

DaForno, Nancy

From: richard@nakomaresort.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:01 PM
To: public
Subject: We need to open...

Dear Members of the Board,

My name is Richard Aiple and I have the pleasure of being the General Manager of Nakoma Resort. Although I don't know where we rank in placement, I would guess we are one of the larger employers in Plumas County.

During the past 60-days, we have done our part to keep our staff, guests, neighbors, community, and county safe by adhering to the state and county mandated policies. As an example, we kept our lodge open to provide a clean, safe location for doctors and other essential travelers to stay during this period. From a business perspective this was not a wise decision (we ran an occupancy of 1.3%), however it was the right thing to do for the community.

Our resort business consists of multiple revenue centers under one name. We have a 42-room lodge, an 18-hole golf course and pro shop, a catering business for weddings and meetings, a restaurant and bar open to the public, a spa, and a private homeowner membership that is given access to Altitude, our recreation center. We are a year-round business – however, like every other hospitality business in this county our positive revenue stream is concentrated to a five-month window. If we open at fifty percent capacity in many of our revenue centers, we might break even for the next five-month period – no revenue reserves will be generated for the winter.

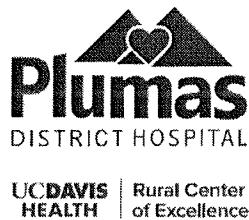
Through the natural social distancing in our area, the exceptional leadership provided by our county experts, and the commitment by our residents – we've only had four COVID-19 cases. It is my understanding that each case was also properly traced – congratulations on that positive step. My current confusion revolves around why our area is slower to open than communities like Truckee – an area that at one point had more cases per capita than anywhere in the state. It's time to open Plumas County!

I believe our small community is facing two issues that must be addressed.

- Opening at a reduced capacity or no capacity doesn't allow us to hire the same number of people, and those we hire will have their earnings greatly reduced. This may have a long-term effect on those who don't get rehired, or don't earn the same amount. As many of our staff members work seasonally, having a job for six months (earning an estimated amount) allows them to qualify for unemployment and stay in the area. Without that income, or reduced income, it may force these individuals to leave our area.
- We live on tourism and small group events! If we continue to keep hotels, lodges and motels in our area closed, the only people benefiting will be the individual who rent their homes and are most likely violating current mandates. We are prepared to maintain higher sanitizing standards, social distancing requirements and any other restrictions – but must get our doors open for tourists and wedding guests. Unlike a business that sells widgets - the lost revenue from an empty hotel room or an empty seat in a restaurant cannot be replaced. Opening is paramount to this county's future.

The leadership team at Nakoma Resort recognizes that we are all in uncharted waters and we don't want to expose our community to any unnecessary risk. However, it is imperative that we allow all businesses to open. Not doing so may have a long-term impact on business revenue and their ability to survive, and more importantly on our areas greatest asset – the people working and living in our community.

We thank you for your efforts during this difficult time.



May 11, 2020

Mark Satterfield, MD
Plumas County Health Officer
270 County Hospital Rd # 127
Quincy, CA 95971

Subj: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR VARIANCE TO STAGE 2 OF CALIFORNIA'S ROADMAP TO
MODIFY THE STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Dear Dr. Satterfield:

I am writing to offer my support to the Plumas County Public Health Agency and its request for the County to enter stage 2 with a variance. Over the past several years we have built a robust healthcare coalition that includes our hospital partners, public health officials, and other healthcare leaders. The strength of this coalition became evident when the County declared a local health emergency on March 16th of this year.

Our coordinated response resulted in a rapid deployment of COVID-19 testing and subsequent aggressive tracing of confirmed cases in our County. To date, we are approaching testing levels of 3% of our County's population. Additionally, we have held the County to only four confirmed COVID-19 cases in large part due to the tracing capacity of our partners at Public Health. All four cases have since recovered.

There are three additional items I can attest to that makes me feel comfortable to say we are ready to advance to stage 2 with a variance: safety of our healthcare workers; COVID-19 testing capacity; and hospital capacity including surge capacity. Our most precious resource is our healthcare workers. To that end, we are comfortable stating we have approximately 30 days of PPE on hand, including masks (N95 and surgical), gowns, gloves, and face shields. We have also instituted mandatory daily screening for all employees and visitors that include temperature checks and symptomatic assessments. Additionally, we have had in place a mandatory masking policy for all employees and visitors and have seen a high-level of compliance. We will continue these efforts in order to ensure the well-being of our employees and providers.

