for the nature and not the thrill of a theme park ride.

Thanks for all you to to keep our parks healthy and safe for all!!

Janine Robinson  
Laguna Beach

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:24 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** E-Bikes in OC Parks

Dear OC Parks Commission,

Simply put, please keep e-bikes off of the trails in Orange County parks. You have the power to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to take such action and to preserve our Orange County park resources for further generations. They have no place on the wilderness trails, and instead are a wonderful way to get around with less damage to our environment, just not on our trails.

Orange County did a disservice to the residents by giving up on the original Great Park vision and allowing Irvine to build more and more houses for their municipal income. Orange County could have had the equivalent of a Balboa Park in San Diego, or San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. This would have included museums, simple recreational areas,, and similar venues that would have lasted a lifetime for many. Instead, Orange County gave in to developers (routinely done) as I have observed as an Orange County resident for 42 years, and as a retired Orange County employee for 35 years.

Do the right thing regarding e-bikes. Their use will blossom as will their use on the trails if allowed.

Sincerely,

Corwin D. Brown

**From:** George Weiss [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:02 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes in County Parks

Please take action to prohibit the use of e-bike on County Trails.

Thanks,  
George Weiss  
City Council Member  
Laguna Beach, CA

**From:** David Brownstone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:08 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes in Wilderness parks

OC Parks Commission:

I am a frequent hiker in the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. I generally avoid hiking on weekends because of close calls with mountain bikers (most of whom are careful and courteous). I am very concerned that allowing E-bikes on these wilderness trails will lead to more dangerous encounters because of their higher speed and the fact that they are heavier and harder to stop and control. Their extra weight will also increase the damage done to trails by bikes. I would therefore urge you to not legalize E-bikes and also to step up enforcement of the existing ban since I have seen at least 3 E-bikes on trails during recent hikes.

David Brownstone  
[REDACTED], Irvine, CA 92617

**From:** H Meyers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:20 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes and OC Parks

I strongly urge you to keep in place a ban on e-bikes in Orange County Parks. It is already challenging, and often dangerous, to share trails among hikers and mountain bikers. E-bikes will compound the situation because they are heavier and can go even faster than conventional mountain bicycles. These characteristics mean that e-bikes also cause more damage to the trails, particularly by increasing erosion.

As a hiker who enjoys our OC Parks, it is already distressing to navigate the trails with conventional mountain bikes. Many times I have had to jump off the trail as a bike comes careening around a curve. I often avoid the so-called single track trails, though I would otherwise prefer them, because of the threat from mountain bikes. The danger posed by bikes on OC Parks trails will only be increased with e-bikes.

Please do not allow e-bikes on OC Park trails.

Thank you,  
Hildy Meyers  
Huntington Beach

**From:** E Lyd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:26 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** eBikes

I visit various OC Parks regularly (I buy an annual pass and have for years). While I enjoy my walks through the parks, I am often startled by bikers coming up behind me really fast and yelling "on your left". I must admit that startled like this, I usually take the wrong action and jump left. It seems that trail bikes have no brakes which is why walkers are required to jump aside. (I am 74 and probably don't jump as fast as I should, but still it would seem a reasonable courtesy for bikers to slow down rather than expect me to jump out of the way.)

But I am writing to ask that you please ban the even faster, heavier ebikes from using park trails. The idea of having someone overtake me from the rear at an even faster speed is truly scary and will make my walks unpleasant. There are miles and miles of bike paths that exclude walkers and can accommodate these street bikes. Even though the speed limit within OC Parks is 10 mph and, presumably, will not change, there is little or no enforcement for bikers.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Eva Lydick  
Laguna Woods

**From:** Greg Shaffer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:39 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Please say no to ebikes on OC Trails

Dear Commission,

I write as a concerned citizen. There is no place for motorized ebikes on our trail systems. I am an avid hiker and already some ebikes illegally zip by me. It is both dangerous and ruins the natural experience. Leave ebikes for the streets where they have a place; please keep our trails free of them. It is enough navigating regular, human powered mountain bikes while hiking; e-bikes will ruin the experience and eat up the trails.

Best regards

Greg Shaffer  
[REDACTED]  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

**From:** meg monahan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:53 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Opposition to e-bikes in the Wilderness Park

I oppose Electric Bikes or any class of vehicle with a motor, including all classes of e-Bikes, which by definition have a motor, to be allowed on non-motorized trails including all our backcountry trails, Open Space and Wilderness Parks. Habitat protection and Public Safety are the main issues. It is dangerous and an accident waiting to happen if you allow them and there is evidence that since they are equipped with lithium batteries they are a fire hazard. Noise and pollution are also reasons why not. I am sure there are some paved trails that are wide enough and flat enough to accommodate electric bikes, but our wilderness trails already have the degradation from the mountain bikes and if e-Bikes are permitted will add further to the destruction of our trails. There is a limit to the number of people who can safely and practically be on our Wilderness Trails and there will inevitably be breakdowns of e-Bikes that will add to the Parks overload of rescue missions. There are lots of places e-Bikes can travel throughout our communities other than our wilderness trails. PLEASE 'NO' ON E-BIKES in our OC Parks Wilderness Trails. Thank you, Meg Monahan, Laguna Beach resident



**From:** MICHAEL KOLEZAR <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:16 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E Bikes

Please keep E Bikes off our trails! Too many people without good biking skills are making it up hard climbs on there e bikes and then are going down single tracks to are well Beyond their skill level!  
Michael Kolezar

**From:** Carey Strombotne <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:21 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes on wilderness trails

Dear OC Parks Commissioners:

As you know, our OC Parks are being loved to death. The main concerns of allowing E-bikes in our wilderness trails, are safety, and degraded. habitat. There are already conflicts between hikers and bikes on the trails. Bike riders do not follow the 10mph speed limit, and often times, hikers have to scramble off trails to avoid getting hit. E-bikes are heavier, some weighing up to 50 lbs, and travel at higher rates of speed, which make sharing trails even more dangerous.

