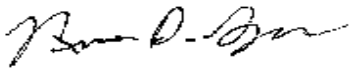


City of Calistoga

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Lynn Goldberg, Planning and Building Director
DATE: February 4, 2014
SUBJECT: Potential Code Amendment to Allow Chicken Keeping

APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:



Richard D. Spitler, City Manager

1 **ISSUE:** Initiation of a Zoning Code amendment to allow the keeping of chickens in
 2 residential zoning districts.

3 **RECOMMENDATION:** Direct staff to prepare and process a Zoning Code amendment
 4 allowing chicken keeping, subject to certain regulations.

5 **BACKGROUND:** There has been growing community interest in raising chickens on
 6 residentially-zoned properties for non-commercial egg production. This interest is
 7 consistent with an increased desire to produce food products locally and to avoid such
 8 practices as caging and antibiotics. Three jurisdictions in Napa County currently allow
 9 the use, subject to varying regulations.

10 Chicken-keeping activities on residential properties in the city are occasionally brought
 11 to Staff's attention, and are abated through the code enforcement process.

12 **DISCUSSION:** Allowing the raising of chickens for personal use could be a reasonable
 13 accessory use of certain residential properties if it were subject to such regulations as:

- 14 • Minimum lot size
- 15 • The maximum number of chickens (possibly tied to lot size), to minimize off-site
 16 impacts and avoid commercial operations
- 17 • A prohibition on roosters
- 18 • The confinement of the chickens to the owner's property by fencing or penning
- 19 • A minimum separation of coops and enclosures from neighboring properties
- 20 • Maintenance of clean and sanitary conditions to avoid off-site impacts

21 Staff does not recommend including "quality of life" regulations, such as the minimum
 22 amount of coop space or roaming area for each chicken, which would be difficult and
 23 time-consuming to enforce.

- 24 If the Council is supportive of this use, it could be added to the “accessory uses” section
25 of each appropriate residential zoning district, along with the related regulations.