

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

THURSDAY, July 11, 2024 — 6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Shawver and Members Ball, Browning, Webber, and Schoeck were present. Alternate Chair Jones and Member Martin were absent.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Subcommittee on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee and are not contained in tonight's agenda.

Jeff Currie proposed allowing Class I electric bicycles (e-bikes) on OC Parks' singletrack trails with an approval process.

Chris Murphy offered to engage with the Subcommittee and relevant stakeholders to explore changing regulations to allow Class I e-bikes in OC Parks. He suggested that a pilot project be implemented to determine the appropriateness of Class I e-bikes.

Mitch Baxter asked that Class I e-bikes be permitted in OC Parks to allow more people access to biking in the parks.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM A)

The following item will be approved by one motion unless a Subcommittee Member requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 11, 2024 MEETING

*Motion: Member Schoeck
2nd: Member Browning
Approved 5–0*

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR MATTERS (ITEMS A–B)

A. TRAILS AND MAPPING ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Staff will introduce the new Trails and Mapping Administrator for OC Parks.

Jeaniene Casiello, Executive Officer, introduced Antonio Valdes as the new OC Parks Trails and Mapping Administrator for OC Parks and answered the Members' questions.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Member Browning

2nd: Member Webber

Approved 5-0

B. NAMING OF GYPSUM CANYON WILDERNESS TRAILS AND OUTLOOK

The Subcommittee will review proposed names for the trails located at Gypsum Canyon Wilderness and vote on final trail names, based on responses gathered from public surveys and staff recommendations.

Justin Sikora, OC Parks Operations Manager, presented on the item and answered the Subcommittee Members' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Select names for five trails and one lookout at Gypsum Canyon Wilderness for recommendation to the Orange County Parks Commission for approval.

The Subcommittee Members unanimously selected Miner's Trail (Trail 1), Vaqueros Trail (Trail 2), Cooper's Hawk Trail (Trail 3), Prickly Pear Trail (Trail 4), Cactus Wren Trail (Trail 5), and Apex Overlook (Lookout) to recommend as names for five Gypsum Canyon Wilderness trails and one lookout to the Orange County Parks Commission.

Motion: Member Browning

2nd: Member Schoeck

Approved 5-0

V. SUBCOMMITTEE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Jeaniene Casiello, Executive Officer, spoke regarding the role and process of the Subcommittee, provided updates, and answered the Members' questions.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time, Subcommittee Members may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

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VII. ADJOURNMENT *7:03 P.M.*



Overview of Electric Bicycles in OC Parks

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee
October 10, 2024



Overview

BACKGROUND
REGULATIONS
ENFORCEMENT
CONCLUSION



BACKGROUND: What is an Electric Bicycle (e-bike)?

An electric bicycle is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts.

