

CLAREMONT COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

*"We are a vibrant, livable, and inclusive community dedicated to quality services,
safety, financial strength, sustainability, preservation, and progress
with equal representation for our community."*

**City Council Chamber
225 Second Street
Claremont, CA 91711**



**Wednesday
March 12, 2025
7:00 PM**

COMMISSIONERS

**BRISA SIFUENTES
CHAIR**

RUSS BINDER

NANCY BROWER

GREG GLASS

LAUREN ROSELLE

DEBORAH SCOTT TOUX

DIRK SILVA

Meetings are open to the public for in-person attendance. The meeting will be live streamed via Zoom, technology permitting. Members of the public will not be able to provide public comment via Zoom. To watch the meeting via Zoom, use the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/93017264737>. To listen via telephone dial (213) 338-8477, Webinar ID: 930 1726 4737. The recorded meeting will be uploaded to the City website and archived.

OPTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment may be provided by one of the following methods. Each speaker will be given up to three (3) minutes to provide their comment.

IN-PERSON LIVE COMMENTS

When the item you wish to speak to is announced, please proceed to the speaker's podium one by one.

E-MAIL/MAIL

Written comments sent to the Community and Human Services Commission will be distributed to the Commission and imaged into the record of the meeting. Email: dross@claremontca.gov. Mail: PO Box 880, Claremont, CA 91711. Written comments submitted after publication of the agenda will be made available in the document archive system on the City website as soon as possible - www.claremontca.gov.

**For assistance, comments, or more information please contact Dawn Ross, Commission
Secretary, (909) 399-5431.**

CALL TO ORDER THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement:

Claremont Helen Renwick Library Updates

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Commission has set aside this time for persons who wish to comment on items that are not listed on the agenda, but are within the jurisdiction of the Community and Human Services Commission. Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Commission regarding all items on the agenda at the time the Commission considers those items.

General public comment will be taken for 30 minutes and will resume later in the meeting if there are speakers who did not get an opportunity to speak because of the 30-minute time limit.

The Brown Act prohibits the Commission from taking action on oral requests relating to items that are not on the agenda. The Commission may engage in a brief discussion, refer the matter to staff, and/or schedule requests for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed on the consent calendar are considered to be routine. The Commission may act on these items by one motion following public comment. Only Commissioners may pull an item from the consent calendar for discussion.

1. COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2025

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Community and Human Services Commission approve and file the Community and Human Services Commission regular meeting minutes of February 5, 2025.

Attachment(s): Draft 02-05-25 Community and Human Services Commission Meeting Minutes

2. COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file the various committee meeting minutes.

Attachment(s): 05-20-24 Committee on Human Relations Meeting Minutes
01-15-25 Teen Committee Meeting Minutes

3. TREE PLANTINGS AND REMOVALS FOR DECEMBER 2024

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file the tree plantings and removals report for December 2024.

Attachment(s): Trees Planted by Address - December 2024
Trees Removed by Address - December 2024
Photos of Removed Trees - December 2024

4. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Recommendation: The Committee on Human Relations recommends the Community and Human Services Commission approve the revisions to the Committee on Human Relations Policies and Procedures.

Attachment(s): CoHR Policies and Procedures
Excerpt of the 02-24-25 CoHR Special Meeting Minutes (Draft)

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

5. ORDINANCE CODIFYING TRAIL ETIQUETTE STANDARDS AND REGULATING THE USE OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES IN THE CLAREMONT HILLS WILDERNESS PARK

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Community and Human Services Commission recommend one of the following options:

A. Recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed Ordinance prohibiting the use of Class 2 and Class 3 e-bicycles in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.

B. Recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed Ordinance prohibiting the use of all e-bicycles in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.

Attachment(s): Proposed Changes to Chapter 11 of the Claremont Municipal Code
Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of E-Bikes in the CHWP
Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Class 2 and 3 E-Bikes in the CHWP
Letter from the Friends of the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park
Letter from the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy
2024 E-Bike Survey Copy

CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENT

This time is reserved for those persons who were unable to speak earlier in the agenda because of the 30-minute time restriction.

REPORTS

Staff/Commission/Committee

ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE CLAREMONT COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025, AT 7:00 PM, IN THE CLAREMONT COUNCIL CHAMBER, 225 WEST SECOND STREET.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, THIS AGENDA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE FORMATS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. ANY PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO REQUIRES A MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN A CITY MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT 909-399-5461 "VOICE" OR 1-800-735-2929 "TT/TTY" AT LEAST THREE (3) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE.

I, DAWN ROSS, SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA, HEREBY CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING AGENDA WAS POSTED AT CLAREMONT CITY HALL, 207 HARVARD AVENUE, ON THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.

POST THROUGH: MARCH 13, 2025



Claremont Community and Human Services Commission

Agenda Report

File #: 5449

Item No: 1.

TO: COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

FROM: JEREMY SWAN, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR
MELISSA VOLLARO, RECREATION AND HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR

DATE: MARCH 12, 2025

SUBJECT:

**COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF
FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Community and Human Services Commission approve and file the Community and Human Services Commission regular meeting minutes of February 5, 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

The agenda and staff report for this item have been posted on the City website and distributed to interested parties. If you desire a copy, please contact the City Clerk's Office.

Submitted by:

Jeremy Swan
Community Services Director

Submitted by:

Melissa Vollaro
Recreation and Human Services Director

Prepared by:

Dawn Bonnell Ross
Senior Administrative Assistant

Attachment:

02-05-25 Draft CHS Commission Meeting Minutes

**CLAREMONT COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 - 7:00 PM

Meeting conducted in person and via Zoom. Video recording is archived on the City website.
<https://www.claremontca.gov/Government/City-Council/Watch-a-Meeting>

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Sifuentes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

COMMISSIONER: BINDER, BROWER, GLASS, ROSELLE,
SCOTT TOUX, SIFUENTES, SILVA

ABSENT

COMMISSIONER: NONE

ALSO PRESENT

Michelle Castillo, Management Analyst
Patricia Cisneros, Senior Administrative Assistant
Eric Ey, Recreation and Human Services Manager
Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant
Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director
Melissa Vollaro, Recreation and Human Services Director

CEREMONIAL MATTERS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Announcement

Katherine Loeser, Claremont Helen Renwick Library Manager, shared Library updates and upcoming events during the month of February.

PUBLIC COMMENT

This item starts at 00:04:07 in the archived video.

Chair Sifuentes invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced no written public comment had been received.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Sifuentes closed public comment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

This item starts at 00:06:40 in the archived video.

Chair Sifuentes invited public comment on the Consent Calendar.

Senior Administrative Assistant Ross announced that one written public comment had been received for Consent Calendar Item 3.

Barnabas Path, Claremont resident, stated that immediately before the meeting Community Services Director Jeremy Swan clarified for him the specific reasons for the removal of one of the trees deemed “hazardous” in the monthly plantings/removals report. Mr. Path feels that the time limit for public comment can sometimes make it difficult to clear up misperceptions or misunderstandings, and encouraged being mindful of possibly competing interests or opinions.

There were no additional requests to speak.

Chair Sifuentes closed public comment.

Commissioner Brower moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Commissioner Silva, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: ***Commissioner – Binder, Brower, Glass, Roselle, Scott Toux, Sifuentes, Silva***
NOES: ***Commissioner – None***

1. Community and Human Services Commission Special Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025
Approved and filed the Community and Human Services Commission special meeting minutes of January 16, 2025.
2. Committee Meeting Minutes
Received and filed the various Committee meeting minutes.
3. Tree Plantings and Removals for November 2024
Received and filed the plantings and removals report for November 2024.
4. Committee Appointments
Appointed Stephanie Andrews, Natasha Kohls, and Andrea Robert to the Committee on Human Relations, to serve a term to expire on August 31, 2029.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

5. 2024 Homeless Services Update

This item starts at 00:13:18 in the archived video.

Michelle Castillo, Management Analyst, provided an overview of the City’s homeless services programs, partners, outreach, and funding for the calendar year 2024.

Management Analyst Castillo responded to questions from the Commission regarding rates of acceptance of offered services, availability of demographic information for program participants, coordination of services among other programs or organizations, possible overlaps or gaps in services between organizations, feedback from program participants on the services offered, possible allocations of Measure A funding, and the possibility of reinstating the Claremont Homeless Advocacy Program.

Chair Sifuentes invited public comment.

Senior Administrative Assistant Ross announced that no written public comment had been received on this item.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Sifuentes closed public comment.

The Commission received and filed the report.

REPORTS

Staff

DIRECTORS' REPORT

This item starts at 00:29:56 in the archived video.

Melissa Vollaro, Recreation and Human Services Director, reported on:

- Winter/Spring Activity Guide
- Youth Program Updates
- Senior Program Updates
- 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count
- 35th Annual Making Change Contest
- St. Patrick's Day Dance

Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, reported on:

- Employee Promotion
- Lewis Park Playground Project
- Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual Update and Next Steps
- Urban Forest Update
- Park Improvement Plan
- Open/Upcoming Bids
- Upcoming Holiday Closure

Commission/Committee

Commissioner Brower reported that interviews were held for the Committee on Human Relations, and three new members were appointed. The Commission welcomed the two new appointees in attendance.

Commissioner Brower also reported that the Independence Day Committee met to discuss the 2025 program. Events including the races, flag raising, T. Willard Hunter Speakers Corner, and honorees will all take place on the Fourth, and the parade will now begin at 1:00 PM.

Chair Sifuentes noted that the Tree Committee will meet on February 19, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sifuentes adjourned the meeting of the Community and Human Services Commission at 7:56 PM. The next regular meeting of the Claremont Community and Human Services Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Brisa Sifuentes, Chair

Dawn Bonnell Ross, Recording Secretary



Claremont Community and Human Services Commission

Agenda Report

File #: 5450

Item No: 2.

TO: COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

FROM: JEREMY SWAN, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR
MELISSA VOLLARO, RECREATION AND HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR

DATE: MARCH 12, 2025

SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file the various committee meeting minutes.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

The agenda and staff report for this item have been posted on the City website and distributed to interested parties. If you desire a copy, please contact the City Clerk's Office.

