

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#2

Wednesday,
September 15, 2021

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD

DISTRIBUTED 09/10/2021



June 3, 2021

Hon. Nathan Fletcher, Chair
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Chair Fletcher,

On behalf of Feeding San Diego, I'm writing this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) licensing in San Diego County.

Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) was passed and signed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626 allows home cooks to apply for a MEHKO permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 builds upon the success of the Cottage Food Law, which enabled home cooks to legally sell baked goods and shelf-stable items. The legislation requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Riverside County was recently awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Merit Award for the innovation they showed in being the first in the state/nation to implement permitting of MEHKOs. They have since issued over one hundred permits with many success stories. Alameda, Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley have since followed suit and opted in. The cleanup bill, AB 377, became law October 2019. As such, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

Feeding San Diego believes the benefits of AB 626/ AB 377 far outweigh any concerns or misinformation. As an example, since launching its program in June 2019, Riverside County's cooks have maintained a 100% food safety record, with 0 cases of foodborne illness to date. There is no evidence that home kitchens would increase the risk of foodborne illness. Additionally, traffic concerns have not become a reality. With caps set in regulation, home kitchens serve fewer customers than restaurants, further reducing the impact of a potential outbreak. Home cooks are likely just as careful as restaurant workers as the cooks are working from their homes, where they feed themselves and their families.

The MEHKO permit system will help build an inclusive food economy in San Diego County by providing burgeoning food entrepreneurs with an opportunity to generate income and test out their business models at minimal cost. This opportunity will protect consumers and improve public health standards in communities where access to healthy and culturally appropriate food options are limited.

Again, looking at the Riverside County experience, since more than 80% of the home cooks permitted there over the last year are people of color, this program should be considered an integral piece of a comprehensive racial and economic equity policy initiative. Beyond offering much-needed income for underserved individuals, these home kitchens bring opportunities for intercultural education, a sense of community pride, and hope for the future.



June 3, 2021

Hon. Joel Anderson
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Supervisor Anderson,

On behalf of Feeding San Diego, I'm writing this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) licensing in San Diego County.

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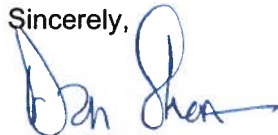
COVID-19 has caused widespread devastation to our economy with particular harm to service workers in our food industry. Adoption of the MEHKOs initiative would allow struggling families and businesses the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

The option of starting a MEHKO will particularly benefit food entrepreneurs by lowering the barriers to entry for incubating food enterprises. MEHKOs will contribute to low-income and immigrant communities' local economic development and create legal pathways for entrepreneurship opportunities in our community food system. Without the fear of fines and criminal penalties, existing home cooks will be able to openly access business education and training on safe food handling practices.

In summary, San Diego County's opting in to AB626/AB 377 will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Shea", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Dan Shea
CEO
Feeding San Diego



June 3, 2021

Hon. Jim Desmond
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Supervisor Desmond,

On behalf of Feeding San Diego, I'm writing this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) licensing in San Diego County.

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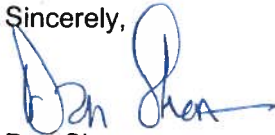
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Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Dan Shea
CEO
Feeding San Diego



June 3, 2021

Hon. Terra Lawson-Remer
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Supervisor Lawson-Remer,

On behalf of Feeding San Diego, I'm writing this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) licensing in San Diego County.

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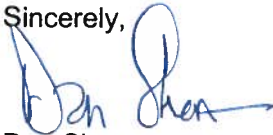
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Dan Shea
CEO
Feeding San Diego



June 3, 2021

Hon. Nora Vargas, Vice Chair
San Diego County Board of
Supervisors 1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Vice Chair Vargas,

On behalf of Feeding San Diego, I'm writing this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) licensing in San Diego County.

