



# 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) would need to approve the use of Class 3 e-bikes in parks and preserves on a case-by-case basis, and only on trails designated by the approved authority.

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.

The Department has restricted the use of Class 1 and 2 e-bike at 17 parks and preserves. Signs have been posted at trailheads where e-bikes are prohibited.

There are more powerful electronic bikes that do not have these wattage limits and are not defined by these classifications. These electronic bikes are not permitted on County of San Diego Trails.

The parks listed below are closed to use by e-bikes for safety and maintenance concerns.

- Aqua Caliente (campground trails)
- Dictionary Hill
- Dos Picos (campground trails)
- Felicita Park
- Flinn Springs Park
- Hellhole Canyon Preserve
- Lakeside Linkage (Whitaker Trail)
- Lindo Lake Park
- Live Oak Park

- Otay Lakes Trails
- Potrero (campground trails)
- Ramona Grasslands Preserve (Old Survey Road Trail)
- San Elijo
- Santa Margarita
- William Heise (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](mailto:dave.knopp@sdcounty.ca.gov).**