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## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH County of Riverside

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN NO. 65-94-DES

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

### ROADSIDE FOOD VENDORS

The following information pertains to retail food vehicles, including produce vehicles, prepackaged food vehicles and carts (ice cream trucks or push carts), unpackaged food vehicles or carts (hot dog carts, shaved ice carts, etc.), and food trucks. It is the responsibility of each food vendor to obtain all of the necessary permits and licenses, including those required by local city and county agencies for the legal operation of their vehicle or cart.

All retail food vendors are required to obtain a current Environmental Health Permit, and approval from the County of Riverside Department of Environmental Health prior to operating anywhere in Riverside County.

Once these requirements have been met it is the responsibility of the individual food vendor to obtain information pertaining to where they may operate legally, and what time limits may be involved. The following are among the items that must be considered:

- Is the area zoned for your particular type of operation?
- Are there restrictions regarding the amount of time a food vendor may be stationary (parked at one location)?
- Is there a distance requirement for food vendors located near other food facilities?

Generally, food vendors are not permitted to park vehicles or carts along roads or in right of ways for longer than the time it takes to serve a customer wishing to buy an item.

Because laws, ordinances, and codes vary from city to city, food vendors must contact the local agencies involved in the regulation of this type of business to be sure they are not in violation. Citations may be issued for the violation of county and/or city ordinances, as well as for violations of the California Health and Safety Code. To avoid violations of these ordinances and codes, contact the appropriate agency prior to beginning operation of your business. Once you have obtained your Environmental Health Permit you must determine where you wish to operate. Most often the agencies involved will be the **Planning Department, Business License Department, and Code Enforcement** for the particular city in question. In unincorporated areas of the county you may contact **Riverside County Building and Safety Department, Code Enforcement Section (951-275-2000)** for information on where you may operate.

If you have questions regarding foods permitted to be sold from carts/vehicles, or on construction of food vending carts please call our Riverside office at (951) 358-5172.

\*Document available in an alternate format upon request.

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**OFFICES IN: RIVERSIDE, BLYTHE, CORONA, HEMET, INDIO, MURRIETA AND PALM SPRINGS**

**For more information call (888) 722-4234**

**Department Web Site – [www.rivcoeh.org](http://www.rivcoeh.org)**