## SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.4 (ID # 27897) MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 20, 2025

FROM:

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE** 

**SUBJECT:** EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Adoption of Ordinance No. 995 Establishing an E-Bike Safety Ordinance in Unincorporated Communities; Not a Project under CEQA per State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 or CEQA Exempt per Section 15061 (b)(3); All Districts. [\$0]

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1. Find that Ordinance No. 995 is not a Project under CEQA per State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and/or is CEQA Exempt per 15061 (b)(3);
- 2. Adopt Ordinance No. 995 regulating the use of Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes) in unincorporated communities for the purpose of ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of pedestrians; and,
- 3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the ordinance within 15 days after adoption of the ordinance pursuant to California Government Code Section 25124.

**ACTION:Policy** 

Michelle Paradise
helle Paradise, ACEO 5/13/2025

### MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Gutierrez, seconded by Supervisor Spiegel and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended, and Ordinance 995 is adopted with waiver of the reading.

Ayes:

Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez

Nays:

None

Absent: Date:

None

Date

May 20, 2025

XC:

EO, COB/MC/NS/DL/AB

3.4

Kimber

Clerk

### SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Y	ear:	Next Fiscal Y	ear:	,	Total Cost:	Ongoing	Cost	
COST	\$	0	\$	0		\$ 0		\$	0
NET COUNTY COST	\$	0	\$	0		\$ 0		\$	0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A  Budget Adjustment: N/A							N/A		
						For Fiscal Y	ear: 24/2	25	

**CEO Recommendation:** Approve

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

### Summary

On September 17, 2024 (MO 3.4) Supervisor Washington directed the Executive Office to initiate an electric bicycle (e-bike) safety ordinance and to create regulations and enforcement mechanisms to ensure pedestrian safety in the unincorporated communities of Riverside County. In the months following, the Executive office worked with County Counsel to develop Ordinance No. 995, which regulates the use of electric bicycles on sidewalks and trails to improve safety for pedestrians and other non-motorized users in unincorporated communities.

Ordinance 995 establishes the following guidelines for e-bike riders:

- Class 1 and 2 e-bikes (low-speed pedal or throttle assisted which assist up to 20 mph) are permitted on most sidewalks and trails, except in business districts, school zones, bridges, pedestrian underpasses, and where posted restrictions apply. Riders must yield to pedestrians and exercise caution.
- Class 3 e-bikes (which assist up to 28 mph and are usually equipped with a speedometer), motorized bicycles, mopeds, and motor-driven cycles are prohibited from all sidewalks and trails unless signage expressly allows them.
- All e-bikes and motorized bicycles are prohibited on equestrian trails and within Wine Country Equestrian Districts to ensure the safety of horseback riders.

Ordinance 995 also outlines the enforcement and penalties associated with the violation of the ordinance:

• First offense: \$100 fine

• Second offense (within one year): \$200 fine

• Third offense (within one year): \$500 fine

### **Impact on Citizens and Businesses**

The provision of clear guidelines for e-bike usage is critical to the safety of all users of sidewalks and trails within unincorporated communities in Riverside County. The passage of this ordinance would promote responsible e-bike use while protecting pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

## SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Attachments: Ordinance 995

Rebecca Of Contex Rebecca S Cortez, Principal Management Analysis

5/13/2025

Braden Holly Braden Holly, Deputy County Counsel H

5/12/2025

Aaron Gettis, Chief of Deput Counsel

5/12/2025

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### ORDINANCE NO. 995

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

### REGULATING THE USE OF BICYCLES ON SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside ordains as follows:

Section 1. FINDINGS. The Board of Supervisors finds that the unregulated use of electric bicycles, as defined in Vehicle Code Section 312.5, on sidewalks and trails within the County presents a health and/or safety hazard to pedestrians and those using non-motorized modes of transportation on County sidewalks and trails maintained for the public's benefit.

Section 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the use of electric bicycles on sidewalks and trails within the County to the extent permitted by state law to protect the health, safety, and welfare of County residents on said sidewalks and trails.

Section 3. AUTHORITY. This ordinance is adopted pursuant to Government Code Section 23004, which authorizes counties to manage County Property, as defined herein, pursuant to Article XI, Section 7 of the California Constitution which authorizes counties to make and enforce within their limits all local, police, sanitary and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws that serve to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents; and pursuant to Vehicle Code Sections 21110, 21206, and 21207.5, which authorize local agencies to regulate the use of bicycles on sidewalks, trails, and pedestrian facilities within the agency's jurisdiction.

Section 4. DEFINITIONS. As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- a. Board. The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside.
- Bicycle. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 231 of the
   Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.
- c. <u>Bicycle Path or Bikeway</u>. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 890.4 of the Streets and Highways Code, as may be amended from time to time.

