

From: Mary Benson <c-maryb@msn.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
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Subject: FW: April 15, 2009 Motion 07-3494-S1

To: Arts, Parks, Health & Aging Committee

April 15, 2009 Agenda Motion 07-3494-S1

Submitted for written public comment: Objection to the motion's wording which includes the subject of mountain biking on city park trails.

Specific objection to motion's wording:

The importance to reword and remove all city parks from consideration for mountain biking, and please reaffirm existing city ordinance prohibiting them on city park trails.

Public safety of children, families, hikers and equestrians who are majority users of city park trails should outweigh the needs of a few. There is no "Right" to allow mountain bikes on trails. (Marin v. Babbitt 9th Circuit Court). There is a growing body of evidence that a single extreme mountain bike enthusiast can put numerous trail users at risk because of the speed. Hikers and equestrians, when faced with conflict begin to stop using trails. The end result is FEWER trail users.

Allowing Mountain Bikes on trails would require repealing the City Ordinance prohibiting mountain bikes on trails. Serious Injury or death on a trail caused by a mountain bike would open the City of Los Angeles to liability claims for its decision add an additional user to the already crowded City Park trails. The California Vehicle code considers bikes as vehicles when there is an accident resulting in serious injury. Vehicular accidents involving "hit and run" mountain bikers are on the rise in jurisdictions allowing bike use on crowded park trails. Please don't let this happen here in Los Angeles.

Seeking a higher "thrill ride" mountain biking enthusiasts have been known to engage in altering trails by adding ramps, jumps, teetertotters. These modified trails only suit mountain bikers, and often damage environment as well.

Taking into consideration all of the negatives, I urge the City of Los Angeles to avoid this costly and unnecessary mistake.

Mary Benson

11070 Sheldon Street

Sun Valley, CA 91352

818-767-5996