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County Streamlines Regulations for Craft Breweries *New Rules Make It Easier to Do Business*

(Santa Ana, CA) — Who doesn't love an uncomplicated beer? When Anaheim asked the County for help to make the city more "brewery friendly," the County responded by agreeing to streamline inspections of craft breweries.

The new rules allow beer manufacturing facilities to be inspected by the California Department of Public Health instead of the Health Care Agency's Environmental Health Division, which inspects retail and wholesale food establishments in Orange County. HCA Environmental Health determined that the craft breweries—those which do not offer beverages other than samples of their product and which do not offer food other than crackers or pretzels—were low-risk in nature and best overseen by the State. Inspections of beer manufacturing facilities in Los Angeles and San Diego counties follow the same procedure.

Anaheim interim city manager Kristine Ridge thanked the efforts of Supervisor Shawn Nelson and the Health Care Agency for swift accommodation in removing what many brewery owners considered a bureaucratic hurdle to expansion. "We're happy to do what we can to encourage these types of common-sense, business-friendly reforms," Nelson said.

HCA Environmental Health identified 10 craft breweries in Anaheim eligible for the new regulatory oversight. Should the activities of the breweries change, such as offering food for sale or manufacturing beverages other than beer, the County will resume primary oversight.

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