Two, we are bringing on-line a point of care COVID-19 testing device (*QuantStudio™ 7 Pro Real-Time PCR System with Lyra SARS-CoV-2 Assay*) that will allow us to run approximately 94 specimens per hour. This device should be operational within two weeks and will greatly enhance our testing capability which will be made available as a resource throughout Plumas County. In the meantime, we have completed COVID-19 tests on nearly every employee and physician with zero positive results.



UCDAVIS
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Three, our hospital is poised to care for any potential surge in COVID-19 patients. Our internal surge plan allows for us to expand our acute care capacity by 75% (from 16 acute beds to 28) should the need arise. Additionally, we are prepared to care for up to two ventilated COVID-19 patients and have the staff/equipment necessary to do so. We have also engaged with our regional partners who operate large, tertiary care facilities. They have agreed to accept any of our ICU patients and have even extended an offer to consult with our physicians via telemedicine in an effort to treat patients locally.

We, the leaders of Plumas District Hospital, stand ready to respond to the COVID-19 crisis with our partners at Public Health and the members of our healthcare coalition. We have done amazing work thus far to keep our communities safe and will continue to do so until this pandemic abates. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our capabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JoDee Read".

JoDee Read, MBA

Chief Executive Officer
Plumas District Hospital
Phone 530.283.7127
Cell 541.548.5657
Fax 530.283.7953

DaForno, Nancy

From: Briar Patch <briarpatchgraeagle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:23 AM
To: public
Subject: Business opening

My wife and I own the Briar Patch in Graeagle. Like most businesses in the area, we are highly seasonal and must make our living within a very short window. The closure has greatly affected the start of this critical season for us. We are ready and eager to re-open while following the guidelines set by state and local officials. We were especially pleased to see Plumas County require face coverings while out in public and we feel that this will further help to ensure a safe experience for both us and our customers.

Please consider our short tourist season and our economic health as well and allow us to re-open in a responsible manner.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kyle and Betty Albright
The Briar Patch

DaForno, Nancy

From: Marlene Nelson <cooknelson37@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:26 AM
To: public
Subject: re: BOS Meeting

May 19th Wall Street Journal Op-Ed by Terry Wanzek, bean farmer, North Dakota 29th District Senator, Member of Global Farmer Network

"As lockdowns are lifted, officials should leave people alone to make safe choices about how to act. For starters, governments shouldn't decide who is "essential" and who isn't. We're all essential, whether we work on farms, in factories, or barber shops.

If we turn our backs on economic reality and fail to find creative ways to allow people to work in relative safety, a different kind of sicknesses will spread--diseases of despair, including domestic violence, drug abuse and suicide.

The biggest risk of all is to refuse to believe that a self-governing people can manage this basic responsibility.

Attn: Supervisor Engel
From Marlene Nelson, Graeagle

--
Marlene Nelson
(h) 530-836-1547
(c) 530-251-3715

DaForno, Nancy

From: Leah West <Leah@GraeagleAssociates.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:29 AM
To: public
Subject: A letter to our BOS

Dear County Supervisors:

I write this letter to ask the Board of Supervisors to re-open Plumas County for business. I firmly believe that business owners should not be denied their Constitutional rights to conduct free commerce and make a living. Likewise, I believe that the citizens of Plumas County should be able to make their own decisions concerning their own personal safety. It is inappropriate for the government to decide if a person is "safe" to shop at a grocery store, but is not allowed to visit a hair salon, barber shop or eat in a restaurant. Those are decisions that should be left to the individual to make. This is the American way and it is what has set our nation apart from the rest of the world and has kept us a free society.

Our hospitals are at the brink of financial ruin, our small independent shop owners can hang on to their livelihood only so long and time is running out for so many of them to have a chance of salvaging their business and mitigating their losses.

Enough is enough. Plumas County is safe and ready to join the world workforce, stronger than ever.

Thank you.



