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Caring for Our Coast

♦ ♦ ♦
Gary Jones
Director

Amy M. Caves
Chief Deputy Director

LaTayvius R. Albery
Deputy Director

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AMENDMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE
TITLE 19: AIRPORTS AND HARBORS SECTION 19.12.1340
TO ALLOW BICYCLE RIDING ON SIDEWALKS IN UNINCORPORATED MARINA DEL REY
EXCEPT WHERE PROHIBITED BY A SIGN
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Beaches and Harbors (Department) is seeking Board approval to amend Los Angeles County Code Title 19, Section 19.12.1340 to allow bicycle riding on sidewalks in unincorporated Marina del Rey except where prohibited by a sign. In addition, the proposed amendments would establish when signs prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks are authorized, exceptions to compliance, temporary restrictions prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks, and responsibilities of a bicyclist riding on or from a sidewalk.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act, or, in the alternative, that the actions are exempt for the reasons stated in this Board letter.
2. Introduce, waive reading, and place the ordinance on a subsequent agenda for adoption.
3. Approve the ordinance amending Los Angeles County Code Title 19, Section 19.12.1340 to allow bicycle riding on sidewalks in the Marina del Rey community except where prohibited by a sign; establish when signs prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks are authorized; establish exceptions to compliance with signs prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks; establish when temporary restrictions

prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks are authorized; and establish responsibilities of a bicyclist riding on or from a sidewalk.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will find that the recommended actions are not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as it does not cause direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment, but will allow the County to make bicycle riding on sidewalks in Marina del Rey legal except where prohibited by a sign. These actions will provide consistency between regulations within Los Angeles County Code Titles 15 and 19, and will expand active transportation options and enhance the quality of life for bicyclists traveling in unincorporated Marina del Rey.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: Strategy II.2, Support the Wellness of our Communities, and the County's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative. Providing additional places to ride a bicycle safely and comfortably encourages physical activity and promotes an active and healthy lifestyle.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no impact on the County General Fund.

The Department anticipates a minimal cost to design, procure, and install signage as needed, which would be paid from the Department's operational budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Los Angeles County Code Section 19.12.1340 currently prohibits the riding of bicycles on sidewalks within unincorporated Marina del Rey.

On November 16, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion, Decriminalizing Mobility Through Implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan (Agenda Item 21, Directive 1) (Enclosure 1), which referenced a November 8, 2021 Los Angeles Times article about bike stops made by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. In the motion, the Board instructed the Director of Public Health to collaborate with various agencies, including Public Works, to propose ordinance changes that would allow the operation of bicycles on sidewalks based on current best practices for pedestrian and bicycle safety to minimize the injuries and fatalities to walkers and bikers.

On June 6, 2023, the Board unanimously approved amendments to Los Angeles County Code (LACC) Title 15 presented by Public Works to allow bicycle riding on sidewalks in unincorporated areas of the County. However, Title 15 excludes unincorporated Marina del Rey, which is covered by LACC Title 19. To provide consistency with the updated regulations in LACC Title 15, the Department has prepared an ordinance to amend Los Angeles County Code Title 19, Section

19.12.1340 to allow bicycle riding on sidewalks in unincorporated Marina del Rey except where prohibited by a sign. In addition, the proposed amendments would establish when signs prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks are authorized, exceptions to compliance, temporary restrictions prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks, and responsibilities of a bicyclist riding on or from a sidewalk.

The ordinance amendment reviewed by County Counsel is enclosed (Enclosure 2).

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The recommended actions are not subject to CEQA because they are activities that are excluded from the definition of a project by section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and section 15378(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines as they are organizational or administrative activities of government which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment. Alternatively, the proposed actions are exempt from CEQA as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project may have a significant effect on the environment pursuant to the state CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). The proposed project is covered by the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects that have the potential for causing a significant direct or indirect impact on the environment. Furthermore, the proposed project meets the criteria set forth in Section 15301(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 1 of the County's Environmental Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G. In addition, based on the proposed project records, it will comply with all applicable regulations and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, damage to scenic highways, listing on hazardous waste site lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or indications that it may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource that would make the exemption inapplicable.

Upon the Board's approval of the recommended actions, the Department will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with Section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

No impact on current services or projects is expected. Efforts to implement the proposed amendment to Los Angeles County Code Title 19, Section 19.12.1340 will be handled during the normal course of business.

CONCLUSION

Please return two adopted copies of this letter and copies of the ordinance to the Department of Beaches and Harbors, Planning Division.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

6/10/2025

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Jones', with a stylized, looping initial 'G'.

GARY JONES

Director

GJ:AC:WO:ts

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS
AND JANICE HAHN

November 16, 2021

Decriminalizing Mobility Through Implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan

A recent analysis conducted by the Los Angeles Times¹ revealed that out of more than 44,000 bike stops made by the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department since 2017, 70 percent involved Latinx bicyclists. According to that analysis, the stops have been used by the Sheriff’s Department as a tool to “fight crime;” however, searches conducted during these stops resulted in finding illegal items just 8 percent of the time and seizing weapons less than 0.5 percent of the time. These bike stops also occurred at greater rates in communities of color such as unincorporated East Los Angeles than in more affluent neighborhoods throughout the County. Despite discussions of reform and training, it is clear that the Department, whose workforce includes more than 50 percent Latinx deputies, has not addressed systemic issues of biased policing.

