



April 4, 2023

Mayor Deborah Penrose and City Council
City of Half Moon Bay
501 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA

Re: Item 3.B on April 4, 2023 Agenda: Work Session on the Operation of E-Bikes and Other Electric Devices on Trails and Paths

Dear Mayor Penrose and Council Members,

On behalf of Green Foothills, I write to urge you to limit the use of e-bikes (Class 1, 2, and 3), e-scooters and motorized boards to the Naomi Patridge and the Eastside Parallel Trails.

E-bikes and other e-devices are a motorized form of transportation and should be limited to trails where there are minimal impacts to other trail users, wildlife, and sensitive habitats.

The Naomi Patridge and Eastside Parallel Trails have been designed and built as multi-use transportation facilities and can accommodate a wide variety of users who travel at different speeds.

In contrast to these two transportation trails, the Coastal Trail is primarily a recreation and nature-oriented trail, has a variety of surfaces and widths, and is adjacent to numerous sensitive habitats. The city's Local Coastal Land Use Plan (LCLUP) notes that signage and access controls along the Coastal Trail have not been wholly effective in keeping trail users out of these sensitive habitat areas.

People with disabilities and/or with small children are often startled and can even be injured by speeding cyclists; the allowance of e-bikes would exacerbate these conflicts. The LCLUP recognizes that due to the diversity and high numbers of trail users, including pedestrians and family cycling, trail use conflicts do occur. Enforceability of speed limits is not practicable, given other priorities for limited city staff. Many Coastal Trail users are also seeking the restorative benefits of connecting with and appreciating beauty and diversity of nature along this scenic trail.

While e-bikes can have recreational benefits, these benefits must also be weighed against the displacement of people who will, for a variety of reasons, avoid trails where e-bikes are allowed. The phenomenon of "recreational displacement" has not been evaluated or considered in the public survey conducted by the city. Recreational displacement is difficult to document or quantify, as people who don't use trails are not likely to reply to a survey of trail users.



For all of these reasons, we recommend that you prohibit e-bikes and other e-devices (scooters and boards) on the Coastal Trail and other city recreational trails, while allowing them with appropriate controls on the Naomi Patridge and Eastside Parallel Trails.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Lennie Roberts, Legislative Advocate

cc: Jessica Blair, City Clerk, Half Moon Bay
Alice Kaufman, Advocacy Director, Green Foothills