Submitted by:

Jeremy Swan
Community Services Director

Submitted by:

Melissa Vollaro
Recreation and Human Services Director

Prepared by:

Dawn Bonnell Ross
Senior Administrative Assistant

Attachments:

- A - 05-20-24 Committee on Human Relations Meeting Minutes
- B - 01-15-25 Teen Committee Meeting Minutes

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, May 20, 2024 – 7:00 PM
Alexander Hughes Community Center, Santa Fe Room
1700 Danbury Road, Claremont, California

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Barnes-Slater called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Member Mason led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: BARNES-SLATER, BARTMAN,
MASON, MYERS, WILLS

ABSENT

COMMITTEE MEMBER: BUCHHOLZ, CRAYTON,
OFSTEDAHN

ALSO PRESENT

Melissa Vollaro, Director of Recreation and Human Services
Michelle Castillo, Management Analyst

CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee recognized outgoing Member Wills.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Barnes-Slater invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Barnes-Slater invited public comment on the Consent Calendar.

There were no requests to speak.

1. Committee on Human Relations Special Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2024
Approved and filed the Committee on Human Relations special meeting minutes of February 26, 2024.

Committee Member Wills moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Committee Member Mason, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: **Committee Member – Barnes-Slater, Bartman, Mason, Myers, Wills**
NOES: **Committee Member – None**
ABSENT: **Committee Member – Buchholz, Crayton, Ofstedahl, Rea**

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. Ad Hoc Report on Civil Discourse Event

Member Mason shared that she thought the event was great, but only 14 people attended the event. She shared that the event used the Circle of Friends format, which invited all in attendance to speak for short periods of time.

Chair Barnes-Slater shared that all event questions centered around current issues in Claremont, which help engage all in attendance. In the future, attendees suggested publishing the discussion questions in advance. Chair Barnes-Slater shared that similar discussion events held at Pitzer College that use the Circle of Friends discussion method draw between 40-50 people.

Chair Barnes-Slater shared that those in attendance appreciated the event, and numerous people mentioned that these discussions would continue even after the workshop ended. She collected feedback cards which she will be sharing with the group. She suggested that while attendance was low at this event it will take time to build a group focused on civil discourse.

Chair Barnes-Slater invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

The report was received and filed.

3. United Against Hate Week

Michelle Castillo, Management Analyst, stated that the ad hoc group, comprised of Members Bartman, Mason, Myers and Ofstedahl, met to discuss involvement in United Against Hate Week, to take place September 21-27, 2024. She stated the ad hoc liked the idea of doing an acts of kindness week, where Committee Members would encourage individuals and groups to perform acts of kindness on their own and share with the community.

Members liked this idea, and the ad hoc agreed to meet to determine additional details with the Committee kicking off the movement in August.

Chair Barnes-Slater invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

The report was received and filed.

REPORTS

Staff

Michelle Castillo, Management Analyst, stated that City's Memorial Day event will be held on Monday, May 27, 2024, at 11:00 AM at Oak Park Cemetery. The City's Summer Camp begins on June 24, 2024, and the Fourth of July 1K/5K will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2024, followed by the parade, festival and firework show on Thursday, July 4, 2024.

Director Vollaro shared that Concerts in the Park and Movies in the Park both begin the week of July 8, 2024.

Committee

Chair Barnes-Slater commented that there is a lot happening this summer in Claremont and expressed how pleased she was with the new layout in the City's brochure.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Barnes Slater adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM. The next meeting of the Committee on Human Relations will be on Monday, September 16, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Alexander Hughes Community Center.


Cynthia Barnes-Slater
Chair

ATTEST:


Michelle Castillo
Recording Secretary

**CLAREMONT TEEN COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 – 3:45 PM
YAC – 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Santoro-Huie called the meeting to order at 3:55 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBER: DURHAM, STODGHILL, SANTORO-HUIE,
MOJAVERIAN, ZAMBRANO, WU, GUEVARA, MUHAMMAD,
TROENDLE, CRISOSTOMO

ABSENT

COMMITTEE MEMBER: BHAGAT

ALSO PRESENT

Brandon Brown, Recreation and Human Services Coordinator
Deborah Scott Toux, Community and Human Services Commission
Liaison

CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no ceremonial matters, presentations, or announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Santoro-Huie invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Santoro-Huie invited public comment on the Consent Calendar.

There were no requests to speak.

1. **Teen Committee Minutes of November 20, 2024**

Approved and filed the regular Teen Committee minutes of October 16, 2024.

Committee Member Stodghill moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Committee Member Zambrano, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Committee Member – Durham, Stodghill, Santoro-Huie, Mojaverian,
Zambrano, Wu, Guevara, Muhammad, Troendle, Crisostomo
NOES: Committee Member – None
ABSENT: Committee Member – Bhagat

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. Senior Recreation and Human Services Supervisor Report

Brandon Brown, Recreation and Human Services Coordinator, shared updates on upcoming plans within Youth Programs. He highlighted the upcoming FAFSA workshop that will be held at the YAC on Monday, January 27, 2025.

Chair Santoro-Huie invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

The Committee received and filed the report.

3. Planning Workshops and Events for the School Year

Brandon Brown, Recreation and Human Services Coordinator, spoke with the Committee about plans they have for this upcoming winter season. He reminded the Committee of the upcoming Tree Planting event dates February 13 and March 11, 2025, and these have been confirmed.

The Committee spoke about the upcoming Wellness Week events, in which the Committee agreed to try and attend.

The Committee spoke about the Hydrogen Electric Bus tour and proposed April 24, 2025, as the tentative date.

Mr. Brown asked the Committee what dates would work for a tour of City Hall and the tentative date proposed was March 26, 2025.

The Committee spoke about Farmers Market promotions and asked to hold off on selecting a date until they were ready to start accepting Teen Committee membership applications.

Mr. Brown asked the Committee about any other events they would like to plan through spring. The idea of hosting an Art and Healing event was proposed by Chair Santoro-Huie. The event would allow for participants to create art using sensory items like sand, clay, and playdoh. Chair Santoro-Huie will bring more information about the event to the next meeting. The tentative date for this activity is March 21, 2025, the same day as the YAC's Happiness Sprinkling event.

The Committee also spoke about an Earth Day Aroma Therapy event allowing participants to create poppuri bags. The tentative date for this event is April 22, 2025 (Earth Day).

Lastly, the Committee spoke about hosting a study hall at the YAC during the CHS Finals, to allow students a free quiet and collaborative space to study for finals. The tentative date and times for this event are May 27 - 29, 2025, 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM.

Chair Santoro-Huie invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

The Committee received and filed the report.

REPORTS

Staff


Brandon Brown, Recreation and Human Services Coordinator, shared that the YAC will be hosting the Dinner at the YAC on Friday, January 31, 2025.

Committee

Deborah Scott Toux, Community and Human Services Commission Liaison, had no updates.

ADJOURNMENT

The Claremont Teen Committee meeting adjourned at 4:33 PM. The next meeting of the Claremont Teen Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 3:45 PM at the Youth Activity Center, 1717 N. Indian Hill Boulevard, Claremont, CA 91711.



Gia Santoro-Huie, Chair

ATTEST:



Brandon Brown, Recording Secretary



Claremont Community and Human Services Commission

Agenda Report

File #: 5458

Item No: 3.

TO: COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

FROM: JEREMY SWAN, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

DATE: MARCH 12, 2025

SUBJECT:

TREE PLANTINGS AND REMOVALS FOR DECEMBER 2024

SUMMARY

The adopted *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual* requires the Community Services Department to provide a monthly report on tree plantings and removals. This report includes information on City tree plantings and removals for the month of December 2024. Twenty trees were planted, and twelve trees were removed in December 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file the tree plantings and removals report for December 2024.

ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

In addition to the recommendation, there is the following alternative:

- Refer the item back to staff for additional information.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Twenty trees were planted during the month of December. All twenty trees were 15-gallon-size and planted by the City's contractor, West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA) at a cost of \$220 each. The total cost to plant all twenty trees was \$4,400.

Twelve trees were removed during the month of December 2024. All twelve trees were removed by WCA. The removal cost is based on the diameter at breast height of the tree, and the total cost for removing the twelve trees was \$9,791.

ANALYSIS

The Community Services Department is responsible for the daily management of the City's urban forest, including the planting and removal of City trees. The City-Council-adopted *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual* establishes the standards governing the tree planting and removal process.

Plantings

Twenty trees were planted during the month of December. All twenty trees were planted by WCA within the City's rights-of-way. All twenty trees were 15-gallon-size. A listing of trees planted by address is included as Attachment A.

Removals

It is the City's policy to protect and preserve healthy trees that provide valuable benefits to our environment and to the quality of life in Claremont. However, staff has the authority to remove City trees if a tree is considered dead, diseased, or hazardous. Additionally, per the *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual*, staff has the authority to remove trees that are causing hardscape/infrastructure damage if the repairs cannot be made without severe root pruning that would jeopardize the health and stability of the tree. To be consistent with the *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual*, the reason for removal listed in the report will be based upon the conditions listed in the manual. It should be noted that this report is for removals in December 2024, prior to approval of the revised *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual*. Beginning with February 2025 removals, the reasons for removal will be consistent with the revised Manual.

Twelve trees were removed during the month of December. All trees were removed by WCA from the City's rights-of-way and parks. These removals include trees that were deemed dead, diseased, or hazardous by the City Arborist. A listing of trees removed by address is included as Attachment B. Photos of the trees removed during the month of December 2024 are included as Attachment C.

CEQA REVIEW

This item is not subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

The agenda and staff report for this item have been posted on the City website and distributed to interested parties. If you desire a copy, please contact the City Clerk's Office.

