

From: Judy Rosenberg <judyjudyrose@sbcglobal.net>
To: <Erika.Pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 1:19 AM
Subject: Mountain Biking in City Oarjs

To Whom It May Concern:

It's great that Tom LaBonge is against mountain biking in Griffith Park.
However, the motion being voted on should include ALL city parks
prohibiting mountain biking.
The existing City ordinance should be reaffirmed.

Thank you.

Judy Rosenberg
Sierra Club Leader
p.o.b. 4612997
Los Angeles, CA 90046

From: <LANNYB1@aol.com>
To: <Erika.Pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 1:39 AM
Subject: City Council Motion #07-3494-S1

To the Honorable City Councilmembers:

City Council motion #07-3494-S1 must be reworded to remove ALL city parks from consideration for mountain biking, and please reaffirm the existing City ordinance prohibiting them on city park trails.

Thank You,

Elaine Brown
11445 Skyland Rd
Sunland, CA 91040

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From: Caylor Strovas <cjsurferboy@gmail.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 7:11 AM
Subject: Mountain Bikes in Park.

Hello, my name is Caylor and I have just been made aware that there is a motion to allow mountain bikers to ride up in the city parks. I live right across from O'melveny Park and I am a consistant hiker/runner and user of the grass park. I, as a hiker/runner oppose this motion the way that it is written. I feel that the bikers are dangerous to the hikers, runners, walkers, and horseback riders who use the narrow steep hills as a way to enjoy beauty, and to get exercise. Those trails are really not meant for the bikers to be speeding up and down them, plus there are many people that would be endangered by these bikers.

Thank you,

Friends of O'melveny Park

From: "Al Moggia" <almog@dslextreme.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 7:26 AM
Subject: Off-Road Bicycle Motion

To: Erika Pulst
Legislative Assistant

Regarding: LaBonge - Garcetti Motion, FILE NO. 07-3494-S

While the motion would protect people using dirt trails in Griffith Park, it leaves trail users in other Los Angeles City parks at risk for a collision with a fast moving bicycle. Off road bicycles on Los Angeles City park trails is foremost a public safety issue.

The current city ordinance prohibiting off road bicycles on Los Angeles City park dirt trails was valid when it initially approved and is still valid today. The motion before the Commission should be changed to included all Los Angeles City parks.

Al Moggia
Member of Sierra Club, Griffith Park Section.

From: TMScom <tmscom@aol.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 8:05 AM
Subject: Moutain Bikes in City Parks

Dear Ms. Pulst,

I'm writing to add my name to the list of those who oppose mountain bikes in city parks.

There are many rural areas that these bikers can ride without putting those who use the city parks in danger. I'm an equestrian, hiker, and mom who uses Griffith Park and others for many activities. Mountain bikers ride too fast in areas not easily seen by those on the trail.

Mountain bikes in the park are especially unsafe when someone is on horseback. Horses are flight animals and when spooked by something unfamiliar can react in a number of unanticipated ways. This creates an unsafe and potentially life threatening situation for a horse rider.

If a biker falls off his/her bike on a trail that they have chosen to ride that's one issue. However, it's an entirely different issue when a person riding a horse falls off a frightened 1000 pound plus animal that may drag, stomp on or jump off the side of the cliff -- and the rider doesn't see it coming!

Please keep the city parks safe!

Sincerely,

Tracy M. Smith
TMScom@aol.com

From: andrew sears <voodoolock@gmail.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
CC: EM Garcetti <ericgarcetti@yahoo.com>, Mitch Ofarrell <mitch.ofarrell@lac...>
Date: 4/15/2009 8:14 AM
Subject: RE: April 15, 2 p.m. LaBonge Mountain Bike Motion at Arts, Parks

Andrew Sears
2308 Duane Street
Los Angeles, CA 90039
323.632.1806

RE: April 15, 2 p.m. LaBonge Mountain Bike Motion at Arts, Parks

Dear Councilmembers and Commissioners,

I am writing to tell you that the above referenced motion by Tom LaBonge borders on insanity. Councilmember LaBonge has worked long and hard to make this city a livable place that encourages all to get out and walk, jog, and exercise, yet he is now offering a minute privileged constituency a deal that will virtually close all hill trails in Los Angeles to the very people that need them the most.