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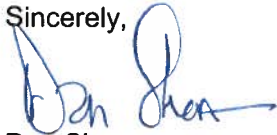
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Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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Dan Shea
CEO
Feeding San Diego



June 4, 2021

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Board of Directors

Janet Kaye
Chairman

Veronica Jarque
Secretary-Treasurer

Tom Cunningham
Director

Christina Hepburn
Director

Darling Richiez-Paul
Director

Patricia Alvarez de los Cobos
Director

Kristie Buckley
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

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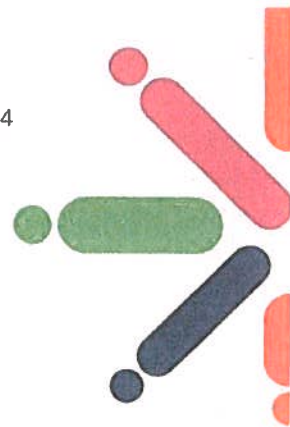
Should you require additional information from us, please contact Kristie Buckley. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

Kristie Buckley
President/CEO



Accessity | 404 Euclid Avenue, Suite 271, San Diego, CA 92114
Tel 619.795.7250 Fax 619.795.7260 accessity.org



May 26, 2021

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

Accessity is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

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Should you require additional information from us, please contact us. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Schott, CEO
Accessity, formerly Accion San Diego
eschott@accessity.org
www.accessity.org
619-795-7250, ext. 406

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

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Should you require additional information from us, please contact Karen Melvin at karen@sdfsfa.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,



Alexis Villanueva, MS

Chair of the Policy Committee:

City Heights Economic Development Collaborative (CHEDC)

Organizations in support of this letter:

City Heights Community Development Corporation

Local Support Initiative Corporation (LISC)

Boulevard Business Association

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
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Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

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Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) passed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626 allows home cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ("MEHKO") permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 builds upon the success of the Cottage Food Law, which enabled home cooks to legally sell baked goods and shelf-stable items. AB 626 requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Riverside County was recently awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Merit Award for the innovation they showed in being the first in the state/nation to implement permitting of MEHKOs. They have since issued over one hundred permits with many success stories. Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley have since followed suit and opted in. The cleanup bill, AB 377, became law October 2019. As such, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

We believe the benefits of AB 626/ AB 377 far outweigh any fears, concerns, or misinformation. Since launching its program in June 2019, Riverside County's cooks have maintained a 100% food safety record, with 0 cases of foodborne illness to date. There is no evidence that home kitchens would increase the risk of foodborne illness. Additionally, traffic concerns have not become a reality. With caps set in regulation, home kitchens serve fewer customers than restaurants, further reducing the impact of a potential outbreak. Home cooks are likely just as careful as restaurant workers as the cooks are working from their homes, where they feed themselves and their families.

The MEHKO permit system will help build an inclusive food economy in San Diego County by providing burgeoning food entrepreneurs with an opportunity to generate income and test out their business models at minimal cost. This opportunity will protect consumers and improve public health standards in communities where access to healthy and culturally appropriate food options are limited.

Since more than 80% of the home cooks permitted in Riverside County over the last year are people of color, this program should be considered an integral piece of a comprehensive racial and economic equity policy initiative. Beyond offering much-needed income for underserved individuals, these home kitchens bring opportunities for intercultural education, a sense of community pride, and hope for the future.

COVID-19 has caused widespread devastation to our economy with particular harm to service workers in our food industry. Adoption of the MEHKOs initiative would allow struggling families and businesses the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

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In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Should you require additional information from us, please contact Karen Melvin at karen@sdfs.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,



Alexis Villanueva, MS

Chair of the Policy Committee:

City Heights Economic Development Collaborative (CHEDC)

Organizations in support of this letter:

City Heights Community Development Corporation

Local Support Initiative Corporation (LISC)

Boulevard Business Association



San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

Coastal Roots Farm is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

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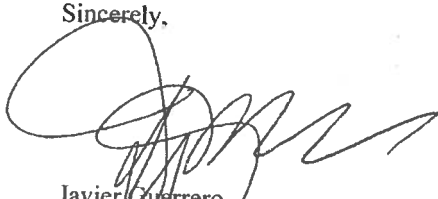
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Should you require additional information from us, please contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Javier Guerrero', is written over the typed name and title.

Javier Guerrero
President and CEO
Coastal Roots Farm
javier@coastalrootsfarm.org
Cell 619.504.4723



Eastlake Food to go!