¹ <https://www.latimes.com/california/newsletter/2021-11-08/bike-stops-la-sheriff-deputies-latino-essential-california>

MOTION

MITCHELL	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

Mobility and access to high quality transportation are already critical issues of equity for Los Angeles County (County) residents as it is. Transportation costs in our region are amongst the highest in the country, making up 20 percent of a typical household's income. Most Americans utilize a car for commuting purposes; but due to the high costs associated with car ownership, lower-income households are often relegated to biking, walking, taking transit, and using other non-vehicular forms of transportation for their daily tasks. Many bicyclists look to the sidewalk as refuge from the harassment they receive from drivers when they use the roadway and from the danger of sharing road space with fast-moving traffic. Surveys conducted by the nonprofit Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition found riders are twice as likely to ride on the sidewalk on streets with no bike lanes than those with them, and these concerns are justified. In fact, between 2013 and 2017, 1,265 bicyclists incurred injuries from collisions on unincorporated roadways, and 131 experienced severe injuries or lost their lives. Residents should not be punished by the Sheriff's Department due to their poverty, the color of their skin, their neighborhood, their commitment to more sustainable modes of transportation, or their concern for personal safety. The Sheriff's Department's use of bike stops to search Latinx and other bicyclists only exacerbates structural inequities in low-income communities of color.

In 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Vision Zero Action Plan that seeks to reduce traffic fatalities on unincorporated roadways to zero by 2025. To reach that goal, the Plan proposes a number of engineering, education, and enforcement strategies that make travel safer on County roads without disproportionately burdening certain populations. Of those strategies, there are several related to law enforcement, including a recommendation to legalize the operation of bicycles on sidewalks which is currently

prohibited under Los Angeles County Code and accounted for 8 percent of stops by the Sheriff's Department. These recommendations are low hanging fruit that can be immediately implemented to begin addressing the injustices exposed by the Los Angeles Times analysis. Every resident should have a right to safe travel regardless of what mode of transportation they decide to use.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public Health to collaborate with Public Works, Sheriff's Department, County Counsel, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Development Authority, and the Los Angeles County Superior Court to do the following:

1. Immediately begin implementation of the following recommendations included in the County's Vision Zero Action Plan in partnership with community stakeholders:
 - B-2:** Identify process and partners for establishing a diversion program for persons cited for infractions related to walking and bicycling.
 - B-3:** Identify process and partners to consider revising the Los Angeles County Municipal Code to allow the operation of bicycles on sidewalks.
2. Identify any other recommendations included in the Vision Zero Action Plan that should be implemented in partnership with community stakeholders to further decriminalize and enable the use of non-vehicular and alternative modes of transportation in unincorporated communities;
3. Instruct the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Chief Executive

Office and relevant County departments, to develop cost estimates and identify funding needs and potential opportunities to support the implementation of these Vision Zero recommendations; and

4. Report back in writing in 90 days with an update on the above directives.

#

HLS:mr

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

November 16, 2021

AMENDMENT ITEM 21

WE, FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health, Department of Public Works and County Counsel to propose ordinance changes that would allow the operation of bicycles on sidewalks based on current best practices for pedestrian and bicycle safety to minimize the injuries and fatalities to walkers and bikers and report back in 90 days.

MOTION

Mitchell	_____
Kuehl	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____
Solis	_____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS
AND JANICE HAHN

November 16, 2021

Amendment by Supervisor Mitchell to #21 – Decriminalizing Mobility Through Implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

5. Direct County Counsel, in partnership with the Executive Director for the Office of Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI), the Civilian Oversight Commission, and the Office of the Inspector General to examine enforcement practices related to people riding bicycles and whether the County Code and related enforcement practices are in line with County Anti-Racist and Vision Zero policies. The examination should rely on national and international best practices of laws governing riding bicycles. Where additional resources are needed to aid with the analysis, partners, including ARDI, should work with the CEO to identify necessary funding. County Counsel shall report back to the Board in writing within 120 days on recommended modifications to the County Code and related penalties that are in line with Countywide policies.”

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(LO)

MOTION

MITCHELL	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____



County of Los Angeles

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District

Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor, Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor, Third District

Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District



April 9, 2025

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Gary Jones, Director
Department of Beaches and Harbors
13837 Fiji Way
Marina del Rey, California 90292
gjones@bh.lacounty.gov

**Re: Ordinance Amending Los Angeles County Code,
Title 19, Section 19.12.1340 – Bicycles and Motorcycles
Decriminalizing Mobility/Bicycle Riding on Sidewalks in
Marina del Rey**

Dear Mr. Jones:

As requested, our office has prepared the attached ordinance amending Los Angeles County Code, Title 19, Section 19.12.1340 – Bicycles and Motorcycles allowing bicycle riding in Marina del Rey, consistent with the Board of Supervisors' ("Board") June 27, 2023 adoption of similar amendments to County Code Title 15, Chapter 15.76 applicable to other unincorporated areas. The analysis and ordinance may be presented to the Board for its consideration.