Leah West

Realtor®/Owner
GRAEAGLE ASSOCIATES, Realtors®

A P.O. Box 1234 Graeagle, CA 96103
P 530.836.1234 **M** 530.913.1234
E Leah@GraeagleAssociates.com
W www.GraeagleAssociates.com
My blog: www.LeahsFrontPorch.com/blog



Knowledge is Power ♦ Experience is Priceless
GRAEAGLE..."Everything in the middle of nowhere"

May 12, 2020

Dear Members of the Board,

My husband and I own Elwell Lakes Lodge, a small, seasonal summer resort in Plumas County. We are located just off the Gold Lake Forest Highway south of Graeagle, operating with a Special Use Permit from the Plumas National Forest. The lodge is open from mid-June to the end of September, and booked solidly by return guests until after Labor Day. We have 10 housekeeping cabins, all self-contained and spaced out on the six acre property and rented by the week. The lodge has been in my family since it was built in 1920 by my Grandfather, and we were looking forward to our special 100th year in business until the Coronavirus hit.

Currently, we are in a "holding pattern", waiting to hear when we can open, or if we will be able to open, for the 2020 season. At the moment, we have not begun to prepare the guest cabins, being unsure if the State, County, or Forest Service will allow us to have customers. Our faithful cabin cleaners that come once a week are also waiting for us to begin. We have plans in place conforming to the CDC Guidelines which we feel will keep the public and our employees safe from being infected from the virus. The plans will impact our guests, but they have been notified and are still looking forward to their vacations. Our mitigation plans will shorten the guest's week for sanitation measures and also make the public spaces off limits to them due to social distancing rules. Weekly events that have involved all the guests, more than 10 people at a time, have been canceled this year. These small cabins with kitchens, bathrooms, and beds allow customers to not frequent our small towns when they visit, for they have everything they need for the week. They do not even have to drive anywhere, since the trails to the Lakes Basin begin right out their door.

We believe that Elwell Lakes Lodge's family oriented clientele will not negatively affect our County (which we live in year-round) health wise and that the area's limited resources should not be impacted. We request that you ask the State to allow our lodges to open sooner than later by including the small, seasonal summer resorts of Plumas County in its Phase Two plan instead of Phase Three. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sugie and John Barker

Elwell Lakes Lodge

PO Box 68, Blairsden, CA 96103

530-836-2347



**COLDWELL
BANKER**

Coldwell Banker Kehr/O'Brien Real Estate
244 Main Street • PO Box 556
Chester, CA 96020
530-258-2103

May 11, 2020

Dear Plumas County Board of Supervisors,

We have shared with our County Representative, Sherrie Thrall, the thoughts and concerns of our lodging and tourism related industries many times. We feel confident she has heard our concerns and the growing frustration we feel regarding the inequitable field of operation that has descended upon us.

While we await the state and our health department to open our area to visitation from outside the county, it is happening anyway.

- 3rd party OTA's such as VRBO and Airbnb have begun to fill vacation homes with guests, collect fees that will be spent and circulated outside of our county, and fail to collect Transient Occupancy Taxes that we need for essential county services.
- The vacationers utilizing OTA services do not have the care, guidance, and oversight from local staff who will disseminate health and social distancing information, masks and other protective measures.

Many of us are frustrated and reeling from the uncontrollable and inequitable aspects of this crisis. We believe:

- It is happening whether we want it to or not.
- Because it cannot realistically be "policed" then we should be released from "out of county" control so that we, as an industry, can police ourselves.
- Local control gives us the best control for keeping our community safe. We as an industry are in the best position to insure those who are coming to our area are following local protocols for health and safety.

Respectfully,

Tim O'Brien
Broker Owner
Coldwell Banker Kehr/O'Brien Real Estate
Coldwell Banker Pioneer Realty
Coldwell Banker Chandler Real Estate

Susan Bryner
Coldwell Banker Property Management 
President, Lake Almanor Area Chamber
Board Member, Feather River Tourism Assoc.

DaForno, Nancy

From: Hydrick, Gabriel
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:24 AM
To: Bill Powers
Cc: DaForno, Nancy
Subject: RE: For Today's Board Meeting Public Comment

Hi Bill,
I received your public comment and will include accordingly.
Be well,
Gabriel

From: Bill Powers <bpowers96122@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:11 AM
To: Hydrick, Gabriel <GabrielHydrick@countyofplumas.com>
Subject: For Today's Board Meeting Public Comment

Dear Mr. Hedrick and Members of the Board:

I share the sentiments of most of our residents who need to navigate the health and safety requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic while surviving economically as well.