Private group · 20.7K members

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Katia Callahan and I am the creator and administrator of the Facebook group "Eastlake Food to go!" which has over 20,000 active members of the San Diego food community. I am providing this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

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Should you require additional information, please contact me at katiac0227@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,



Katia Callahan
Founder and Administrator
Eastlake Food to go! | 20.7K members



San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

Foodnome is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

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Should you require additional information from us, please contact Roya Bagheri at roya@foodnome.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,



Roya Bagheri, Esq.
Policy Director | **Foodnome**
858-525-5391



International Rescue Committee
5348 University Ave, Suite 205
San Diego, CA 92105
TEL +1 619 641 7510
FAX +1 619 641 7520

Rescue.org/SanDiego

June 15, 2021

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

The International Rescue Committee in San Diego is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

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Should you require additional information from us, please contact Adriana Taboada whose email is Adriana.Taboada@rescue.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,



Donna Duvin
Executive Director
IRC in San Diego

Steering Committee Members

Greg Anglea
Interfaith Community Services
Marina Araiza
Women's Resource Center
Satia Austin
North County SD NAACP
James Callaghan
Mental Health Systems
Oscar Gomez
MAAC
Scott Gross
Cal State University San Marcos
Amanda Lee
City of Vista
Chuck Matthews
County of San Diego
Yusef Miller
NC Equity and Justice Coalition
Ahni Rocha-Redmond
YMCA Youth and Family Services
Nannette Stamm
Vista Community Clinic
Don Stump
North County Lifeline
Christy Wilson
Rancho Santa Fe Foundation
John Van Cleef
Community Resource Center
Karen Youel
City of Escondido

The Alliance MISSION:

The Mission for the Alliance for Regional Solutions is to bring stakeholders to coordinate and advocate for innovative, real solutions to existing and emerging community needs.

The Alliance VISION:

The Alliance for Regional Solutions is a recognized leader in building community commitment and investment to create a safe, thriving and resilient North County for all.

The Alliance VALUES:

Trust
Commitment
Responsive
Integrity
Collaboration
Results-driven
Inclusive
Compassionate
Resourceful

The Alliance ROLES:

Convener
Advocate
Facilitator
Connector
Trusted Resource
Educator



**Alliance for
Regional Solutions**

Connecting North County

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

The Alliance for Regional Solutions and the North County Food Policy Council is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

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Should you require additional information from us, please contact Marylynn McCorkle at mmccorkle@regionalsolutions.net. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

Marylynn McCorkle
Alliance for Regional Solutions
Collaboration Manager

Geertje Grootenhuis
North County Food Policy Council
Chair

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

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Should you require additional information from us, please contact Dane Petersen at dpetersen@sdchip.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,
Dane Petersen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dane Petersen', written over a horizontal line.

Program Coordinator, Farm to Institution Center

Community Health Improvement Partners



August 17, 2021

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

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Building Resilient Families and Communities in Greater Logan Heights

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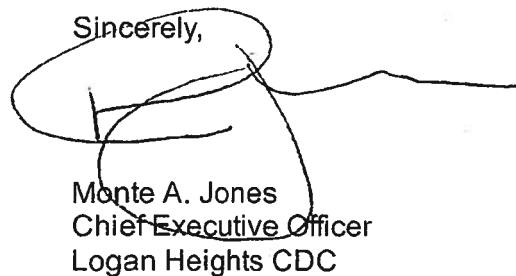
COVID-19 has caused widespread devastation to our economy with harm to service workers in our food industry. Adoption of the MEHKOs initiative would allow struggling families and businesses the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

The option of starting a MEHKO will particularly benefit food entrepreneurs by lowering the barriers to entry for incubating food enterprises. MEHKOs will contribute to low-income and immigrant communities' local economic development and create legal pathways for entrepreneurship opportunities in our community food system. Without the fear of fines and criminal penalties, existing home cooks will be able to openly access business education and training on safe food handling practices.

In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity, and empowerment.

Should you require additional information from us, please contact our office at (619)858.0563. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monte A. Jones", is written over a large, loopy circular mark. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Monte A. Jones
Chief Executive Officer
Logan Heights CDC

Building Resilient Families and Communities in Greater Logan Heights



**mundo
Gardens**

Kumeyaay Land

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

Mundo Gardens is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) passed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626 allows home cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ("MEHKO") permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 builds upon the success of the Cottage Food Law, which enabled home cooks to legally sell baked goods and shelf-stable items. AB 626 requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Riverside County was recently awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Merit Award for the innovation they showed in being the first in the state/nation to implement permitting of MEHKOs. They have since issued over one hundred permits with many success stories. Alameda, Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley have since followed suit and opted in. The cleanup bill, AB 377, became law October 2019. As such, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

We believe the benefits of AB 626/ AB 377 far outweigh any fears, concerns, or misinformation. Since launching its program in June 2019, Riverside County's cooks have maintained a 100% food safety record, with 0 cases of foodborne illness to date. There is no evidence that home kitchens would increase the risk of foodborne illness. Additionally, traffic concerns have not become a reality. With caps set in regulation, home kitchens serve fewer customers than restaurants, further reducing the impact of a potential outbreak. Home cooks are likely just as careful as restaurant workers as the cooks are working from their homes, where they feed themselves and their families.