Submitted by:

Jeremy Swan
Community Services Director

Prepared by:

Cari Dillman
Community Services Manager

Attachments:

- A - Trees Planted by Address - December 2024
- B - Trees Removed by Address - December 2024
- C - Photos of Removed Trees - December 2024

ATTACHMENT A

Trees Planted by Address – December 2024

Address	Botanical Name	Common Name
738 8TH ST /W	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'Oklahoma'	OKLAHOMA REDBUD
350 AUBURN WY	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	RED OAK
921 BERKELEY AV	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> 'Tuskegee'	TUSKEGEE CRAPE MYRTLE
2336 BRADLEY AV	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> 'Red Push'	RED PUSH PISTACHE
126 BRYN MAWR RD	<i>Quercus suber</i>	CORK OAK
126 BRYN MAWR RD	<i>Quercus suber</i>	CORK OAK
450 JUILLIARD DR	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	RED OAK
1405 MURAL DR	<i>Cassia leptophylla</i>	GOLD MEDALLION TREE
369 OAKDALE DR	<i>Handroanthus heptaphyllus</i>	PINK TRUMPET TREE
PADUA PARK	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	COAST LIVE OAK
PADUA PARK	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE
PADUA PARK	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE
PADUA PARK	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	COAST LIVE OAK
PADUA PARK	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	COAST LIVE OAK
PADUA PARK	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	COAST LIVE OAK
PADUA PARK	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	COAST LIVE OAK
PADUA PARK	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	COAST LIVE OAK
2349 SILVER TREE RD	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Fairmont'	FAIRMONT GINKGO
885 WAYNE AV	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> 'Red Push'	RED PUSH PISTACHE
1914 WHEATON AV	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Chanticleer'	CHANTICLEER PEAR

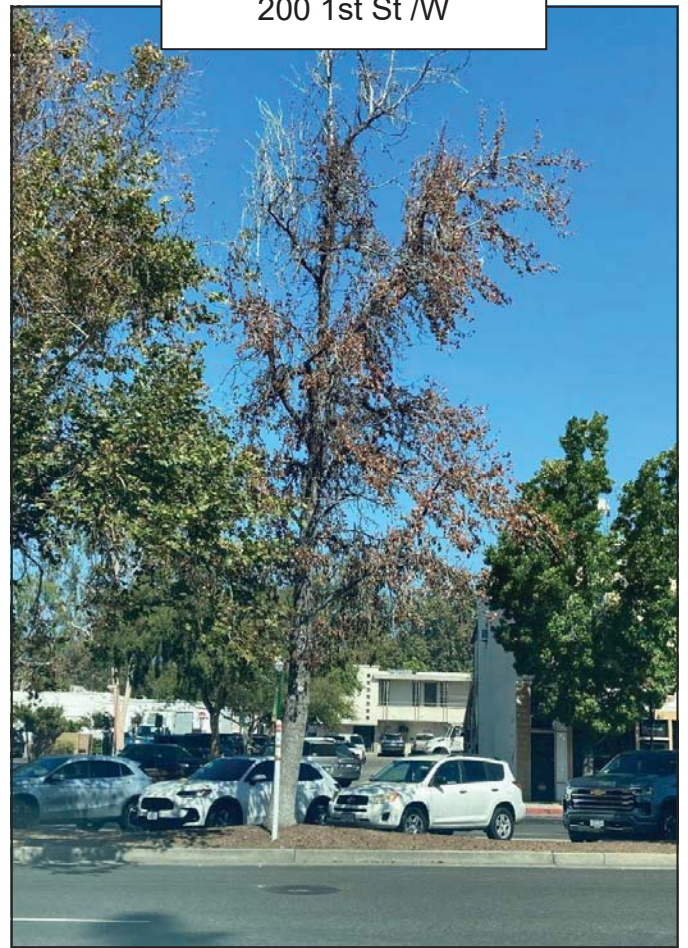
Trees Removed by Address – December 2024

ADDRESS	COMMON NAME	REASON
625 12TH ST /W	AMERICAN SWEETGUM	DEAD
200 1ST ST /W	AMERICAN SWEETGUM	DEAD
211 1ST ST /W	AMERICAN SWEETGUM	DEAD
325 1ST ST /W	AMERICAN SWEETGUM	DEAD
395 ANDOVER DR	BRISBANE BOX	DEAD
105 BROOKS AV	AMERICAN SWEETGUM	DEAD
100 COLLEGE AV /N	MANNA GUM	DEAD
1200 COLLEGE AV /N	AMERICAN SWEETGUM	DEAD
400 INDIAN HILL BL /N	JACARANDA	DEAD
PADUA PARK	COAST LIVE OAK	ADVANCED DECLINE
616 PURDUE DR	AMERICAN SWEETGUM	DEAD
2432 SAN MATEO CT	COAST LIVE OAK	ADVANCED DECLINE

625 12th St /W



200 1st St /W



211 1st St /W



325 1st St /W



Photos of Removed Trees - December 2024

395 Andover Dr



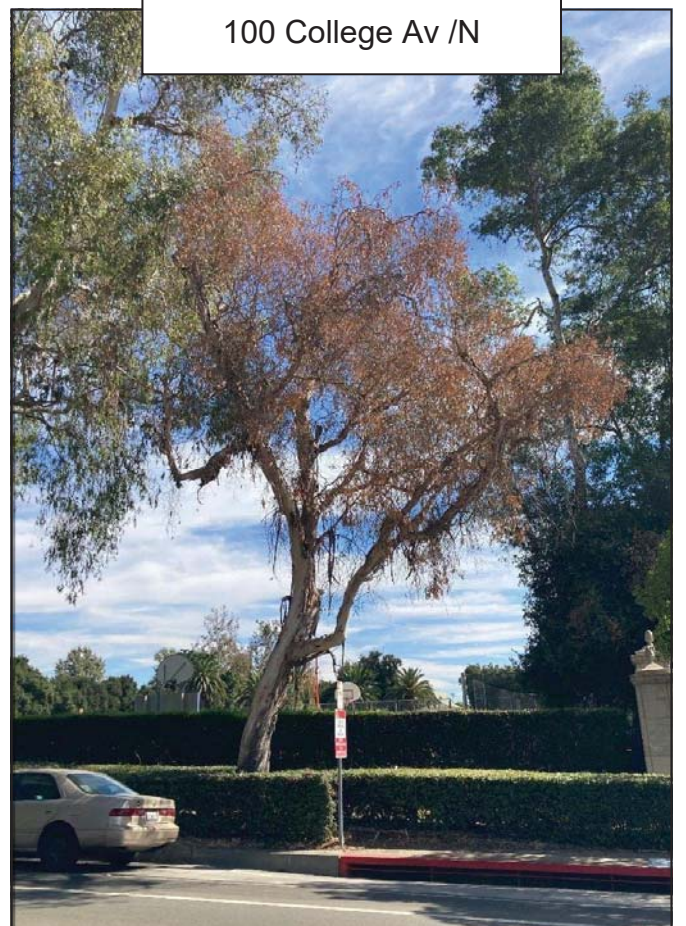
2432 San Mateo Ct



105 Brooks Av /W



100 College Av /N

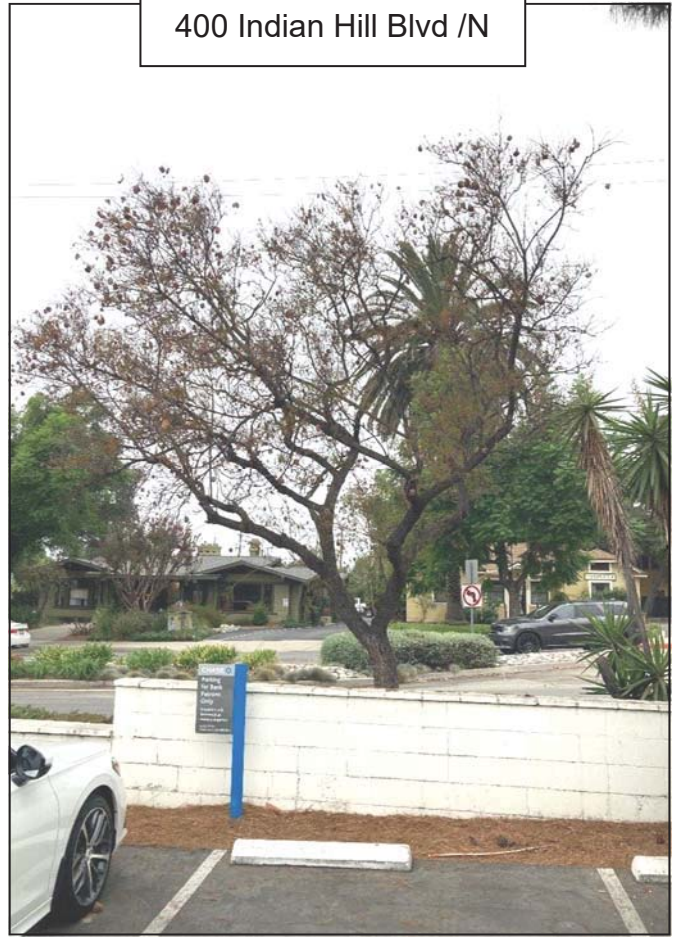


Photos of Removed Trees - December 2024

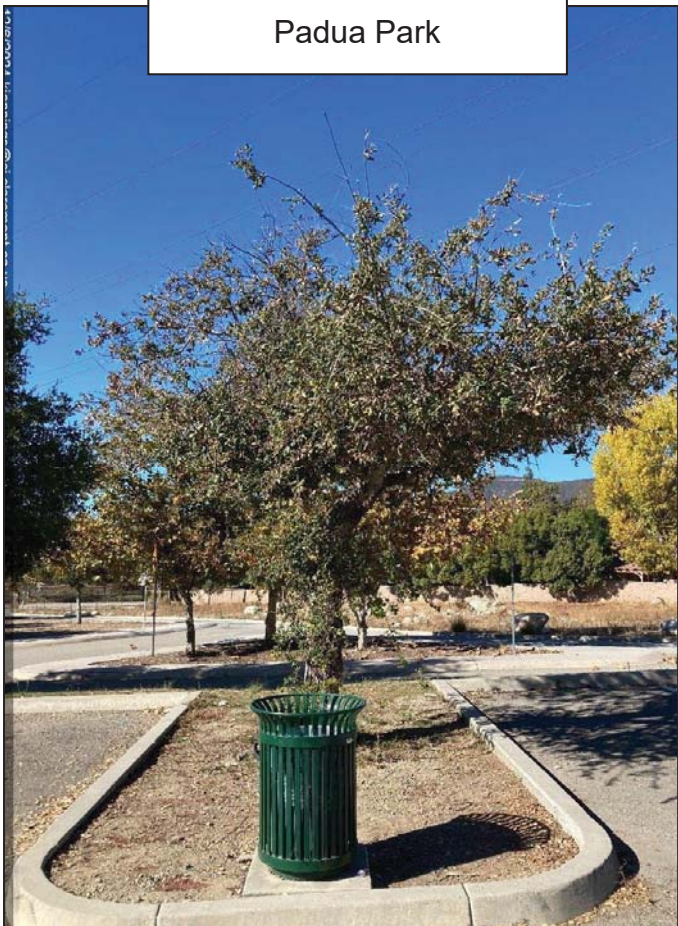
1200 College Av /N



400 Indian Hill Blvd /N



Padua Park



616 Purdue Dr





Claremont Community and Human Services Commission

Agenda Report

File #: 5463

Item No: 4.

