



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 02/03/2025

ITEM NO: 7

DATE: January 30, 2025
TO: Parks and Sustainability Commission
FROM: Nicolle Burnham, Parks and Public Works Director
SUBJECT: E-Bikes in Parks and On Town Trails

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider the concept of making certain changes to Town Code with regard to use of electronic bikes on Town trails and in Town parks.

REMARKS:

Town Code Section 19.10.037 indicates that bicycles can be used in parks and on trails provided their speeds do not exceed 15 miles per hour. The code defines bicycle as *"A device, as defined in Sec. 231 of the California Vehicle Code, upon which a person may ride, propelled exclusively by human power through a belt, chain, or gears and having one (1) or more wheels."* The code does not define electronic bicycles, motorized bicycles or other electric powered devices like scooters and skateboards.

Staff has been receiving an increasing number of complaints about the use of e-bikes and motorized bikes on trails, particularly in Santa Rosa and Heintz Open Space areas. While enforcement is one of the challenges related to managing this situation, staff has also noted that the current town codes does not include clear and specific prohibitions of certain classes of vehicles and bikes.

Staff is considering modifications to Town Code to address this issue and would like initial thoughts from the Commission before beginning this work. Options include: prohibiting all electric bikes from all or certain park trails; or prohibiting certain classes of electronic bikes from or certain park trails. Both options would require changes to Town Code and educational campaigns.

Prepared by: Nicolle Burnham
Parks and Public Works Director