The MEHKO permit system will help build an inclusive food economy in San Diego County by providing burgeoning food entrepreneurs with an opportunity to generate income and test out their business models at minimal cost. This opportunity will protect consumers and improve public health standards in communities where access to healthy and culturally appropriate food options are limited.

Since more than 80% of the home cooks permitted in Riverside County over the last year are people of color, this program should be considered an integral piece of a comprehensive racial and economic equity policy initiative. Beyond offering much-needed income for underserved individuals, these home kitchens bring opportunities for intercultural education, a sense of community pride, and hope for the future.

COVID-19 has caused widespread devastation to our economy with particular harm to service workers in our food industry. Adoption of the MEHKOs initiative would allow struggling families and businesses

the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

The option of starting a MEHKO will particularly benefit food entrepreneurs by lowering the barriers to entry for incubating food enterprises. MEHKOs will contribute to low-income and immigrant communities' local economic development and create legal pathways for entrepreneurship opportunities in our community food system. Without the fear of fines and criminal penalties, existing home cooks will be able to openly access business education and training on safe food handling practices.

In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Should you require additional information from us, please contact Janice Luna Reynoso, Executive Director of Mundo Gardens. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,



Janice Luna Reynoso
Executive Director
Mundo Gardens
619-988-4392
janice@mundogardens.com

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the hundreds of Kitchenistas® from Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center, I am submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) passed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626 allows home cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ("MEHKO") permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 builds upon the success of the Cottage Food Law, which enabled home cooks to legally sell baked goods and shelf-stable items. AB 626 requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Riverside County was recently awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Merit Award for the innovation they showed in being the first in the state/nation to implement permitting of MEHKOs. They have since issued over one hundred permits with many success stories. Alameda, Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley have since followed suit and opted in. The cleanup bill, AB 377, became law October 2019. As such, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

We believe the benefits of AB 626/ AB 377 far outweigh any fears, concerns, or misinformation. Since launching its program in June 2019, Riverside County's cooks have maintained a 100% food safety record, with 0 cases of foodborne illness to date. There is no evidence that home kitchens would increase the risk of foodborne illness. Additionally, traffic concerns have not become a reality. With caps set in regulation, home kitchens serve fewer customers than restaurants, further reducing the impact of a potential outbreak. Home cooks are likely just as careful as restaurant workers as the cooks are working from their homes, where they feed themselves and their families.

The MEHKO permit system will help build an inclusive food economy in San Diego County by providing burgeoning food entrepreneurs with an opportunity to generate income and test out their business models at minimal cost. This opportunity will protect consumers and improve public health standards in communities where access to healthy and culturally appropriate food options are limited.

Since more than 80% of the home cooks permitted in Riverside County over the last year are people of color, this program should be considered an integral piece of a comprehensive racial and economic equity policy initiative. Beyond offering much-needed income for underserved individuals, these home kitchens bring opportunities for intercultural education, a sense of community pride, and hope for the future.

COVID-19 has caused widespread devastation to our economy with particular harm to service workers in our food industry. Adoption of the MEHKOs initiative would allow struggling families and businesses the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

The option of starting a MEHKO will particularly benefit food entrepreneurs by lowering the barriers to entry for incubating food enterprises. MEHKOs will contribute to low-income and immigrant communities' local economic development and create legal pathways for entrepreneurship opportunities in our community food system. Without the fear of fines and criminal penalties, existing home cooks will be able to openly access business education and training on safe food handling practices.

