CITRUS HEIGHTS
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AB 626
MEHKO's

Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations



Timeline

- January 1, 2019: Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations Law (AB 626) Effective
- July 11, 2019 – Initial City Council Action: "No Action"
- Fall of 2019 – Sacramento County Board of Supervisors chose not to introduce or vote on an authorizing resolution, MEHKOs remained prohibited in Sacramento County.
- October 7, 2019 Cleanup Bill for AB626 (AB377)
- March 26, 2026 – Legislative Amendments (SB 1447)
- May 1, 2026 – County Jurisdictional Workshop: City staff attended a regional workshop hosted by EMD
- May 13, 2026 – Transmittal of Reaffirmation Letter signed by City Manager Feeney
- September 9, 2026 – City Council Request: The City Council requested a formal agenda item to discuss MEHKO operations and revisit the City's regional position.

Tonight

- Discussion and overview of AB626 Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKOs)
- Seek Council direction on whether to submit a letter of support or opposition to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors or abstain from taking action

Overview MEHKO

- AB 626 effective January 1, 2019 - Established a new type of retail food facility: micro-enterprise home kitchen operations or MEHKO's
  - Home restaurant-for dine-in, pickup, or delivery.
- Sacramento Environmental Management Department (Sac EMD)

WHY?

- Formalizing the Informal Food Economy
- Expanding Local Food Access, Economic Mobility and Incubator Model for Small Businesses

MEHKO Operations

- **Permitted Activities:** dine-in, takeout, and delivery, subject to applicable requirements.
- **Primary Residence:** Operations must be conducted from the permit holder's primary residence. Rental properties require owner or landlord notification.
- **Meal Limits:** Standard operations are limited to 30 meals per day and 90 per week. When combined with a permitted Compact Mobile Food Operation (CMFO), limits increase to 80 meals per day and 200 per week.
- **Annual Revenue Cap:** Gross sales are limited to $100,000 annually, adjusted for inflation.
- **Food Safety:** The permit holder must complete an accredited food safety manager course.
- **Local Oversight:** These operational requirements and food safety standards would be administered by the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (Sac EMD).

Oversight and Enforcement

- Permitted by EMD
- No zoning restrictions
  - Zoning may not prohibit MEHKO's (no rezoning)
- Considered a residence for building/fire codes
  - No building modifications required
  - No additional fire or sewer requirements
  - No change of occupancy
- Traffic, trash, noise, odors
- Property would be inspected 1x per year scheduled in advance
- Alcohol Licensing

Current Status

- Sacramento County has not yet opted-in to implement a MEHKO program.
- EMD conducted outreach to city jurisdictions, county departments, and other stakeholders in May – July 2026.
  - **Opposed:** Folsom, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Galt
  - **Abstain:** City of Sacramento
  - **No Response:** Isleton
- Scheduled Board Date: December 8, 2026

Discussion & Direction

Does the Council wish to submit a letter of support or opposition to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors or to abstain from taking action?