



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Special Meeting Board of Directors
Title: E-Bike Class I Trial Year One Report
From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: September 17, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a staff presentation on the E-Bike Class I Trial Year One Report

SUMMARY: At the April 15, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting the Board approved Board Resolution No. 8807 authorizing a revised E-Bike Class I Trial for a two-year period. This project aims to evaluate the feasibility of allowing Class I E-Bikes where conventional bicycles are permitted on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed. As part of the E-Bike Trial the District identified key areas to monitor over the two-year period (July 2026-July 2028). Staff will provide a presentation highlighting the data collected from July 2025-July 2026.

DISCUSSION: To facilitate community input relating to E-bike access on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Lands the District held a public workshop in December of 2018 to better understand the public perspectives on E-Bike access. Based on the input received at the 2018 workshop the District Board of Directors decided to convene an E-Bike Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to review the benefits and concerns raised by the community. The E-Bike CAC held seven public meetings to explore E-Bike related topics. A key outcome of the E-Bike CAC was a recommendation that the District review watershed visitation holistically, which led to the initiation of the Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study.

A priority Strategic Opportunity Identified in the Feasibility Study was the establishment of an E-Bike Class I Trial Program. At the September 3, 2024, Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved a Trail Sharing Trial Program and E-Bike Class I Trial. On October 1, 2024, the California Native Plant Society, the Marin Audubon Society and the Marin Conservation League filed a lawsuit against Marin Water alleging that Marin Water failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in its adoption of these programs and sought a temporary restraining order to stop Marin Water's implementation of the Trail Sharing Trial and E-Bike Class I Trial. District staff worked through the required CEQA settlement process with the petitioners. At the May 6, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting the Board approved Resolution No. 8806 to rescind Resolution No. 8790 and 8791 effectively canceling both efforts and approved a revised E-Bike Class I Trial for a two-year period.

The objective of the E-Bike Class I Trial is to evaluate changes in E-Bike Class I usage and how the inclusion of E-Bikes Class I influences visitors' watershed experience. Evaluating the inclusion of Class I E-Bikes on existing roads within the watershed, where conventional bicycles are permitted—will provide critical data to inform the District's future watershed management and policy decisions. As part of the E-Bike Class I Trial the District identified key areas to monitor over the two-year period.

Data collection process for the E-Bike Class I Trial includes:

- A. Trail counters: Install trail counters at key entrances to collect data to understand the approximate number of bikes on the watershed.
- B. Incident Reporting: Add additional signage at main kiosks with information about how to report illegal activities.
- C. Visitor experience: Conduct two rounds visitor surveys to understand perceptions, experiences and conflicts over Trial period.
- D. Social Trails: Continue monitoring social trails.
- E. Bat Study: District will complete bat study during E-Bike Class I Trial period.
- F. Norther Spotted Owl: District will continue annual NSO monitoring on the Watershed.
- G. Community Reporting: District will summarize E-Bike data collection in Final Report.

Staff has prepared a Year One Report to summarize its findings to date on the E-Bike Class I Trial and will share highlights from the report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for this project is included in the Capital Improvement Budget (FY 2025 and FY 2026) within the Roads and Trails Improvement Fund.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. E-Bike Class I Trial Year One Report