In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Should you require additional information from us, please contact Jen at jen@olivewoodgarden.org or 619-434-4260. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

Jen Nation
Executive Director
Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

The organization listed below is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) passed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626 allows home cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ("MEHKO") permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 builds upon the success of the Cottage Food Law, which enabled home cooks to legally sell baked goods and shelf-stable items. AB 626 requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Riverside County was recently awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Merit Award for the innovation they showed in being the first in the state/nation to implement permitting of MEHKOs. They have since issued over one hundred permits with many success stories. Alameda, Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley have since followed suit and opted in. The cleanup bill, AB 377, became law October 2019. As such, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

We believe the benefits of AB 626/ AB 377 far outweigh any fears, concerns, or misinformation. Since launching its program in June 2019, Riverside County's cooks have maintained a 100% food safety record, with 0 cases of foodborne illness to date. There is no evidence that home kitchens would increase the risk of foodborne illness. Additionally, traffic concerns have not become a reality. With caps set in regulation, home kitchens serve fewer customers than restaurants, further reducing the impact of a potential outbreak. Home cooks are likely just as careful as restaurant workers as the cooks are working from their homes, where they feed themselves and their families.

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Since more than 80% of the home cooks permitted in Riverside County over the last year are people of color, this program should be considered an integral piece of a comprehensive racial and economic equity policy initiative. Beyond offering much-needed income for underserved individuals, these home kitchens bring opportunities for intercultural education, a sense of community pride, and hope for the future.

COVID-19 has caused widespread devastation to our economy with particular harm to service workers in our food industry. Adoption of the MEHKOs initiative would allow struggling families and businesses the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

The option of starting a MEHKO will particularly benefit food entrepreneurs by lowering the barriers to entry for incubating food enterprises. MEHKOs will contribute to low-income and immigrant communities' local economic development and create legal pathways for entrepreneurship opportunities in our community food system. Without the fear of fines and criminal penalties, existing home cooks will be able to openly access business education and training on safe food handling practices.

In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Should you require additional information from us, please contact Dane Petersen at dpetersen@sdchip.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,
Dane Petersen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dane Petersen', written over a horizontal line.

Program Coordinator, Farm to Institution Center
Community Health Improvement Partners

May 24, 2021

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

Edible San Diego is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) passed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626 allows home cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ("MEHKO") permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Following the pioneering example of Riverside and recently Alameda, Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

We believe the benefits of AB 626/ AB 377 far outweigh any fears or concerns about food safety. Since launching its program in June 2019, Riverside County's cooks have maintained a 100% food safety record, with 0 cases of foodborne illness to date. There is no evidence that home kitchens would increase the risk of foodborne illness. Additionally, traffic concerns have not become a reality with caps set in regulation.

The MEHKO permit system will help build an inclusive food economy in San Diego County by providing burgeoning food entrepreneurs with an opportunity to generate income and test out their business models at minimal cost. This opportunity will protect consumers and improve public health standards in communities where access to healthy and culturally appropriate food options are limited. Since more than 80% of the home cooks permitted in Riverside County over the last year are people of color, this program should be considered an integral piece of a comprehensive racial and economic equity policy initiative.

Adoption of the MEHKOs initiative would allow families and businesses struggling in the aftermath of the pandemic the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. The option of starting a MEHKO will particularly benefit food entrepreneurs by lowering the barriers to entry for incubating food enterprises. Without the fear of fines and criminal penalties, existing home cooks will be able to openly access business education and training on safe food handling practices.

In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize empowerment and equity for emerging entrepreneurs in our neighborhoods. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Should you require additional information about our support for this measure, please contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

Katie Stokes.
Owner, Edible San Diego

katie@ediblesandiego.com



<https://gnpsd.org>

May 31, 2021



San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

The Good Neighbor Project is an all-volunteer program that was founded in 2008. We've been recognized for our work by the City of San Diego, Promise Zone and the County of San Diego, District 1. Since the start of the pandemic, the Good Neighbor Project has been providing meals and PPE to our most vulnerable citizens in the Promise Zone and areas south to the border. Many of the individuals that need this food are homeless or elderly and have nowhere to cook their meals. Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations in the Promise Zone and other South Bay communities are considered likely to increase local access to affordable, nutritious meals, benefiting those who are most in need.

Thus, we are submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) passed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626 allows home cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ("MEHKO") permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 builds upon the success of the Cottage Food Law, which enabled home cooks to legally sell baked goods and shelf-stable items. AB 626 requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Riverside County was recently awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Merit Award for the innovation they showed in being the first in the state/nation to implement permitting of MEHKOs. They have since issued over one hundred permits with many success stories. Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley have since followed suit and opted in. The cleanup bill, AB 377, became law October 2019. As such, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

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"Changing Our World One Neighbor At A Time"

The MEHKO permit system will help build an inclusive food economy in San Diego County by providing burgeoning food entrepreneurs with an opportunity to generate income and test out their business models at minimal cost. This opportunity will protect consumers and improve public health standards in communities where access to healthy and culturally appropriate food options are limited.