– California Department of Motor Vehicles

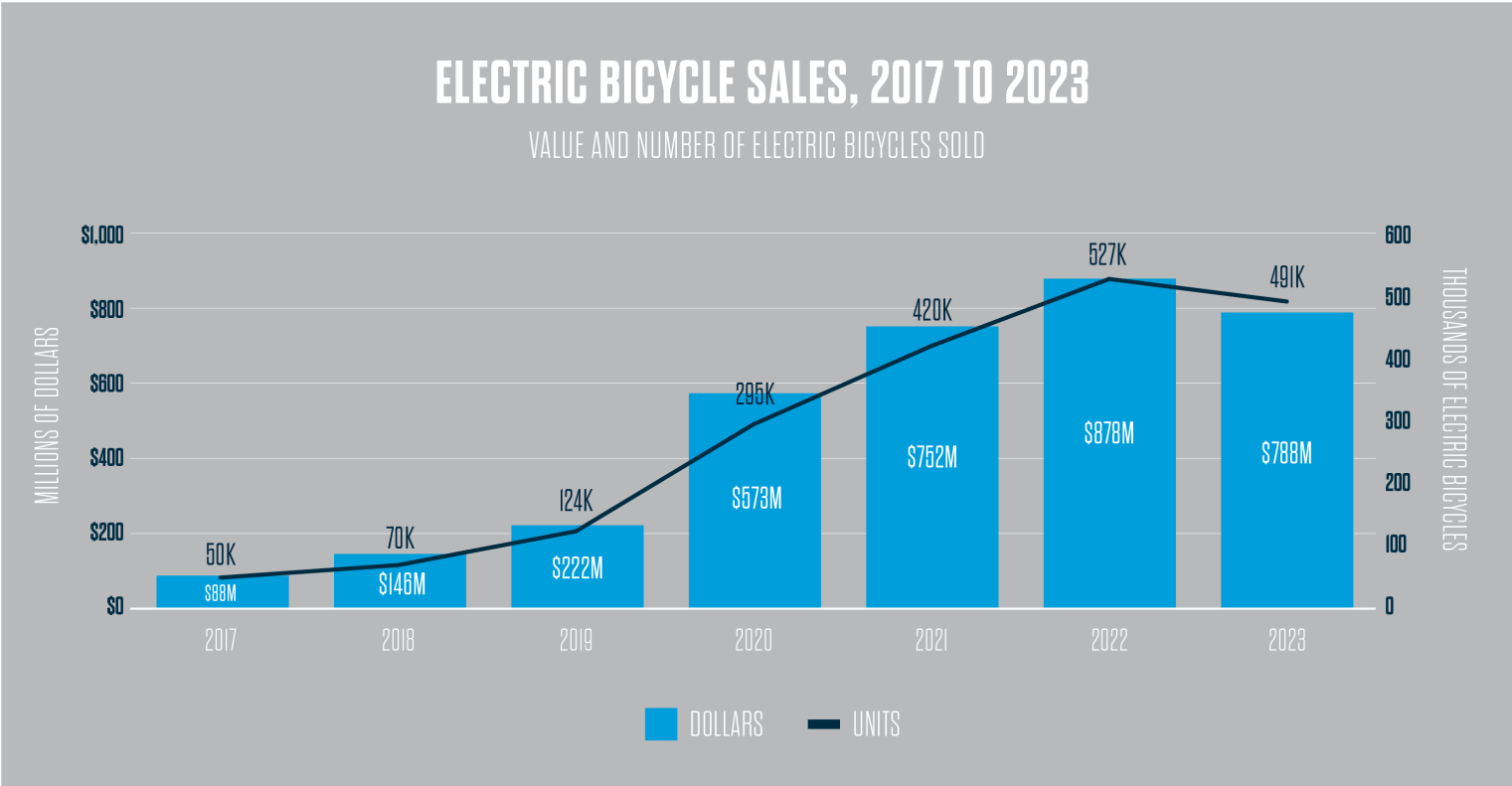
E-bikes contain a motor

Motor ≠ combustion engine



BACKGROUND: Trend in E-bike Use

E-bike popularity has surged in recent years





Source:
People for Bikes

Overview of Electric Bicycles in OC Parks

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee
October 10, 2024



BACKGROUND: E-bike Class Distinctions

CLASSIFIED E-BIKES		
Pedal-assisted 20 mph max speed	Throttle-assisted 20 mph max speed	Pedal-assisted 28 mph max speed
CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3
		

BACKGROUND: E-bike Class Distinctions

SIMILAR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Greater wattage and speed than Classified e-bikes
Not considered e-bikes according to California state law

UNCLASSIFIED



Powerful motors and throttle only
Not considered e-bikes according to California state law

ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES



E-bike Regulations Related to OC Parks



REGULATIONS: State

In 2022, SB 814 amended the California Vehicle Code § 231 to define Classified e-bikes as bicycles, thus allowing them on California public roadways, with stipulations.

California Vehicle Code § 21207.5 allows land managers to determine the suitability of e-bikes on trails.

REGULATIONS: Local Ordinances – Public Works

- On June 25, 2024, Orange County Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the county's Traffic Ordinances.
- Changes include:
 - The definition of a bicycle to include Classified e-bikes
 - The definition of e-bike Classes
 - Minimum age for Class 3 e-bike ridership (16 years)
 - The maximum speed of e-bike travel (28 mph)
- These changes apply to Unincorporated portions of the County.

REGULATIONS: Local Ordinances – Public Facilities

Orange County Codified Ordinance (OCCO) 2-5-29(n) prohibits electric and combustible motorized wheel conveyance in Orange County parks, beaches and recreation areas.

Exception: The Board of Supervisors amended this ordinance in 2018 to allow Class 1 and 2 e-bikes “on those regional paved, off-road bikeways designated for such use...”

