



# Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

*Planning for the Challenges Ahead*



**Amy J. Bodek, AICP**  
Director of Regional Planning

**Dennis Slavin**  
Chief Deputy Director,  
Regional Planning

December 7, 2021

TO: Staff

FROM: Amy J. Bodek, AICP  
Director of Regional Planning

## **SUBDIVISION AND ZONING ORDINANCE INTERPRETATION NO. 2021-05 CRITERIA FOR SECONDARY COOKING AREAS WITHIN A DWELLING UNIT**

### **PURPOSE**

This memorandum provides guidance on application submittals for secondary cooking areas within a dwelling unit.

### **BACKGROUND**

A secondary cooking area is closed off from the rest of the home to prevent the sounds, smells, and smoke of cooking from permeating through the rest of the home. Secondary cooking areas are sometimes referred to by cultural names such as "wok kitchen," "spice kitchen," or "kosher kitchen." A secondary cooking area is typically in addition to the main kitchen cooking area. Title 22 does not define secondary cooking areas, and no formal memo has been issued permitting them.

County Code Section 22.14.040 defines a dwelling unit as one or more habitable rooms in a building, or portion thereof, designed or intended to be used or used for occupancy by one family for living and sleeping quarters and containing only one kitchen. Kitchens are defined as a room or space used, intended, or designed for cooking or preparing food that includes a bar sink or gas, electrical, or water outlets used, intended, or designed for cooking facilities.

The Department has approved secondary cooking areas if the secondary cooking area is proposed within the main kitchen area and not in a separate part of the home. Partitions or doors to close off the secondary cooking area from the rest of the house were allowed. The policy allowing secondary cooking areas in the past was informally developed after discussion amongst the former Field Offices and Land Development Coordinating Center staff.

## POLICY

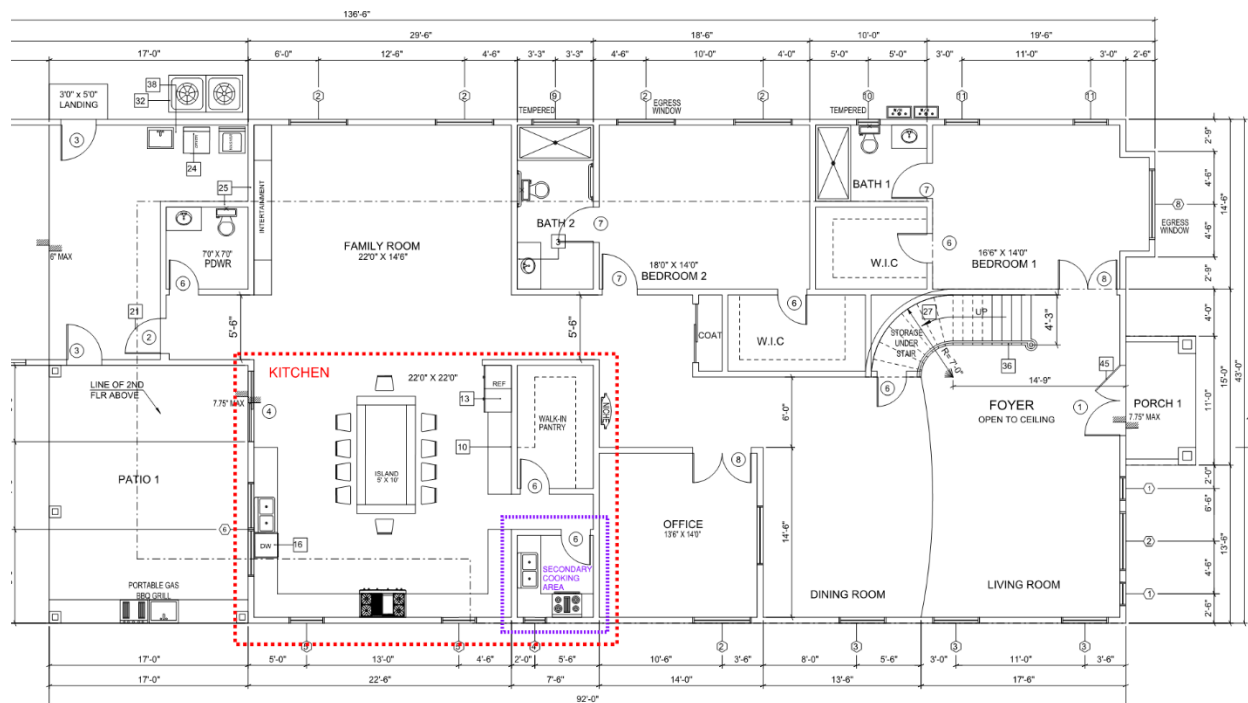
The current definition of a kitchen in the County Code, as detailed above, notes that a dwelling unit can only have one kitchen, but does not limit the number of cooking appliances. Therefore, to incorporate secondary cooking areas within the boundaries of the County Code, a secondary cooking area will be allowed and will not be considered a second kitchen if the design follows the following requirements:

1. The secondary cooking area is proposed within the kitchen.
2. The secondary cooking area is only accessible through the kitchen.
3. No commercial grade equipment is allowed. Only cooking equipment listed for residential use shall be permitted.

The use of doors or partitions for the secondary cooking area shall be allowed because the separation of the area serves as the primary purpose of a secondary cooking area: preventing the sounds, smells, and smoke of cooking from reaching the rest of the home.

**Note for Applicants:** Secondary Cooking Areas must meet residential kitchen ventilation requirements as referenced in the California Mechanical Code and the California Energy Efficiency Standards.

## FLOOR PLAN EXAMPLE



**APPLICABILITY**

This memorandum applies to all new and existing applications under review as of the date of this memorandum.

AJB:DD:MG:ER:BM:lm