The ruts bikes create on the trails, and habitat destruction by bikes going off-trail is already out of hand. Allowing E-bikes on the wilderness trails will only exacerbate these issues.

Park usage is up, but have the number of rangers increased to assist, or monitor the parks and trails? Who polices people who disregard park rules and regulations, like the bike riders who don't follow speed limits?

Please do not allow E-bikes on the wilderness trails, and please, increase ranger presence, and enforce rules already in place.

Sincerely,

Carey Strombotne  
Laguna Beach, CA. 92651

**From:** Robin Bowen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes in our Parks

Please do not allow e-bikes in our public parks. They can go too fast on the trails and will be dangerous. Also, the sound of the motors ruins the serenity that is so valued while hiking.

Respectfully,  
Robin Bowen

**From:** EJ McConaughy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes in OC Parks

**As a long-term volunteer at Caspers Wilderness Park, I am opposed to allowing E-bikes on county park trails for the following reasons:**

- **Safety Issues:** E-bikes can easily travel at speeds up to 29 mph, way over 10 mph, which remains the speed limit in all OC Parks. Weighing on average between 35 and 70 pounds, e-bikes are substantially heavier than non-motorized bicycles. This combination of weight plus speed could be severely damaging, if not deadly, in a surprise encounter between an e-bike and a walker/hiker/conventional biker (let alone the occasional horse!). In addition, most e-bikes use rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, which can pose catastrophic fire hazard if they fail.
- **Environment:** Due to their weight, e-bikes cause more trail damage, erosion, and degradation, requiring more costly trail repair. A [field study](#) of the International Mountain Biking Association showed that a “Class 1 eMTB (electric mountain trail bike) could allow users to approach the turn more quickly [than a traditional MTB] leading to greater soil movement upon breaking and/or simply the weight difference [of ca. 20 lbs].” The increased traffic brought by e-bikes will also put further stress on wildlife.
- **Conflicts:** OC Parks are ever more popular and the addition of e-bikes will inevitably lead to conflicts between e-bikers and other users of the wildernesses, whose narrow trails are busy, especially on weekends, with families, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians looking for relaxation, exercise, peace and quiet in beautiful surroundings. The addition of e-bikes to this muscle-powered public will create tensions and conflicts, the very thing the park user is trying to get away from.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McConaughy

**From:** Alison King [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 2:47 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Please forbid E bikes in our county parks.

Please forbid e-bikes from the parks. They are a safety hazard for hikers and walkers. Furthermore they tear up the environment Thank you

Alison

**From:** Darrylin Girvin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 3:21 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E bikes in our backcountry trails

I write in opposition to allowing e-bikes on out back country trails in OC Parks.

1. There are safety issues between the regular trail bikes and those wishing to hike on our trails. If e-bikes are allowed this will be a hazard to those who are looking for a quiet space to commune with nature but instead hear a roaring e-bike coming up or down a trail and have to step aside into plants or brush thereby degrading the sides of our trails.

2. Environmental issues would be disruption of animals scurrying away from a loud bike on the trails. I thought wilderness trails were for hiking to see rabbits scurrying or pausing to look at us. Or to hear birds singing in the trees. Or to see a snake slithering by or some squirrels chattering. This would eliminate and disrupt our animal species life in the wilderness.

3. Conflicts between hikers, trail bikes equestrian riders are already in conflict on our Park trails. Please do not add e-bikers to this. There are plenty of bike trails all around us for them to use in Orange County we do not need to give away our sanctuary of peace and beauty to those who are going so fast they really don't care about it. They are just looking to go fast on a trail. This will promote more challenges for our Park Rangers as well when conflicts arise.

THEY HAVE NO PLACE IN OUT WILDERNESS!!!

Thank you,  
Darrylin and Tom Girvin  
Laguna Beach, Ca. 92651

**From:** Gary Cogorno [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 3:40 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OC Parks Commison meeting Mar 4th

I would like to attend in person or WebX format.  
Chuck Densford and myself attended meetings late and early 2019 & 2020 before they were suspended.  
I am in opposition to the ill-written Sierra Club notations published in a Feb 27,2021 News Wire.

We are In-Favor to allow Class 1 e-bikes to use OC Wilderness trails.  
These are my comments based on 6 years of ebike ownership, after 31 years of riding pedal mountain bikes in the OC wilderness areas.

Please let me know if this is the correct email address to receive the below info.

Thanks, Gary Cogorno

The Sierra Club rhetoric is the same as 4yrs ago after the Fed's mislabeled e-bikes as motorcycles.