The mountain-bikers are a select group of mostly male adults who have the strength to enjoy riding bikes up hills, and the prowess to ride bikes down non-paved trails. This activity involves a love for danger. The motion is a recipe for disaster, because the potential for collisions with hikers, many of whom are elderly, pregnant, walking with strollers and/or small children, or just not strong enough (have normal strength levels) or danger-seeking enough to ride bikes on hills (basically the vast, indisputable majority of ANY city).

For the mountain-bike lobby to use as their argument their growing numbers and their potential to help at-risk youth is, furthermore, additional reason to keep this group out of the city parks. *Growing numbers *means increased danger for the pedestrian hiker/joggers, and youth should be provided with many other opportunities that are less expensive and involve more group participation. Mountain biking does not encourage the community-minded thinking that all at-risk youth programs should strive for. In fact one might say the opposite is true, because riders often compete against each other to prove their superiority.

To be specific, Elysian Park is one of the few parks within close walking distance that is accessible to the Gold Line, has adequate parking, has remote trails that provide exposure to nature, a disc-golf course, and amazing views of downtown that instill civic pride to all Angelenos. Additionally, the LA Polica Academy train LAPD recruits on these trails. To invite people who will increasingly drive their bicycles to the park, will be taking the park for one underserved population, and giving it to another. Nonetheless, I argue that any city park that is attractive to mountain-bikers will serve a much larger population that needs it even more.

Every day, hundreds, if not thousands of people use the trails on the western side of Elysian Park. There is no room on those trails for high-speed vehicle, which is exactly what mountain bikes are! Additionally there are horses in Elysian Park, which is probably the justification Councilmember La Bonge is using to keep the mountain bikes out of his own

district. This motion is vicious NIMBYism. For Councilmember LaBonge to allow mountain-bikes in all city parks except Griffith Park makes no sense. There is simply no argument against this motion that does not apply to ALL PARKS. If the motion is to pass, it must also include Griffith Park. See how much the councilmember supports it then.

The city is risking massive lawsuits. Elderly people, and small children WILL BE INJURED or killed if this ordinance passes.

Please do not increase access to mountain-bikes in any of our city parks. The rest of us will no longer have any place to go. Obesity will continue to be a huge problem, and at-risk youth will be limited to spending time in small parks that offer extremely limited activity.

Thank you,

Andrew Sears

cc: Council President Eric Garcetti; CCSEP; Mia Lehrer et al.

From: "Rockman, Norma Faith" <rockmn@dcs.lacounty.gov>
To: "Erika.Pulst@lacity.org" <Erika.Pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 8:22 AM
Subject: Mountain Bikes NO

I respectfully request that no mountain bikes be permitted in Griffith Park and other areas where mountain bikes are a hazard to health and safety to human and animal. I cannot attend the meetings today, but wanted to voice my request. Thank you.

Norma Faith Rockman, CSW III, LMFT
D-Rate Clinical Evaluator/Office Of The Medical Director
West L.A. Office Museum Square
5757 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 200-Cubicle 63
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Office Phone: (323) 900-2264
Fax Number: (323) 954-5943
RDO: Fridays

From: "Diane Edwardson" <diane.edwardson@earthlink.net>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 9:12 AM
Subject: CF07-3494-S1 - NO Mountain Bikes in City Parks

Councilmember LaBonge,

I oppose mountain bikes in ALL City Parks. I can say from first hand experience with run-ins with mountain bikes illegally on the hiking trails in Elysian Park, that the potential for accidents and injury are far too high. When mountain bikers come around blind corners, they startle owner and dog often into reacting in different directions increasing the probability for an accident involving leash, dog, owner and bicyclist. Similarly there is the potential for incursions with horses. The risk increases when there are multiple on-leash dogs involved. Not everyone who uses the trails is fit, nor quick enough, to remove themselves and their on-leash dogs from harm's way.

Also from first hand experience I can say the mountain bikers show little regard for staying to one side of the road. They own the trails and the hikers, equestrians, joggers and dog walkers are in their way. I've witnessed them come straight down a steep hillside, off-trail and onto the trails without warning in Elysian Park. Considering how many seniors and elderly use the trails in Elysian Park for exercise, the potential for disaster is too great.

Additionally, the most well used trails in Elysian Park and Griffith Park have steep drop-offs on hillsides. This is too high of a risk for all involved. There are ample recreational opportunities for mountain bikes in the nearby Santa Monica Mountains.

