

From: [Jackson Piper](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Public Comment, Item # 63 for 12/19/23 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:00:11 PM

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Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I am writing to request that you follow staff's recommendation # 1 to you regarding item # 63 on your agenda for December 19, 2023, "Receive and File a Report on and Provide Direction to the Environmental Health Division Regarding a Permitting Program for Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations."

The Board Letter on this item notes that 11 jurisdictions in California have voted to allow MEHKOs to operate with the proper permits up to this date, and that few complaints have been received by these jurisdictions regarding the operation of MEKHOs – including only one report of a foodborne illness related to these operations.

While I can certainly understand that many local communities are concerned about potential impacts of this type of land use being allowed, I believe that the experience of other jurisdictions as mentioned in this Board Letter proves that these concerns are not founded in strong evidence – and should that prove otherwise in Ventura County, the law allowing MEKHOs to operate here could be rescinded.

While I believe that voting to allow for MEKHOs to be able to be established by interested residents county-wide with no time limitation would be both economically beneficial to those residents and allow them to increase their household income in this time of severely high living costs, and would help to make our communities more interesting and vibrant places with the potential for new, small-scale local restaurants to be incubated with MEKHOs and then relocated if and when they require more space and operating capacity, I note that the County of San Diego voted to allow MEKHOs as a two-year, county-wide pilot program, and I believe that Ventura County could also take this action if it does not feel comfortable with committing to a long-term policy change at this time.

Please direct the Division to prepare for future action by your Board to amend the Ventura County Ordinance Code to establish a permitting program for MEKHOs in Ventura County, as stated in Recommendation # 1 of the Board Report, and open up more opportunity for local small businesses in Ventura County.

Thank you,

Jackson Piper
Newbury Park, CA



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