[At the last OC meeting that I attended with Chuck from Rainbow Bike days, Feb 2020, the advisory board of OC Commissioners were set to approve a 1yr test program. Mainly because of overwhelming speakers who were convincing that none of the issues listed were true.](#)

29mph comment: Class 1 & 2 bikes are regulated to 20mph.  
Class 3 bikes are regulated to 28mph but are not trail oriented by design.  
Cali AB1096 states Class 1 & 2 bikes are legal to ride on dirt trails.

Li-Ion Battery's cause fires: if this type of battery is that dangerous, OC must ban the use of Cell Phones that use the same Li-Ion batteries.

Environment: Wider e-bike tires, 2.6-2.8, cause less damage than narrow tires, 2.2-2.35, associated with most pedal-type bikes.

E-bikes doing a corner turn faster than a pedal bike is 100% incorrect,  
I would like to see that study.

Increase traffic: is also a unproven statement as most, if not all, e-bike riders were previously pedal bike riders and do care for the OC Wilderness.

Conflicts: another unproven thoughtless statement. I have been riding an e-bike since 2014, and have never been accused of creating a conflict. Again, most e-bike riders have been pedal bike riders in the OC Wilderness since the 1980's & 90's. Interaction on a single track between an e-bike and pedal bike is no different from pre e-bike years, 1983-2013.

Final paragraph; this does not differentiate Class 1 off-road from 3 commuter bikes; very remedial composition. A class 1 e-bike is no different that a pedal bike when it is used on dirt roads and trails. And as we have seen in recent years pedal bikes operate at higher levels of speed on single tracks. On dirt

roads pedal bikes easily use speeds over 20mph wheas the goverened e-bikes are difficult to maintain a +20mph speed.

Thank you, Gary Cogorno



**From:** Jay Schneider <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:19 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** e-bikes at regional parks

Hello,

My name is Jay Schneider. I live in Anaheim. I am writing to express my opposition to permitting e-bikes on the trails of OC regional parks.

I have been hiking at the regional parks for years, especially Santiago Oaks and Whiting Ranch. I am a California Registered Geologist and have led geology-themed hikes for Meetup Groups and environmental groups at these and other parks. As it is, the mountain bikers at these parks are constantly going faster than the permitted 10 mph, and I have been close to being run over by speeding pikes while hiking on multiple occasions. It is my firm opinion tat allowing e-bikes will only make the safety situation worse there. I ask you, as an experienced OC hiker, not to allow e-bikes in OC regional parks. Thank you.

Jay Schneider  
Anaheim

**From:** Theresa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:10 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-Bikes on our Trails

I oppose Electric Bikes or any class of vehicle with a motor, including all classes of e-Bikes, which by definition have a motor, to be allowed on non-motorized trails including all our backcountry trails, Open Space and Wilderness Parks.

Habitat protection and Public Safety are the issues. Our wilderness trails are already packed with hikers and mountain bikes. If e-Bikes are permitted, it will add further to the destruction of our trails. There is a limit to the number of people who can SAFELY and practically be on our Wilderness Trails.

There are lots of places e-Bikes can travel throughout our communities other than our wilderness trails. PLEASE 'NO' ON E-BIKES in our OC Parks Wilderness Trails.  
Thank you, Theresa Cavanaugh

**From:** Janice Hayden <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:03 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes on OC trails

Dear OC Park Commissions,

I oppose having E-bikes on our trails. Although e-bikes have a place in our cities and towns they do not belong on our trails.

As a hiker, I fear the increased speed that is possible with an e-bike. As a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer, I fear the increased risk of fire posed by the lithium batteries on e-bikes. We cannot afford to increase fire risk on our trails.

Please do not approve E-bikes on the OC Parks Wilderness trails.

Sincerely,  
Janice Hayden  
[REDACTED]  
Laguna Beach, CA. 92651

**From** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:38 PM

**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>

**Subject:** Electric Bikes at Laguna Niguel Regional Park

Hello to whom it may concern,

I live in Laguna Niguel and frequently walk at the Laguna Niguel Regional Park.

It is my understanding that Electric bikes are not allowed at the park, but the last several times I have been there walking around the lake, I have had at least four of them roar up behind me or come at me at very high speeds. They are very dangerous and could have easily caused an accident... not to mention scaring me to death. I wanted to bring this to your attention to insure that something is done to stop people from driving these dangerous bikes at this park.

In addition, I oppose Electric Bikes or any class of vehicle with a motor to be allowed on any of our trails, Open Spaces and Wilderness Parks. They are truly a hazard to the habitat and to people that are walking or hiking these parks. PLEASE 'NO' ON E-BIKES in our OC Parks Wilderness Trails.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Padgalskas

**From:** Jean K Leitner [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:42 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Ebikes

These bikes shouldn't be in OC park trails. They are such a threat to animals and people.

**From:** Julie Donahue [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:49 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** No E-Bikes in Wilderness Parks

Please do not allow e-bikes in Wilderness Parks. E-bikes are faster and heavier than other bikes. Not only will they cause more trail damage, they pose significantly more safety risks to hikers and horseback riders who may unexpectedly encounter them on a narrow trail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Donahue, Laguna Hills

**From:** Gary Cogorno [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 9:28 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** News Wire - March '21 Sierra Club petition to ban e-bikes in OC Wilderness

Good morning Councilmen,

The below Sierra Club 'News Wire' rhetoric is the same as 4yrs ago after the Fed's mislabeled e-bikes as motorcycles.

