



MICROENTERPRISE HOME KITCHEN OPERATIONS (MEHKO)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH AND QUALITY (DEHQ)

Background

Pre 2013
No home-based
food businesses
allowed

1/1/2019
MEHKO law goes
into effect
(AB 626)

9/15/2021
BOS directs DEHQ
to return in 120
days with
proposed MEHKO
ordinance

1/1/2013
CFO law goes into
effect

10/7/2019
MEHKO cleanup
law goes into
effect
(AB 377)

Current MEHKO programs in California

- ❑ 2019 - Riverside County
- ❑ 2020 - Solano and Imperial Counties
- ❑ 2021 - Alameda, Santa Barbara, Sierra and Lake Counties; City of Berkeley
- ❑ 2021 (Temporary 2-year Authorization) – San Mateo County

What is a MEHKO?

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Home/Apartment/Condo
Based Restaurant

30 meals/day or 60 meals/week
\$50K in gross sales



Dine In, Pick-Up, Delivery



Health Permit Required
Annual Routine Inspection
Complaint Investigations
Food Borne Illness Investigations

Regulatory Oversight

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- Department of Environmental Health and Quality
 - CRFC Enforcement
 - Food Safety
 - Vermin – Internal
 - Food Debris/Refuse Buildup
 - Daily/Weekly Sales
 - Gross Income Verification
- City/Unincorporated
 - Local Land Use Ordinance Enforcement
 - Signage
 - Noise
 - Nuisances
 - Traffic/Parking
 - Non-Food Debris/Refuse Build Up
 - Construction/Remodeling

Current Program Status

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- Board Action - September 15th
- DEHQ directed to:
 - Return to the board in 120 days with an ordinance to authorize MEHKOs.
 - Conduct community outreach and local municipality outreach.
 - Implement a public education program for MEHKO operators.

Local MEHKO Program Options

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DEHQ will be presenting the following options for consideration by the Board of Supervisors:

- Authorize a MEHKO program
- Authorize a temporary MEHKO program
- Do not authorize a MEHKO program

Ordinance Components

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Included in Proposed Ordinance

- ❑ Food Safety Certificate
- ❑ Allowable Food Storage Areas
- ❑ Potable Water Verification
- ❑ Number of Operators per Residence

Follow State Law

- ❑ Inspection Frequency
- ❑ Number of Meals (Daily/Weekly)

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Questions?

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