Sincerely

Diane Edwardson

2630 Corralitas Drive

323-666-1392

From: Gerry Hans <gerry@raceready.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
CC: "Jullian Calvin-Harris" <Jullian.Harris-Calvin@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 9:30 AM
Subject: File # 07-3494-S, April 15 subject 2

Councilmembers LaBonge, Hahn and Perry:

I am a vocal advocate for alternative transportation and also an active sports enthusiast. In City of Los Angeles parks, Department of Recreation and Parks has the responsibility to protect well-established Park users of the trails against a potentially lethal weapon known as the bicycle. An ordinance is in place for this purpose and should continue to be upheld. This issue should not even be under discussion. To name Griffith Park in a Council Motion as an exception to possible changes for an important ordinance creates a divide of policy for the City. Abandon the motion or include all parks which are already subject to the ordinance.

Gerry Hans
Los Angeles
day 818 547-6869

From: "Peter" <Peter@coafunride.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 9:49 AM
Subject: RE: 07-3494-S1 Motion (LaBonge - Garcetti) relative to directing the Department of Recreation and Parks to remove Griffith Park from future off-road mountain bicycle use

RE: 07-3494-S1 Motion (LaBonge - Garcetti) relative to directing the Department of Recreation and Parks to remove Griffith Park from future off-road mountain bicycle use and work with the Departments of City Planning and Transportation, through the development of the new Bicycle Plan, to continue to explore the possibility of mountain bicycle use at other City parklands and related matters. (Also referred to Transportation Committee)
Community Impact Statement: None submitted
DISPOSITION

To the honorable members of the Arts, Parks, Health & Aging commission,

I strongly oppose this motion as it will derail the independent planning process that is being undertaken regarding the inclusion of mountain bicycling on appropriate city of Los Angeles public trails. The independent consultants and planners should be given a blank slate to develop the best possible plan for the city of Los Angeles and its residents, without prejudice.

There is over 25 years of multiple use on trails to include mountain bicycles with facts and data supporting multiple use policies from a wide variety of governmental entities, park and land managers.

The arguments against mountain bicycles on public trails comes from in 3 basic areas: 1) user conflict - conflicts and/or accidents occurring between bicyclists, hikers and/or equestrians; 2) traditional users being driven away from trails by mountain bicycles/cyclists; 3) environmental damage to trails by mountain bicycles.

In response to those three arguments, conflicts between trail users are minimal and have not proved to be a significant issue with respect to problems occurring on trails. Injuries between trail users have also been determined to be minimal and not a factor in determining trail use policies. Traditional trail users are not scared away by including mountain bicycles on trails, and this argument was offered in the only trail currently legal to mountain bicycles in the city of Los Angeles (Sullivan Ridge), and has not proved to be the case.

Regarding environmental impact, all trail users have impact on trails. Mountain bicycles fall within the acceptable range of trail uses, with

impact falling between hikers who have the least impact and equestrians who have significantly greater impact.

The parks are a public resource, and not a private country club to be used by a select few. Parks, trails and trails maintenance are paid for with all taxpayers funds and should be available to the widest range of acceptable uses. It has been proven time and again that mountain bicycle use is an appropriate and healthy member of the trail user community.

Certainly, not all trails should be opened to mountain bicycles, but there are many trails that are appropriate and able to accommodate multiple-use to include mountain bicycles. A State of California study has shown that bicycling is the number one activity for children to be introduced to outdoor activity and park use. With the city of Los Angeles' current policies it excludes families and children from having equal and fair access to these trails when they would like to bring their bicycles to the parks.

I have been involved with the city of Los Angeles and seen this issue derailed previously by this type of political maneuvering that derails good public planning process. I strongly oppose the adoption of this motion and hope you will too for the reasons outlined above.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter Heumann

27049 Esward Drive

Calabasas, CA 91301

From: Mitch O'Farrell
To: Pulst, Erika; sears, andrew
CC: Burgess, Pamela; fajack, scott; Garcetti, EM; Klein, Mary-Austin; le...
Date: 4/15/2009 9:57 AM
Subject: RE: April 15, 2 p.m. LaBonge Mountain Bike Motion at Arts, Parks

Hello Andrew:

Thanks for contacting us about this. For starters, we wanted to make sure Elysian Park is not opened up for Mountain Biking either, so that motion will be amended to prohibit off road biking there too. Beyond that, we will be monitoring this proposal very closely and appreciate the feedback about this policy idea very much.

