

# Electric Bicycle Rebates Fact Sheet

## E-bikes combat climate change, and do so much more.

The Air Resources Board (ARB) distributes hundreds of millions of dollars each year to support the purchase of electric cars, plug-in hybrid cars, and hydrogen fuel cell cars. None of those dollars are allowed to support electric bikes, despite their many advantages.



- Electric bikes serve an important transportation purpose. Dozens of studies in the U.S. and Europe show that one-third to one-half of e-bike trips replaced car trips, including trips taking children to school or daycare. The average distance of those trips is nine miles.
- Incentives work. Like electric cars, e-bikes are prohibitively expensive for many Californians, especially low-income Californians. With e-bikes, compared to electric cars, the amount of rebate necessary to encourage e-bike adoption is very small. A relatively small public investment will go a long way. Dozens of incentive programs around the world, including at least two in the United States, are working to get people to switch from cars to e-bikes.
- Electric bikes have unique co-benefits. They make bicycling more inclusive, as e-bike users are more likely to be older and female than regular bike users. They improve public health through increased physical activity. They improve safety for everyone biking, through the “safety in numbers” phenomenon. And they improve our economy, as Californians will be able to put more money into local businesses instead of the motor vehicle industry.
- Cargo electric bikes offer an attractive alternative to gas-powered trucks or scooters. Models in use by UPS carry up to 400 lbs of cargo; some models carry as much as 750 lbs.

## We propose a \$10 million pilot program to test incentives.

Assembly Bill 2667 proposes to amend the Air Quality Improvement Program, administered by the California Air Resources Board, to include incentives for purchasing electric bicycles. The program should provide rebates of up to half of the purchase cost of an electric bicycle, as well as loan and subscription programs to permit lower-income people to participate. It should also support ancillary costs such as helmets, locks, safety classes, and verification activities, as necessary.