



Legislation Text

File #: 12-1496, **Version:** 2

Community Development Agency, Environmental Management Division, recommending the Board receive an update on Cottage Food Operations and the associated fee schedule adopted by the Board on December 11, 2012.

Background

On December 11, 2012, the Board adopted Resolution 176-2012 which set estimated fees for service, effective January 1, 2013, for permitting and registration of Cottage Food Operations by the Environmental Management Department, now the Community Development Agency, Environmental Management Division (EMD), in accordance with AB 1616 Food Safety: Cottage Food Operations Program (AB 1616). With that adoption, the Board requested a status report six months after the adoption of the fee schedule.

AB 1616 specifies two classes of cottage food operations that have been added to the Health and Safety Code (HSC):

- "Class A" cottage food operations are allowed to conduct direct sales (sale of food from the cottage food operator directly to the consumer) of non-potentially hazardous food to the public. Inspections by the local enforcement agency of the food production are not required. However, certain labeling procedures must be used that identify that the food was produced in a home kitchen, and the label must list the ingredients used to produce the food. "Class A" cottage food operations are required to register with EMD, but there is no annual permit.
- "Class B" cottage food operations are allowed to conduct indirect sales (sale of food to a third party, i.e. a restaurant) and direct sales of non-potentially hazardous food to the public. "Class B" cottage food operations must also provide labeling that identifies where the product was produced and the ingredients. "Class B" cottage food operations must annually apply for a permit pursuant to County of El Dorado Ordinance Section 8.05.110 and have an inspection performed before the permit is issued by EMD.

Program Update

Since the implementation of the program on January 1, 2013, there have been thirteen "Class A" food operations registered and nine "Class B" food operations permitted and inspected. Prior to implementation, EMD estimated that processing applications for registration as a "Class A" operation would take 0.5 hours. Permitting and inspection of a "Class B" operation was estimated to take 1.5 hours. Due to the recent implementation of this new program, the amount of actual staff time was greater than that estimated. As staff and the public become more familiar with the application of this program, the time spent to process applications should decrease. EMD will continue to evaluate the program over the next six months to determine if the current fees are adequate.

To date, there have been minimal complications associated with registering and permitting Cottage Food Operators. The Cottage Food Operators have provided feedback that they are satisfied with the process as implemented by EMD.

No action required by the Board; this item is informational only.

Contact

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