Very truly yours,

DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By *Sevanna Hartonians*
SEVANNA HARTONIAN
Deputy County Counsel

APPROVED AND RELEASED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Judy W. Whitehurst'.

JUDY W. WHITEHURST
Chief Deputy

SH:mc

Attachments

ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Title 19, Section 19.12.1340 – Bicycles and Motorcycles, of the Los Angeles County Code, to allow and establish standards for the use of bicycles on sidewalks in unincorporated Marina del Rey. The amendment would also establish when signs prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks are authorized, exceptions to compliance, temporary restrictions prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks, and responsibilities of a bicyclist riding on or from a sidewalk. This amendment is consistent with amendments made to Los Angeles County Code, Title 15, Chapter 15.76 (Miscellaneous Regulations) to allow bicycle riding in unincorporated areas of the County, not including unincorporated Marina del Rey, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 27, 2023.

DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By *Sevanna Hartonians*
SEVANNA HARTONIANS
Deputy County Counsel
Property Division

SH:mc

Requested: 02/24/2025

Revised: 03/07/2025

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending the Los Angeles County Code, Title 19, Section 19.12.1340 – Bicycles and Motorcycles, to allow and establish standards for the use of bicycles on sidewalks in the unincorporated areas of Marina del Rey. The amendment would also establish when signs prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks are authorized, exceptions to compliance, temporary restrictions prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks, and responsibilities of a bicyclist riding on or from a sidewalk. This amendment is consistent with amendments made to Los Angeles County Code, Title 15, Chapter 15.76 (Miscellaneous Regulations) to allow bicycle riding in unincorporated areas of the County, not including unincorporated Marina del Rey, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 27, 2023.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 19.12.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19.12.240 Department.

"Department" means the ~~d~~Department of ~~b~~Beaches and ~~h~~Harbors, ~~e~~County of Los Angeles.

SECTION 2. Section 19.12.250 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19.12.250 Director.

"Director" means the Director of the Department of Beaches and Harbors, ~~his/her~~their Chief Deputy, or any other person authorized or designated by the Director or the Chief Deputy to act in ~~his/her~~their stead.

Section 3. Section 19.12.1340 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19.12.1340 Bicycles and motorcycles.

A. ~~Confined to Roads~~Definition of Bicycle. ~~No person shall ride a bicycle or motorcycle on other than a paved vehicular road or path designated for that purpose. A bicyclist shall be permitted to wheel or push a bicycle by hand over any area normally reserved for pedestrian use.~~In this Chapter, the term bicycle has the same definition as California Vehicle Code section 231.

B. ~~Immobile.~~ No person shall leave a bicycle ~~or motorcycle~~ lying on the ground or pavings, or set against a building or tree, or in any place or position that may cause a person to trip over or be injured by it.

C. ~~Bicycle Paths.~~ The Director or the Director of the County Department of Public Works may ~~from time to time~~ designate, by sign or postings, certain areas to be used exclusively by persons riding bicycles upon bicycle lanes or paths set aside for that use in Marina del Rey.

D. Bicycle Riding on Sidewalk – Prohibited When. Bicycles may be ridden on any sidewalk in Marina del Rey, except in locations where a sign is posted indicating that bicycling is prohibited thereon.

E. Bicycle Riding on Sidewalk – Signs Specifying When Prohibited.
Notwithstanding County Code Section 15.76.084 (Bicycle Riding on Sidewalk – Signs Specifying When Prohibited), whenever the Director finds that any portion of a sidewalk maintained or operated for the public by the Department is not suitable for bicycling

based upon concerns for the protection of the public, signs shall be erected and maintained specifying the prohibition of bicycle riding.

F. Bicycle Riding on Sidewalk – Exceptions to Compliance with Signs Prohibiting. County of Los Angeles employees, who are acting within the course and scope of their employment, may ride bicycles on sidewalks maintained by the Department where signs are posted prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks, pursuant to Section 19.12.1340.D, above, in a manner that is consistent with Section 19.12.1340.G, below. This includes, but is not limited to, peace officers, emergency medical personnel, and parking enforcement officers.

G. Bicycle Riding on Sidewalk – Temporary Restrictions. Whenever the Director finds that traffic congestion or a traffic hazard is likely to result from bicycle riding on sidewalks maintained by the Department during the holding of public or private assemblages, gatherings or functions, or during the construction, alteration, repair, sweeping or improvement of any highway, or for other reason, the Director may place or cause to be placed temporary signs prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks during the period such condition exists.

H. Bicyclist Riding on or from Sidewalk – Responsibilities. Whenever a person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk maintained by the Department, such person shall:

1. Yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians and other sidewalk users, including, but not limited to, animals and vendors;

2. Travel with due care, at a speed and in a manner that is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for weather, visibility, the users of, and for the surface and width of the sidewalk; and, in no event, travel at a speed or in a manner that endangers the safety of persons or property; and

3. Yield to all traffic upon entering a roadway from a sidewalk, taking caution to avoid disruptions to the flow of traffic.

[19121340PGCC]