



June 17, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Hall of Administration, County of Orange
400 W. Civic Center Drive
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Agenda Item 48, E-Bike Ordinance Amendments, June 25, 2024

Dear Supervisors:

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP) is an Orange County non-profit organization with a stated mission to protect our natural lands, waterways, and beaches. We work closely with our partners, community groups, and other conservation-focused organizations to stay abreast of issues related to the environment.

We support the proposed action to approve the amendments to better regulate e-bikes. The explosion of their popularity has resulted in benefits for many of our residents, while also causing an increase in accidents because of inconsiderate riders performing inappropriate and dangerous actions.

E-bikes are everywhere, including our regional parks, and there is a growing concern about their safety. They are faster than regular bikes making it difficult to anticipate their speed. E-bike users that lack safety education and training are a liability and create safety risks for others, as well as themselves.

FHBP actively collaborates with OC Parks to maintain the existing policy of restricting the use of e-bikes on wilderness park (dirt) trails. The wilderness park trails have experienced problems similar to those on the streets and sidewalks with trail users now being subjected to physical impacts as well as harassment by discourteous and illegal e-bike users. With ranger enforcement limited in remote areas of our parks, the situation, especially on weekends, creates serious health and safety issues for park users. We urge your board to protect our park users and the fragile habitats in the parks.

We encourage a substantial effort by the Orange County Sheriff's Department to engage, educate, and in needed situations cite the offenders. There should be meaningful fines for repeat offenders. In conjunction with the efforts by law enforcement, outreach to the District Attorney's office and the Superior Court to maintain continuity up the levels of responsibility would be beneficial.



Board of Supervisors
Page 2

The step you are taking today is a good start but we urge you to stay engaged on the e-bike issue for the safety of all street and park users. It is critical that you provide the needed support and tools for the rangers and peace officers that are responsible for public safety in our County.

Sincerely,

Michael Wellborn, President
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

C: Sheriff Barnes
District Attorney Spitzer
OC Parks Director Passow