[At the last OC Commissioners meeting that I attended with Chuck from Rainbow Bike days, Jan-Feb 2020, the advisory board members were set to approve a 1yr test program. Mainly because of overwhelming speakers who were convincing that none of the below 'News Wire' issues listed were factual.](#)

29mph comment: Class 1 & 2 bikes are regulated to 20mph.  
Class 3 bikes are regulated to 28mph but are not trail oriented by design.  
Cali AB1096 states Class 1 & 2 bikes are legal to ride on dirt trails.

Li-Ion Battery's cause fires: if this type of battery is that dangerous, OC must ban the use of Cell Phones that use the same Li-Ion batteries.

Environment: Wider e-bike tires, 2.6-2.8, cause less damage than narrow tires, 2.2-2.35, associated with most pedal-type bikes.

E-bikes doing a corner turn faster than a pedal bike is 100% incorrect,  
I would like to see that study.

Increase traffic: is also a unproven statement as most, if not all e-bike riders, were previously pedal bike riders and do care for the OC Wilderness.

Conflicts: another unproven thoughtless statement. I have been riding an e-bike since 2014, and have never been accused of creating a conflict. Again, most e-bike riders have been pedal bike riders in the OC Wilderness since the 1980's & 90's.

Interaction on a single track between an e-bike and pedal bike is no different from pre e-bike years, 1983-2013.

Final paragraph: this does not differentiate Class 1 off-road from 3 commuter bikes; very remedial composition. A Class 1 e-bike is no different than a pedal bike when it is used on dirt roads and trails. And as we have seen in recent years pedal bikes operate at higher levels of speed on single tracks. On semi-level dirt roads pedal bikes easily attain speeds over 20mph whereas the governed e-bikes are difficult to maintain a +20mph speed.

If you choose to get involved in this matter I would hope I can help represent the Mountain Bike riding community of Laguna Beach and our surrounding wilderness.

One final bit of information, Mammoth Mountain along with several other resorts in Federal Wilderness Area's have been granted an easing of their lease terms to allow the use of class 1 e-assist mountain bikes. For the past 2 years both pedal and e-assist bikes have co-existed without special regulations.

Sincerely, Gary Cogorno  
Mountain Bike rider in the Laguna Wilderness since 1985

Ps: to learn more about the e-bike world wide community visit [embn.com](http://embn.com)



**From:** Yvonne Galvez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E BIKES IN OC PARKS AND ON DIRT ROADS - OPPOSE!!!

- **TO: OC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
- **RE: E BIKES IN OC PARKS AND ON DIRT ROADS - OPPOSE**
- **FR: Y GALVEZ**

**Hello, I am an avid hiker, and have already had a number of close calls in SO CO, specifically San Clemente, where E bike riders are just oblivious to be a good trail neighbor. They come upon you on the trail, with no advance warning, almost touching you as they go by, and they don't say a word. If hiking with animals (always leashed!) we all get jolted by the sudden approach. E bikes should really be classified as a moped type vehicle, administered by the DMV, and not allowed on trails. It's a motorized vehicle-period! What's next? Mini bikes allowed on trails? Pls help keep our trails peaceful and safe by not allowing E bikes on them.**

- **Safety Issues:** E-bikes can easily travel at speeds up to 29 mph, way over 10 mph, which remains the speed limit in all OC Parks. Weighing on average between 35 and 70 pounds, e-bikes are substantially heavier than non-motorized bicycles. This combination of weight plus speed could be severely damaging, if not deadly, in a surprise encounter between an e-bike and a walker/hiker/conventional biker (let alone the occasional horse!). In addition, most e-bikes use rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, which can pose catastrophic fire hazard if they fail.
- **Environment:** Due to their weight, e-bikes cause more trail damage, erosion, and degradation, requiring more costly trail repair. A [field study](#) of the International Mountain Biking Association showed that a "Class 1 eMTB (electric mountain trail bike) could allow users to approach the turn more quickly [than a traditional MTB] leading to greater soil movement upon breaking and/or simply the weight difference [of ca. 20 lbs]." The increased traffic brought by e-bikes will also put further stress on wildlife.
- **Conflicts:** OC Parks are ever more popular and the addition of e-bikes will inevitably lead to conflicts between e-bikers and other users of the wildernesses, whose narrow trails are busy, especially on weekends, with families, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians looking for relaxation, exercise, peace and quiet in beautiful surroundings. The addition of e-bikes to this muscle-powered public will create tensions and conflicts, the very thing the park user is trying to get away from.

i do not oppose e-bikes, in fact, we very much support e-bikes as an alternate, fossil-fuel free means of transportation, and enjoy riding e-bikes on designated, paved bike trails. **But they have no place on wilderness trails of OC Parks**

**Sincerely,  
Yvonne Galvez  
Mission Viejo**

**From:** adrienne thomas [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 10:17 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E bikes on trails

