



California's Exchequer Bike Park enters final vote in competition for extreme trail grant

Local votes and support needed

For Immediate Release: May 27, 2015

Contact: Mike Jensen
209-722-5761

MERCED, CA – Online voting began this morning in a final competition that could bring a new extreme mountain bike trail to Central California near Yosemite National Park.

To vote for California and Exchequer Bike Park, please click [here](#).

[Exchequer Bike Park](#) is one of three finalists from across the country vying for a \$100,000 private grant from Bell Built Helmets. The funding would be used to construct a double-black-diamond downhill trail. Such trails are considered to be among the most extreme in the sport. If constructed, the trail would complement the Exchequer Bike Park, which is open for riding while still be being planned and developed on 700 acres adjacent to Lake McClure at the [Barrett Cove Recreation Area](#), located in the Central Sierra Nevada near Yosemite. Once completed, the Exchequer Bike Park will have trails for those with all skill levels and abilities, including riders with disabilities.

Last month, Exchequer Bike Park emerged as the top vote-getter from the western United States, beating out competing parks in Nevada and Oregon. Since then, central and eastern regional finals have been held. Each region has advanced one finalist to compete against California's Exchequer Bike Park in the national runoff that began today.

“With overwhelming support, we have advanced to the final national vote,” said MID General Manager John Sweigard. “Our vision for this bike park has spurred incredible interest from our local community and beyond. Momentum is on our side as we enter this last vote against two other parks. There is no question we will win if we receive the type of support we saw during the regional finals last month.”

The Exchequer Bike Park is managed by the Parks Department of Merced Irrigation District. The park has been open for some time now and dozens of riders have been directly involved in helping direct and plan trail construction as the park evolves.

The competition for the trail grant is being conducted completely online by sponsor Bell Helmets. Votes for Exchequer can be made by clicking [here](#).

To vote for California and the Exchequer Bike Park, click on the small round circle to select it as your option.

Below that, enter your email. Enter the requested verification code. Finally, go to your inbox and open the confirmation email to finalize your vote. The entire process takes less than a minute. You will see your vote counted in the running totals for the competition.

If [Exchequer Bike Park](#) emerges as the winner, the new trail could help attract visitors from across large parts of California and beyond. Every online vote will be crucial for success.

The Exchequer Bike Park is considered unique among enthusiasts because of its central location, varying terrain, panoramic views of the Sierra Nevada mountain range and Lake McClure, and its numerous amenities. From the trailhead, cyclists have access to camping, restrooms, hot showers, boating, swimming and convenience stores.

“There are very few places like this. It will offer an opportunity for so many riders – and at all levels,” said Grant Parker, President of the Exchequer Riders Club.

###