TO: COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
FROM: MELISSA VOLLARO, RECREATION AND HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR
DATE: MARCH 12, 2025

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY

Due to terms ending and resignations, the Committee on Human Relations had five vacancies in August 2024. Between September 2024 and January 2025, there were three new applicants. All three were interviewed, selected, and then appointed at the February 5, 2025, Community and Human Services Commission Meeting, bringing the total to seven members.

Recruitment materials have been out for more than six months, and the Committee on Human Relations has not hit the total of nine members required by the Policies and Procedures, making it difficult to meet quorum.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Human Relations recommends the Community and Human Services Commission approve the revisions to the Committee on Human Relations Policies and Procedures.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

The agenda and staff report for this item have been posted on the City website and distributed to interested parties. If you desire a copy, please contact the Recreation and Human Services Department.

Submitted by:

Prepared by:

Melissa Vollaro
Recreation and Human Services Director

Michelle Castillo
Management Analyst

Attachments:

A - CoHR Policies and Procedures

B - Excerpt of the 02-24-25 CoHR Special Meeting Minutes (Draft)



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES CLAREMONT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS

A Standing Committee of the
CLAREMONT COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

A. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Committee on Human Relations is to advocate and promote diversity, equity and inclusion, and act as an advisory body to the Community and Human Services Commission. The Committee will make recommendations on methods of inspiring mutual respect and understanding among people, to discourage prejudice and discrimination, and work towards cultural awareness and unity. The Committee may also make recommendations as to special events which will further its purpose.

B. VISION

To advance inclusion and transparency from aspiration to reality, among our diverse communities, through engagement and collaboration.

C. FUNCTION

The functions of the Committee on Human Relations shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Advise the Community and Human Services Commission in areas of human services and human relations.
2. Facilitate learning experiences and conversations that help community members understand the need for justice, adopt attitudes of mutual acceptance, promote respect, respond to conflict in society, and bring awareness to implicit and structural bias.
3. Stay informed of the development of local, county, state, and national programs that could advance the goals of the Committee on Human Relations.
4. Work cooperatively with staff in developing an annual work plan.
5. Work in consultation with, and guidance from, the Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations, to establish best practices pertaining to programing, community engagement, and mediation.
6. Receive information on hate crimes and hate incidents as they occur in Claremont from the Police Department.

D. MEMBERSHIP

1. The committee shall consist of 7 members who reflect the diversity of the community and reside, attend school or have their primary employment in the city of Claremont.

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2. Members of the same household may not serve on the same committee.
3. Committee member terms shall be four years beginning September 1st of the year appointed. Terms shall be staggered to maintain continuity. Terms shall expire on August 31st of the year established upon appointment.
4. Prior to May each year City Staff shall contact eligible committee members whose terms are expiring and determine if there is interest in being considered to serve an additional term.
5. Committee members are appointed by the Community and Human Services Commission. Prior to July each year, the Chair of the Community and Human Services Commission may appoint a Community and Human Services ad hoc committee to review applications, and if necessary, conduct interviews to make recommendations to the full Commission on the appointment of new members.
6. A committee member may be removed from office for any reason by a majority vote of either the Community and Human Services Commission or the City Council. To the extent the City Council and Community and Human Services Commission disagree on removal, the City Council decision shall prevail.
7. Should a vacancy occur prior to the end of the member's scheduled term, the Community and Human Services Commission shall recommend a replacement for the non-expired term.
8. Members shall attend meetings and participate in the activities of the committee.
9. The committee shall include at least one member and an alternate from the Community and Human Services Commission to serve as a liaison to the committee. Liaison is a non-voting position.
10. The Commission liaison shall receive information about all meetings related to the committee such as ad hoc committee meetings and shall report to the Commission all pertinent information about committee activities.
11. The committee shall include at least one staff representative from the **Recreation and** Human Services Department to serve as a liaison to the committee. Liaison is a non-voting position.
12. The Staff liaison(s) will update the Community and Human Services Commission on current members annually.

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Committee members may serve a total of eight years and may reapply to serve following a one-year break in service. ¶

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E. OFFICERS

1. The committee shall nominate and select a chairperson and vice chairperson from its membership in September. Terms shall be one year in length with a limit of two consecutive terms.
2. Officer terms shall take place from September 1-August 31. 3. The committee shall nominate and select replacements for officer vacancies that occur from within the membership. The appointment expires August 31st.

F. AD HOC COMMITTEES

1. Ad hoc committees can be appointed by the Chair as needed for discrete subjects or tasks.
2. An ad hoc committee may not be a standing committee with a fixed meeting time and/or continuing subject matter jurisdiction. It cannot have members from another City legislative body and remain an ad hoc committee but is free to meet with staff and members of the community.
3. Ad hoc committees must be comprised of at least two members. They may not be greater than or equal to the quorum of the committee.
4. Ad hoc committees must report on their work progress at each regular meeting.

G. MEETINGS

1. The committee must work from an agenda prepared in advance by the Chair and staff liaisons.
2. The committee shall meet at least four times each calendar year, on a stated date, at a stated time, set in advance by the Committee and noticed in accordance with the Brown Act. The regular meeting will be conducted on the third Monday of September, November, February and May at 7:00 p.m.
3. Meeting minutes, prepared by City Staff, must be distributed with the agenda prior to the meeting.
4. Committee meetings must adhere to the requirements of the State of California Brown Act.

H. STANDING RULES

1. A quorum is reached when more than half (1/2) of all voting members are present.
2. A committee cannot conduct business or take action unless a quorum of voting committee members is present.
3. All minutes shall be approved by the committee and received and filed by the Community and Human Services Commission. All material submitted shall, in

turn, be forwarded, unabridged, to the City Council, with a recommendation from the Community and Human Services Commission regarding such material.

Originally Adopted 03/10/1997
Revised and Adopted 02/03/2021

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS2. Policies and Procedures

Michelle Castillo, Management Analyst, presented the proposed revisions to the Policies and Procedures to lower the total required Committee on Human Relations Members from nine to seven, in addition to removing the Police Commission liaison. Changes also include updating the Recreation and Human Services' department name change and removing the reference to term limits for City appointed positions.

Chair Barnes-Slater invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

This report was received and filed



Claremont Community and Human Services Commission

Agenda Report

File #: 5461

Item No: 5.

TO: COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

FROM: MELISSA VOLLARO, RECREATION AND HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR

DATE: MARCH 12, 2025

SUBJECT:

ORDINANCE CODIFYING TRAIL ETIQUETTE STANDARDS AND REGULATING THE USE OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES IN THE CLAREMONT HILLS WILDERNESS PARK

SUMMARY

Electric bicycles, or e-bikes, have become an increasingly popular method of individual transportation. A change in state law in 2023 permitted e-bikes to be operated on trails by default, unless a local agency passed an ordinance restricting their use. Over the past year, staff have received a significant number of concerns regarding the safe use of these devices in parks and on trails. In response, the City Council directed staff to research potential options to regulate the use of e-bikes in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park (CHWP) and encourage visitors to utilize proper trail etiquette.

In August of 2024, staff released a survey for park visitors and the community to provide their feedback on the use of e-bikes. Additionally, staff implemented a "Share the Trail" information campaign to encourage respectful and safe use of the CHWP by all visitors. Staff also researched the policies of neighboring trail systems and have utilized this information in conjunction with the survey results to develop two proposed ordinances that would modify Chapter 11 of the Claremont Municipal Code to regulate the use of e-bikes and codify trail etiquette standards in the CHWP.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Community and Human Services Commission recommend one of the following options:

- A. Recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed Ordinance prohibiting the use of Class 2 and Class 3 e-bicycles in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.
- B. Recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed Ordinance prohibiting the use of all e-bicycles in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.

ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

In addition to the staff recommendation, there are the following alternatives:

- A. Request staff to make changes to the proposed Ordinance.
- B. Recommend that the City Council not adopt the Ordinance.
- C. Request additional information from staff.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The staff cost to conduct the survey and prepare this report is estimated at \$1,837 and is included in the operating budget of the Recreation and Human Services Department. Should an ordinance be adopted by the City Council, the cost to purchase and install temporary signage is estimated at \$3,500. New, permanent signage would be incorporated into a concurrent project, updating all signage in the CHWP.

ANALYSIS

Background

The Claremont Hills Wilderness Park is one of the premier destinations for outdoor recreation in the Pomona Valley, welcoming over 450,000 visitors per year, as determined by the 2023 CHWP Visitor Intercept Survey. Over the past several years, e-bikes have greatly increased in popularity while technological advances continue to make these devices more affordable.

Prior to 2023, under the California Vehicle Code, Class 1 and 2 e-bikes were permitted to operate on trails unless specifically prohibited by local law. On January 1, 2023, AB 1909 took effect, which eliminated all e-bike restrictions on trails and permitted any class of e-bike by default, unless a local agency passed an ordinance to prohibit some or all classes of e-bikes. Since this time, City staff have received an increasing number of concerns from park visitors about the use of e-bikes. Therefore, the City Council directed staff to research potential options to regulate the use of e-bikes in the CHWP and encourage visitors to utilize proper trail etiquette. The Claremont Hills Wilderness Park Master Plan states "Inclusive and managed public access is provided as secondary to preserving the natural environment and limiting the impacts to surrounding properties. The CHWP allows for passive recreational opportunities that connect people to nature and promote healthy lifestyles."

In response to this directive, staff has prepared two draft ordinances based on data collected from survey respondents and citizen contacts. Additionally, staff developed the "Share the Trail" campaign to educate park visitors on proper trail etiquette, which was implemented in July of 2024 and has assisted in mitigating concerns.

Defining an E-Bike

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) section 312.5 currently defines an e-bicycle as "a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts." CVC section 312.5 further defines specific classifications of e-bikes as follows:

- A "class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, that is not capable of exclusively propelling the bicycle, except as provided in paragraph (4), that ceases to provide

assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour, and that is not capable of providing assistance to reach speeds greater than 20 miles per hour.