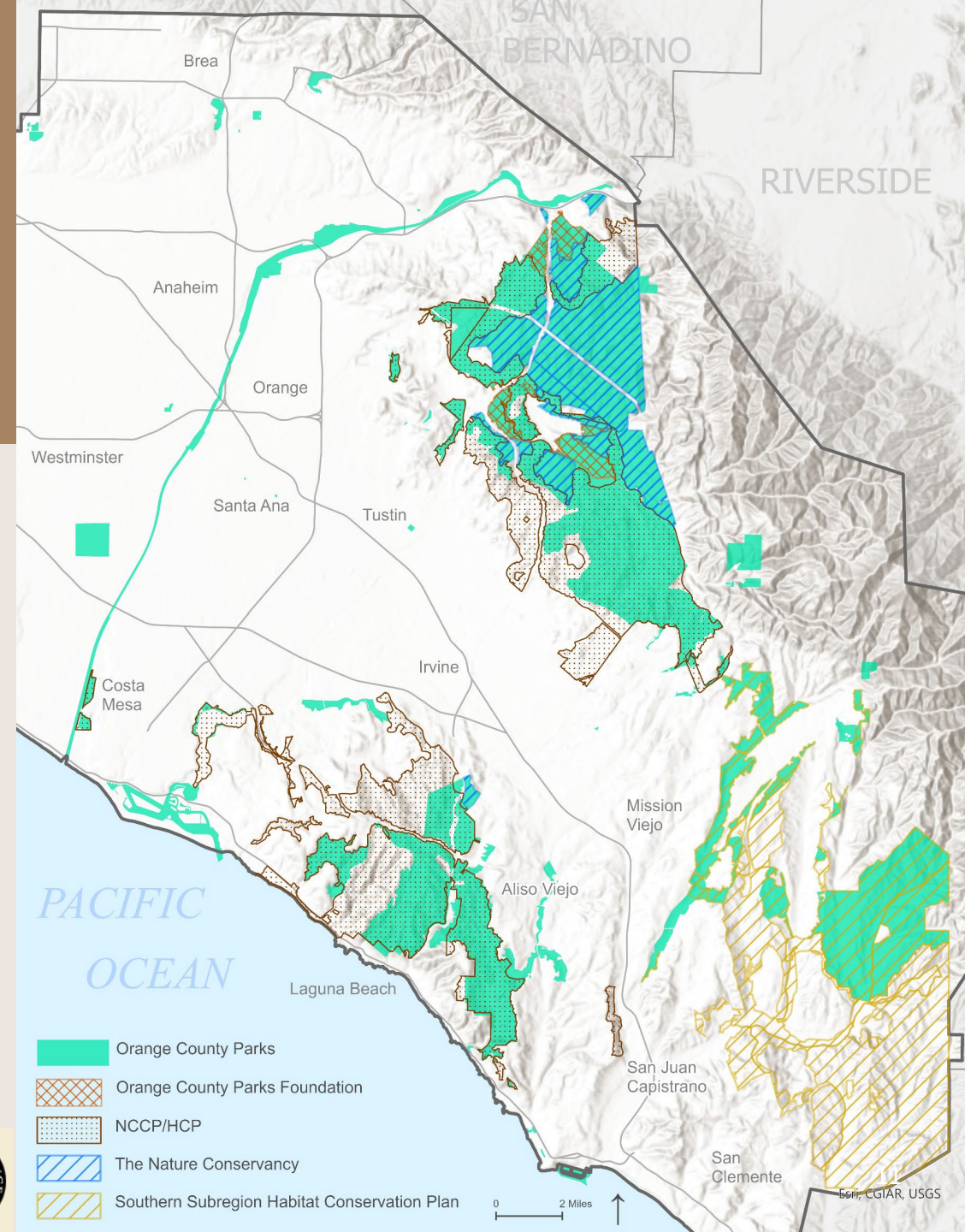
REGULATIONS: Local Conservation Plans & Easements

Most OC Parks facilities are protected under conservation easements.

Motorized vehicle recreation is prohibited by:

- Natural Community Conservation Plan/ Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP)
- The Nature Conservancy Easements
- Orange County Parks Foundation Easements

The definition of "motorized" in the plans and easements is literal, and thus includes e-bikes and all other vehicles that contain motors.



REGULATIONS: Where are E-bikes Allowed in OC Parks?

Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are permitted on 75 miles of regional paved, off-road bikeways.

E-bikes are allowed on paved roads that allow general vehicle access in parks.

Regional trail and park regulations apply, including 10 mph speed limits.





Enforcement



ENFORCEMENT: Challenges

Difficult to distinguish between e-bikes and standard bikes

Difficult to monitor larger parks and multiple entry points

ULTRALIGHT E-BIKE	STANDARD BICYCLE
	

ENFORCEMENT: Penalties

Park Rangers employ progressive enforcement, seeking to gain compliance through education.

Those riding e-bikes on natural surface trails are subject to advisement and citation.

Those riding off-trail and repeat violators are subject to more severe penalties.

Conclusion



CONCLUSION

Different e-bikes classes have different specifications.

All e-bike classes are prohibited on OC Parks' natural surface trails.

Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are permitted on 75 miles of OC Parks' regional paved, off-road bikeways and paved roads that allow general vehicle access within parks.

Enforcing e-bike regulations can be challenging.

Thank You



OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE

STAFF REPORT

FROM: Jeaniene Casiello, Executive Officer

DATE: October 10, 2024

SUBJECT: OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Proposed 2025 Meeting Schedule

A proposed schedule of 2025 meeting dates is provided below for the Subcommittee's review and approval.

First Quarter

Thursday, January 9, 2025 Regular Meeting

Second Quarter

Thursday, April 10, 2025 Regular Meeting

Third Quarter

Thursday, July 10, 2025 Regular Meeting

Fourth Quarter

Thursday, October 9, 2025 Regular Meeting

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee's 2025 meeting schedule.



Jeaniene Casiello