Sincerely,

Mitch O'Farrell
District Director of Constituent Services
Office of City Council President Eric Garcetti
5500 Hollywood Boulevard, 4th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90028
Phone 323-957-4500
Fax 323-957-6841
www.cd13.com

>>> andrew sears <voodooock@gmail.com> 4/15/2009 8:13 AM >>>
Andrew Sears
2308 Duane Street
Los Angeles, CA 90039
323.632.1806

RE: April 15, 2 p.m. LaBonge Mountain Bike Motion at Arts, Parks

Dear Councilmembers and Commissioners,

I am writing to tell you that the above referenced motion by Tom LaBonge borders on insanity. Councilmember LaBonge has worked long and hard to make this city a livable place that encourages all to get out and walk, jog, and exercise, yet he is now offering a minute privileged constituency a deal that will virtually close all hill trails in Los Angeles to the very people that need them the most.

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other to prove their superiority.

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The city is risking massive lawsuits. Elderly people, and small children WILL BE INJURED or killed if this ordinance passes.

Please do not increase access to mountain-bikes in any of our city parks. The rest of us will no longer have any place to go. Obesity will continue to be a huge problem, and at-risk youth will be limited to spending time in small parks that offer extremely limited activity.

Thank you,

Andrew Sears

cc: Council President Eric Garcetti; CCSEP; Mia Lehrer et al.

From: Louisa Bonnie <louisa@knobby.ws>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 9:57 AM
Subject: Public comment for 2 pm meeting: bicycle mater plan

Erika Pulst
City of Los Angeles
Committee Clerk

Dear Erika-

I would like to submit my public comment for today's 2 pm meeting on the bicycle master plan for the city of Los Angeles and the use of off-road bicycles. The City in no way should be allowing the exclusive use of a public resource for any one trail user group or groups. The trails are and should be in every city park for multiple use purposes which includes the use of off-road bicycles. The city does a great disservice to the public and especially to children who live near these parks are yet are unable to recreate on trails or fire roads with their bikes.

Sincerely,

Louisa Bonnie
Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association
Board of Directors

Louisa@Knobby.ws
(310) 374-7552H
(626) 840-8967C

From: "Duff Marlowe" <duffmarlowe@yahoo.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
CC: <cp007@sbcglobal.net>, <info@pamelaburgess.com>
Date: 4/15/2009 10:02 AM
Subject: ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH AND AGING COMMITTEE motion on cycling on our parks hiking trails

Honorable City Officials,

I am writing to express my alarm and disappointment that the committee is going to recommend that bicycles be allowed on our city parks hiking trails. Surely, no one who cares about the health of our aging citizens, or our park eco-systems, would support such a thing. Our citizens of all ages depend on these park trails for meditation, exercise, and a rare opportunity to commune with nature, and mountain bike traffic poses a serious threat of injury and collision with moving vehicles on these so far peaceful hiking trails. Will there be nowhere that our citizens can escape from vehicular traffic, even in our park wildernesses?

Much like the debunked proposals to add aerial trams and multi-story parking structures to beautiful Griffith Park; this proposal looks like another attempt to introduce to our peaceful city park wildernesses elements of the very urban malaise that these green spaces are meant to provide respite from. It is indeed difficult for this constituent, and Los Angeles native of 52 years, to understand why any official meant to oversee the health of our parks and our citizens would propose such a thing.

I urge the committee to consider that this motion be reworded to "REMOVE ALL CITY PARKS" from consideration for mountain biking and reaffirm the existing City ordinance prohibiting them on city park trails.

Sincerely,

Anthony Marlowe

1507 Westerly Terrace

Los Angeles, CA 90026

From: "Michael Widman" <mwidman@sbcglobal.net>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
CC: <councilmember.labonge@lacity.org>, "Jullian Harris-Calvin" <Jullian.H...>
Date: 4/15/2009 10:20 AM
Subject: Re: Mountain Biking in City Parks

Dear Ms. Pulst:

As a long-time resident of the Los Feliz area and as a Board member of the Los Feliz Improvement Association, I strongly oppose mountain biking in ANY of the City's parks (including Griffith Park) and anything that would weaken or bring into question the current prohibition against such activities. I also believe that the recent proposal by Councilman Tom LaBonge regarding this matter should be rejected as it unintentionally undermines the existing prohibition against mountain biking in other City parks.

This issue has been long-settled to the satisfaction of the large majority of City residents and community groups and it should not be revisited because a small, yet well-funded, special interest group is able to obtain access to sympathetic City agencies.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Widman
323-899-1992

From: Kathleen Murphy <kmurphyroma@sbcglobal.net>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 10:21 AM
Subject: Mountain Bikes

Dear Erika:

I strongly urge you not to change the current ordinance on mountain biking on city park trails.

