E-bike Rules





California designates three classes of electric bicycles. Knowing the class of your electric bicycle will tell you where and how you can ride.

	Pedal bike	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	E-motorcycle*
Pedal assist		•	•	•	
Throttle					•
Max speed	Speed limit	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph	60 mph+
Minimum age	None	None	None	16	16
Driver's license	No	No	No	No	Yes
Helmet required	Under 18	Under 18	Under 18	All ages	All ages
Helmet recommended	All ages	All ages	All ages	All ages	All ages
Allowed on sidewalks	No	No	No	No	No
Allowed on trails	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

^{*}E-motorcycles have different requirements than e-bikes. Riders need a license, vehicle registration and insurance, and must follow the same rules on the road as motorcycles.

All e-bikes









Passengers

Only allowed on bikes specifically made for additional riders
Must have a seat for passengers
Often have footrests for the passenger

Where to ride

Ride in the same direction as traffic Use bike lanes when available Do not ride on sidewalks or crosswalks

Signs & signals

Obey all traffic signs and signals Come to a complete stop at stop signs and red lights Look before turning

Safety

Ride with care Reduce speed when needed Be aware of all other road users



This "sharrow" means the lane is too narrow for bikes and cars to travel side by side. Ride toward the middle of the lane and avoid unsafe passing. Bicyclists have a right to share the road, even if no sharrow is present.