



August 12, 2021

Sheryl Bratton  
County Administrator  
County of Sonoma  
575 Administration Drive, Room 104A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2431

**Subject: State's Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations**

Dear Sheryl,

Thank you for reaching out to the City of Cotati (City) to solicit our input regarding Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO). While the City supports the goal of lowering barriers to new entrepreneurs and empowering disadvantaged communities, we have significant concerns about opting in to MEHKO and do not support the state version of MEHKOs.

As local governments, one of our primary responsibilities is to balance the interests of our residents and preserve or enhance the quality of life in our residential neighborhoods. If the County of Sonoma (County) opts into MEHKO, the cities will not have the ability to regulate the operations and only have a very limited ability to protect the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Some of the potential issues with the state version of MEHKOs include:

1. Potential for saturation of this use in any given neighborhood, creating a disproportionate impact on the neighbors.
2. Outdoor dining in residentially zoned areas and the associated potential for noise and nuisance.
3. Potential for excessive grease in the public sewer.
4. The potential ability to sell alcohol out of a residential home.
5. Concerns about hours of operation and parking.

There is simply no way to know or control how many MEHKOs will open in any given area. This creates the potential for over-saturation of this use on any given street, each with the potential to also create issues due to the concerns cited previously. The only apparent way to address the concerns of neighbors impacted by MEHKOs is to engage in very expensive and time consuming nuisance abatement proceedings.

Despite our opposition to the state version of MEHKO, we do support many of the goals the state was attempting to achieve with the MEHKO statutes. Therefore, the City would be supportive of engaging with the County and other cities to develop a Sonoma County model ordinance that achieves many of the same goals but addresses some of the impacts and inability to effectively manage potential issues in our respective communities.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact Damien O'Bid, City Manager, at [dobid@cotacity.org](mailto:dobid@cotacity.org) or 707.665.3621.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damien O'Bid".

John C. Moore *FOR*  
Mayor

Cc: City Council