The decisions being left up to individual states and mandated at that level will be re-defined in the next month or two. Rural counties like ours need to add our reasoning to the statewide discussion. Our three local hospitals could be overrun with a sudden surge in cases. We have millions of acres and sparse population centers, and, if we can be fully responsible in doing what we can to prevent transmission of the virus among our own residents, make our lodging and store owners take full precautions for the safety and health of themselves and their patrons, then we've done all we can to keep this threat at bay.

As the most-local appendage of state government, it is your responsibility to work with the Governor and make a cautious roll-out for rural counties successful for the health, safety, economics, and sanity of us all.

Thank you.
Bill Powers, Portola

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/1918-flu-pandemic>

DaForno, Nancy

From: Cecilia Reynolds <ceci@gotsky.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 7:52 PM
To: DaForno, Nancy
Subject: Fwd: Opening Lodging Businesses

Please add my comments, attached below, to the proceedings tomorrow. I am one of hundreds of lodging providers who will miss out on our summer season - the season that brings in the most dollars from tourism for all of our businesses, lodging to retail. And the most dollars to TOT upon which the County depends to fill its coffers. Please make your best case that Plumas County should not be under the same restrictions as urban areas like SF, LA and San Bernardino counties.

Cecilia Reynolds
PO Box 3057
Quincy, CA 95971
530.281.6423
ceci@gotsky.com

From: "ceci" <ceci@gotsky.com>
To: "Lori Simpson" <lorisimpson.plumas@gmail.com>, "kevin goss4district2" <kevin.goss4district2@gmail.com>, "Sherrie Thrall" <sherrie.thrall@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:43:24 PM
Subject: Opening Lodging Businesses

Dear Supervisors,

I am sure you are aware that the lodging businesses are not included in Gov. Newsome's next phase of reopening. This will be a tremendous blow to all of us who provide lodging, especially with the busiest months just ahead. I am letting you know that I am in support of our opening as soon as possible. It doesn't make sense to me that we can freely go into RiteAid, Hardware stores, Dollar Stores, Grocery stores (and until just recently with no mask mandate - where has Dr. Satterfield been since mid-March???) In any case, I urge you to include the lodging industry in the next phase of re-opening. Remember that lodging provider's lost revenue is also a loss of TOT for Plumas County. What's happening in the urban areas of California should not influence what is right and good for our rural county.

Most sincerely
Cecilia Reynolds
PO Box 3057
Quincy, CA 95971
530.281.6423
ceci@gotsky.com

DaForno, Nancy

From: RV Park, Pioneer <info@pioneerrvpark.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:49 AM
To: pioneerrvpark@jandhmgt.com; public; thomas@jandhmgt.com
Subject: Open RV Parks NOW!

Hi , My name is Dave Aguilar I own a RV Park in Plumas County. With RVs and RV Parks people can safely self isolate themselves from everyone they can bring there own food they have there own bathroom and there own space . RV parks are essential to be open at this critical time . Our spaces are huge 80ft by 40ft Please let us Operate NOW! Before the season is lost! PioneerRVPark.com please open us up TODAY! Kyle and Thomas also send in email.

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PioneerRVPark
1326 Pioneer Road, Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-0769
www.pioneerrvpark.com

DaForno, Nancy

From: Doug Rodrigues <diverdug@psln.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:08 PM
To: public
Cc: jengel@psln.com
Subject: Input from High Sierra Animal Rescue

We are all hoping to see businesses and life in Plumas County get back to normal as soon as possible. However, we understand we will likely have a "new normal" for some time to come. High Sierra Animal Rescue closed down completely for a few weeks even though we were deemed essential (for taking care of the dogs we had in our care at the time). We are currently "closed to the public" but are accepting applications for dog adoptions. We have developed a protocol for safely doing adoptions and we are just starting to take reservations for boarding and feel that we can safely do that as well. Our number one priority is for the safety of our employees and that of the residents here in Plumas County. We will continue to operate with social distancing to minimize the spread of the virus while still saving the lives of homeless dogs and providing a safe place to board your dog, if needed.



Virus-free, www.avg.com

DaForno, Nancy

From: contactus@camplayman.com
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 10:02 PM
To: public
Subject: Public Comment from Camp Layman owner

Dear members of the Board,

This is Dan McDonald. My wife Shelley Wilkerson and I own Camp Layman near Graeagle. Our small resort has 13 rustic cabins that we rent to visitors during the spring and summer. It is our only income. And we are still closed.