- A “class 2 electric bicycle,” or “low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle,” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- A “class 3 electric bicycle,” or “speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle,” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, that is not capable of exclusively propelling the bicycle, except as provided in paragraph (4), and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and equipped with a speedometer.
- A class 1 or class 3 electric bicycle may have start assistance or a walk mode that propels the electric bicycle on motor power alone, up to a maximum speed of 3.7 miles per hour.

Comparison of Bicycle and E-Bicycle Characteristics				
	<i>Manual Pedal</i>	<i>Class 1</i>	<i>Class 2</i>	<i>Class 3</i>
Pedal Assist	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Throttle	No	No	Yes	No
Maximum Speed	N/A	20 MPH	20 MPH	28 MPH
Min. Age for Use	None	None	None	16 years old
Helmet Required?	Under 18	Under 18	Under 18	All Riders

Should CVC section 312.5 be modified in the future to change the definition of an electric bicycle from those above, the definitions above will prevail unless the City modifies these definitions through a subsequent ordinance.

There are also several common misconceptions regarding conveyance devices that are similar in nature, but do not legally qualify as e-bikes. The following devices are NOT considered e-bikes and are defined as motor vehicles per the State of California Department of Motor Vehicles. Claremont Municipal Code 11.10.030 prohibits the operation of motor vehicles in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.

- Motorcycles: A motorcycle is a motor vehicle with a seat or saddle for the rider and is designed to travel on not more than three wheels.
- Motor-Driven Cycles: A motor-driven cycle is a motorcycle with less than a 150 cc motor size.
- Motorized Scooters: A motorized scooter is defined as any two-wheeled “device” with a motor, handlebars, and a floorboard for standing on when riding.
- Mopeds: A motorized bicycle or moped is a two or three-wheeled device, capable of no more than 30 miles per hour (mph) on level ground, and equipped with:
 - Fully operative pedals for human propulsion.
 - A motor producing less than four gross brake horsepower and an automatic transmission.
 - No pedals if powered solely by electrical energy.

Both proposed ordinances further define conveyance devices and vehicles that would be prohibited in the CHWP, specifically stating the following:

“B. No person shall operate an unauthorized motor vehicle, including, but not limited to four-wheel drive vehicles, motorcycles, motor bikes, motor dirt bikes, motorized scooters, all-terrain vehicles, off highway vehicles, or any other motorized vehicles or conveyance device within park boundaries or in parking lots, unless a permit has been issued by the Director of Recreation and Human Services or his or her designee.”

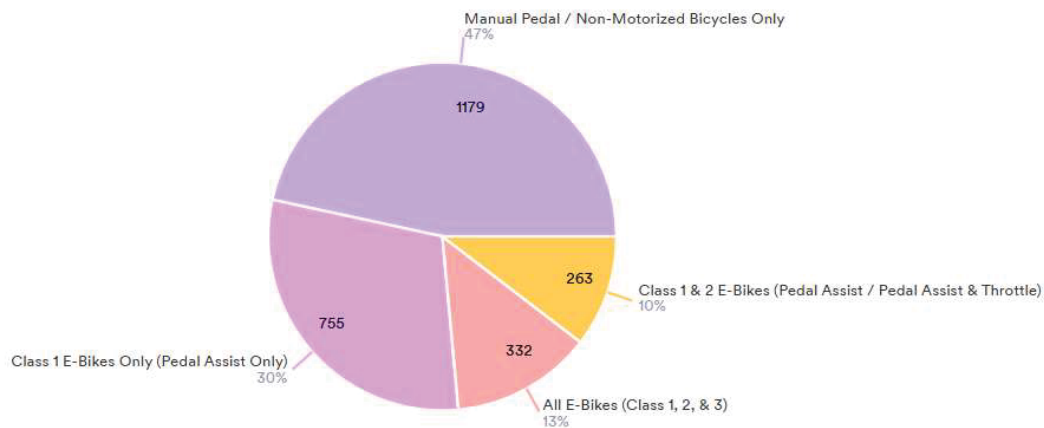
“C. No person shall operate or drive any electric or combustible motorized skateboard, scooter, dirt bike, mini bike, mini motor bike, mini motorcycle, go-kart, go-ped, mo-ped, all-terrain-vehicle, quad runner, dune buggy or any similar electric or combustible motorized wheeled conveyance, except for electric bicycles as defined in section 11.10.080, within park boundaries or parking lots unless a permit has been issued by the Director of Recreation and Human Services or his or her designee.”

2024 E-Bike Survey and Feedback from Community Groups

In August of 2024, staff solicited feedback on the use of e-bikes in the CHWP from park visitors and residents through an online survey. This survey was advertised through posters at all entrances to the CHWP, social media, the City Manager’s weekly update, and the CHWP subscription-based email list. The survey was also circulated on social media in several hiking and mountain biking interest groups. A copy of the survey is included as an attachment to this report. There were 2,546 survey responses received, and a summary of those responses is provided below.

Which types of e-bikes should be permitted for use in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park and on the Thompson Creek Trail?

2529 Responses- 17 Empty



Manual Pedal / Non-Motorized Bicycles Only Class 1 E-Bikes Only (Pedal Assist Only) All E-Bikes (Class 1, 2, & 3) Class 1 & 2 E-Bikes (Pedal Assist / Pedal Assist & Throttle)

- 47% of respondents indicated they would prefer only manual pedal / non-motorized bicycles be permitted.
- 30% indicated they would prefer Class 1 e-bikes to be permitted.
- 10% indicated they would prefer Class 1 & 2 e-bikes to be permitted.
- 13% indicated they would prefer all classes of e-bikes to be permitted.

It can be deduced from this survey that approximately 47% of respondents favored a prohibition on

motorized cycles, while 53% of respondents favored allowing at least some classification of e-bike. However, it should be noted that this survey is a general polling and is not considered statistically valid.

Out of the 2,546 responses received, a total of 1,087 responses included additional comments. These comments have been summarized below.

- 55% (595) of comments received discussed the issue of safety. 475 comments convey clear opposition to e-bikes due to safety concerns, specifically:
 - Speed: 300 comments discuss bike speeds as a danger.
 - 130 comments address the speed of all bikes generally.
 - 170 comments voice concerns about the faster speed of e-bikes.
 - Mixed Use/Shared Trails: For 266 respondents, the concern is shared/mixed use trails that aren't safe, including the sentiment that it's too crowded to safely allow e-bikes/bikes on trails.
 - 106 comments raise safety concerns around sharing trails with any/all bikes.
 - 160 comments are concerned with sharing trails with e-bikes.
 - User Behaviors: 114 comments received are concerned with unsafe rider behaviors, including lack of etiquette/control/communication.
 - 56 comments address behaviors of all/any bikers, not only e-bikes.
 - Approach Warnings: 73 comments note safety concerns with approaching bikes and no notice/warning (such as bells or voice calls).
 - Rider Experience: 46 comments say e-bikes enable less experienced riders to use trails, which makes the trails less safe.
 - E-Bike Weight and Power: 19 comments were received stating that respondents feel e-bikes are more risky due to their added weight/power, they are more difficult to control and could do more damage.
- 12% (124) of comments on the topic of safety are in favor of e-bikes in some manner.
 - User Behavior/Speed: 95 comments note that safety is a function of individual behavior and riding responsibly, including maintaining safe speeds.
 - Mixed Use/Shared Trails: 38 comments discuss ideas for safely managing mixed use/shared trails through trail management (for example, separate times or trails for bikes)
 - Bike Classification and Rider Qualification: 40 argue for safety of e-bikes based on bike classification or rider need.

Outside of safety, other topics raised by survey participants that oppose e-bikes include:

- Patron Experience: 152 comments indicate ways respondents feel e-bikes detract from the wilderness experience and encourage use contrary to enjoyment/protection of the natural environment, such as:
 - Trails being designed for manual recreation.
 - High speed traffic degrading the peace of being in nature.
 - Tires kicking up dirt/dust and rocks.
- Impact on Environment and Wildlife: 25 comments voice concerns about damage to the environment, trails, and wildlife, including:
 - Negative impacts wildlife and inhibits natural behaviors.

- Additional damage/erosion to trails.
- Increased fire risk from batteries and motors.

Outside of safety, the topic raised most by respondents in favor of e-bikes is accessibility.

- 210 comments state that e-bikes are critical/essential for portions of the population to exercise, maintain healthy/outdoor lifestyles, and enjoy our parks and trails.

Both proponents and opponents of e-bikes agreed that there is a need for structure and additional safety measures with use of bikes (both manual and electric) in the CHWP. Commenters raised the following ideas for consideration when managing trail use:

- Require bells on all bikes
- Increase signage, traffic flow reminders (stay to the right), and trail etiquette
- Separate/designated trails for bikes and/or limit/designate specific times for bike use.
- Bike education and safety training
- Limit group size or the number of riders
- Have consistency with local and state trail system
- Restrict certain classes of e-bike

Additionally, feedback was received from the Friends of the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park and Claremont Wildlands Conservancy. Both groups have a vested interest in the success of the CHWP, and their letters are included as attachments to this report.

Neighboring Trail System E-Bike Regulations

During the development of this ordinance, staff researched regulations on e-bike use for nearby trails and park systems of a similar nature to the CHWP, such as County of Los Angeles Regional Parks, Chino Hills State Park, and Orange County Parks.

Use of E-Bikes on Unpaved Trails				
	<i>Manual Pedal</i>	<i>Class 1</i>	<i>Class 2</i>	<i>Class 3</i>
County of Los Angeles Regional Parks	Yes	No	No	No
Orange County Regional and Wilderness Parks	Yes	Yes	No	No
Chino Hills State Park*	Yes	Yes	No	No

**State Park Superintendents are authorized to determine which, if any, trails in their park unit may be designated for use by e-bikes.*

It should be noted that Marshall Canyon Regional Park, operated by the County of Los Angeles, is the only trail system that connects directly to the CHWP's trail network. As shown above, the County of Los Angeles does not permit e-bikes on their trails at this time.