Our family uses Elysian Park every day as a refuge from the hectic pace of LA. Its serenity and refuge would be seriously impacted if mountain bikes were permitted on the trails.

PLEASE TO NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN!!! We desperately need these open spaces for rest. An entirely different atmosphere will be created if mountain bikes were permitted. PLEASE SAY NO!!!!

Thank you
Kathleen Murphy
Sutherland Street
Los Angeles 90026

From: Kathleen Murphy <kmurphyroma@sbcglobal.net>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 10:21 AM
Subject: Mountain Bikes

Dear Erika:

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Thank you

Kathleen Murphy
Sutherland Street
Los Angeles 90026

From: <DonaldS261@aol.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 10:29 AM
Subject: biking in parks

We are totally opposed to all off-road biking in city parks. We urge a continuation of the complete ban that now exists.

Donald Seligman and Jon Zimmermann

Donald Seligman and Jon Zimmermann
5215 Franklin Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90027
USA

telephone: 323-665-1408

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From: Shawn Baden <sbaden04@me.com>
To: <Erika.Pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 10:29 AM
Subject: Mountain Biking in Los Angeles County

Dear LA City Council,

I am writing to express my support for legalizing off-road trail access for mountain bikes in City of Los Angeles parks and open space. It is important that a change in the parks' policy regarding mountain bikes be reflected in the current update to the City's Bicycle Master Plan, and I urge you to consider the many parks throughout the city where mountain bike access is feasible and appropriate.

Allowing mountain bikes on park trails will fulfill a recreational gap in a densely built urban area, while allowing local advocacy organizations like Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA) and Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) to develop mountain bike programs for children and teens, fostering in them a respect and appreciation for open space and undeveloped land that is accessible to be enjoyed by all. In many trail systems throughout the country, mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians share trails with minimal conflict, and those models are the ones that the City of Los Angeles should follow. I urge you to join me in supporting open park trails for mountain bikers in Los Angeles.

I have only ever seen mountain bikers treat hikers and equestrians with respect on the trails.

Sincerely,

Shawn Baden

From: Bernadette Soter <bsoter@earthlink.net>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>, <councilmember.labonge@lacity.org>
CC: <councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 11:24 AM
Subject: April 15. Motion #07-3494-S1 LaBonge/Garcetti

Dear Councilmember LaBonge,

This is a request that you expand Motion 07-3494-S1 written by you and seconded by Councilmember Eric Garcetti, to not only remove Griffith Park from consideration for mountain bike use, but to affirm the City's long standing ordinance prohibiting mountain bikes and other extreme sports equipment on all Los Angeles City park dirt trails.

The initiative to reverse City ordinance and trail policy has been advanced in a furtive process within the Department of Transportation (DOT), not the Department of Recreation and Parks where the discussion belongs. To preserve secrecy, the DOT has failed to respond to inquiries from the public regarding what has been positioned as a "mediation." The term "mediation" suggests that there are multiple parties involved in an ongoing negotiation. There has only been one party to this negotiation: bicyclists. All other park and trail users, their groups and organizations, have been excluded. The DOT has even failed to acknowledge inquiries from certified Neighborhood Councils seeking to gain information about their plans.

To justify changing the City's policy regarding mountain bikes on trails, CORBA (Concerned Off-Road Bicycling Association) has released an e-mail alert to its members containing these bullet-point statements which do not stand up to examination:

There are many parks throughout the city where mountain bike access is feasible and appropriate

The park-using public has not been asked on a park-by-park basis if this is true. In fact, as this initiative is dragged into the daylight, park-users are responding with anger and dismay which is evidenced by the correspondence you and others in the City are beginning to receive.

Allowing mountain bikes on park trails will fulfill a recreational gap in densely built urban areas.

If proponents of paintball, rock-climbing and ATV-use positioned their prohibition from L.A. City parks as a "recreational gap," the City would not be obligated to provide for these extreme sports in its municipal parks. Bicycling is welcome and provided for in City parks, but is confined to designated areas of those parks. Horseback riding is welcome and provided for in City parks, but is confined to designated areas of those parks. Horseback riding would be a pleasurable activity on grassy park areas such as picnic grounds and golf courses, but because this would displace, endanger and interfere with the enjoyment of picnickers and golfers, it is prohibited in those areas. Bicycling is prohibited on dirt trails for exactly the same reason: it because it would displace, endanger and interfere with the enjoyment of walkers, hikers and horseback riders.

