



SIERRA CLUB
LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA,
SAN BENITO COUNTIES

March 4, 2020

Karen Holman,
Board President, Ward 5
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022

Via Email to kcholman@sbcglobal.net and MROSD website

Dear President Karen Holman and Board Members,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter has long appreciated the fealty of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) governance structure to the environmental mission for which the District was founded. Our chapter is one of the leading sponsors of nature outings - hiking and biking - of any of the 13 California chapters and thus the MROSD lands and trails are both familiar and dear to us.

From time to time, however, an issue arises that gives us considerable concern and in this case the issue is the proposal to conduct a one-year pilot program on MROSD trails as an assessment methodology for electric bicycles. Our chapter's outlook on electric bicycles on open space trails is not positive and we are working on a longer letter citing our reasons why.

Our purpose in this letter is to strenuously object to a process - a pilot program - that has all of hallmarks of the proverbial foot-in-the-door, camel's-nose-under-the-tent, and/or test-that-can't-fail - more politely a *fait accompli*. The impacts of powered vehicles on hikers and the environment are, in all likelihood, not assessable within a one year period and the Board would then be faced with an interest group that would strenuously object to the termination of a perceived entitlement.

We are confident that the MROSD Board Members are more than capable of reaching a decision based on the considerable data and history available from other districts and jurisdictions with similar missions.

We close in the belief that the Board itself shares that confidence.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rienzo
Executive Committee Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Cc: Conservation Committee Co-Chairs Katja Irvin and Gladwyn D'Souza