I oppose Electric Bikes or any class of vehicle with a motor, including all classes of e-Bikes, which by definition have a motor, to be allowed on non-motorized trails including all our backcountry trails, Open Space and Wilderness Parks. Habitat protection and Public Safety are the issues. It is dangerous and an accident waiting to happen if you allow them and there is evidence that since they are equipped with lithium batteries they are a fire hazard. Noise and pollution are also main reasons why not. I am sure there are some paved trails that are wide enough and flat enough to accommodate electric bikes, but our wilderness trails already have the degradation from the mountain bikes and if e-Bikes are permitted will add further to the destruction of our trails. There is a limit to the number of people who can safely and practically be on our Wilderness Trails and there will inevitably be breakdowns of e-Bikes that will add to the Parks overload of rescue missions. There are lots of places e-Bikes can travel throughout our communities other than our wilderness trails. PLEASE 'NO' ON E-BIKES in our OC Parks Wilderness Trails

We live near the Dartmoor fire road in Laguna & the damage to the hillside from just regular mountain biking is unbelievable - wide trails crisscross across the sides of the hill where there were none only a few years ago- ebikes will only hasten the degradation of the hill, plus the danger of fire is quite terrifying since we live on the edge of Boat Canyon which burned in 1993.

Please do not allow these ebikes on the wilderness trails!

Many thanks- Adrienne & Richard Thomas

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:26 AM  
**To:** ocparks <[ocparks@ocparks.com](mailto:ocparks@ocparks.com)>  
**Subject:** E-bikes in Wilderness

Dear Parks Commission,

Please do not make E-bikes legal on wilderness trails in OC Parks. Trails are already busy and narrow. I am concerned about safety, due to their excessive speed and weight, and I believe they will cause greater damage to the trails. I go to these trails to get away from noise and enjoy nature, be calm.

Please consider these factors and make these bikes illegal on these trails. They have plenty of opportunity to use paved trails, and can access the wilderness in other ways, including hiking or using a standard bike.

**Safety Issues:** E-bikes can easily travel at speeds up to 29 mph, way over 10 mph, which remains the speed limit in all OC Parks. Weighing on average between 35 and 70 pounds, e-bikes are substantially heavier than non-motorized bicycles. This combination of weight plus speed could be severely damaging, if not deadly, in a surprise encounter between an e-bike and a walker/hiker/conventional biker (let alone the occasional horse!). In addition, most e-bikes use rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, which can pose catastrophic fire hazard if they fail.

**Environment:** Due to their weight, e-bikes cause more trail damage, erosion, and degradation, requiring more costly trail repair. A field study of the International Mountain Biking Association showed that a "Class 1 eMTB (electric mountain trail bike) could allow users to approach the turn more quickly [than a traditional MTB] leading to greater soil movement upon breaking and/or simply the weight difference [of ca. 20 lbs]." The increased traffic brought by e-bikes will also put further stress on wildlife.

**Conflicts:** OC Parks are ever more popular and the addition of e-bikes will inevitably lead to conflicts between e-bikers and other users of the wildernesses, whose narrow trails are busy, especially on weekends, with families, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians looking for relaxation, exercise, peace and quiet in beautiful surroundings. The addition of e-bikes to this muscle-powered public will create tensions and conflicts, the very thing the park user is trying to get away from.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Susan Weber  
Cypress, CA

**From** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 11:31 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Ebikes in Wilderness Parks

Dear Commissioners

I have lived in OC and have enjoyed our Wilderness Parks for almost 30 years.

Recently while walking the Aliso Wood Wilderness Park (starting at the rear entrance -Canyon Vistas Park)

I was startled when 3 ebike riders went by at high speed and noisy. Fortunately, there was room on the canyon trail for them to pass safely. A little up trail because of a large pool of water, it would have been either them or Me. I probably would have had to throw myself in the brush to avoid getting hit.

I love the wilderness parks because they are away from the hustle/bustle of everyday life. Hikers and manual bikers have respect for each other and share the trails. But ebikes are a different animal. The noise and the speed are different.

If you allow ebikes, what will come next? some faster, noisier, more frightening vehicle?  
Not only do ebikes create a safety hazard to hikers and manual bikers, they also contribute to trail damage.

I urge you at your upcoming meeting to decide that ebikes are not allowed in OC Wilderness parks.

Sincerely,  
Merri Levy  
Laguna Niguel

**From:** Bob Parzick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 12:43 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit eBikes on Local Dirt Trails

Good Afternoon:

I am an avid mountain biker and runner and for the last 15 years have regularly enjoyed the trails of El Moro/Crystal Cove and Aliso Viejo. Although it is hard to divorce the significant increase in "traffic" in the parks from people's desire to get out of the house during the pandemic, it seems that there has been a huge increase in eBikes at El Moro. The large increase in eBike traffic has seemingly:

1. Put significant pressure and wear on the single tracks and some of the fire roads
2. Increased the speed of traffic not just downhill, but uphill as well
3. Vastly increased the number of inexperienced riders on the trails
4. Based on #2 and #3 above, there has been a considerable breakdown in adhering to reasonable trail protocols when encountering hikers/runners and other riders
5. Also based on #2 and #3, more importantly it has become much more dangerous on the trails.

I ride with a bell and am reasonably aggressive, but have never come close to causing or getting into an accident -- knock on wood. However, I've had a few close calls with eBike riders passing me (going full throttle) on steep uphill and downhill around corners. I have also seen eBike riders helicoptered out after crashes more than a few times.