Accessibility Requirements and the Americans with Disabilities Act

Many respondents to the survey indicated that e-bikes play a pivotal role in increasing accessibility for those who may not otherwise be able to bike in the CHWP. The City recognizes the use of e-bikes as Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD) in areas where they can be operated safely,

without posing substantial risk of serious harm to natural or cultural resources. OPDMDs are considered to be any mobility device powered by batteries, fuel, or other engines-whether or not designed primarily for use by individuals with mobility disabilities-that is used by individuals with mobility disabilities for the purpose of locomotion, but that is not a wheelchair. Use of these devices is restricted to people with a qualifying disability as defined by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (28 CFR Part 35 § 35.108). For the purposes of OPDMD use, a qualifying disability is any physical impairment that substantially limits a person's mobility. All users of OPDMDs must provide credible assurance that the mobility device is required for locomotion because of their disability. Regardless of any approved ordinance, the City must comply with the ADA.

For those who wish to utilize an e-bike as an OPDMD, an administrative process will be provided for those individuals to provide the required documents and obtain a permit at no charge.

Enforcement Considerations

Should one of the proposed ordinances be adopted by the City Council, the provisions will be adopted into Chapter 11 of the Claremont Municipal Code, "Public Parks and Facilities", and any violation of said Chapter shall be punishable as a misdemeanor unless the citing officer or the prosecuting attorney determines that it would be in the interests of justice to cite or prosecute the violation as an infraction. Enforcement operations would primarily be conducted by the Claremont Park Ranger unit.

The City's Park Rangers employ various methods but focus their efforts on gaining compliance through education and advisement. However, administrative citations can be issued for violations. Additionally, the proposed ordinances incorporate language that requires individuals in violation of the Chapter to vacate the park at the direction of law enforcement or Recreation and Human Services staff.

There are several challenges regarding enforcement. For example:

- It can be difficult to distinguish between certain e-bikes and regular bicycles.
- If only certain classes of e-bikes were permitted, enforcement personnel would need to inspect any bicycle suspected to be in violation to ascertain its class from the manufacturer's sticker.
- Bicycles and e-bikes can be modified or tampered with to increase speed or bypass the requirement to pedal, although doing so is a violation of California Vehicle Code 24016.
- It is not feasible to conduct traffic stops of bicycles inside the CHWP.
- Enforcement staff is limited.

However, even in consideration of these challenges, staff recommend that one of the proposed ordinances be adopted to mitigate current concerns, as it is expected the majority of individuals will voluntarily comply, as evidenced by the "Share the Trail" campaign.

LEGAL REVIEW

The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the proposed Ordinance.

RELATIONSHIP TO CITY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Staff has evaluated the agenda item in relationship to the City's strategic and visioning documents and finds that it applies to the following City Planning Documents: Claremont Hills Wilderness Park Master Plan.

CEQA REVIEW

This item is not subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

The agenda and staff report for this item have been posted on the City website and distributed to interested parties. If you desire a paper copy, please contact the Recreation and Human Services Department.

Submitted by:

Melissa Vollaro
Recreation and Human Services Director

Prepared by:

Eric Ey
Recreation and Human Services Manager

Attachments:

- A - Proposed Changes to Chapter 11 of the Claremont Municipal Code
- B - Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of E-Bikes in the CHWP
- C - Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Class 2 and 3 E-Bikes in the CHWP
- D - Letter from the Friends of the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park
- E - Letter from the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy
- F - 2024 E-Bike Survey Copy

ORDINANCE NO. _____**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT AMENDING TITLE 11 OF THE CLAREMONT MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT TRAIL ETIQUETTE STANDARDS AND RESTRICT THE USE OF MOTORIZED DEVICES IN THE CLAREMONT HILLS WILDERNESS PARK.**

WHEREAS, the City of Claremont ("City") has adopted the Claremont Municipal Code, which includes Title 11 titled "Public Parks and Facilities" ("Chapter 11.10"); and

WHEREAS, Title 11 addresses the regulation of bicycles and motor vehicles in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park; and

WHEREAS, as a result of advances in technology and in the interest of public safety, the City now wishes to regulate electric bicycles and motorized wheeled conveyance devices in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park; and

WHEREAS, an increase in park visitation has demonstrated a need to codify trail etiquette procedures; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments to the Claremont Municipal Code update Chapter 11.10 to regulate these devices in the Claremont Hillside Wilderness Park; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the staff report and all of the information, evidence, and testimony received in connection with the public meeting on this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Incorporation of Recitals

The City Council hereby finds that all of the foregoing recitals and the staff report presented herewith are true and correct and are hereby incorporated and adopted as findings of the City Council as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. CEQA

The proposed amendments to the Municipal Code are not considered a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 15378(b)(2) excludes "[c]ontinuing administrative ... activities" from its definition of "project." Even if the amendments were a "project," they would be exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. The proposed amendments will not result in a direct physical change to the environment.

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SECTION 3. Code Amendments

Title 11 of the Claremont Municipal Code is hereby amended as set forth below:

Title 11 PUBLIC PARKS AND FACILITIES

11.02.070 Roads---Motor Vehicles.

A. No person shall ~~ride or drive, any horse or other animal,~~ or propel any motorized vehicle, motorcycle, or automobile in a public park other than on roads, trails or driveways provided for that purpose and in the directions posted. ~~This section shall not apply to maintenance personnel, law enforcement personnel, or person responding to an emergency situation requiring vehicular access to the park area.~~

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B. No person shall operate an unauthorized motor vehicle, including, but not limited to four-wheel drive vehicles, motorcycles, motor bikes, motor dirt bikes, motorized scooters, all-terrain vehicles, off highway vehicles, or any other motorized vehicles or conveyance device within park boundaries or in parking lots, unless a permit has been issued by the Director of Recreation and Human Services or his or her designee.

C. No person shall operate or drive any electric or combustible motorized skateboard, scooter, dirt bike, mini bike, mini motor bike, mini motorcycle, go-kart, go-ped, mo-ped, all-terrain-vehicle, quad runner, dune buggy or any similar electric or combustible motorized wheeled conveyance, except for electric bicycles as defined in section 11.10.080, within park boundaries or parking lots unless a permit has been issued by the Director of Recreation and Human Services or his or her designee.

D. This section shall not apply to maintenance personnel, law enforcement personnel, or person responding to an emergency situation requiring vehicular access to the park area.

11.10.080 Horses and bicycles.

A. Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Chapter, a bicycle is defined as a device upon which a person may ride, propelled exclusively by human power through a belt, chain, or gears, and having two wheels.

2. For the purposes of this Chapter, an "electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts.

a. A "class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to

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provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

b. A “class 2 electric bicycle,” or “low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle,” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

c. A “class 3 electric bicycle,” or “speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle,” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and equipped with a speedometer.

For the purposes of this Chapter, the definitions of bicycle, electric bicycle, and class 1, class 2, and class 3 electric bicycle shall prevail over any contradictory definitions of these terms (or similar terms) in the California Vehicle Code.

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B. Only bicycles and class 1 electric bicycles may be operated within the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park. Class 2 and 3 electric bicycles are prohibited.

B. Electric bicycles of all classes are prohibited in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.

C. No person shall ride or drive any horse or propel any bicycle or electric bicycle other than on roads or trails designated by the Director of Recreation and Human Services and in the directions posted.

D. Specific facility paved and unpaved roads or trails may be excluded from use for bicycles, any or all classes of electric bicycles, and/or horses by determination of the Director of Recreation and Human Services, or his or her designee. Such determinations will be based upon public safety and the potential impact on natural resources. Such prohibition shall be effective upon the posting of signs at or near each entrance to such road specifying that bicycles and/or are prohibited therefrom.

E. Bicycles and electric bicycles shall be operated at a safe speed for the conditions present and in a reasonable manner.

F. Any bicycle or electric bicycle operated within the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park shall be equipped with a warning bell.

G. No persons shall operate a bicycle or electric bicycle on wet or muddy trails.

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~~B. Bicycles shall yield to horses on all roads and trails. Bicycles shall yield to pedestrians on all roads and trails.~~

11.10.120 Animals.

No person shall:

A. Take or permit any dog or horse ~~or other exotic pet~~ within the park area unless the animal is restricted by a leash or other restraint ~~with a lead of not more than 6 feet in length.~~

B. Take or permit any animal other than a dog or horse within the park area.

C. Fail to clean up any waste products left by their dog(s) or horse(s). ~~or other exotic pet(s).~~

D. Graze livestock including the use of natural forage for commercial purposes.

E. This section shall not apply to police service dogs engaged in law enforcement duties ~~nor service animals (dogs or miniature horses) that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.~~

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11.10.160 Violations—Penalties---Removal.

A. Any violation of any provision of this chapter shall be punishable as a misdemeanor unless the citing officer or the prosecuting attorney determines that it would be in the interests of justice to cite or prosecute the violation as an infraction.

B. Permission to be within the limits of any park or park, as defined by this Chapter, or to use any facilities, is conditioned on users complying with all applicable provisions of this Chapter or any other applicable laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. A violation of any provision of this Chapter or of any order, rule, or regulation authorized by this Chapter, or of any other applicable law, ordinance, rule, or regulation will result in the person in violation of being a trespasser and a park ranger and/or code enforcement officer, police officer, or Director, or their respective designees ("Enforcement Official"), may remove the person from a park in accordance with this Section in addition to any other remedy or penalty.

1. Nothing in this Section will be construed to authorize the removal of any person lawfully engaged in any constitutionally protected activity. However, a person lawfully exercising these protected rights but who commits an act that is not protected can be subject to removal or exclusion.

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Ordinance No.

2. For the purposes of this Section, removal is an order given by the Enforcement Official, directing a person to immediately leave a park and not return for the remainder of the day.

11.10.180 Trail Etiquette and Yielding.

A. Right of Way

1. All users must yield to emergency or maintenance vehicles.
2. Bicycle and electric bicycle operators must yield to pedestrians and equestrians.
3. Pedestrians must yield to equestrians.

B. Users shall remain to the right side of the trail, except when passing. Bicycle and electric bicycle operators must utilize a bell and/or verbal announcements when passing others. Passing shall only occur on the left when safe to do so.

C. Users shall not ride, walk, or run more than 2 persons abreast.

D. When being passed by another user, persons shall move to the far right of the trail.

E. No user shall wear a headset covering, earplugs in, or earphones covering, resting on, or inserted in, both ears.

SECTION 4. Severability

If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance for any reason is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance, and each section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5. Publication

The Mayor shall sign this Ordinance and the City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption of it, and within fifteen (15) days, publish a summary of the Ordinance in the Claremont Courier, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed, published, and circulated in the City of Claremont.