It will allow for the development of mountain bike programs for children and teens

There are hundreds of miles of mountain biking trails abutting all sides of Los Angeles. Mountain bike programs for children and teens

can be developed without accessing trails in L.A. City parks. Disturbingly, there is no proof that Mandeville Canyon Park, purchased in 2000 by the City of Los Angeles with Prop K for Kids funds and managed by the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has been used for this purpose, although to secure Prop K funds, it was pledged by CORBA, the applicant, that they would use Mandeville Canyon Park to fulfill this function.

In many trail systems throughout the country, mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians share trails with minimal conflict, and those models are the ones that the City of Los Angeles should follow. Mountain biking advocates are seeking to introduce what they call "minimal conflict," as an acceptable standard for trail use in L.A. City parks. Currently there is no conflict among users on City park trails. Throughout the country, trail-use by hikers and equestrians has declined steeply after mountain bikes have been introduced to those trails. The City of Los Angeles should not introduce conflict to its trails or any mode that would evict other trail users. The City should not follow these models.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion,

Bernadette Soter
2640 N. Commonwealth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323-663-6193

From: Marian Dodge <smdodge@earthlink.net>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
CC: <councilmember.labonge@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 11:58 AM
Subject: 07-3494 Mt. bikes

Councilmember LaBonge,

I strongly urge you to preserve the current municipal ordinance prohibiting mountain bikes on city park trails.

Bike riding as a method of commuting should certainly be encouraged. However access through the park is already provided by the LA River Bike Trail and Crystal Springs Drive on paved roads.

The issue of mountain bikes in city parks was discussed at great length by the Department of Recreation & Parks Citizens Advisory Body convened by the City of Los Angeles. Their Mountain Bike Access Working Group Majority Report, Sept. 15, 2000, determined that the city should continue to prohibit mountain bikes of city park trails for environmental and safety issues.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge
2648 Commonwealth Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90027

From: Judy Kameon <jk@elysianlandscapes.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 12:08 PM
Subject: no to mountain biking on our park trails

Dear Ms. Pulst,
Please change the wording on the motion regarding mountain biking in City parks. As a 20 year+ resident of Elysian Park, and a daily dog walker on the trails in our park, mountain biking would be a nuisance at best and dangerous at worst for the dogs and walkers, as there are many blind curves and narrow areas on the trail. These trails were not built to accommodate bike traffic and human traffic concurrently. Please reword the motion to include REMOVE ALL CITY PARKS from consideration for mountain biking and reaffirm the existing City ordinance prohibiting them on city park trails.
Many thanks,
Judy Kameon

From: "ksabo@wildwildwest.org" <ksabo@wildwildwest.org>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 12:11 PM
Subject: Public Comment - Arts Parks Health and Aging

Public Comment - Arts, Parks, Health and Aging committee
CF#07-3494-S1
April 15th, 2009

Dear Councilmember LaBonge and
Arts, Parks, Health and Aging committee members,

As an experienced hiker, mountain biker, and equestrian, I ask you to remove the following underlined language from Council File #07-3494-S1 (LaBonge/Garcetti)

"I therefore move that the City Council direct the Department of Recreation and Parks to remove Griffith Park from off-road mountain bicycles use and work with the Departments of City Planning and Transportation, through the development of the new Bicycle Plan, to continue to explore the possibility of mountain bike use at other City parklands."

Los Angeles City Parks are parks in an urban setting. Children and families are the major user group. Having just one mountain biker who thinks he's some kind of X-Games athlete on the same trails is extremely dangerous. In a mountain bike - child collision, the child doesn't stand a chance. Even I have been run off a trail in Griffith Park twice by scofflaws on mountain bikes riding at breakneck speeds without a single thought as to who they might be endangering on those trails. In both cases, the riders saw that I had been forced off trail and over the edge of a pretty high cliff, yet they did not bother to stop or even slow down.

Quite honestly, this is a management issue and should not be made in a City Council motion at all. The details of whether a park is appropriate for any kind of activity rests with the Department of Recreation and Parks. They are the professionals and are tasked with detailed park management. Remove the language and let Rec and Parks do their jobs.