Since more than 80% of the home cooks permitted in Riverside County over the last year are people of color, this program should be considered an integral piece of a comprehensive racial and economic equity policy initiative. Beyond offering much-needed income for underserved individuals, these home kitchens bring opportunities for intercultural education, a sense of community pride, and hope for the future.

COVID-19 has caused widespread devastation to our economy with particular harm to service workers in our food industry. Adoption of the MEHKOs initiative would allow struggling families and businesses the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

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In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Should you require additional information from us, please contact me at 619-857-6164. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John Alvarado
Executive Director
Good Neighbor Project
www.gnpsd.org
john@gnpsd.org
619-857-6164

“Changing Our World One Neighbor At A Time”



Board of Directors

*Emma Epes, CPA, Chair
Partner
EY*

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Convention Center*

*Howard Solomon
Founder
Solomon 2.0*

*Jess Yuen
Campaign Director
Rady Children's Hospital
Foundation*

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

Kitchens for Good, and San Diego based 501c3 non-profit is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) passed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626

allows home cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ("MEHKO") permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 builds upon the success of the Cottage Food Law, which enabled home cooks to legally sell baked goods and shelf-stable items. AB 626 requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Riverside County was recently awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Merit Award for the innovation they showed in being the first in the state/nation to implement permitting of MEHKOs. They have since issued over one hundred permits with many success stories. Alameda, Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley have since followed suit and opted in. The cleanup bill, AB 377, became law October 2019. As such, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

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Kitchens for Good is a 501(c)(3) organization, federal tax ID# 46-3278605

2799 Health Center Drive, San Diego CA 92123 – info@kitchensforgood.org – www.kitchensforgood.org

comprehensive racial and economic equity policy initiative. Beyond offering much-needed income for underserved individuals, these home kitchens bring opportunities for intercultural education, a sense of community pride, and hope for the future.

COVID-19 has caused widespread devastation to our economy with particular harm to service workers in our food industry. Adoption of the MEHKOs initiative would allow struggling families and businesses the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

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In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Gilmore

CEO

Kitchens for Good



Aviva Paley

Co-Founder and Senior Director

Kitchens for Good

Kitchens for Good is a 501(c)(3) organization, federal tax ID# 46-3278605

2799 Health Center Drive, San Diego CA 92123 – info@kitchensforgood.org – www.kitchensforgood.org



June 1, 2021

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

ProduceGood is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) passed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626 allows home cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ("MEHKO") permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 builds upon the success of the Cottage Food Law, which enabled home cooks to legally sell baked goods and shelf-stable items. AB 626 requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Riverside County was recently awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Merit Award for the innovation they showed in being the first in the state/nation to implement permitting of MEHKOs. They have since issued over one hundred permits with many success stories. Alameda, Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley have since followed suit and opted in. The cleanup bill, AB 377, became law October 2019. As such, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

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kitchens bring opportunities for intercultural education, a sense of community pride, and hope for the future.

COVID-19 has caused widespread devastation to our economy with particular harm to service workers in our food industry. Adoption of the MEHKOs initiative would allow struggling families and businesses the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

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In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Should you require additional information from us, please contact _____. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,
Nita Kurmins Gilson

*Executive Director,
Programs & Outreach
ProduceGood*





Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for resident-led, community-rooted experiences that **BUILD** stronger neighborhoods; **IMPROVE** the neighborhood food supply chain; **STIMULATE** collective investment in better health; and **MAXIMIZE** the impact of investment to address social inequities.

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

Project New Village is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) passed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626 allows home cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ("MEHKO") permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 builds upon the success of the Cottage Food Law, which enabled home cooks to legally sell baked goods and shelf-stable items. AB 626 requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Riverside County was recently awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Merit Award for the innovation they showed in being the first in the state/nation to implement permitting of MEHKOs. They have since issued over one hundred permits with many success stories. Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley have since followed suit and opted in. The cleanup bill, AB 377, became law October 2019. As such, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

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The MEHKO permit system will help build an inclusive food economy in San Diego County by providing burgeoning food entrepreneurs with an opportunity to generate income and test out their business models at minimal cost. This opportunity will protect consumers and improve public health standards in communities where access to healthy and culturally appropriate food options is limited.

MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Dian Moss', written in a cursive style.

N. Dian Moss
Managing Director

Riverside County Department of Environmental Health – Making Food Back Home With MHKO

OVERVIEW

Riverside County Department of Environmental Health was the first government agency to implement the Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MHKO) program in the State of California.

CHALLENGE

In January 2019, Assembly Bill 626 took effect in California, which amended California's health and safety code establishing a new type of retail food facility. This new bill provides a unique opportunity as it allows individuals to operate restaurants at their private residences. However, it led to many challenges in the environmental health community because the responsible regulatory agencies did not yet have a program in place to address home-based restaurants.

SOLUTION

The innovative steps our department took to solve the challenge of developing and incorporating the new educational needs for MHKO food facility owners and operators and our inspectors were as follows:

- Created a committee comprised of a program chief (manager), area supervisors, and senior inspectors who could develop and implement a program for MHKO.
- Prepared a potential impact [report](#) on sidewalk vendors and MHKOs that was presented to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors by our deputy director.
- Developed an ordinance that would allow and outline how a MHKO can operate within our jurisdiction. This was done with the passing of Riverside County [Ordinance no. 949](#) on May 7, 2019. Ordinance 949 covered important definitions, operating and permit requirements, our inspection process and of course legal consequences like civil actions, costs and damages.
- Conducted outreach to all our incorporated cities, several town hall meetings, Board of Supervisor meetings, and community events to provide [information](#) to the public.
- Trained our inspectors on how to inspect a MHKO by developing a power point training course for all our inspectors and potential operators.

- Created a website information page dedicated to the MHKO program.
<https://rivcoeh.org/OurServices/Foods/MicroenterpriseHomeKitchenOperations>
- Trained designated staff to answer questions from the newly regulated community.
- Created an inspection report and [guide](#) for operators and inspectors.
- Rolled out a social media educational campaign for the program through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. <https://www.facebook.com/RiversideCountyEH/videos/957290031340824/>
- Contacted traditional media outlets leading to print, television, and radio interviews in both English and Spanish.

INNOVATION

The Riverside County Department of Environmental Health showed initiative as the first county in the state of California to successfully implement the MHKO Program. All our training, information and implementation was original, and has paved a path for other government agencies to follow.

RESULTS

Our program has successfully created clear guidelines for program implementation. There are currently 72 permitted MHKO businesses in Riverside county. All 72 have passed their inspections without a single case of food borne illness reported. This program allows residents who normally could not afford to open a traditional food facility an affordable option to make and sell food from their homes while also helping to connect and strengthen relationships with people from their communities as seen in the award-winning documentary of real MHKOs in Riverside County.

<https://vimeo.com/377415563>

REPLICABILITY

With the resources we have created, our MHKO program can easily be replicated. In fact, we have provided information and guidance to multiple government agencies including Imperial County, San Bernardino County, Santa Barbara County, Monterey County, Stanislaus County, Fresno County, and the City of Berkeley who all requested our help with the implementation of this program.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Ken Chandler, Program Chief (Manager) for Environmental Health, County of Riverside. 4065 County Circle Drive #104, Riverside, CA 92503 KChandle@RIVCO.ORG or (951) 358-5172



San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank and its North County Food Bank chapter is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

Assembly Bill 626 (AB 626) passed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. AB 626 allows home cooks to apply for a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations ("MEHKO") permit to legally sell food directly to the public from a home kitchen. AB 626 builds upon the success of the Cottage Food Law, which enabled home cooks to legally sell baked goods and shelf-stable items. AB 626 requires each County to opt-in to the policy to authorize this type of food facility. Riverside County was recently awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Merit Award for the innovation they showed in being the first in the state/nation to implement permitting of MEHKOs. They have since issued over one hundred permits with many success stories. Alameda, Imperial, Lake, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Solano Counties and the City of Berkeley have since followed suit and opted in. The cleanup bill, AB 377, became law October 2019. As such, we look to the County of San Diego to pass a resolution opting into AB 626/AB 377 to implement MEHKO licensing throughout the county.

We believe the benefits of AB 626/ AB 377 far outweigh any fears, concerns, or misinformation. Since launching its program in June 2019, Riverside County's cooks have maintained a 100% food safety record, with 0 cases of foodborne illness to date. There is no evidence that home kitchens would increase the risk of foodborne illness. Additionally, traffic concerns have not become a reality. With caps set in regulation, home kitchens serve fewer customers than restaurants, further reducing the impact of a potential outbreak. Home cooks are likely just as careful as restaurant workers as the cooks are working from their homes, where they feed themselves and their families.

The MEHKO permit system will help build an inclusive food economy in San Diego County by providing burgeoning food entrepreneurs with an opportunity to generate income and test out their business models at minimal cost. This opportunity will protect consumers and improve public health standards in communities where access to healthy and culturally appropriate food options are limited.

Since more than 80% of the home cooks permitted in Riverside County over the last year are people of color, this program should be considered an integral piece of a comprehensive racial and economic equity policy initiative. Beyond offering much-needed income for underserved individuals, these home kitchens bring opportunities for intercultural education, a sense of community pride, and hope for the future.



9850 Distribution Avenue
San Diego, CA 92121
P 858.527.1419

SanDiegoFoodBank.org

COVID-19 has caused widespread devastation to our economy with particular harm to service workers in our food industry. Adoption of the MEHKO initiative would allow struggling families and businesses the chance to provide food to their communities by empowering cooks to start their own business. MEHKOs are a way for people to be proactive in gaining financial independence, while also supporting the economy in a socially distant world. Giving people the chance to sell food prepared in their home would benefit struggling communities and secure health and safety standards during and after the pandemic.

The option of starting a MEHKO will particularly benefit food entrepreneurs by lowering the barriers to entry for incubating food enterprises. MEHKOs will contribute to low-income and immigrant communities' local economic development and create legal pathways for entrepreneurship opportunities in our community food system. Without the fear of fines and criminal penalties, existing home cooks will be able to openly access business education and training on safe food handling practices.

In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Should you require additional information from us, please contact vrui@sanDiegofoodbank.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Ruiz
VP of Operations
858-863-5114

Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank
9850 Distribution Ave.
San Diego, CA 92121



SAN DIEGO FOOD SYSTEM ALLIANCE

Tax ID: 84-2242207

P.O. Box 3185, San Diego, CA 92163

CONTACT Elly Brown, Executive Director | 919.328.0046 | elly@sdfsa.org

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

The organizations listed below are submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

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SAN DIEGO FOOD SYSTEM ALLIANCE

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In summary, this bill will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy, increase healthy food access in our communities and legitimize an important lever of economic empowerment and equity for our emerging entrepreneurs. Please support the implementation of AB 626/AB 377 in San Diego, putting our county at the forefront of health and healing, equity and empowerment.

Should you require additional information from us, please contact Elly Brown. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elly Brown".

Elly Brown
San Diego Food System Alliance
Executive Director
elly@sdfsfa.org

June 7, 2021

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

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We believe the benefits of AB 626/AB 377 far outweigh concerns. Since launching its program in June 2019, Riverside County's cooks have maintained a 100% food safety record, with 0 cases of foodborne illness to date. There is no evidence that home kitchens would increase the risk of foodborne illness. With caps set in regulation, home kitchens serve fewer customers than restaurants, further reducing the impact of a potential outbreak. Home cooks are likely just as careful as restaurant workers as the cooks are working from their homes, where they feed themselves and their families. Additionally, traffic concerns have not become a reality.

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Should you require additional information from us, please contact us. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer L. Nelson".

Jennifer L. Nelson

Pro Bono Manager and Supervising Attorney



The Mulvaney Center for
Community Awareness and
Social Action

Maier Hall, 218
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110-2492
P: (619) 260-4798
F: (619) 260-7835
www.sandiego.edu

June 21, 2021

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Lower Level, Bayside Room
San Diego, California 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

The organization listed below is submitting this letter in support of San Diego County opting into AB 626/AB 377, the Homemade Food Operations Act, and the implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation licensing in San Diego County.

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Should you require additional information from us, please contact the University of San Diego's Mulvaney Center, contact information listed on letterhead. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the implementation of MEHKOs in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'MS', is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Maria Silva
Director, Community Partnerships
Mulvaney Center for Community, Awareness and Social Action
University of San Diego