Ordinance No.

SECTION 6. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days after its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2025.

ATTEST:

Mayor, City of Claremont

City Clerk, City of Claremont

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT AMENDING TITLE 11 OF THE CLAREMONT MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT TRAIL ETIQUETTE STANDARDS AND RESTRICT THE USE OF MOTORIZED DEVICES IN THE CLAREMONT HILLS WILDERNESS PARK.**

WHEREAS, the City of Claremont ("City") has adopted the Claremont Municipal Code, which includes Title 11 titled "Public Parks and Facilities" ("Chapter 11.10"); and

WHEREAS, Title 11 addresses the regulation of bicycles and motor vehicles in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park; and

WHEREAS, as a result of advances in technology and in the interest of public safety, the City now wishes to regulate electric bicycles and motorized wheeled conveyance devices in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park; and

WHEREAS, an increase in park visitation has demonstrated a need to codify trail etiquette procedures; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments to the Claremont Municipal Code update Chapter 11.10 to regulate these devices in the Claremont Hillsides Wilderness Park; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the staff report and all of the information, evidence, and testimony received in connection with the public meeting on this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Incorporation of Recitals

The City Council hereby finds that all of the foregoing recitals and the staff report presented herewith are true and correct and are hereby incorporated and adopted as findings of the City Council as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. CEQA

The proposed amendments to the Municipal Code are not considered a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 15378(b)(2) excludes "[c]ontinuing administrative ... activities" from its definition of "project." Even if the amendments were a "project," they would be exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. The proposed amendments will not result in a direct physical change to the environment.

SECTION 3. Code Amendments

Title 11 of the Claremont Municipal Code is hereby amended as set forth below:

Title 11 PUBLIC PARKS AND FACILITIES

11.02.070 Roads---Motor Vehicles.

A. No person shall ride drive, or propel any motorized vehicle, motorcycle, or automobile in a public park other than on roads, trails or driveways provided for that purpose and in the directions posted.

B. No person shall operate an unauthorized motor vehicle, including, but not limited to four-wheel drive vehicles, motorcycles, motor bikes, motor dirt bikes, motorized scooters, all-terrain vehicles, off highway vehicles, or any other motorized vehicles or conveyance device within park boundaries or in parking lots, unless a permit has been issued by the Director of Recreation and Human Services or his or her designee.

C. No person shall operate or drive any electric or combustible motorized skateboard, scooter, dirt bike, mini bike, mini motor bike, mini motorcycle, go-kart, go-ped, mo-ped, all-terrain-vehicle, quad runner, dune buggy or any similar electric or combustible motorized wheeled conveyance, except for electric bicycles as defined in section 11.10.080, within park boundaries or parking lots unless a permit has been issued by the Director of Recreation and Human Services or his or her designee.

D. This section shall not apply to maintenance personnel, law enforcement personnel, or person responding to an emergency situation requiring vehicular access to the park area.

11.10.080 Horses and bicycles.

A. Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Chapter, a bicycle is defined as a device upon which a person may ride, propelled exclusively by human power through a belt, chain, or gears, and having two wheels.

2. For the purposes of this Chapter, an "electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts.

a. A "class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

b. A “class 2 electric bicycle,” or “low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle,” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

c. A “class 3 electric bicycle,” or “speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle,” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and equipped with a speedometer.

For the purposes of this Chapter, the definitions of bicycle, electric bicycle, and class 1, class 2, and class 3 electric bicycle shall prevail over any contradictory definitions of these terms (or similar terms) in the California Vehicle Code.

B. Electric bicycles of all classes are prohibited in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.

C. No person shall ride or drive any horse or propel any bicycle or electric bicycle other than on roads or trails designated by the Director of Recreation and Human Services and in the directions posted.

D. Specific facility paved and unpaved roads or trails may be excluded from use for bicycles, any or all classes of electric bicycles, and/or horses by determination of the Director of Recreation and Human Services, or his or her designee. Such determinations will be based upon public safety and the potential impact on natural resources. Such prohibition shall be effective upon the posting of signs at or near each entrance to such road specifying that bicycles and/or are prohibited therefrom.

E. Bicycles and electric bicycles shall be operated at a safe speed for the conditions present and in a reasonable manner.

F. Any bicycle or electric bicycle operated within the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park shall be equipped with a warning bell.

G. No persons shall operate a bicycle or electric bicycle on wet or muddy trails.

11.10.120 Animals.

No person shall:

Ordinance No.

- A. Take or permit any dog or horse within the park area unless the animal is restricted by a leash or other restraint with a lead of not more than 6 feet in length.
- B. Take or permit any animal other than a dog or horse within the park area.
- C. Fail to clean up any waste products left by their dog(s) or horse(s).
- D. Graze livestock, including the use of natural forage for commercial purposes.
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1. Nothing in this Section will be construed to authorize the removal of any person lawfully engaged in any constitutionally protected activity. However, a person lawfully exercising these protected rights but who commits an act that is not protected can be subject to removal or exclusion.

2. For the purposes of this Section, removal is an order given by the Enforcement Official, directing a person to immediately leave a park and not return for the remainder of the day.

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A. Right of Way

Ordinance No.

1. All users must yield to emergency or maintenance vehicles.
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- B. Users shall remain to the right side of the trail, except when passing. Bicycle and electric bicycle operators must utilize a bell and/or verbal announcements when passing others. Passing shall only occur on the left when safe to do so.
- C. Users shall not ride, walk, or run more than 2 persons abreast.
- D. When being passed by another user, persons shall move to the far right of the trail.
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For the purposes of this Chapter, the definitions of bicycle, electric bicycle, and class 1, class 2, and class 3 electric bicycle shall prevail over any contradictory definitions of these terms (or similar terms) in the California Vehicle Code.

B. Only bicycles and class 1 electric bicycles may be operated within the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park. Class 2 and 3 electric bicycles are prohibited.

C. No person shall ride or drive any horse or propel any bicycle or electric bicycle other than on roads or trails designated by the Director of Recreation and Human Services and in the directions posted.

D. Specific facility paved and unpaved roads or trails may be excluded from use for bicycles, any or all classes of electric bicycles, and/or horses by determination of the Director of Recreation and Human Services, or his or her designee. Such determinations will be based upon public safety and the potential impact on natural resources. Such prohibition shall be effective upon the posting of signs at or near each entrance to such road specifying that bicycles and/or are prohibited therefrom.

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PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2025.

Mayor, City of Claremont

Ordinance No.

ATTEST:

City Clerk, City of Claremont

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

Friends of the Claremont Hills
Wilderness Park



www.friendsofthewildernesspark.org
info@friendsofthewildernesspark.org



November 26, 2024

Claremont Community & Human Services Commission
Claremont City Council

RE: E-bikes in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park

Dear Commissioners and Council Members,

The Friends of Claremont Hills Wilderness Park recommend that electrically assisted bicycles (e-bikes) not be allowed in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park (CHWP).

We are guided in our recommendation by the Master Plan for the CHWP, which states:

“The Claremont Hills Wilderness Park was created to preserve open space in Claremont’s hillsides and protect this environmental resource while secondarily allowing for human access for passive recreation, education, and enjoyment.”¹

The Master Plan further states that passive recreation is considered to be low impact activities such as walking, running, hiking, cycling, equestrian, etc., while off road motorized vehicle usage would be considered active recreation.¹

A change in state law several years ago permitted Class 1 and 2 e-bikes on CHWP trails by default since Claremont does not have a specific ordinance. Since that time e-bike use has been increasing. With the increased e-bike use, the Friends have received a number of comments – both in person and by email – requesting that e-bikes be banned in the CHWP.

The rationale for banning e-bikes includes:

- The speed and weight of electric mountain bikes (in some cases over 100 pounds) make them dangerous to other users of the trail;
- The proliferation of inexpensive electric motorbikes increases the likelihood that these fast vehicles will become even more prevalent on the trail and will be used by less experienced riders;

- Electric bikes are particularly easy to use off trail and on unofficial side trails, contributing to environmental damage including flora and fauna;
- The lithium-ion batteries in e-bikes pose a very small but real risk of fire, and while battery fires most often occur during charging, they can also be caused by overheating, physical damage, or product defects^{2,3};
- Because e-bikes are heavier than conventional bikes and are likely to be ridden faster, higher, and farther⁴, they will produce greater environmental impacts than conventional bikes⁵;
- E-bike motors produce noise in frequencies that will disturb certain bat species and are likely to disturb certain nesting birds⁶.

We firmly believe that Class 2 and Class 3 e-bikes have no place in the CHWP. We are, however, sympathetic to the argument that Class 1 e-bikes could provide access to the CHWP for people who might not otherwise be able to use it. We understand that it may not be feasible to enforce a regulation that allows only Class 1 e-bikes, especially since kits to convert Class 1 e-bikes to higher classes are readily available. Banning e-bikes would be consistent with LA County, which bans e-bikes on multi-use trails, including the Marshall Canyon Trail⁷, which connects to the CHWP.

Sincerely,



Nancy V. Hamlett, Secretary
for the Friends of the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park

¹ *Final Draft, Master Plan, Claremont Hills Wilderness Park*, May 2016, page 1-4

² 'Fire! Fire! Fire!' The Perplexing, Deadly Electric Bike Problem, *Consumer Reports*, December 8, 2022 <https://www.consumerreports.org/health/electric-bikes/electric-bike-fires-and-lithium-ion-batteries-a4632489902/>

³ Lithium-ion batteries causing fires, dangers on California freeways, sparking calls for safety improvements. *Los Angeles Times*, October 28, 2024.

