

**Approvals:**

Dept. Head _____

Manager SWAdmin. Asst. MS

AGENDA REPORT

BEACHES, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Date: January 12, 2021

Department: Beaches, Parks and Recreation
Prepared By: Samantha Wylie, Recreation Manager

Subject: *USE OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES ON BEACH TRAIL, INLAND TRAILS, AND PARKS*

Fiscal Impact: None.

Summary: Staff recommends that the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission discuss and provide a recommendation on the operational use of electric bicycles on all City trails and parks.

Background: At its October 20, 2020 meeting, the City Council referred the issue of use and regulation of e-bikes on City trails to the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission with the directive that it collaborate with the Public Safety Committee to develop a recommendation for Council consideration. Members of the City Council either individually or collectively, provided the following comments for consideration:

- Prohibit use of e-bikes on Beach Trail and beach;
- Limit use on certain stretches of the Beach Trail;
- Reduce speed limit on the beach trails;
- Install signage along trail and near bridges

At its December 8, 2020 meeting, the Commission reviewed the use the subject matter and heard comments from the public. The following statements were contributed in the Commissioners discussion:

- A possible prohibition of electric bicycles should be applied to all bicycles as it is difficult to distinguish between the two.
- The Beach Trail is a pedestrian trail, and is not constructed to accommodate high bicycle use in many areas.
- The Beach Trail was intended to be multimodal.
- There are inconsiderate users of amenities of all transportation methods.
- Without dedicated enforcement on the Beach Trail and Sea Summit Trail, bicycles should be prohibited.
- Electric bicycles should be treated as motorized vehicles.
- Walking bicycles in portions of beach trail may be considered.
- Beach Trail use decreases significantly in non-summer months, but remains a popular trail year round.
- Inland trails do not seem crowded enough to warrant restrictions on electric bicycles.

At its December 17, 2020 joint meeting, the Commission and the Public Safety Committee (PSC) heard comments from the public and received feedback from Lt. Manhart with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Captain Rob Capobianco with the Orange County Fire Authority, and Code Compliance Manger Adam Atamian regarding enforcement and historical information pertaining to electric bike activities in San Clemente.

Members of the PSC either individually or collectively commented that the enforcement of any rule will be difficult without the dedication of deputies or other public safety personnel, including that of park rangers. Additionally, the Committee commented that issues related to electric bicycles are broader than trails within the city. The Committee members and Commissioners further commented that e-bike community education is important for all ages to become safer e-bike/bicycle users while on trails.

Discussion: Staff is seeking Commission recommendation on possible changes to SCMC 12.32.130, titled "Cycling, skateboarding and similar activities on pier, access road, beach, and beach trail" (Attachment 1), related to the operation of e-bikes on the Beach Trail, and additional consideration on implementing rules for the use of e-bikes on citywide trails and within parks. It is recommended that the Commission review these three areas separately as they are markedly different in scope and nature of use.

Recommended

Action: STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission provide a recommendation on the use of electric bicycles on all City trails and parks.

Attachments: SCMC 12.32.130

Notification: Interested Parties

12.32.130 - Cycling, skateboarding and similar activities on pier, access road, beach, and beach trail.

A. Except as provided below in subsection (B) of this section, no person shall ride or permit to be ridden, drive, or permit to be driven, any bicycle, tricycle, skateboard, roller skates, or similar type device on the municipal pier, accesses to the pier, service roads, or beach access roads. In addition, no person shall throw any "frisbee" or other similar device on the municipal pier, on Pier accesses to the pier, service roads, or beach access roads.

and B. Use of Riding of bicycles is permitted on the beach and beach trail, including those portions Access Bicycles that overlay the beach service road, subject to the restrictions of this subsection B. Road. on Bicycles are not permitted on any portion of the beach from June 15 through Labor Beach Day. Riding of bicycles on the beach trail is not permitted between the pier and the and south end of the Trafalgar Canyon Bridge from June 15 through Labor Day. Riding of Beach bicycles is not permitted on Riviera Beach Trail Bridge, Montalvo Beach Trail Bridge, or Trail. on the asphalt area extending north and south of the base of the pier at any time. Bicycle owners are permitted to walk their bicycles through restricted areas and at restricted times. Bicycles may be ridden at a maximum speed of 10 mph on all portions of the beach and beach trail. Reckless riding of bicycles is prohibited, and no person shall allow his or her bicycle to block or be left unattended on the beach and beach trail at any time.

C. In the event of special circumstances so warranting, the City Council may by resolution modify Modifica the requirements established herein. Modifications by the City Council shall only be made if the tion. City Council determines that such modification will not be contrary to the public health, safety or welfare.

(Ord. 1326 § 2, 2007; prior code § 18-21)

(Ord. No. 1486, § 2, 5-21-2009; Ord. No. 1576, § 1, 12-3-2013; Ord. No. 1581, § 1, 6-17-2014; Ord. No. 1661, § 1, 9-4-2018)