

**LOS ANGELES  
EQUINE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
CALIFORNIA

Chair: Kevin Regan,  
Department of Recreation  
and Parks

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November 30, 2009

Board of Recreation and Parks Commission  
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 1509  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners:

The Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee requests the removal of Chapter 3 (Off-Road Bicycle Policies) of the draft 2009 Bicycle Master Plan. The Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee further opposes any change to the park ordinance that affords trail safety throughout the City's parks system.

In 1996, the City Council adopted a Bicycle Master Plan that included policies to determine the feasibility of allowing mountain biking in City parks. In 1999, the Concerned Off Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA) requested access to Elysian Park for a pilot mountain biking program. In response to the public demand regarding this Master Plan, the Department of Recreation and Parks formed a Mountain Bike Working Group in 2000, that consisted of various Park stakeholders' and mountain bikers, to discuss this feasibility.

At community meetings held Citywide, there was overwhelming public opposition to allow mountain biking in City parks due to safety concerns. The Mountain Bike Working Group ultimately delivered a report reflecting the experience of other jurisdictions where this had been unsuccessfully tried. The inclusion of mountain bikes in parks was found to be not feasible.

In 2000, the City Council unanimously affirmed the park ordinance to remain unchanged.

Also in 2000, the City voted to purchase a new park (Mandeville Canyon Park) with monies from Prop K and State funds for \$5 million, for the exclusive use of mountain biking activities. The purchase was structured as a mountain biking "pilot program" predicated upon preparation of environmental studies and a CORBA-sponsored youth program. Nine years later, neither the environmental study nor the youth program has materialized.



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Throughout the year, the Department of Recreation and Parks held numerous public meetings for their 2009 Citywide Community Needs Assessment. The issue of mountain biking on park trails was not raised as an important topic by community stakeholders. Clearly, there is no evidence of the need to open park trails to mountain biking.

The density of trail users today is greater than ever. In addition to equestrians, hikers, joggers, bird watchers, and "walkers" that include the elderly and mothers with strollers, already share park trails. Introducing fast moving mountain bikes to a trails already in full use, would be unsafe and irresponsible.

Sincerely,

*Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee*  
Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee

cc: Department of Transportation  
Department of City Planning  
Council of the City of Los Angeles