That said, from my personal experience far in excess of the 800 hours per year I officially volunteer in City parks, and as a mountain biker myself, I wholly support the current City ordinance that prohibits mountain bikes and other extreme sports from all Los Angeles City Park unpaved trails. Doing so is hardly a hardship for myself when I'm biking. Different areas of the Verdugo Mts are just 10 minutes from both Griffith Park and Hansen Dam. The National Forest trails are just five minutes, if even that, from Hansen Dam. And although the distance is small, the type of users varies greatly, with far fewer if any inexperienced urban dwellers in the Verdugos or Nat'l Forest.

In summary:

1. remove this language from the motion: "and work with the Departments of City Planning and Transportation, through the development of the new Bicycle Plan, to continue to explore the possibility of mountain bike use at other City parklands."
2. Support the current City ordinance that prohibits mountain bikes and other extreme sports from all Los Angeles City Park unpaved trails.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kristin C. Sabo - Rec and Parks volunteer, hiker, biker, and equestrian.
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Kristin C. Sabo
ksabo@wildwildwest.org

From: christine peters <cp007@sbcglobal.net>
To: andrew sears <voodooock@gmail.com>, Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org...>
CC: mia lehrer <MIAYASSOC@aol.com>, scott fajack <echopark@gmail.com>, Aleja...
Date: 4/15/2009 1:31 PM
Subject: RE: April 15, 2 p.m. LaBonge Mountain Bike Motion at Arts, Parks

Thank you Mitch,

The CCSEP is on record opposing Mt. Biking in Elysian Park specifically, and support the standing City Ordinance prohibiting bikes on park trails Citywide.

Thank you so much for your attention to this very important issue,

Christine Peters
President, CCSEP

--- On Wed, 4/15/09, Mitch Ofarrell <Mitch.Ofarrell@lacity.org> wrote:

> From: Mitch Ofarrell <Mitch.Ofarrell@lacity.org>
> Subject: RE: April 15, 2 p.m. LaBonge Mountain Bike Motion at Arts, Parks
> To: "andrew sears" <voodooock@gmail.com>, "Erika Pulst" <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
> Cc: "mia lehrer" <MIAYASSOC@aol.com>, "scott fajack" <echopark@gmail.com>, "Alejandra Marroquin" <Alejandra.Marroquin@lacity.org>, "Lynnelle Scaduto" <Lynnelle.Scaduto@lacity.org>, "Pamela Burgess" <burgess-p@sbcglobal.net>, "christine peters" <cp007@sbcglobal.net>, "Mary-Austin Klein" <mary-austin_klein@sbcglobal.net>, "EM Garcetti" <ericgarcetti@yahoo.com>
> Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 9:57 AM
> Hello Andrew:
>
> Thanks for contacting us about this. For starters, we
> wanted to make sure Elysian Park is not opened up for
> Mountain Biking either, so that motion will be amended to
> prohibit off road biking there too. Beyond that, we will be
> monitoring this proposal very closely and appreciate the
> feedback about this policy idea very much.
>
> Sincerely,
>
>
> Mitch O'Farrell
> District Director of Constituent Services
> Office of City Council President Eric Garcetti
> 5500 Hollywood Boulevard, 4th floor
> Los Angeles, CA 90028
> Phone 323-957-4500
> Fax 323-957-6841
> www.cd13.com
>
>
>
> >>> andrew sears <voodooock@gmail.com>
> 4/15/2009 8:13 AM >>>
> Andrew Sears
> 2308 Duane Street

> Los Angeles, CA 90039
> 323.632.1806
>
> RE: April 15, 2 p.m. LaBonge Mountain Bike Motion at Arts,
> Parks
>
> Dear Councilmembers and Commissioners,
>
> I am writing to tell you that the above referenced motion
> by Tom LaBonge
> borders on insanity. Councilmember LaBonge has worked long
> and hard to make
> this city a livable place that encourages all to get out
> and walk, jog, and
> exercise, yet he is now offering a minute privileged
> constituency a deal
> that will virtually close all hill trails in Los Angeles to
> the very people
> that need them the most.
>
> The mountain-bikers are a select group of mostly male
> adults who have the
> strength to enjoy riding bikes up hills, and the prowess to
> ride bikes down
> non-paved trails. This activity involves a love for danger.
> The motion is a
> recipe for disaster, because the potential for collisions
> with hikers, many
> of whom are elderly, pregnant, walking with strollers
> and/or small children,
> or just not strong enough (have normal strength levels) or
> danger-seeking
> enough to ride bikes on hills (basically the vast,
> indisputable majority of
> ANY city).
>
> For the mountain-bike lobby to use as their argument their
> growing numbers
> and their potential to help at-risk youth is, furthermore,
> additional reason
> to keep this group out of the city parks. *Growing numbers
> *means increased
> danger for the pedestrian hiker/joggers, and youth should
> be provided with
> many other opportunities that are less expensive and
> involve more group
> participation. Mountain biking does not encourage the
> community-minded
> thinking that all at-risk youth programs should strive for.
> In fact one
> might say the opposite is true, because riders often
> compete against each
> other to prove their superiority.
>
> To be specific, Elysian Park is one of the few parks within
> close walking