I assume that there is no debate about the potential danger and trail destruction that would result in allowing motorcycles on the trails of the state parks. Given the continued evolution of eBikes, the continuum will get even further blurred (take for example the Sur-Ron cycles which are a cross between a motorcycle and mountain bike) and make regulation in the future even more difficult.

As you have gathered, I am very supportive of enforcing the posted signs prohibiting eBikes at El Moro.

Sincerely,  
Bob Parzick

**From:** Greg Hurley [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 3:46 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: News Wire - March '21 Sierra Club petition to ban e-bikes in OC Wilderness

Dear Council members,

I live at [REDACTED] in Laguna Beach. I want to join in the concerns expressed below and express my support for treating class 1 & 2 eBikes as bikes on the trails. I also do not want to see the City and Parks embroiled in another ADA Title II lawsuit, because the policy and signage banning eBikes does not accommodate individuals with disabilities who use them as part of a fitness routine.

[Greg Hurley](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** Norman Powell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 4:54 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Electric Bikes On Hiking Trails

I oppose allowing E-Bikers ride around on the hiking trails in our parks. The bulk and weight of E-bikes would exacerbate the damage to trails now caused by ordinary bikes and increase the injuries and possible fatalities of hiker-biker collisions.

sincerely,

Norman Powell  
Laguna Beach



**From:** Len Gardner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 9:36 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes on trails in wilderness parks

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Parks Commission,

I am writing to strongly urge the Parks Commission to *not* allow e-bikes on multi-use trails in county wilderness parks.

These machines are capable of speeds of over 20 miles per hour and they are silent. That is literally a deadly combination.

Because of their silence, such vehicles can easily come upon a hiker, birder, photographer or equestrian before the non-biker has a chance to react and get out of the way.

The use of e-bikes on multi-use trails in wilderness parks is inherently unsafe, both to the biker and anyone who has the misfortune to be in their way.

If the Parks Commission allows such a dangerous use in wilderness parks, it will be exposing itself to a major *liability*. When an injury accident happens, as it inevitably will, the injured party, or their survivors if a death results, will have solid grounds to sue OC Parks. This would be a tragedy all around and the Commission must try to avoid it.

Aside from the safety and liability issues, e-bikes are an *incompatible* use with hiking, photography, birding, nature study or horseback riding on trails. Because of their greater size and speed, they are even incompatible with the use of muscle-powered bikes.

In addition, the use of these machines on trails is disruptive and disturbing to wildlife. Being heavier than ordinary mountain bikes, their use will also be more damaging to trails.

There may be a place for e-bikes on blacktop roads within a park, such as in campgrounds and picnic areas. But on multi-use trails in the backcountry? Absolutely not!

I offer these comments as someone who had the pleasure and privilege to serve as a backcountry docent in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and in Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park for ten years.

I led general purpose hikes, as well as birding walks and wildflower identification tours.

I led groups of all sizes and with all ages. It is frightening to think of a group of school children on a trail being come upon by e-bikes, or a group of seniors or people with some sort of physical disability in such an encounter. All these people should be able to enjoy our trails - those they are able to handle - without the danger and disturbance of encountering e-bikes.

In summary, there are many reasons to *not* allow e-bikes on multi-use trails in wilderness parks, and none for allowing them. Their use would clearly be *in conflict* with all the traditional uses. The safety issue raised by allowing them on trails is obvious and would expose OC Parks and the Parks Commission to serious liability issues.

Thank you,

Len Gardner  
Dana Point, CA 92629

**From:** Virginia Krapil <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 10:04 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes in the wilderness -- please vote no

Dear OCP,

I am writing to comment on your consideration of e-bikes accessing wilderness trails. My request is for an overwhelming NO vote. The reasons are the speed, weight and momentum of these bikes create a hazardous situation for hikers and mountain bikers.

I hike wilderness park trails every weekend. I've been a volunteer for IRC for more than 10 years. I coordinate employees where I work to volunteer at Peters Canyon Park and at IRC programs. I actively support our parks and wilderness.

Sharing the current trails with hikers and mountain bikers has a lot of challenges in itself and there has been a significant increase in traffic volume on the wilderness trails. See the attached photo of a baby skunk run over by a bike. There is a bike track across its body. This was on the Serrano ridge trail in the Laguna coast wilderness park on a very visible straight section of really wide trail. If a mountain biker who can more readily control his/her speed was unable to slow down for the baby skunk, how many more casualties will there be with the increase in speed and tire width of E-bikes? The speed capability of these bikes is out of line for other users and wildlife in the wilderness. The potential impact from a hiker/E-bike accident is potentially more serious but emergency medical attention on wilderness trails is less accessible.

I also walk along the paved Hicks Canyon bike trail in Irvine almost every day of the week as well. I am finding it increasingly dangerous to walk my dog with E-bikes and E-skateboards due to the speed at which these vehicles come upon us. Even without my dog, my husband and I find it more hazardous to walk on this bike trail as the riders are not even close to limiting their speed. They are supposed to be riding at 10mph or less on the bike trail. We rarely find that to be the case. There are accidents waiting to happen, and this is on a trail more favorable to accommodating E-bikes.

Please make a vote to keep the wilderness safe for hikers, mountain bikers, and the wildlife that inhabit the wilderness.