I imagine you are aware that people from all over the region are visiting Plumas County right now. All I have to do is look out my window and I can see folks fishing and playing in the river. These out-of-county visitors park their cars a couple hundred yards from Camp Layman. When we drive through Portola, Graeagle or venture to Lake Davis we see as many out-of-state license plates as we do California plates. And who knows how many Californians are here from the Sacramento Valley? I'm not complaining about them. Most of the visitors appear to be following social distancing guidelines and wearing masks when they visit local businesses.

I'm also seeing lots of RVs pulling into our local trailer parks. I know for a fact that many RV owners come up to stay in their trailers over the weekend and then head back to their homes in Reno, Sacramento or other metropolitan areas.

One of our regular employees would normally be cleaning cabins at Camp Layman five days per week. Since we are not allowed to

open, she is cleaning homes that are Airbnb rentals. Visitors are staying and playing in Plumas County, just not at Camp Layman or other small resorts like ours.

I doubt I have told you anything new. And I realize that the county doesn't have enough officers to round-up all the rule breakers. Instead, why not let lodging providers like Camp Layman open *our* rooms to the public? We have worked extremely hard over the past two months to devise new cleaning and social-distancing protocols to make the camp safe for staff and guests. Our plan goes above and beyond the COVID Operating Plan for Businesses that was produced by Plumas County.

Camp Layman's isolated cabins in the forest provide a much lower probability of spreading germs than any business that hosts the public indoors or even curbside. Our guests are usually families that share a cabin the same way they share their home. Under our COVID Operating Plan there will be no co-mingling of people who aren't in the same family or cabin. And our two housekeepers have absolutely zero contact with our guests. It's about as "low-risk" as it could be.

These are hard times for everyone, including yourselves. Nothing like this has ever happened in our lifetimes, and hopefully never will again. People feel like they have lost control of almost everything. But one thing we *can* control is to minimize the economic damage to our local businesses and the county. If lodging providers like Camp Layman are allowed to go out of business, our tourism-dependent county will have a much tougher time getting back on its feet when things get better. ... And they WILL get better.

Please do everything you can to see that lodging providers are allowed to open during Phase 2. If

we have to wait for Phase 3 it
might be too late.

Thank you for your time.

Dan McDonald
Camp Layman
530-836-1430
contactus@camplayman.com

DaForno, Nancy

From: Kim Henschel <kimhenschel@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:18 PM
To: public
Subject: County of plumas

The Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center strongly urges the Plumas County Board of Supervisors to re-open businesses in Plumas County. We have all suffered tremendously and have complied and followed recommendations and guidelines set forth by State and Local Officials. It's time to allow us to re-open using set guidelines and mitigation procedures along with common sense and personal responsibility. We all want to stay safe and recognize the importance continuing to keep our communities healthy. Please consider our economic health, as well, and vote to let us open up responsibly.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tammy Henschel

Sent from my iPhone

DaForno, Nancy

From: River Pines <riverpinesresort@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 7:45 PM
To: public
Cc: engel.dist.5@gmail.com; Eastern Plumas Chamber of Commerce
Subject: Opening of the County

Tourism has become one of, if not the largest contributor to the General Fund. We all need at least 5 months to survive the year and we have already lost the majority of the month of May.

If a plan is not made to open Resorts, Hotels and RV Parks by Memorial Day weekend, you are signing the death certificate for many Mom and Pop businesses, but more importantly the County as a whole.

People need a place to stay if they are going to frequent restaurants, bars and golf courses.

It's time for you to stand up for your community.

Leslie Ross

Sent from my iPhone

DaForno, Nancy

From: erin krakowski <ekrakowski@live.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 6:35 PM
To: public
Subject: The Lodge at Whitehawk Statement

Dear Plumas County Supervisors,

The Lodge at Whitehawk would like start by saying we are following all guidelines put forth by our state and county officials. The problem we are facing is we are in the phase 3 part of opening businesses back up. If that is the case we wont be able to open for some time. Tourism is our areas bread and butter and the tourists are here. Doesn't make sense that the out of towners can patronize our golf courses and eat at our restaurants, but they can't stay in our lodge? Why can these other establishments make money off the tourism yet lodging can not? We pay the county lots of money in TOT taxes each year. The Lodge at Whitehawk is a social distancing venue. We are not a huge resort or casino where people are right on top of one another. We have very safe guidelines in which we would provide and follow if allowed to open. We would like our county to push for us small lodges to be able to open our doors and begin to start making up for what we have already lost and will continue to lose due to the restrictions put on us. Please understand that what prompts my concern is the financial viability of the Lodge if we dont soon receive relief.

