



City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

SantaBarbaraCA.gov

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Randy Rowse
Mayor

March 18, 2026

City Hall
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA
93101-1990

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1942 (Bauer-Kahan) – Electric Bicycles: Registration and Special License Plates
City of Santa Barbara – Notice of Support**

Mailing Address:

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Dear Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan:

On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, I am writing to express our strong support for AB 1942, which would establish a statewide registration and special license plate requirement for Class 2 and Class 3 electric bicycles.

Santa Barbara has embraced active transportation as a core component of our climate action, mobility, and public safety goals. Electric bicycles have become an increasingly popular mode of travel in our community, particularly among youth, commuters, and visitors. While e-bikes provide meaningful environmental and mobility benefits, the rapid growth in higher-speed electric bicycles has also created new safety and enforcement challenges for local jurisdictions.

Class 2 and Class 3 electric bicycles are capable of speeds significantly higher than traditional bicycles. In recent years, our community has experienced increased concerns related to unsafe riding behavior, speeding in high-pedestrian areas, and difficulty identifying operators when collisions or violations occur. The lack of any uniform statewide registration or identification mechanism limits accountability and makes consistent enforcement difficult.

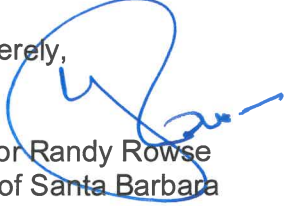
AB 1942 provides a balanced and reasonable solution. By requiring registration and the display of a special license plate for Class 2 and Class 3 electric bicycles, the bill establishes a clear identification system that supports education, accountability, and enforcement while preserving access to this important mobility option. Importantly, the bill directs the Department of Motor Vehicles to adopt regulations governing fees and implementation, ensuring that costs remain tied to reasonable administrative expenses.

A statewide framework is particularly important for communities like Santa Barbara that experience high levels of tourism and regional travel. Consistent standards across jurisdictions will prevent a patchwork of local regulations and provide clarity for riders, families, and law enforcement agencies.

The City of Santa Barbara appreciates your leadership in addressing emerging safety issues associated with higher-speed electric bicycles while maintaining support for sustainable transportation. We believe AB 1942 will improve public safety, enhance accountability, and help communities better manage the integration of electric bicycles into our transportation systems.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Barbara respectfully supports AB 1942.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Rowse", is written over the word "Sincerely," and partially over the name "Mayor Randy Rowse".

Mayor Randy Rowse
City of Santa Barbara

cc: Senate President Pro Tempore, Monique Limon
Assembly Memembr Gregg Hart