



SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

January 26, 2021

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Attn: Board of Directors
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

RE: January 27, 2021 Special Meeting on Options for the Analysis of Class 1 and 2 Electric Bicycle Use

Dear Board of Directors,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter remains concerned about the proposed pilot project for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) that would move toward allowing bicycles with electric motors on trails in open space preserves. Sierra Club policy categorizes these bicycles as motorized vehicles and asks that they be treated as such. For additional background, please see our previous letters on this topic attached.

Based on our previously stated concerns, for the Special Meeting on January 27, we strongly request that you direct staff to move forward with the 3rd option:

Reduce the scale of the Paved Pilot Program to release staff capacity for partnering with a local agency to conduct intercept surveys and complete observation reports on trails that are a good proxy for District trails where e-bikes are already permitted. Present findings for Board consideration on next steps for e-bike use on District lands (depending on results, may expedite by close to one year).

This should not include any plans to "initiate an Unpaved Pilot Program on Partner lands by Summer/Fall of 2021," as stated in the staff report. MROSD should move cautiously based on rigorous analysis before allowing uses that will harm flora and fauna on our valuable, irreplaceable, and sensitive open space lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gladwyn D'Souza". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gladwyn D'Souza
Conservation Committee Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter