



RIVERSIDE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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APIARY REQUIREMENTS

1) REGISTRATION OF COLONIES

Every person who moves bees into Riverside County after the first day of January shall register the number of colonies moved into the county within thirty (30) days. Each beekeeper shall pay an annual registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) to the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner. The Commissioner shall provide the beekeeper a receipt which can be utilized as proof of registration to other County Commissioners when the bees are moved intrastate.

Please note that the \$10.00 registration fee is waived for everyone who registers beehives during 2019 in Riverside County.

2) IDENTIFICATION SIGN REQUIRED

It is unlawful for any person to maintain an apiary on premises other than that of his or her residence without having the apiary identified as follows: "by a sign that is prominently displayed on the entrance side of the apiary or stenciled on the hive, that states in dark letters not less than one inch in height on a background of contrasting color, the name of the owner or person responsible for the apiary, his or her address and telephone number, or if he or she has no telephone, a statement to that effect."

3) LOCATION OF APIARIES

All apiaries owned or kept within the unincorporated territory of Riverside County 300 feet from any and all public roads; all apiaries owned or kept within the unincorporated territory of Riverside County shall be kept and located at a place at least 500 feet distant from the nearest structure used as a dwelling or as a place of business, and such apiaries shall not be kept or maintained at a lesser distance thereto unless the owner or the person having control or possession of such apiaries first procures permission from the owner or the person having control or possession of said structure as a dwelling or place of business to do so, and upon request, satisfactory evidence of such permission shall be furnished to the Agriculture Commissioner; all apiaries owned or kept within the unincorporated territory of Riverside County near school yards or places where people congregate shall be located and maintained behind barriers, natural or otherwise, so as to cause bees to fly at a high altitude over such school yard or places where people congregate; no apiary shall be maintained in any particular location within the unincorporated territory of the County of Riverside whenever there are bees from such apiary which are entering land, other than where such apiary is situated, in an amount such as to endanger public health or safety, or to create unreasonable interference with the comfortable enjoyment of life or use of property of others.

4) AVAILABILITY OF WATER

No person shall place or keep any apiary or beehives, or cause to allow any apiary or beehive to remain in any location unless one of the following conditions exists:

The apiary is so located that the nearest supply of water is an isolated stream or reservoir where water is available to such bees, and all other sources of water at locations where people or animals congregate, dwell, reside or remain are farther from the apiary than the stream or reservoir.

A plentiful supply of fresh water is maintained by the owner or person having control or possession of an apiary or hives within 300 feet of such apiary.

5) TRANSPORTING BEES

When the temperature exceeds 55 degrees Fahrenheit, no person shall transport within the County between one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset hives of bees, or cause the same to be done, unless such bees are confined by screens in good repair or other equally effective means of confinement.

6) APIARIES LOCATED ON PREMISES OF ANOTHER

No apiaries or hives shall be kept or located on the premises of another without the owner or the person having control or possession of such apiaries or hives first procuring permission of to do so.

7) KEEPING OF AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES

No person shall willingly and knowingly keep an apiary of Africanized honey bees until such time as the Commissioner declares that the keeping of apiaries in the County that are free from Africanized Honey Bee is no longer possible.

8) BEE HAZARD / PUBLIC NUISANCE

"Bee hazard" shall mean a condition that exists upon the premises upon which an apiary is located, which is causing bees to enter upon other premises in an amount such as to endanger public health or safety, or to create unreasonable interference with the comfortable enjoyment of life or use of property of others.

Any bee hazard in the unincorporated territory of Riverside County is hereby declared to constitute a public nuisance.

9) RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEE ORDINANCE

The Riverside County Ordinance NO. 551 RELATING TO THE CONTROL OF BEES can be found on the Riverside County website at: <https://www.rivcocob.org/ords/500/551.1.pdf>

Ruben J. Arroyo

Riverside County

Agricultural Commissioner /

Sealer of Weights and Measures