

# Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations

**Monterey County Health Department, Environmental Health Bureau  
Board of Supervisors Meeting – September 19, 2023**

# Board Guidance

- a. Receive a report on the implementation of Assembly Bill 626 (AB626) as it pertains to the amendment of the Health and Safety Code commencing with Chapter 11.6 Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation, 104 Environmental Health Part 7. California Retail Food Code, and Assembly Bill 377 (AB377); and
- b. Provide direction to opt in or opt out of participation for Health and Safety Code commencing with Chapter 11.6 Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation, 104 Environmental Health Part 7. California Retail Food Code.

# Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO)

- Effective January 1, 2019
- A food facility that is operated by a resident in a private home where food is stored, handled, and prepared, and may be served to consumers on site.
- Authorizes MEHKO's if the County approves the permitting of them by ordinance or resolution.

# MEHKO Operations

- Food facility operated by a resident in a private home
- No more than one employee in addition to family and household members
- Direct sales only
- No more than \$100,000 in gross annual sales

# MEHKO Permit



**Initial Permit cost: \$588 (2.5 hours)**



**Inspections will be conducted 1 time  
within a 12-month period**



**Complaints**

MEHKO  
Regulatory  
Responsibilities-

Environmental  
Health Bureau

- Food Safety Inspections
- Foodborne Illness Complaint Response
- Sewage and Septic

# Community Equity and Empowerment:

- Supports “farm to table” movement
- Economic opportunities for women, immigrants, and people of color
- High costs involved in opening and running a restaurant
- Expand access to food safety education, best practices, and safety guidelines
- Preparing and selling food from a home kitchen currently is a misdemeanor

# Current MEHKO Outreach

- Food Technical Advisory Committees
- City and County stakeholders
- Food Safety Conference

As of July 2023, the counties of **Riverside, San Diego, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Imperial, Lake, and Solano**, and the City of Berkeley are actively accepting MEHKO applications & issuing permits.



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