



FACT SHEET: Electronic Bikes

GENERAL INFORMATION

The State of California passed AB 1096 which now defines electric bicycles with electric motors of 750 watts or less., also known as e-bikes, as bicycles that have fully operative pedals by human power with an electric motor.

E-bikes are popular with older adults, and with people with limited endurance or who struggle to ride a bike uphill. The electric assistance gives them the boost they need to access trails they might not otherwise be able to enjoy.

E-bikes have been defined in three classes:

CLASS 1	Pedal Assist System (PAS)	Motor Powered Speed Limit (MPSL) 20 MPH
CLASS 2	PAS and Throttle Element	MPSL 20 MPH
CLASS 3	PAS	MPSL 28 MPH

The legislation prohibits the operation of a **Class 3 e-bikes** except on specified paths, lanes or trails, unless authorized by a local ordinance. The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has not authorized the use of Class 3 e-bikes on DPR-owned and managed trails. There are also more powerful electronic bikes that do not have these wattage limits – not currently defined by these classifications – and, similarly, these more powerful e-bikes are not permitted on County trails.

Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are currently permitted on all County paved areas and trails where non-electric bikes are permitted, unless specifically restricted by DPR for safety and maintenance concerns. These bikes must have a classification number label that is permanently affixed, in a prominent location, on each bike, as required by the State of California.

However, DPR has restricted the use of **Class 1 and 2 e-bikes** at the parks listed below. Signs have been posted at trailheads where e-bikes are prohibited.

- Aqua Caliente County Park (campground trails)
- Dictionary Hill County Preserve
- Dos Picos County Park (campground trails)
- Felicita County Park
- Flinn Springs County Park
- Hellhole Canyon County Preserve
- Lakeside Linkage County Preserve (Whitaker Trail)
- Lindo Lake County Park
- Live Oak County Park
- Otay Lakes County Park
- Potrero County Park (campground trails)
- Ramona Grasslands County Preserve (Old Survey Road Trail)
- San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve

- Santa Margarita County Preserve
- Sweetwater Regional Park (campground trails)
- Tijuana River Valley Regional Park
- William Heise County Park (campground trails)

For more information, contact Dave Knopp, Chief, North Operations, County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, at 858-966-1371 or dave.knopp@sdcounty.ca.gov.