

ARTICLE 9: URBAN BEEKEEPING**305-90. Application**

Urban beekeeping is allowed only if all four of the following conditions are met and maintained:

- (a) The hive(s) owner must maintain current registration status of the bee colony(s) with the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner in compliance with applicable State Statutes, including required hive movement notices. Any colony that is not properly registered shall be removed from the property and may not be returned to the property for at least six (6) weeks from the date of registering the colony at another site.
- (b) The hive(s) owner must be a resident in a dwelling that is located on the same parcel of land on which hive(s) is registered.
- (c) The hive(s) location and physical set-up arrangement on the property must be in conformance to the performance standards set forth in Section 305-91 of this Article. In addition, nuisance behavior by bees may require the hive owner to take remedial actions upon notice by the City of Citrus Heights. Procedures for such notice are set forth in Section 305-91. Failure to comply with specified remedial actions will constitute a violation of the Zoning Code for enforcement purposes.
- (d) Urban beekeeping is allowed only on property which has not been declared as a location where bee hives are potentially a hazard to public health and safety. Procedure for declaring property where urban beekeeping is not allowed is set forth in Section 305-91. Those procedures may require removal of all bee colonies from the property through no direct fault of the beekeeper but because a health or safety situation has been shown to exist. Once the property has been declared unsafe for urban beekeeping, it shall not be legal to maintain bees on that property until such status is removed from the property in writing.

305-91. Enforcement & Revocation

Urban beekeeping privileges may be withdrawn from any property by written notification to the property owner by the Citrus Heights Planning Manager. Withdrawal must be done with cause, however, the cause need not be the fault of the beekeeper, nor be a factor that is under the control of the beekeeper. The Planning Manager may withdraw a Beekeeping License for any condition or combination of circumstances that jeopardizes, endangers or otherwise constitute an actual, potential or perceived menace to public health or safety. Once any property owner has been noticed of withdrawal of privilege to keep bee colony(s) on a particular property, such privilege may be reestablished only upon written request.

- (a) Written documentation over a medical doctors signature certifying that the medical condition caused by beestings to a resident of an abutting property would constitute a higher than normal health hazard will constitute sufficient cause to withdraw the privilege of urban beekeeping from any specific property.
- (b) Abnormally aggressive behavior by bees defending their hive beyond the property lines may constitute sufficient cause to withdraw the privilege of urban beekeeping from any specific property.

305-92. Performance Standards

- (a) There shall be no more than two (2) bee colonies established on the property, except two (2) additional temporary colonies are allowed for hive separation or new swarm establishment purposes. Such temporary colonies shall be removed from the property within two (2) weeks.
- (b) Colonies shall be placed in the rear yard of the property and in no case shall the hives be closer than 25 feet from a public or private street or 15 feet from abutting property.
- (c) A permanent fresh water source shall be maintained within 15 feet of the hives.