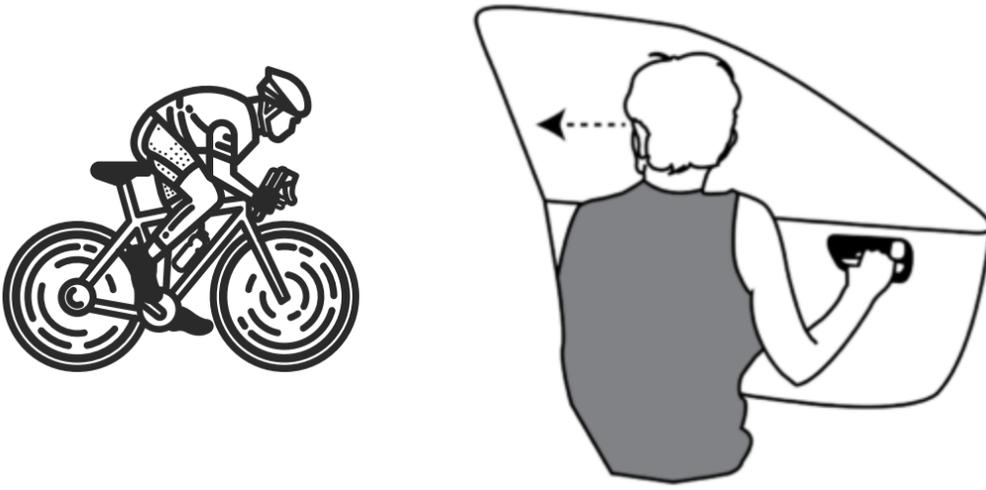


# KEEPING BICYCLISTS SAFE WITH THE **DUTCH REACH**

Each year, thousands of people are injured and hundreds are killed while riding bicycles. Many of these cases are a result of motorists exiting parked vehicles and opening car doors in the path of oncoming bicyclists. By learning and employing a technique known as the "Dutch Reach," motorists can help reduce the number of collisions, injuries, and deaths involving bicyclists on our roadways.



## **1 USE YOUR RIGHT ARM AND HAND TO OPEN THE DOOR**

**While seated in the driver's seat or rear driver-side passenger seat, reach across your body, using your right arm and right hand to grab your vehicle's door handle.**

## **2 SWIVEL YOUR HEAD OVER YOUR LEFT SHOULDER**

**Before opening the driver's or rear driver-side passenger door, look over your left shoulder for any oncoming bicyclists.**

## **3 CHECK YOUR SIDE VIEW MIRROR**

**Don't forget to look through your side view mirror for any oncoming bicyclists, especially in the distance.**

## **4 OPEN YOUR DOOR SLOWLY**

**While continuing to look over your shoulder and through your mirror, use your right arm and hand to open the vehicle door slowly, pausing momentarily before fully extending the door and exiting.**

Drivers and passengers should always check for traffic and bicyclists before opening their car doors, and should not open their doors until it's safe to do so. California Vehicle Code Section 22517 makes it an infraction to open a vehicle door when unsafe, or as to interfere with the movement of traffic, or to leave a car door open to moving traffic longer than what is necessary to load or unload passengers.



**Stay Safe**