Erin Hidde
The Lodge at Whitehawk
985 Whitehawk Drive
Clio, Ca 96106

[Get Outlook for Android](#)

DaForno, Nancy

From: bret@grayeaglelodge.com
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 6:11 PM
To: public
Subject: FROM GRAY EAGLE LODGE TO PLUMAS COUNTY BOS

Gray Eagle Lodge asks the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and all Directors of Plumas County Health to take a fair and balanced approach to re-opening. We ask that you consider all businesses and citizens equally essential and valuable.

We are a family-owned business that has been part of the Graeagle community for 30 years. We employ 15 Plumas County residents. These team members are part of our extended family. While most of the BOS members and PCHD directors have had the luxury of working from home and receiving their pay checks, we have not. Our staff has been receiving unemployment. If PC does not allow the Governor's Stage 2 lower risk "limited hospitality" businesses to open, it will result in our employees not being able to accrue the hours necessary to maximize their Fall of 2020 unemployment. The repercussions will last well past our May 2021 opening. The economic disruption to these already challenged families will be personally, emotionally, and financially devastating for years to come. I am hoping Plumas County will consider advocating for their citizens and not penalize them because they have worked for Gray Eagle Lodge for 10, 15 or 20 years!

Our seasonal business closed the end of September 2019. If Plumas County does not let us open our business, it will result in my family not having an income for 20 months or more. Additionally, we received our PPP loan and unless we are allowed to open and pay 75% of the loan toward payroll, we will have the financial burden of paying back the entire loan. Protecting ALL lives and livelihoods should drive the equal and fair application of re-opening approval. Please don't let these be competing priorities in Plumas County.

Thank you for your consideration!

Bret Smith, Owner

DaForno, Nancy

From: Joanne Williamson <feathersgraeagle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:41 PM
To: public
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT from FEATHERS in Graeagle

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As a business owner and the Chair of the Graeagle Merchants Association, I am hearing and experiencing first hand the damaging financial impact and hardship that the continued closures are having on our businesses in Graeagle, Blairsden and surrounding areas.

As other counties and states are opening up around us, the people are coming and many of our businesses are forced to remain closed (ie: retail, lodging, salons/spas, gyms, fitness studios, dental, physical therapy and more) or are open with limitations and reduced work force (ie: restaurant take out only). Our businesses RELY on the peak tourist seasons from May-October in order to survive the slower months.

The businesses are the heart of our communities. We are the supporters to locals and tourists, fundraisers, community events and more. PLEASE help us to re-open so we can try and salvage what we can.

Regards,
Joanne Williamson | owner
FEATHERS | home + gift
775-225-6840

DaForno, Nancy

From: Karen Steele <karen@twentymilehouse.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:10 PM
To: public
Subject: Twenty Mile House Public Comments for 05_12_2020 Supervisor Meeting

Dear Plumas County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the Plumas County COVID-19 reopening plan. We have been the owners for the last 10 years of the Twenty Mile House, a wedding venue in Cromberg, Plumas County.

We understand decision making around COVID-19 is not easy. However we are concerned with how decisions are being made and the impact these continued business closures will have. These include:

- The goal for the shutdown was not based on eliminating COVID-19. Mitigation is the goal along with flattening the curve, ensuring hospital capacity and the ability to test and contact trace. This goal has been achieved.
- The majority of our income and employment happens between May and October. It is becoming critical that decisions are made to provide us a reopen date to avoid economic disaster and enable us to make the best decisions for our clients and the business.
- We have submitted detailed reopening plans that exceed those outlined by the County. These include the key details of:
 - Our weddings are private events which makes it easy to control and pre-screen our guests.
 - Our weddings are hosted in a large outdoor setting.
 - Our private weddings book our entire property limiting their contact with other outside parties and the local community.
 - We have extensive plans to protect our local staff and vendors to further mitigate impacts on the local community.

