




Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: September 9, 2020

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ana Ruiz, General Manager 

FROM: Brian Malone, Assistant General Manager

SUBJECT: Trail Use Designation of Short Segment of Lower Meadow Trail in Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

At the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) meeting on August 12, 2020 item (R-20-89) the Board designated select trails at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve and County Park, where bicycles are currently allowed, as open to class 1 and 2 electric bicycle use under a one year pilot project.

During the meeting there was a brief discussion of a short segment of the Lower Meadow Trail with a primarily unimproved surface in Rancho San Antonio Preserve between the preserve signboards and the permit parking area that parallels the preserve service road. This segment was not designated for electric bicycle use, as shown on the map attached to the Board report, and therefore electric bicycle use is not allowed on this segment. Prominent signing recommends this segment for pedestrian use and directs bicyclists to stay on the paved service road. During the Board meeting staff mentioned that this segment, even though signed for pedestrian use, was the one segment of trail in Rancho San Antonio Preserve that technically allows bicycles and was not recommended for designation for use by electric bicycles on a pilot program basis. Director Kishimoto requested that this segment of the Lower Meadow Trail between the signboards and the permit parking area be posted with standard no bicycle signs.

However, on further review of public District maps that show it as a bicycle and hiking trail and which serves as the only documentation of trail designation of this trail segment, the General Manager has concluded that Board action would be needed to officially change the trail use designation, if so desired by a majority of the Board. The Board can request that this item return for a Board decision on the change in use, otherwise, the District will maintain current signage and the callout box on the preserve brochure, which direct bicyclists (via a request versus an enforceable requirement) to use the paved service road while directing pedestrians to keep to the decomposed granite path (see map and photos below).

As background information, this memo includes a brief explanation of why the current signage is in place. As a general park management practice, it is preferable to separate employee/permittee vehicle traffic and visitor use. Staff developed the current signs to direct the majority of visitor use onto the decomposed granite trail off the paved service road. However, we understood that most cyclists and many families with strollers prefer to stay on the paved service road. It was

also expected that small children might still ride next to their families on bicycles and tricycles on the decomposed granite trail, therefore signs were developed to direct bicyclists to use the service road and pedestrians to use the trail segment, neither of which is required or enforced. There is also a call out box on the map to reinforce pedestrian use of the trail. The trail is not typically used by adult cyclists and additional signing is likely not necessary to keep electric bicycles on the paved road.