- > distance that is accessible to the Gold Line, has adequate
- > parking, has
- > remote trails that provide exposure to nature, a disc-golf
- > course, and
- > amazing views of downtown that instill civic pride to all
- > Angelenos.
- > Additionally, the LA Polica Academy train LAPD recruits on
- > these trails. To
- > invite people who will increasingly drive their bicycles to
- > the park, will
- > be taking the park for one underserved population, and
- > giving it to another.
- > Nonetheless, I argue that any city park that is attractive
- > to
- > mountain-bikers will serve a much larger population that
- > needs if even more.
- >
- > Every day, hundreds, if not thousands of people use the
- > trails on the
- > western side of Elysian Park. There is no room on those
- > trails for
- > high-speed vehicle, which is exactly what mountain bikes
- > are! Additionally
- > there are horses in Elysian Park, which is probably the
- > justification
- > Councilmember La Bonge is using to keep the mountain bikes
- > out of his own
- > district. This motion is vicious NIMBYism. For
- > Councilmember LaBonge to
- > allow mountain-bikes in all city parks except Griffith Park
- > makes no sense.
- > There is simply no argument against this motion that does
- > not apply to ALL
- > PARKS. If the motion is to pass, it must also include
- > Griffith Park. See how
- > much the councilmember supports it then.
- >
- > The city is risking massive lawsuits. Elderly people, and
- > small children
- > WILL BE INJURED or killed if this ordinance passes.
- >
- > Please do not increase access to mountain-bikes in any of
- > our city parks.
- > The rest of us will no longer have any place to go. Obesity
- > will continue to
- > be a huge problem, and at-risk youth will be limited to
- > spending time in
- > small parks that offer extremely limited activity.
- >
- > Thank you,
- >
- > Andrew Sears
- >
- > cc: Council President Eric Garcetti; CCSEP; Mia Lehrer et
- > al.

From: C Olsson <jcraigola@hotmail.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
CC: <jullian.harris-calvin@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 3:58 PM
Subject: Bikes in parks

Councilmembers LaBonge, Hahn and Perry:

I am a vocal advocate for bicycling and alternate modes of transportation. I am also an active outdoors enthusiast. In City of Los Angeles parks, Department of Recreation and Parks has the responsibility to protect well-established users of Park trails against a potentially lethal weapon known as the bicycle. An ordinance is in place for this purpose and should continue to be upheld. This issue should not even be under discussion. To name Griffith Park in a Council Motion as an exception to possible changes for an important ordinance creates a policy divide policy for the City. I believe you must abandon the motion or be prepared to include all parks which are already subject to the ordinance.

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From: Gary <sifugazz@gmail.com>
To: <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/15/2009 9:39 PM
Subject: mountain bike meeting-too late?

Hello,

It may be too late for this email, however I would like to add my vote for mountain bikes to be allowed on trails. Legally speaking I think the equestrian crowd is minority, and a wealthy minority at that, who is trying to impose a ban on other citizens who have a right to use the trails. If banned from trails, and horse riders are allowed, I will certainly bring suit against the city for discrimination and force the hand of the state to prove why one small class of citizens should be privileged to use public land at the expense of another class of citizens.

The complaints seem mere conjecture at this point and should have no bearing on public policy without proof. Certainly if access is denied to myself or fellow mountain bikers at the behest of horse riders a law suit will put the burden of proof where it belongs, I think the city should be aware of the consequences of such policy reform, and take into account all reasonable circumstances.

Furthermore, since biking in CA, I have seen a very good rapport between hikers and bikers, people are courteous and respectful of each other on the trails. If a "pedestrian" and a mountain biker can get along on a trail, there is no reason why a person on a horse which dwarfs a bike in size cannot get along.

regards,

Gary