As the closure extends the economic situation is starting to become critical for the Twenty Mile House. We have been part of the history of Plumas County for over 160 years. Over the last 10 years, we have put everything into building the Twenty Mile House into a thriving wedding business in the County. This business is everything to us. It is our sole income and what provides for our family.

The Twenty Mile House has provided many great employment and economic opportunities to the community. We provide an important financial foundation for a number of other long term small businesses in our community we have partnered with including Gray's Flower Garden, Pangaea, Southern Accent Catering, Composing Reality Photography, DJ Wildsmile, Grandma Jane's Place and other lodging facilities.

We are committed to working with Plumas Health to assist in protecting the safety of the local community while also balancing the need for the economy and our business to restart.

Sincerely,

Karen Steele & Kevin Gage
Owners
Twenty Mile House

--

Karen Steele
Owner



TWENTY MILE HOUSE

CO-ESTATE WEDDING VENUE

Ph: 530 836 0375

www.TwentyMileHouse.com

DaForno, Nancy

From: Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce <1984epcc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:47 PM
To: public
Subject: Public Comment

Hi Nancy, Can you please include the following comments in tomorrow's B.O.S. Meeting? Thank you

The Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center strongly urges the Plumas County Board of Supervisors to re-open businesses in Plumas County. We have all suffered tremendously and have complied and followed recommendations and guidelines set forth by State and Local Officials. It's time to allow us to re-open using set guidelines and mitigation procedures along with common sense and personal responsibility. We all want to stay safe and recognize the importance continuing to keep our communities healthy. Please consider our economic health, as well, and vote to let us open up responsibly.

Thank you for your consideration, Jan Tew

Chamber Administration
The Lost Sierra Visitor's Center
Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce
8989 Highway 89 Suite 3
PO Box 1043
Blairsden, CA 96103
Tel (530) 836 6811
Fax (530) 836 6809
Email: 1984epcc@gmail.com
www.lostsierrachamber.com

Chamber Administration

The Lost Sierra Tourist Center
Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce
8989 Highway 89 Suite 3
PO Box 1043
Blairsden, CA 96103
Tel (530) 836 6811
Fax (530) 836 6809
Email: 1984epcc@gmail.com
www.lostsierrachamber.com

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DaForno, Nancy

From: Gayle McDowell <mcdowell3181@att.net>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:45 PM
To: DaForno, Nancy
Subject: Fw: Re-open barber shops and beauty salons

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Jeff Engel <jeffengel@countyofplumas.com>
To: Gayle McDowell <mcdowell3181@att.net>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020, 03:40:02 PM PDT
Subject: RE: Re-open barber shops and beauty salons

Good Afternoon Gayle and Bill,

Thank you for your email. I would sure appreciate if you would send a copy of this titled "For Public Comment" to be read at tomorrow's BOS Meeting. Please email to Nancy DaForno at

PCBS@countyofplumas.com

Thank you very much,
Jeff Engel
530. 218.3665

From: Gayle McDowell [mcdowell3181@att.net]
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Jeff Engel
Subject: Re-open barber shops and beauty salons

We support any effort to allow our barber shops and beauty salons to open. Since we in the county are already having to wear masks and practice safe distancing, why not allow the barbers and beauticians to open using these same precautions. Common sense should dictate that Plumas County should not be treated as if it is Los Angeles County.

Sincerely, Bill and Gayle McDowell

DaForno, Nancy

From: Dan McDonald <camplaymanresort@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 4:16 PM
To: DaForno, Nancy
Cc: lwilke5569@yahoo.com; aespccountyofplumas.com
Subject: County's tourist season is beginning without Camp Layman

Dear members of the Board,

This is Dan McDonald. My wife Shelley Wilkerson and I own Camp Layman near Graeagle. Our small resort has 13 rustic cabins that we rent to visitors from April through November. It is our only income. And we are still closed.

I imagine you are aware that people from all over the region are visiting Plumas County right now. All I have to do is look out my window and I can see folks fishing and playing in the river. These out-of-county visitors park their cars a couple hundred yards from Camp Layman. When we drive through Portola, Graeagle or venture to Lake Davis we see as many out-of-state license plates as we do California plates. And who knows how many Californians are here from the Sacramento Valley? I'm not complaining about them. Most of the visitors appear to be following social distancing guidelines and wearing masks when they visit local businesses.

