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March 4, 2025

TO: Rio Dell City Council

FROM: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Second Reading and Adoption (by title only) of Ordinance 412-2025 Establishing Section §12.30 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Pertaining to Trails and Further Establishing Regulations for the Eel River Trail's Use.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

- 1.) Allow staff to re-introduce the Ordinance; and,
- 2.) Open and receive public comment; and,
- 3.) Close public comment; and,
- 4.) Direct staff to make any changes to the draft ordinance if necessary; or,
- 5.) Adopt Ordinance 412-2025.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

With the completion of the Eel River Trail coming near, staff is recommending the establishment of regulations for the use of the trail. Since this is Rio Dell's first official dedicated non-motorized path, the language as proposed only impacts the Eel River Trail.

The language specifically prohibits the use of motor driven vehicles from the trail, with exceptions for the disabled, baby carriages and vehicles in service of the City. Electric bicycles may use the trail so long as the electric motor is powered off.

At the first reading of the proposed Ordinance on February 18th, some questions were raised regarding the use of Segways and RC cars. Staff reviewed the grant language and found the intention for the grant was for a non-motorized trail. Additionally petitions circulated and signed by members of the public also called for a non-motorized trail. The grant application also cites planning studies from HCAOG and RCAA calling for a non-motorized regional network, including:

- Humboldt People Powered Pathways (RCAA, 2009)
- Regional Pedestrian Needs Assessment Study (HCAOG, 2009)
- Humboldt County Regional Trails Master Plan (HCOAG, 2010)
- Eureka-to-Scotia Trail Corridor Assessment (RCAA, 2016)
- Humboldt Regional Bike Plan (HCOAG, 2018)

One of the main purposes of a non-motorized trail is to encourage safe physical exercise and recreational opportunities in our built environment that is currently dominated by infrastructure set up and prioritized for motorized use. By establishing the trail as non-motorized the Council demonstrates its commitment to this regional goal and potentially aides the city to be eligible for future grants for similar projects.

Due to these factors, staff is recommending to make no amendments to specifically allow Segways or RC cars on the trail.

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ORDINANCE NO. 412-2025



**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL
ESTABLISHING SECTION 12.30 "TRAILS" OF THE RIO DELL MUNICIPAL CODE
PERTAINING TO REGULATIONS FOR TRAILS**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS the Eel River Trail is nearing completion; and

WHEREAS the Eel River Trail is funded through the Clean California program and intended and funded as a non-motorized trail; and

WHEREAS the trail could attract users of All Terrain Vehicles (ATV), motorcycles or other devices to operate on the trail; and

WHEREAS the motorized use of the trail is not safe and is in conflict with the intended use of the trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Rio Dell does hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1. Trails

Chapter 12.30

TRAILS

12.30.010 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meaning given in this section:

A. "Caretaker" means the person or persons who are responsible for the care and maintenance of the trail.

B. "Eel River Trail" means that paved area from the northern terminus of Edwards Street to the East Terminus of Davis Street and areas within five (5) feet of edge of the pavement.

C. "Vehicle" means any wheeled conveyance, whether motor-powered, animal-drawn, or self-propelled. The term shall include any trailer in tow of any size or kind.

D. "Motor-Driven" means any motor or moped powered by fuel, electricity or compressed gas. An electric bicycle shall not be considered motor-driven when the motor is not powered or otherwise engaged.

E. "Personal Mobility Device for the Disabled" means an electric powered wheelchair or mobility scooter that is speed limited and in service of a physically impaired individual.

12.24.040 Operation of Vehicles.

No person in a park shall do the following:

A. Fail to comply with all applicable provisions of the Vehicle Code of the state of California in regard to equipment and operation of vehicles together with such regulations as are contained in this code regulating traffic;

B. Fail to obey all police officers and caretakers who are authorized and instructed to direct traffic whenever and wherever needed in the park in accordance with the provisions of these regulations and such supplementary regulations as may be issued subsequently by the city;

C. Fail to observe carefully all traffic signs, parking, and all other signs posted for the proper control and to safeguard life and property;

E. Drive or ride any motor-driven vehicle on the Eel River Trail. Exceptions are for personal mobility devices for the disabled, electric powered baby carriage or vehicles in service of the City.

Section 2. Severability

If any provision of the ordinance is invalidated by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 3. Limitation of Actions

Any action to challenge the validity or legality of any provision of this ordinance on any grounds shall be brought by court action commenced within ninety (90) days of the date of adoption of this ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date

This ordinance becomes effective thirty (30) days after its approval and adoption.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing Ordinance was duly introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on February 18, 2025, and furthermore the forgoing Ordinance was passed, approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell, held on March 4, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:	None
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Debra Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

I, Karen Dunham, City Clerk for the City of Rio Dell, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 412-2025 which was passed, approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell, held on March 4, 2025.

Karen Dunham, City Clerk, City of Rio Dell