Sincerely,

Virginia Krapil

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 6:56 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Backcountry Rangers

I just finished hiking in the Laguna in Wilderness. I witnessed three people walking their dogs back there. I haven't seen a backcountry ranger patrolling the area in years. Please try to allocate some money for bicycle so that these Rangers can patrol in the back country and stop the dog walkers and the high-speed bikers.

Sent from my iPhone  
Stephen

**From:** Greg Rhoton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:24 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes

I am totally against e-bikes in our OC Wilderness Parks. Please outlaw them!--  
greg rhoton

**From:** Jim Bechtold <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:43 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** IN FAVOR OF E-BIKES ON OC WILDERNESS TRAILS

Hi,

I am in favor of using e-bikes to explore Orange County's Wilderness Trail System. I am 66 years old and fighting cancer. I love to trail ride, but am considering getting an e-bike to use in case I get out too far and need a "boost" back to the parking lot, or just want to explore with less effort.

Also, I cannot hike due to severe lumbar spinal stenosis.

Yeah, there was a time when I could run for miles and ride for even more miles, but those days are over.

Not everyone is a 30 year old hard body.

Thank-you,  
Jim Bechtold  
Placentia

**From:** Kathleen Bueso [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:09 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** NO E-Bikes

I just read this article saying that OC Parks was going to allow Electric Mountain Bikes on to the wilderness trails along with everyone else.

Do you guys have anything but greed in your brains???

These little wilderness areas will not stay as wilderness if you 'max fill' them with anything and everything that will pay a fee!!!!

Stop ruining our places of nature for more profit or salary raises to the big-wigs at that location.

This is stupid and extremely upsetting!!! Not every new money making idea is a good one for the long haul.

SAY NO TO E MOUNTAIN BIKES..... and don't break any rules!!!!

Thank you,  
Kathleen Bueso  
Westpark Irvine resident.

**From:** Roni S Lebauer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:46 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Opposition to ebikes in Open Space Wilderness Parks and backcountry trails

Dear OC Parks Commission members,

Although I appreciate the advent of E-bikes and the opportunities they provide riders (including myself), I oppose allowing E-bikes on any of our backcountry trails and in Open Space and Wilderness Parks. Habitat protection and public safety are the issues. As a hiker, I am already concerned about the potential for dangerous accidents (with pedestrians being especially vulnerable to mountain bikers since they are not wearing helmets or traveling at high speeds.) With the e-bikes' heavier weight, faster speed, and lithium battery (potentially a fire hazard), dangers to pedestrians and the environment are exacerbated.

I'm most concerned about backcountry trails, but there are paved fire roads which also, in my opinion, need to be off-limits. For example, I walk the heavily used fire road area in Laguna Beach between Arch Beach Heights and Top of the World regularly; there have been occasions where ebike riders have made walking this paved road particularly uncomfortable (noise) and potentially dangerous for pedestrians. Other motorized vehicles are prevented from using this fire road; this should apply to e-bikes as well.

Thank you,  
Roni Lebauer  
Laguna Beach



**From:** EVA HODJERA [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:09 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** No E-Bikes on our OC Parks Wilderness trails

I oppose Electric Bikes or any class of vehicle with a motor, including all classes of e-Bikes, which by definition have a motor, to be allowed on non-motorized trails including all our backcountry trails, Open Space and Wilderness Parks. Habitat protection and Public Safety are the issues. It is dangerous and an accident waiting to happen if you allow them and there is evidence that since they are equipped with lithium batteries they are a fire hazard. Noise and pollution are also main reasons why not. I am sure there are some paved trails that are wide enough and flat enough to accommodate electric bikes, but our wilderness trails already have the degradation from the mountain bikes and if e-Bikes are permitted will add further to the destruction of our trails. There is a limit to the number of people who can safely and practically be on our Wilderness Trails and there will inevitably be breakdowns of e-Bikes that will add to the Parks overload of rescue missions. There are lots of places e-Bikes can travel throughout our communities other than our wilderness trails. PLEASE 'NO' ON E-BIKES in our OC Parks Wilderness Trails.

Thank you,

Eva Hodjera

**From:** Tom Bowlus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:27 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** No e-bikes on OC wilderness trails

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a long term OC resident and an avid hiker and cyclist. I ride on streets, paved bicycle paths, and dirt wilderness trails.

E-bikes are a great alternative for transportation but they do not belong on wilderness trails. E-bikes are more like scooters (eg, Vespa) or motorcycles than traditional bikes. They are much too heavy and go way too fast on wilderness trails. When riding on a wilderness trail, I have been surprised and have only narrowly avoided accidents when e-bikes suddenly come around a corner. Some, not all, riders of e-bikes are very inconsiderate and behave as though they always have the right-of-way on trails. There are plenty of places for riders of e-bikes to ride other than on wilderness trails.

Please help preserve wilderness trails for future generations.

Thank you,  
Tom Bowlus

**From:** kathy roberts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:03 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** ebikes on trails

I hope that e-bikes are not approved for the dirt trails in OC. These bikes cause more erosion to the trails due to their weight. But my main concern is their speed. Now I am often pushed off the trails by bicycle riders moving too quickly along the trails. They certainly make the hikes less relaxing and enjoyable. I have witnessed surprise encounters with many riders and hikers that have almost caused collisions. I think this problem will be even worse if e-bikes are on the trails also since these bikes can reach faster speeds. Thank you for your consideration of this potential problem.

