

**Subject: FW: Mountain bikers on your trails**

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**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Susan Rogers" <Susan\_Rogers@dnv.org>, "Richard Boulton" <Richard\_Boulton@dnv.org>

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From: Art Levit [<mailto:alevit1@pacbell.net>]

Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2005 7:26 PM

To: Mayor and Council - DNV; James Ridge

Cc: mecraver@shaw.ca; Akalynnbrown@aol.com; Mike Vandeman

Subject: Mountain bikers on your trails

Dear Council members,

I understand you are considering opening some trails to mountain biking.

As a lover of the outdoors and wilderness, I am writing to recommend you do whatever you can to blunt the mountain biking onslaught into your outdoor areas. There is an ongoing fight here in the San Francisco Bay Area between mountain bikers and other wilderness users. The bikers especially want to use single-track (ie narrower) trails for their sport since they get the greatest thrills riding down them. Unfortunately, they rapidly damage trails (many of which have existed for years without degradation by people on foot or even horseback), are dangerous to other users, and are rarely satisfied with riding on fire roads or riding on paved surfaces.

Here in the East Bay, we have a system of parks regulated by the East Bay Regional Parks District. Rules here forbid bikes on trails narrower than 8 feet. This is enforced and violators are slapped with a considerable fine (I think it is currently \$275). This is good, but there are other city parks, such as Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland, that don't enforce such rules. My 88 yr-old father was nearly knocked down a 20 foot embankment when a biker came down a steep trail out of control. I have had several similar experiences. They are dangerous and disrespect the rules. Often when I find them on one of the narrow trails in Joaquin Miller that is off limits for mtn. bikes during the winter months, they tell me they didn't know there was such a restriction, ignoring the signs clearly posted at trail junctions.

There is a vocal bike lobby, partly supported by the mountain bike industry. You must take what the bikers say individually and through their organizations as at least partly economically motivated.

Art Levit

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(below is the ordinance about bikes from the East Bay Reg. Parks written materials, available online:

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409.8 BICYCLES. Ride or operate any bicycle or mountain bike at any place within the District:

- a). In a negligent, unsafe or reckless manner or in a way that endangers the life, limb or property of any person.
- b). At excessive speeds, especially when passing other trail users, or in areas with short sight distances, or in an irresponsible manner in violation of published trail etiquette or posted bicycle speed limits.
- c). Bicycles are permitted on paved roads, paved bike trails, multi-use trails, unpaved roads and fire roads over 8 ft. in width, unless otherwise posted.
- d). Bicycles are not permitted on narrow hiking or riding trails, except that bicycles are allowed on designated sections of the Lafayette Ridge Trail in Briones Regional Park and Sinbad Creek Trail in Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park.
- e). Bicycles are not permitted to ride cross-country on regional parklands. All bicycle use is restricted to permitted trails only.
- f). Posted Area or Use Restrictions: Bicycles are not permitted in any park or area pursuant to a resolution of closure or restriction adopted by the Board of Directors of the District.

The following closures and restrictions are currently in effect. The Chief of Park Operations will maintain the list and insure that trails are properly signed and posted:

- 1). Bicycles are only permitted in Redwood Regional Park:
  - a). on the East Ridge and West Ridge Trail loop connected by Canyon and Bridle Trails;
  - b). on the trails west of West Ridge Trail, with the exception of Tate Trail which is closed to bicycle use;
  - c). on the canyon floor from Redwood Gate entrance to Trails End on Stream Trail.

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- 2). Bicycles are only permitted in the Tilden Nature Study Area on Blue Gum Loop Trail to Wildcat Trail and Nimitz Way Trail.
- 3). Bicyclist will be permitted to ride through Lake Temescal Regional Recreation Area observing posted 6 m.p.h. speed. Bicycles must walk through designated swim areas when in operation.
- 4). Bicycles are not permitted in Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve.

5). Bicycles will not be permitted on the Lafayette Ridge Trail from the EBMUD water tank on the ridge to the Pleasant Hill staging area until an appropriate connecting route is designated.

6). Bicycles will not be permitted on the Ohlone Trail from Mission Peak to Del Valle.

7). Bicycles will not be permitted on the following trails at Coyote Hills: Red Hill Trail, north of Nike Trail, Soaproot Trail from Dairy Glen north to Visitor Center and Muskrat Trail.

8). Bicycles are not permitted on Sibley Round Top Road from the EBMUD Water Tank Road junction to the top of Round Top Peak.

9). Bicycles are not permitted in Huckleberry Regional Preserve.

10) Bicycles are not permitted on the Horseshoe Trail in Anthony Chabot.

11) Bicycles are not permitted inside the fenced core area of Ardenwood Regional Preserve.

g). Posting and Closure for Safety Reason: Park Supervisors, after consultation with the Chief of Park Operations, may temporarily close any road or bicycle trail for safety reasons. Such closures will be reviewed annually by the Board to determine whether or not the closure should be made permanent, or road or bicycle trail modifications made to allow re-opening.

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h). Bicycle Speed Limits: Bicycles shall not be ridden at a speed exceeding 15 m.p.h. on any trail with a posted speed limit. Current trails to be posted include: paved trails at Coyote Hill, Lake Chabot shoreline paved trails, the Nimitz Way Trail in Tilden Park, the Contra Cost Canal Trail, the Lafayette/Moraga Trail, and Iron Horse Trail, Delta DeAnza Trail, Marsh Creek Trail, Alameda Creek Trail, Briones to Mt. Diablo Trail, Briones to Las Trampas Trails and Big Break Trail.

i). Bicycles must travel in a single file on the right side of the trail when on turns or blind corners.

j). Required Equipment

1). Any bicycle operated during the hours of darkness on any District property shall be equipped with lighting as specified in California Vehicle Code Section 21202. For purposes of the sub-section, hours of darkness shall be the same as defined in California Vehicle code Section 280, to wit, 'any time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise'.

2). At a distance of not less than 50 feet when overtaking or approaching other trail users a verbal warning shall be called out or an audible device sounded by approaching bicyclists as required by the District's published rules of trail etiquette.

409.9 No person shall climb on or over any guardrails on District bridges or overcrossings. No person shall hang or display from from any District bridge or over-crossing any sign or banner unless approved by the District



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