



Public Health
Environmental Health Services

Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO)

Joshua Dugas, MBA, REHS

Assistant Director
Public Health



*A **MEHKO** is a restaurant that is operated by a resident in a private home.*



- No more than one full-time employee (not including family or household members).
- Food Safety Manager Certification and food handler cards required.
- Food is prepared, cooked and served on the same day.
- Operation is limited to 30 meals per day or 60 meals per week for dine-in, pick-up or delivery.
- No more than \$50,000 in gross annual sales.
- A MEHKO is not a sidewalk vendor, a temporary food facility, a caterer or a cottage food operation.



Authorization by ordinance or resolution would apply to ALL areas within the county, including incorporated cities.

Community Outreach



4 REGIONAL
MEETINGS

HOSTED IN MARCH 2020



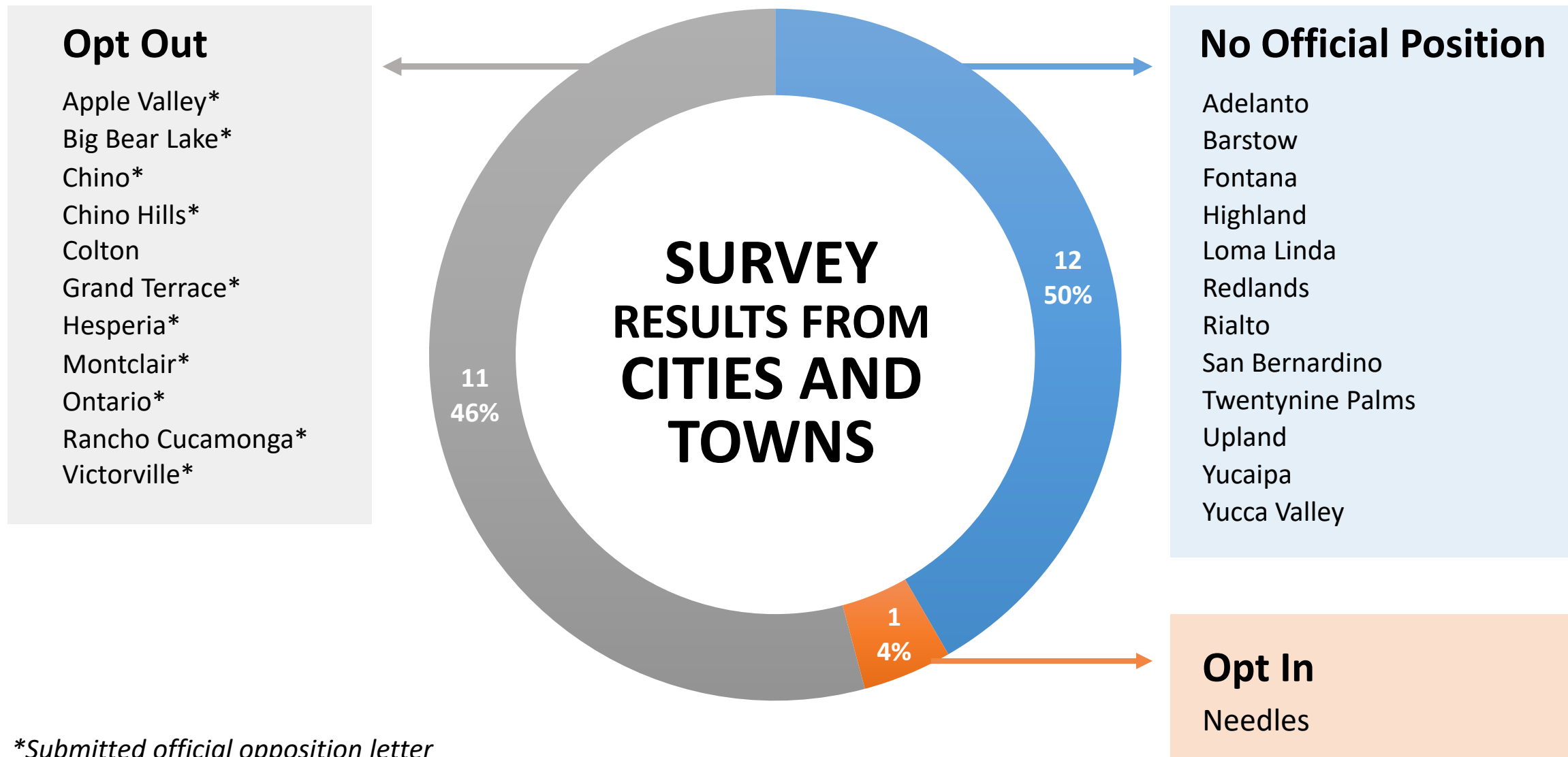
17 CITIES
& TOWNS

PARTICIPATED



24 CITIES
& TOWNS

RESPONDED TO SURVEY





Riverside, Imperial, Solano, Lake and Santa Barbara Counties and the City of Berkeley have “opted-in”.



El Dorado and Siskiyou counties have “opted-out”.

There are 58 Counties and 4 Cities with their own Health Departments that can authorize MEHKO's. It is a multi-year process for a city to become its own health department.

Implemented MEHKO Program

Riverside County

Adopted ordinance May 2019
Effective June 2019
108 MEHKOs permitted

Imperial County

Adopted resolution December 2019
Effective January 01, 2020
17 MEHKOs permitted

Lake County

Adopted ordinance December 2020
Trial program effective January 01, 2021 –
June 30, 2021

Pending Implementation of MEHKO Program

Solano County

Adopted resolution December 2019
Postponed implementation due to COVID-19

City of Berkeley

Adopted ordinance December 2020.
Implementation anticipated Summer 2021

Santa Barbara County

Adopted ordinance March 2021
Implementation anticipated April 2021

Imperial County

- 17 MEHKOs Permitted
- 0 Complaints Received
- 0 Foodborne Illnesses Reported



Riverside County

- 108 MEKHOS Permitted
- 2 Complaints Received
- 0 Foodborne Illnesses Reported




Lake County

- 2 MEHKOs Permitted
- 0 Complaints Received
- 0 Foodborne Illnesses Reported



Foodborne illness complaints are reported to the jurisdiction’s Environmental Health Department, and non-food related complaints (i.e. noise, parking, etc.) are reported to the jurisdiction’s Code Enforcement Department.

Environmental Health Services Regulatory Considerations

	 Operate in Residential Area	 Plan Review/ Commercial Equipment	 Physical Separation From Food Prep Area	 Dedicated hand wash, food prep and dish washing sinks	 Commercial Exhaust Hood & Fire Suppression System	 Unannounced Inspections	 Grading Requirement
 RESTAURANT							
 MEHKO							

State of California

6 out of 62
jurisdictions have
OPTED-In



The **STATE** has
APPROVED
this as an acceptable
food operation



San Bernardino County

1 out of the 24
incorporated
cities/towns want to
OPT-In



11 out of the 24
incorporated
cities/towns want to
OPT-Out
(10 provided letters of opposition)



Discuss the impacts of authorizing MEHKO's in San Bernardino County and provide direction to Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services regarding MEHKO operations in the County.



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Any Questions?