**From:** Sabrina & Ben [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:31 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** E-bikes on wilderness trails

Dear OC Parks Commission members,

I oppose the legalization of e-bikes on our backcountry wilderness trails and dirt roads. While e-bikes are a great option for personal mobility on designated roads and trails, I feel that they should not be allowed on the OC Parks wilderness trails.

My husband, kids and I are avid hikers, bikers, and runners in our backcountry trails. We love and appreciate our precious open space in the OC Parks, and believe that everyone can enjoy them. However, enjoying our open space does not necessarily mean riding e-bikes on all trails. Especially along steep, narrow dirt trails, such as on Mentally Sensitive or Meadow Trail near Moulton Meadows Park near our home, we have had to jump into dense brush (hoping not to step on a rattlesnake or other wildlife) to avoid an oncoming biker rounding a turn, who hadn't seen us ahead. E-bikes, with their increased speed and weight, could result in more frequent and serious collisions, especially for people who cannot move quickly to avoid an oncoming biker. Allowing e-bikes will cause the trails to become increasingly unsafe for those on foot or regular mountain bikes.

It's easy to distinguish between powered vs. non-powered vehicles, and thus upholding a ban on all e-bikes would make it easy to understand what is and isn't allowed on the trail. Allowing e-bikes opens the door to allowing motorized vehicles. That shift that will be difficult to reverse. As e-bikes inevitably evolve, it is unpredictable how much they may increase in power, speed, noise, and weigh. By allowing even certain classes of e-bikes, it may become difficult restrict e-bikes that are becoming more and more like small motorcycles.

I also oppose e-bikes on the trails because they would contribute to more rapid erosion on trails, and impact local wildlife. Furthermore, the noise of the bikes intrudes on the serenity that many people love when they're out on the trails.

Please do not legalize e-bikes on the OC Parks wilderness trails.

Thank you,

Sabrina Yeh  
Laguna Beach resident

**From:** Nick & Audrey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 11:21 AM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** Restricting of e bike use in the wilderness park

To the OC Parks Commission,

My name is Audrey Tomovich and I live in Mission Viejo. I am writing you because of my concerns about e-bikes being allowed in the Wilderness Parks on non-paved trails in Orange County. Since Covid 19 has shut a lot down in our county, my husband and I have been taking advantage of the nearby trails and bike paths in the area. I see all kinds of bicyclists on the paved trails and it is awesome.

When I have hiked in wilderness parks, such as Aliso and Woods Canyon, Whiting Ranch and parts of O'Neill Park, I have almost been hit by non e-bikes. The mountain bikers are one thing but an e-bike is much heavier and can do quite a bit more damage to the plant life, wildlife and people out hiking on the trail.

For that reason, I am asking you to limit e-bike use to only paved trails in the county park system. For the people who say what about the ADA and not allowing e-bikes on wilderness trails, I urge you to come up with a solution to please them as well.

Thank you for giving me a chance to voice my concerns.  
Sincerely,  
Audrey Tomovich  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Susan Long <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:39 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** ebikes on OC trails

Dear Parks Commission Members,

"I strongly urge you to keep in place a ban on e-bikes in Orange County Parks. It is already challenging, and often dangerous, to share trails among hikers and mountain bikers. E-bikes will compound the situation because they are heavier and can go even faster than conventional mountain bicycles. These characteristics mean that e-bikes also cause more damage to the trails, particularly by increasing erosion.

As a hiker who enjoys our OC Parks, it is already distressing to navigate the trails with conventional mountain bikes. Many times I have had to jump off the trail as a bike comes careening around a curve. I often avoid the so-called single track trails, though I would otherwise prefer them, because of the threat from mountain bikes. The danger posed by bikes on OC Parks trails will only be increased with e-bikes.

Please do not allow e-bikes on OC Park trails.

Thank you,  
Sue Long  
Huntington Beach

**From:** Hossein Sevvom <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 3:12 PM  
**To:** OC Parks, Commission <OCParksCommission@ocparks.com>  
**Subject:** e-bike on hiking trails

OC Parks,

I'm planning to attend your meeting tomorrow night in this regards but thought it is best to send an email in case I didn't get a chance to share my 2cents at this meeting. I'm an avid rider and hiker and have hiked most of the trails in South Orange County and have seen all the changes throughout the years. I'm opposing opening all the trails to e-bike riders for many reasons and would like to list a few of them.

1. If you open the trails to e-bikes, not long in the future a lot of dirt-bikes would be electric and they probably use this as precursor to also ride on these trails and we all know how much damage they can do to the landscape.
  2. E-bike allows more people to enjoy the trails who couldn't access it before because of the physical demand but at the same time creates much more traffic and danger to other riders and hikers due to lack of experience and speed.
  3. E-bike damages the trails due to high speed, makes the dirt loose and dangerous for hikers especially on downhill slopes. All and all e-bikes are detrimental to hiking trails and should be fully studied before making any decision on this subject.
- On a different note: Some of the single track hiking trails should be either prohibited to mountain bikers or at least require them to have an audible bell so hikers can hear them in advance to move out of the way. One good example this is Lynx trail in wood canyon. Mountain bikers fly down this hill and I personally have experienced few close call crashes. I'm not here to trash Mountain bikers because I ride mountain bike.

Regards,  
Hoss sevvom