



SVBC is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization with the mission of promoting the bicycle for everyday use.

December 8, 2008

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Mr. Richard Chiu, Jr., P.E.
Public Works Director
City of Los Altos Hills
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

Dear Mr. Chiu,

It has come to our attention that Los Altos Hills has recently painted a "NO BIKES" sign on El Monte Road just past the intersection of Elena/Moody/College Loop. We are requesting that this marking be removed as it is not permitted by the California Vehicle Code (CVC) to ban bicycles on local roads.

CVC sections 21960 and 23330 state that bicycles can be prohibited only from freeways and toll bridges. In addition, California does not allow local authorities to enact traffic laws, except where specifically provided for (CVC section 21100) and there is nothing provided for to allow any local regulation of bicycles on the roadway. Bicyclists have the same right as automobile drivers to the use of streets.

With the recently completed bicycle path through Foothill College, bicyclists have the option of riding there, however California does not have a mandatory sidepath law, so bicyclists cannot be required to ride there.

There have already been reports of upset drivers gesturing to bicyclists legally riding on this road, probably caused or exacerbated by the "NO BIKES" marking. As this creates a dangerous condition for bicyclists and increases the potential for road rage, we ask that the "NO BIKES" marking be removed immediately. If signage is deemed necessary, we suggest using the Caltrans approved "Share the Road" sign.

Please feel free to contact me directly at (408) 806-8582 to discuss this issue further. Additionally, please update me when the sign has been removed so we can share the positive news with our constituency.

Sincerely,

Corinne Winter
Executive Director

cc:
Mayor Dean Warshawsky
City Attorney Steven Mattas
City Clerk Karen Jost