

Parks and Recreation Commission - Electric Bike Study

Initiative 2.2.5. Study the appropriateness of allowing electric bikes and develop policies to address safety concerns with the use of E-bikes and other emerging technologies for both recreation and transportation on trails.

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

Per Master Plan Initiative 2.2.5. above, the Parks and Recreation Commission will be studying electric bikes, their use on County trails, and the appropriateness of developing new policies. In preparation for our May 21, 2025 discussion on Electric Bikes, please read the electric bike resources listed below. The readings will help prepare for discussing electric bike safety concerns and emerging technologies, and policy recommendations.

ELECTRIC BIKE RESOURCES

[El Dorado County Ordinance Chapter 10.32 Vehicle Regulations on Trail Facilities](#)

[California Assembly Bill No. 1096 Electric Bicycles](#)

[California Vehicle Code Definitions of Electric Bikes](#)

[California State Parks E-Bike Policy and Locations](#)

Types of Electric Bikes

E-Bike Type	Power	Speed	Pedal / Throttle	Min. Age	Helmet
Class 1	750 watts	Up to 20 miles/hour	Pedal assisted	N/A	Required for youth under 18
Class 2	750 watts	Up to 20 miles/hour	Throttle assisted	N/A	Required for youth under 18
Class 3	750 watts	Up to 28 miles/hour	Pedal assisted	16	Required for all ages

Bike Paths / Trails and Allowed Uses

E-bike Type	El Dorado County Class I Path & Natural Trail	City of Folsom Class I & II Paths *15mph limit	Sacramento County *15mph limit	State Recreation Areas	State Vehicular Rec. Areas
Class 1	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Class 2	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed	Allowed
Class 3	Not allowed	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Allowed

ORDINANCE 5038, CHAPTER 10.32. - VEHICLE REGULATIONS ON TRAIL FACILITIES

Sec. 10.32.010.

Definitions.

Electric bicycle (e-bike). As used in this chapter the term "electric bicycle (e-bike) means a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts as defined in California Vehicle Code § 312.5.

Motorized vehicle. As used in this chapter the term "motorized vehicle" means any self-propelled device in or upon which any person or property may be moved (inclusive of a "motor vehicle" as defined in California Vehicle Code § 415), excepting a device moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks. Motorized vehicles include, but are not limited to, motorized bicycles/mopeds (as defined in California Vehicle Code § 406), motorized scooters (as defined in California Vehicle Code § 407.5), electric personal assistive mobility devices (as defined in California Vehicle Code § 313), automobiles, trucks, recreational vehicles, motor homes, motorcycles, motorbikes, motor-driven cycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and dirt bikes.

Trail facility. As used in this chapter, the term "trail facility" or "trail facilities" means any class 1 trail, natural trail, or horseback riding trail owned, maintained, and/or operated by El Dorado County. For purposes of this chapter, "trail facility" shall also include that portion of the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC) that is located within El Dorado County.

Sec. 10.32.020. - Prohibited conduct.

No person shall operate or cause to be operated a motorized vehicle within the boundaries of a trail facility.

Sec. 10.32.030. - Exemptions.

This chapter does not apply to the following:

- A. Authorized construction or maintenance activities approved by El Dorado County.
- B. Authorized emergency vehicles.
- C. Motorized quadricycles, motorized tricycles, and electric wheelchairs as defined in California Vehicle Code § 407 and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), which are utilized by a person who by reason of physical disability is otherwise unable to move about as a pedestrian or by a senior citizen as defined in California Vehicle Code § 13000.
- D. Electric bicycles—Class 1 and 2 (Vehicle Code § 312.5).

- E. Motorized vehicles owned or leased by the County, or other governmental body or agency, and operated by an employee of the County, or other governmental body or agency, who is acting within the scope of employment.
- F. Motorized vehicles operated by or under contract with a utility, whether privately or publicly owned.

Sec. 10.32.040. - Tow away.

Any vehicle parked or abandoned upon any non-motorized trail will be towed at the owner's expense.

Sec. 10.32.050. - Public nuisance prohibited.

Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted to authorize the maintenance of a public nuisance.

Sec. 10.32.060. - Penalty for violation.

Any person violating the provisions of this chapter is guilty of an infraction and shall be punishable by:

- A. A fine not exceeding \$25.00 for a first violation;
- B. A fine not exceeding \$100.00 for a second violation within one year;
- C. A fine not exceeding \$250.00 for each additional violation within one year.

Sec. 10.32.070. - Cumulative remedies.

The remedies provided herein are cumulative to all other remedies now or hereafter available to abate or otherwise regulate the conduct described herein.

Sec. 10.32.080. - Signage.

Appropriate signage indicating that motorized vehicles are prohibited on trail facilities shall be posted at each entrance and exit to the trail facility. However, lack of such signage shall not constitute a defense to violation of this chapter.