



8 March 2021

Honorable Bob Nelson, Chair  
Honorable Joan Hartmann, Vice Chair  
Honorable Gregg Hart, Supervisor  
Honorable Steve Lavagnino, Supervisor  
Honorable Das Williams, Supervisor

RE: MICROENTERPRISE HOME KITCHEN OPERATIONS (MHKOs)

On behalf of the business organizations listed above, we respectfully request that the Board defer final action on the proposed fee resolution and direct staff to engage in further consultation with the business community prior to establishing rules or structures related to this new use/activity.

As champions for businesses and the communities in which we operate, we believe that allowing the establishment of these new MHKOs is premature for the following reasons:

Impact on Existing Restaurants

The past year has been devastating to many local industries, but perhaps none more so than our restaurants and related businesses. The shifting requirements and multiple closures have created incredible harm in this business sector; impacts which will take years for the industry to overcome.

We join with many local restaurant operators in expressing concerns about the further negative impacts that this new competition would inflict on restaurants exactly at the time when they are most vulnerable. Allowing competition which is not subject to the same rules, regulations, and costs is inappropriate, particularly at this time.

Restaurants are often required to comply with specific, expensive requirements designed to ensure the safety of the facility and minimize impacts on the community. Among other requirements, restaurants must install fire control measures beyond those typically found in a home kitchen; similarly, waste water systems in restaurants go well beyond residential requirements. These, and many other requirements, while necessary for the health and safety of our community, would put traditional commercial restaurants at a distinct disadvantage relative to competitors allowed to operate out of their homes.

Impacts on Neighborhoods

While many of our cities are moving toward more flexible multi-use zoning and developments, allowing the establishment of businesses in existing residential neighborhood which were not planned or developed to accommodate this type of activity will lead to negative impacts on the character of these neighborhoods, increased traffic and parking concerns, and conflicts between neighbors.

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Please note that we are not opposed to all food-related entrepreneurship opportunities; in many cases, we have supported options related to cottage food operations. In this case, however, we believe that expanding those opportunities to allow restaurant-type operations is a step too far and too soon.

We stand ready to convene and facilitate a dialogue between the restaurant industry, proponents of MHKOs, and county regulatory staff to develop a plan that can be supported by all. To allow for that dialogue – and to avoid adding additional pressure on a key local industry as they recover from the pandemic, we ask the Board to indefinitely defer this resolution and any related activity.

Sincerely,

Amber Wilson, Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Kristen Miller, Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce  
Glenn Morris, Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce

## Ramirez, Angelica

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**From:** Kay Flagg <kaylynnflagg@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 2:36 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Micro Enterprise Home Kitchens

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Board of Superior

I would like to go on record in opposition of your item A-11 against Micro Enterprise Home Kitchens.

Thank you  
Kay Tim's  
Kay's Country Kitchen  
135 East Clark Ave  
Orcutt, CA

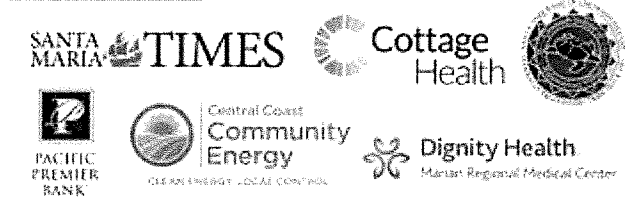
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