- d. <u>Business District</u>. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 235 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.
- e. <u>County</u>. The County of Riverside, any of its agencies, departments or any associated districts, and any officer or employee thereof.
- f. <u>County Property</u>. Real property, buildings and facilities owned, leased, subleased or otherwise licensed by or to the County, or real property subject to the use and control of the County, whether such property is within the unincorporated or incorporated territory of the County. County Property includes real property in the possession of a public or private entity under contract with the County.
- g. <u>Electric Bicycle</u>. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 312.5 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time, as follows: An "electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and equipped with a speedometer.
- h. Equestrian Trail. Shall mean any trail primarily designed to meet the

- requirements of horses and their riders. Pedestrians may use equestrian trails, but they are not the primary user for whom the trail is designed.
- Motor-Driven Cycle. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 405 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.
- j. Motorized Bicycle or Moped. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 406 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.
- k. <u>Pedestrian</u>. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 467 of the
   Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.
- Person. Any individual, partnership, corporation, joint venture, firm, company, association, group, body politic, or other entity, and any officer, employee, agent, trustee, assignee or other representative thereof.
- m. <u>Trails</u>. Shall mean those described and established as Riders' and Hikers' Trails under Article 6 of Chapter 1 of Division V of the Public Resources Code (Section 5070 et seq.) and as defined in Section 831.4 of the Government Code.
- n. <u>Sidewalk</u>. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 555 of the
   Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.
- Section 5. ENFORCEMENT. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department shall have the primary responsibility for enforcing this chapter.
- Section 6. OPERATION OF CLASS 1 AND 2 ELECTRIC BICYCLES. Class 1 and 2 electric bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks and trails except as follows:
  - a. No person shall ride Class 2 electric bicycles upon a sidewalk within any business district; upon the sidewalks of bridges; in pedestrian underpasses; on pedestrian overpasses; or upon sidewalks adjacent to any school building.
  - b. No person shall ride Class 2 electric bicycles upon a sidewalk or trail in an area where riding a bicycle or unicycle is prohibited by ordinance and appropriate signage is posted advising of the prohibition.
  - c. No person shall ride a Class 1 or 2 electric bicycle upon a sidewalk or trail where a bicycle path or bikeway is available on the same roadway or within the

same public facility.

d. Any person riding a Class 1 or 2 electric bicycle upon a sidewalk shall ride in the direction of travel in a safe manner with due care and caution, yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian, and when overtaking and passing a pedestrian, shall give an audible signal and shall pass to the left of the pedestrian only under conditions permitting the safety of such movement. Any person riding an electric bicycle, upon entering a roadway or driveway from a sidewalk, shall yield to all traffic.

Section 7. OPERATION OF CLASS 3 ELECTRIC BICYCLES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES, MOTORIZED BICYCLES, AND MOPEDS. Class 3 Electric Bicycles, Motor-Driven Cycles, Mopeds, and Motorized Bicycles that are not classified as Class 1 or 2 Electric Bicycles are prohibited from being ridden on all sidewalks and trails unless posted signage specifically allows for such use.

Section 8. OPERATION OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES, MOTORIZED BICYCLES, MOPEDS, AND MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES PROHIBITED IN EQUESTRIAN DISTRICS AND ON EQUESTRIAN TRAILS. The operation of Electric Bicycles, Motorized Bicycles, Mopeds, and Motor-Driven cycles is prohibited on Equestrian trails within the County of Riverside, and on any trail within any Wine Country – Equestrian District, as defined in Riverside County Ordinance No. 927.

Section 9. REGULATIONS COMMON TO THE OPERATION OF ALL CLASSES OF BICYCLES. The operation of Electric Bicycles, Motorized Bicycles, Mopeds, and Motor-Driven cycles is prohibited on any surface not intended for the use of bicycles or motor vehicles, including, but not limited to the interiors of public facilities, landscaped public spaces, planters, and park spaces other than trails where such use is authorized.

Section 10. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES. Any person convicted of violating this ordinance shall be: (1) guilty of an infraction offense and punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) for a first violation; (2) guilty of an infraction offense and punished by a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200) for a second violation within one year of the first violation; and (3) guilty of an infraction offense and punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) for a third violation within one year of the first violation. The penalties herein are in addition to any other remedies provided

1	by law.
2	Section 11. SEVERABILITY. If any provision, clause, sentence or paragraph of this
3	ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity
4	shall not affect the other provisions of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid
5	provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be
6	severable.
7	Section 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after
8	its adoption.
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11	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
12	By: V. M. 17
13	V. MANUEL PEREZ ?Chairman
14	ATTEST: KIMBERLY RECTOR
15	CLERK OF THE BOARD
16	By: VVVVV
17	
18	(SEAL)
19	
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21	APPROVED AS TO FORM:
22	April 9, 2025
23	By: Braden Holly Braden J. Holly
24	Deputy County Counsel
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13	STATE OF CALIFORNIA ) ss							
14	COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE )							
15								
16	I HEREBY CERTIFY that at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of said coun held on May 20, 2025, the foregoing ordinance consisting of 12 Sections was adopted by							
17	the following vote:							
18	AYES: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez							
19	NAYS: None							
20	ABSENT: None							
21								
22	DATE: May 20, 2025 KIMBERLY A. RECTOR							
23	Clerk of the Board							
24	BY: Deputy							
25	SEAL							
26								
27								

