



County of Sacramento

Proposed Signage Changes on the American River Bike Trail

April 4, 2013

Greetings,

This letter is to notify you of proposed changes to the signage along the Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail and solicit public input on the proposed change.

History: There are 11 intersections along the bike trail between Hazel Avenue and Discovery Park where the bike trail and park roadways intersect. Currently these intersections are controlled by 4 way stop signs, where bikes as well as the cars must stop. However, bicyclists typically do not stop at these signs, and tend to roll through the intersections. When asked why they do not stop, cyclists have contended that stopping or even slowing is problematic and hazardous because they lose forward momentum, have to unclip their pedals and tend to get rear ended by other cyclists who do not stop.

With the current 4 way stop sign arrangement, drivers have an expectation that the cyclists will stop which further exacerbates the hazard.

The Park Rangers have solicited input from the community regarding this issue. The various bike clubs, the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates, Sacramento Area City/County Bicycle Advisory Committee and the members of the American River Coalition have weighed in on the issue. There is a consensus that removing the stop signs from the bike trail and leaving the stop signs for the vehicles would enhance safety and be more in line with actual riding behavior. The volume of bicycle traffic far exceeds the volume of car traffic.

Proposed Changes: County Department of Transportation examined this issue and recommended that we remove the stop signs along the bike trail, leave the stop signs that control vehicle traffic and add a sign to the car approach that indicates that there is a bicycle crossing and that bicycles do not stop. This would apply to 8 of the 11 intersections along the bike trail. Three of the intersections would remain 4 way stops due to specific safety issues affecting those three intersections. The intersections that will remain a 4 way stop include the Hazel intersection where the bike trail approaches the fish hatchery, the intersection near the PCA bridge at Sunrise Avenue and the intersection where the bike trail meets Del Paso Road.

April 11, 2013

Public Testimony:

American River Parkway Advisory Committee will hear public testimony on April 19, 2013 and forward a recommendation to the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Location: 5700 Arden Way Carmichael, CA 95608

Time: 9:00am

Public Testimony:

Recreation and Parks Commission will hear public testimony on April 25, 2013 and forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H Street Sacramento CA 95814

Time: 6:00pm

For more information, contact Chief Ranger Stan Lumsden at (916)875-3030 or email at lumsdens@saccounty.net