

*Rio Dell City Hall  
675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562  
(707) 764-3532  
cityofriodell.ca.gov*



April 15, 2025

TO: Rio Dell City Council

FROM: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Introduction and First Reading (by title only) of Ordinance 414-2025 Amending Section §12.30 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Pertaining to Trails and Further Establishing Fines.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

- 1.) Allow staff to 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; and,
- 5.) Continue the item to the second reading and adoption of the Ordinance to the May 6, 2025 regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

With the Eel River trail nearing completion the site has received some level of use by motorized vehicles, in violation of Section §12.30 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC). The Mayor has requested that fines for misuse of trail be agendized for the Council's consideration. The proposed change also includes minor non substantive edits to the Section.

///

**ORDINANCE NO. ~~412~~ 414 -2025**



**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL  
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 412-2025 AND ESTABLISHING SECTION  
12.30, ET SEQ., "TRAILS" OF THE RIO DELL MUNICIPAL CODE  
PERTAINING TO REGULATIONS FOR TRAIL  
USE OF THE EEL RIVER  
TRAIL**

**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~~ initiative  
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**

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

## Chapter 12.30 TRAILS

### 12.30.010 Definitions.

For the purposes of this ~~chapter~~Chapter 12.30, 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.

### ~~12.2430.040-020~~ Operation of Vehicles ~~Prohibition of Motorized Use of Eel River Trail.~~

Commented [RG1]: Check on correct RDMC sequencing.

No person ~~in a park~~ while utilizing the Eel River Trail shall do any of the following:

Commented [RG2]: Why is "park" recited in the Trail Ordinance? See suggested revisions.

- A. ~~Drive or ride any motor-driven vehicle on the Eel River Trail, except for personal mobility devices for the disabled, electric powered baby carriages, or vehicles in service of the City performing City functions. 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-on~~ the ~~park~~ Eel River Trail in accordance with the provisions of ~~these regulations~~ the Rio Dell Municipal Code and such supplementary regulations as may be issued subsequently by the ~~city~~ City; ~~or~~

C. Fail to observe carefully all traffic signs, parking, motorized use prohibition signs 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.~~

Commented [RG3]: This provision should be in A.

### **Section 12.30.030. Penalties and Fines.**

A. Any person who violates any of the provisions of Section 12.30.020 of this Chapter shall be guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500.

B. Any vehicle found in violation of Section 12.30.020 may be towed at owner's expense by City personnel or any City peace officer.

C. The City of Rio Dell may, in its discretion, post signs on the Eel River Trail notifying users of the motorized use prohibitions created by Section 12.30.020 and the penalties attendant to violation(s). Failure to establish signage shall not preclude the City from enforcing the terms and conditions of Section 12.20.020 or imposing the fines and penalties recited in this Section 12.30.030. Nothing in this Chapter shall limit the ability of the City to enforce applicable provisions of the California Vehicle Code or any other state, federal or local law or regulation.

## **Section 2. Severability**

If any provision of ~~the this ordinance~~ 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~~ Ordinance on any grounds shall be brought by court action commenced within ninety (90) days of the date of adoption of this ~~ordinance~~ Ordinance.

## **Section 45. Effective Date**

This ~~ordinance~~ Ordinance shall becomes effective thirty (30) days after its approval and adoption by the City Council.

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~~ April 15, 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~~ May 6, 2025, by the following vote:

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

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Garnes, Mayor

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

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. 41~~42~~-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~~ May 6, 2025.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Dunham, City Clerk, City of Rio Dell