⁴ Veronica Mitterwallner et al., "Electrically assisted mountain biking: Riding faster, higher, farther in natural mountain systems." *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism* 36: 100448, September 27, 2021 doi: 10.1016/j.jort.2021.100448

⁵ Lukas Kuwaczka et al., "Ecological impacts of (electrically assisted) mountain biking" *Global Ecology and Conservation* 44 (2023) e02475, April 12, 2023 doi: 10.1016/j.gecco.2023.302475

⁶ Dave Johnston and Steve Rottenborn, Memorandum: Analysis of E-bike Noise and Recommendations for Buffer Distances between Bike Trails and Bat Roosts/Nesting Birds, H.T. Harvey & Associates, Ecological Consultants. September 17, 2021. https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/E-bike_noise-analysis_09172021.pdf

⁷ Marshall Canyon Trail, County of Los Angeles [undated] <https://trails.lacounty.gov/trail/36/marshall-canyon-trail>

October 29, 2024

Eric Ey
Claremont Recreation and Human Services Department Manager
1700 Danbury Rd
Claremont, CA 91711

Claremont Wildlands Conservancy
www.claremontwildlands.org
info@claremontwildlands.org



RE: E-Bike Regulation in the CHWP

Dear Eric,

As part of the City of Claremont's process of considering the use of e-bikes in Claremont Hills Wilderness Park, the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy would like to provide the following response.

First, as noted in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park Master Plan, *"the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park was created to preserve open space in Claremont's hillsides and protect this environmental resource while secondarily allowing for human access for passive recreation, education, and enjoyment."* [1]

While this passive recreation has always included hiking and mountain biking, we think that the inclusion of motorized vehicles such as e-mountain bikes (e-MTBs) brings significant negative impacts to the CHWP. As a consequence of this concern, the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy (CWC) Board voted on September 9 to state its formal opposition to allowing e-bikes in the Claremont Hill Wilderness Park (CHWP).

The rationale for the CWC opposition is based on our mission of stewardship of the natural resources of the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, potential e-bike impact on the fragile biodiversity of the CHWP, the challenges that e-bikes pose for other types of CHWP users (especially hikers), and the fact that a prohibition of e-bikes would align CHWP with e-bike guidelines in Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation areas. E-bikes create safety issues for riders and pedestrians alike.

While stating its concerns, the CWC Board also acknowledges that e-bikes allow some users who would not ordinarily be able to explore the Park to do so. These users include older people and those with disabilities. These riders are likely to be rule-abiding and create relatively little harm in their exploration of the Park; e-bikes would allow them to experience areas that they could not reach on their own.

Public access to CHWP remains a key tenet of CWC's efforts. Still, in the case of e-bikes, we think that safety concerns, impacts on other Park users, and potential damage to the Park environment outweigh the benefits of this particular type of access.

Safety

Research on the safety of e-bikes is limited. However, Van Cauwenberg et al. (2018)[2] has shown that older adults are at higher risk for severe injury and treatment at an

emergency department as a result of e-bike use. Although some have argued that e-bike usage may allow for increased mobility by older adults on topographically diverse habitats, the trade-off for safety is a serious concern.

Current city ordinances allow use of Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes in CHWP; these e-bikes cease to provide motor-assist past 20mph, according to the California vehicle code [3]. However, modifications can allow these e-bikes to increase their speed, in some cases up to 30mph. On CHWP trails, which pedestrians are using concurrently, this combination creates potential safety hazards for pedestrians and e-bike riders alike. Prohibition of one class of e-bikes, while allowing others, creates challenges for enforcement. Banning all e-bikes would likely make enforcement simpler.

Another key safety concern with e-bikes is that their lithium-ion batteries can lead to explosive, hard-to-extinguish fires. Although these battery fires primarily occur during charging, they can also happen while riding with cheaply made or overused batteries [4]. Wildfires are of primary concern for CHWP and the surrounding homeowners and communities.

In addition to safety concerns, vehicular use of the Park also negatively impacts some other users of the Park, including hikers, runners, family groups, those with dogs and equestrians. The Friends of CHWP reports that multiple Park users have complained to Friends' volunteers about their experiences of e-bike users on trails. Some e-bike users ride on trails intended for foot traffic and video themselves, thus encouraging many other riders to behave in a similar way. See this video as an example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdovBNN4Wik> [5]

Ecological Issues

Research has shown that e-bikes, particularly e-Mountain Bikes (eMTB) have a higher potential for ecological impacts on soil, vegetation, and wildlife than conventional mountain bikes (Kuwaczka, 2023)[6]. The potential impacts on soils, vegetation, and wildlife may be due to the increased weight, torque, and length of time on e-bikes as they travel on unpaved trails in natural areas such as the CHWP.

CHWP wildlife are at risk of being killed or mortally injured by e-bikes, which are heavier and often faster than non-motorized mountain bikes. Of additional concern is the potential to distribute invasive seeds via e-bikes as has been shown to occur with mountain bikes (Pickering, 2022)[7].

The executive director of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Matthew Dodder, noted that e-bikes have taken a toll on nature preserves and that threatened and endangered species are very sensitive to disturbance. [8]

A study in Northern California's Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District found that e-bike motors, though quieter than internal combustion engines, create a high-pitched whine disruptive to certain species of bats. Noise from these motors may also disturb nesting birds. [9]

Comparison with other municipalities and areas

Claremont would not be the only municipality that has prohibited e-bikes in its protected green spaces or beaches. The cities of Hermosa Beach[10] and San Clemente[11] have banned e-bikes from their trails and beaches as a matter of safety. Palo Alto[12] has banned e-bikes on unpaved routes in open space preserves.

Los Angeles County bans e-bike use on multi-use trails, including in Marshall Canyon. Therefore, banning e-bike use in CHWP would provide consistency on a main connector trail to this area [13]

Conclusion

Given the rationale and the associated references provided, the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy urges the City of Claremont to move forward with a ban on e-bikes on unpaved trails in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.

[1] *Final Draft, Claremont Hills Wilderness Park Master Plan*, May 2016. P.11

[2] A. Curl and C. Musselwhite (eds.), *Geographies of Transport and Ageing, Cycling for Transport Among Older Adults: Health Benefits, Prevalence, Determinants, Injuries and the Potential of E-bikes* (chap. 6, J. Van Cauwenberg), https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-76360-6_6

[3] Kevin Claxton, *What Is an E-Bike? A Guide to California E-Bike Classifications*, CalBike, June 21, 2024, <https://www.calbike.org/california-e-bike-classifications/>

[4] “Fire! Fire! Fire!” The Perplexing, Deadly Electric Bike Problem,” *Consumer Reports*, December 8, 2022 <https://www.consumerreports.org/health/electric-bikes/electric-bike-fires-and-lithium-ion-batteries-a4632489902/>

[5] Sur Ron X: Claremont Wilderness and Wheelies, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdovBNN4Wik>

[6] Kuwaczka, J. et. al., *Ecological impacts of (electrically assisted) mountain biking*, *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 44(2023), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2023.e02475>

[7] Pickering, C., *Mountain bike riding and hiking can contribute to the dispersal of weed seeds*, *Journal of Environmental Management* 319(2022), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2022.115693>

[8] “Palo Alto bans e-bikes on unpaved paths in open space preserves” *CBS News*, March 2, 2023 <https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/palo-alto-bans-ebikes-unpaved-paths-open-space-preserves/>

[9] Dave Johnston and Steve Rottenborn, "Memorandum: Analysis of E-bike Noise and Recommendations for Buffer Distances between Bike Trails and Bat Roosts/Nesting Birds", H.T. Harvey & Associates, Ecological Consultants. September 17, 2021.
https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/E-bike_noise-analysis_09172021.pdf

[10] "Hermosa Beach council strengthens, adds e-bike restrictions" *Daily Breeze*, June 6 2024 <https://www.dailybreeze.com/2024/06/06/hermosa-beach-council-strengthens-adds-e-bike-restrictions/>

[11] "San Clemente moves to toughen up its e-bike rules beyond beachside bans" *Daily Pilot*, August 21, 2024 <https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/entertainment/story/2024-08-21/san-clemente-moves-to-toughen-up-its-e-bike-rules-with-parental-fines>

[12] Same as [8].

[13] Marshall Canyon Trail, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation:
<https://trails.lacounty.gov/trail/36/marshall-canyon-trail>



Claremont Hills Wilderness Park & Thompson Creek Trail E-Bike Survey

The City of Claremont is soliciting public input regarding the regulation of electric bicycles in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park and on the Thompson Creek Trail. Feedback gathered will be used to shape future policies for these recreational areas.

WHAT IS AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE (E-BIKE)?

The [State of California Department of Motor Vehicles](#) defines an electric bicycle as "a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts." Three classes of electric bicycles have been established and are listed in the infographics below.

Under current State of California law, Class 1 & 2 e-bikes are permitted in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park. Class 3 e-bikes are prohibited.

WHAT DOES **NOT** QUALIFY AS AN E-BIKE?

The following vehicles are **NOT** considered e-bikes and are defined as motor vehicles per the [State of California Department of Motor Vehicles](#). [Claremont Municipal Code 11.10.030](#) prohibits the operation of motor vehicles in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park and [Claremont Municipal Code 11.02.070](#) prohibits their operation on the Thompson Creek Trail.

- **Motorcycles:** A motorcycle is a motor vehicle with a seat or saddle for the rider and is designed to travel on not more than three wheels.
- **Motor-Driven Cycles:** A motor-driven cycle is a motorcycle with less than a 150 cc motor size.
- **Motorized Scooters:** A motorized scooter is defined as any two-wheeled "device" with a motor, handlebars, and a floorboard for standing on when riding.
- **Moped:** A motorized bicycle or moped is a two or three-wheeled device, capable of no more than 30 miles per hour (mph) on level ground, and equipped with:
 - Fully operative pedals for human propulsion.
 - A motor producing less than four gross brake horsepower and an automatic transmission.
 - No pedals if powered solely by electrical energy.

CLASSES OF E-BIKES:



CLASS 1

A "Class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.



CLASS 2

A "Class 2 electric bicycle," or "low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.



CLASS 3

A "Class 3 electric bicycle," or "speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and is equipped with a speedometer.



Pedal assist		●	●	●
Throttle			●	
Max speed	Speed limit	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph
Minimum age	None	None	None	16
Driver's license	No	No	No	No
Helmet required	Under 18	Under 18	Under 18	All ages

Which types of e-bikes should be permitted for use in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park and on the Thompson Creek Trail?

- ☐ All E-Bikes (Class 1, 2, & 3)
- ☐ Class 1 & 2 E-Bikes (Pedal Assist / Pedal Assist & Throttle)
- ☐ Class 1 E-Bikes Only (Pedal Assist Only)
- ☐ Manual Pedal / Non-Motorized Bicycles Only

Would you like to receive updates on the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park E-Bike Policy? If so, please enter your email address.

example@example.com

Please share any additional comments you wish to add.

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