

ORDINANCE NO. 5217

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 21 (NON-COASTAL ZONING) OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY CODE RELATING TO COTTAGE FOOD OPERATIONS.

County Counsel Summary

This ordinance amends Title 21 (non-coastal zoning) of the Monterey County Code to classify "cottage food operations" as a permitted use of residential property for zoning purposes. The ordinance defines cottage food operations and treats such operations as a type of home occupation. These revisions update County zoning to comply with recently enacted state law governing cottage food operations. This ordinance also makes minor corrections to existing home occupation regulations.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

A. The California State Legislature adopted Assembly Bill 1616 (AB 1616), the California Homemade Food Act, which became effective January 1, 2013, exempting home-based food businesses known as "cottage food operations" from many of the regulations that apply to traditional commercial food production by amending portions of the Health and Safety Code and Government Code.

B. The intent of the Legislature was to help address the following challenges and opportunities:

1. Create small businesses and help the economy recover and prosper by increasing the opportunities for entrepreneurial development through microenterprises that help supplement household incomes, prevent poverty and hunger, and strengthen local economies.

2. Support community-based food production (cottage foods) which may reduce obesity and obesity-related disease epidemics, especially in low income and rural communities in which residents may have limited opportunities to purchase healthy foods because of lack of transportation, which may result in residents relying for much of their shopping on fatty, processed foods sold at convenience markets and corner stores.

3. Join thirty-two other states that have passed laws that allow business entrepreneurs to use their home kitchens to prepare for-sale foods that are not potentially hazardous.

C. Government Code section 51035(a), enacted by AB 1616, provides that cities and counties shall not prohibit a cottage food operation in any residential dwellings, but shall do one of the following:

(1) Classify a cottage food operation as a permitted use of residential property for zoning purposes;

(2) Grant a nondiscretionary permit to use a residence as any cottage food operation that complies with local ordinances prescribing reasonable standards, restrictions, and requirements concerning spacing and concentration, traffic control, parking, and noise control relating to those homes; or

(3) Establish a discretionary permit process with “reasonable standards” as noted in item #2 above.

D. In accordance with Government Code section 51035(a), the County of Monterey is choosing the first option, classifying cottage food operations as a permitted use of residential property for zoning purposes, and, accordingly, this ordinance amends the existing home occupation regulations to include cottage food operations as a type of home occupation.

E. This ordinance is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15305 (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations) because the ordinance establishes a cottage food operation as a type of home occupation to be conducted within existing dwelling units as an accessory use of already-existing residences.

SECTION 2. Section 21.06.215 is added to the Monterey County Code to read as follows:

21.06.215 Cottage food operation.

“Cottage food operation” means an enterprise that is registered or permitted by the Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau and is conducted within the registered or permitted area of a dwelling unit where the cottage food operator, as defined by California Health and Safety Code Section 113758, resides and where cottage food products, as defined by California Health and Safety Code Section 113758, are prepared and packaged for direct, indirect, or direct and indirect sale to consumers.

SECTION 3. Section 21.06.650 of the Monterey County Code is amended to read as follows:

21.06.650 Home occupation.

“Home occupation” means a business conducted in a residential area conducted by the residents of the property. “Home occupation” includes a cottage food operation, as defined in Section 21.06.215. The main product of a home occupation is a service rather than goods, except in the case of a cottage food operation.

SECTION 4. Section 21.64.090 of the Monterey County Code is amended to read as follows:

21.64.090 Regulations for home occupations.

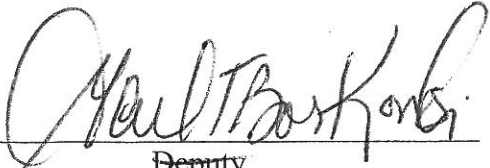
A. Purpose: The purpose of this Section is to establish the regulations, standards and circumstances under which businesses of limited scale and impact may be established in residences.

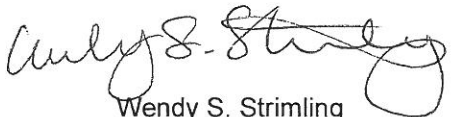
B. Applicability: The provisions of this Section are applicable in all areas of the County.

C. Regulations: Home occupations may be conducted in any zoning district which allows residential use.

ATTEST:

GAIL T. BORKOWSKI
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By 
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Wendy S. Strimling
Senior Deputy County Counsel

1. Home occupations are limited to those occupations using facilities, equipment and materials normally found in the home and within accessory structures, including but not limited to typing, seamstress or tailoring, computerized data processing, ceramics, music lessons and instrument lessons, lawn mower repair, and cottage food operations which do not interfere with the use or appearance of the home as a residence or the aesthetic character of the district.

2. No persons other than the resident and immediate family residing on site may be employed in the home occupation, except that a cottage food operation may allow up to one (1) full-time equivalent cottage food employee who does not reside on the site.

3. All facets of the home occupation must be contained in the dwelling unit or inside structures on-site that are otherwise considered to be accessory structures to a residence, except that a cottage food operation must be conducted entirely within the dwelling unit as specified by state law.

4. There shall be no production of noxious or toxic odors or fumes, nor increase in numbers or duration of noise or traffic levels above those of ordinary residential use; nor use, storage, or disposal of materials of a nature or quantity not ordinarily found in residential neighborhoods, which have the potential to endanger the health, safety, or peaceful enjoyment of their property or neighborhood residence, or to constitute a hazard to their environment.

5. There shall be no advertising for the home occupation allowed on the property.

D. Modification to the provisions of Section 21.64.090.C. of this Chapter may be considered by an Administrative Permit, except in the case of a cottage food operation for which no exceptions to these requirements may be granted.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective on the thirty-first day following its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 11 day of June, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Armenta, Calcagno, Salinas and Parker

NOES: None

ABSENT: Supervisor Potter

ABSTAIN:



FERNANDO ARMENTA, CHAIR
Monterey County Board of Supervisors