28 05/20/2025 Item 3.4

### THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

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County of Riverside - Clerk of the Board PO Box 1147 Riverside, California 92502

Account Number: 5209148
Ad Order Number: 0011737322

Customer's Reference/PO Number:

Publication: The Press-Enterprise

 Publication Dates:
 05/29/2025

 Total Amount:
 \$1878.51

 Payment Amount:
 \$0.00

 Amount Due:
 \$1878.51

Notice ID: PIFsvStlUK06AwIYOrmO

Invoice Text: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF

CALIFORNIA ORDINANCE NO. 995 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE REGULATING THE USE OF BICYCLES ON SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside ordains as follows: Section 1. FINDINGS. The Board of Supervisors finds that the unregulated use of electric bicycles, as defined in Vehicle Code Section 312.5, on sidewalks and trails within the County presents a health and/or safety hazard to pedestrians and those using nonmotorized modes of transportation on County sidewalks and trails maintained for the public's benefit. Section 2 . PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the use of electric bicycles on sidewalks and trails within the County to the extent permitted by state law to protect the health, safety, and welfare of County residents on said sidewalks and trails. Section 3. AUTHORITY. This ordinance is adopted pursuant to Government Code Section 23004, which authorizes counties to manage County Property, as defined herein, pursuant to Article XI, Section 7 of the California Constitution which authorizes counties to make and enforce within their limits all local. police, sanitary and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws that serve to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents; and pursuant to Vehicle Code Sections 21110, 21206, and 21207.5, which authorize local agencies to regulate the use of bicycles on sidewalks, trails, and pedestrian facilities within the agency's jurisdiction. Section 4. DEFINITIONS. As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings: a. Board . The Board of

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The Press-Enterprise 3512 14 Street Riverside, California 92501 (951) 368-9229

County of Riverside - Clerk of the Board

PO Box 1147

Riverside, California 92502

Publication: The Press-Enterprise

PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF

Ad Desc: 0011737322

FILE NO. 0011737322

#### PROOF OF PUBLICATION

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and not party to or interested in the aboveentitled matter. I am an authorized representative of THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the County of Riverside, and which newspaper has been adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California, under date of April 25, 1952, Case Number 54446, under date of March 29, 1957, Case Number 65673, under date of August 25, 1995, Case Number 267864, and under date of September 16, 2013, Case Number RIC 1309013; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in said newspaper in accordance with the instructions of the person(s) requesting publication, and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

#### 05/29/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: May 29, 2025. At: Riverside, California

Signature

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA ORDINANCE NO. 995

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d. Business District. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 235 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.

e. County. The County of Riverside, any of its agencies, departments or any associated districts, and any officer or employee thereof.

f. County Property. Real property, buildings and facilities owned, leased, subleased or otherwise licensed by or to the County, or real property subject to the use and control of the County, whether such property is within the unincorporated or incorporated territory of the County. County Property Includes real property in the possession of a public or private entity under contract with the County.

g. Electric Bicycle. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 312.5 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time, as follows: An "electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts.

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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.

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 mlles per hour.

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l. Motor-Driven Cycle. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 405 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.

l. Motorized Bicycle or Moped. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 406 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.

k. Pedestrian. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 407 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.

k. Pedestrian. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 467 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.

l. Person. Any individual, partnership, corporation, plant venture, firm, company, association, group, body politic, or other entity, and any officer, employee, agent, trustee, assignee or other representative thereof.

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n. Sidewalk. Shall have the same meaning as that set forth in Section 555 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended from time to time.

Section 5. ENFORCEMENT. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department shall have the primary responsibility for enforcing this chapter.

Section 6. OPERATION OF CLASS 1 AND 2 ELECTRIC BICYCLES. Class 1 and 2 electric bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks and trails except as follows:

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any pedestrian, and when overtaking and passing a pedestrian, shall give an audible signal and shall pass to the left of the pedestrian only under conditions permitting the safety of such movement. Any person riding an

electric bicycle, upon entering a roadway or driveway from a sidewalk, shall yield to

all traffic.

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or motor vehicles, including, but not limited to the interiors of public facilities, landscaped public spaces, planters, and park spaces other than trails where such use is authorized.

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remedies provided by IdW.

<u>Section 11.</u> SEVERABILITY. If any provision, clause, sentence or paragraph of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

\_ EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after

V. Manuel Perez, Chair of the Board

I HEREBY CERTIFY that at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of sald County, held on **May 20, 2025**, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by said Board by the following vote:

AYES: NAYS: ABSENT: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutlerrez

None

Kimberly A. Rector, Clerk of the Board By: Naomy Sicra, Clerk of the Board Assistant The Press-Enterprise

Published: 5/29/25