



Briefing Notification to County Manager

Prepared by the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department



Environmental Services
Department

Case #/Title: ES-2013-001 / Experimental Food Service Permit

Supervisor Districts: All Districts

Overview: To align with Chairman Kunasek's vision of "adaptive reuse", the Department is proposing the creation of a new food service permit that may accommodate food service establishment design concepts not specifically allowed for by Maricopa County Environmental Health Code regulations. The 2009 FDA Food Code allows for modifications and waivers but does not define their application to specific items. The new permit type, with a working title of 'Experimental Permit', would allow a prospective restaurant owner the option to submit their drawings and management plan addressing any food safety and sanitation hazards not in line with regulations as a result of the establishment's unique or novel layout. Unique items covered by the permit would be limited to facilities, such as equipment and structure. The permit would have a limited duration. If the applicant is able to demonstrate sufficient control of any potential hazards during the life of the experimental permit, the business would transfer into a standard food service permit. If control of the hazards is not met, then the owner will close the business and reapply for a standard food service permit in line with all code regulations. Maricopa County Environmental Services will work closely with industry and stakeholders to refine this conceptual permit.

Next Steps: Public Stakeholder Workshop – Tentative, February 13, 2013

Board of Health Public Meeting – April 22, 2013

Amendment will follow Enhanced Regulatory Outreach policy and workflow process.