



# County of Santa Cruz

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2100 FAX: (831) 454-3420 TDD: (831) 454-2123

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

July 25, 2000

AGENDA: August 1, 2000

Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street, Room 500  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

### **Re: Motorized bicycle and scooter policy recommendations**

On May 23, 2000, your Board directed the County Administrative Officer, in conjunction with County Counsel and the Sheriff, to review matters raised by the Transportation Commission pertaining to the operation of motorized bicycles and scooters on streets and bike paths within the County unincorporated area, and to make appropriate recommendations.

On April 27, 2000, the Transportation Commission sent your Board a letter requesting that:

- 1) The jurisdictions within the County approve that same general rule regarding the operation of motorized bicycles and scooters, as defined in California Vehicle Code, sections 406(b) and 407.5, respectively, on streets and bike paths;
- 2) The general rule be that motorized bicycles and scooters are allowed to operate on all facilities where bicycles are allowed;
- 3) Each jurisdiction consider exceptions to the general rule only when the use of such vehicles is inconsistent with other uses of certain specific facilities; and
- 4) Each jurisdiction solicit comments from the Transportation Commission before instituting an ordinance regulating the use of such vehicles, or restricting such use on a particular facility.

Such amendment to the County Code is intended to achieve three objectives: (1) increase the number of transportation options for individuals who may not be physically able to utilize traditional human-powered bicycles; (2) expand the system of roadways and bike paths available to motorized bicycles and scooters; and (3) avoid statutory inconsistencies between jurisdictions. The primary effect of such amendment will be to allow motorized bicycles and scooters onto detached bike paths throughout the County. Such vehicles will be limited to electric power, and must not be capable of achieving speeds in excess of 20 m.p.h. on level ground. Jurisdictions may specifically exclude facilities where they find that the operation of motorized bicycles and scooters is inconsistent with existing bicycle and pedestrian uses, e.g., West Cliff Drive.

County Counsel, Sheriffs Department representatives, and County Administrative Office staff met and reviewed these matters. Staff agrees that harmonization of local statutes in the manner suggested would enhance alternative transportation opportunities throughout the County, and that the ordinance proposed by the City of Santa Cruz is a good model for county-wide implementation. The City of Santa Cruz proposed ordinance is supported by the Transportation Commission.

County Counsel is in the process of finalizing their review of existing County Codes to ensure that there are no incompatibilities with the new amendments. They will be providing your Board with a proposed ordinance for the unincorporated area based on the City of Santa Cruz model on August 15, 2000.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this report and direct staff to return with proposed amendments to the County Code pertaining to the operation of motorized bicycles and scooters on streets and bike paths within the unincorporated area on August 15, 2000.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan A. Mauriello", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Susan A. Mauriello  
County Administrative Officer

cc: Sheriff  
County Counsel  
Transportation Commission