I'm also seeing lots of RVs on the road; which is normal for May. They are pulling into our local trailer parks. I know for a fact that some of those trailers, although they are here all summer, are owned by people from outside the county. Many RV owners come up to stay in their trailers over the weekend and then head back to their homes in Reno, Sacramento or other metropolitan areas.

One of our regular housekeepers is seeing the influx of visitors. This time of year she would normally be cleaning cabins at Camp Layman five days per week. Since we are not allowed to open, she is cleaning homes that are Airbnb rentals. Visitors are staying in Plumas County, just not at Camp Layman.

I doubt I have told you anything new. And I realize that the county doesn't have enough officers to round-up all the rule breakers. Instead, why not let lodging providers like Camp Layman open our rooms to the public? We have worked extremely hard over the past month to devise new cleaning and social-distancing protocols to make the camp safe for staff and guests. Our new plan goes above and beyond the COVID Operating Plan for Businesses that was produced by Plumas County.

Camp Layman's isolated cabins in the forest provide a much lower probability of spreading germs than any business that hosts the public indoors or even curbside. Our guests are usually families that share a cabin the same way they share their home. Under our COVID Operating Plan there will be no co-mingling of people who aren't in the same family or cabin. And our two housekeepers have absolutely zero contact with our guests. It's about as "low-risk" as it could be.

These are hard times for everyone, including yourselves. Nothing like this has ever happened in our lifetimes, and hopefully never will again. People feel like they have lost control of almost everything. But one thing we *can* control is to minimize the economic damage to our local businesses and the county. If lodging providers like Camp Layman are allowed to go out of business, our tourism-dependent county will have a much tougher time getting back on its feet when things get better. ... And they WILL get better.

Thank you for your time.

Dan McDonald
Camp Layman
530-836-1430
contactus@camplayman.com

DaForno, Nancy

From: Shelley Hunter <shelley.l.hunter@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 12:40 PM
To: DaForno, Nancy
Subject: comment for BOS meeting

Hello Nancy DaForno,

I am writing to you for a comment to be submitted to the BOS meeting Tuesday, May 12 in regard to re-opening hospitality as soon as possible.

I received this info this morning and I want to know the steps that have been taken, and if not all steps have been taken, what is the timeline to complete the criteria to submit to the State.

I reiterate our need to open to leisure travel with safeguards in place as soon as possible. Government assistance to small businesses is seriously flawed and lacking any real support. Waiting till end of summer to open is a death sentence.

California Provides More Clarity on When Lodging Can Open for Leisure Business

While the State provided guidelines for opening hotels (see below), the timing of when hotels can begin accepting leisure business remains unknown. Some hospitality business will be opened *later* in Stage 2 and it appears hotels accepting leisure guests are in Stage 3. Officials also laid out criteria for counties that hope to open sooner than the state more broadly, including opening restaurants for dine-in service. The county must certify, among other things, that:

- There has been no more than one Covid-19 case per 10,000 residents in the past 14 days.
- There has been no Covid-19 death in the past 14 days.
- Testing is available for at least 75 percent of residents within a 30 minute drive in urban areas and an hour in rural ones.
- At least 15 people are trained and ready to work as contact tracers per 100,000 residents. In small counties, there should be at least one.
- Temporary housing is available for at least 15 percent of the county's homeless population in case of an outbreak.
- Hospital capacity can accommodate a surge of 35 percent as a result of new Covid-19 cases.

Although the criteria are aimed at counties where leaders want to ease restrictions sooner than the state, the list gives more shape to the six indicators that officials said they'll be tracking to determine when it's safe to lift the stay-at-home order.

Thank you,

--

Shelley Hunter

Shelley.L.Hunter@gmail.com

quincyfeatherbed.com

Quincy Feather Bed Inn: 530-283-3000

Located behind the courthouse in historic downtown Quincy.

542 Jackson Street | Quincy, Calif. 95971

DaForno, Nancy

From: Karen Steele <karen@twentymilehouse.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 12:57 PM
To: DaForno, Nancy; sherrie.thrall@almanorpost.com; Simpson, Lori; Jeff Engel
Subject: Twenty Mile House COVID-19 Reopen Comments
Attachments: TwentyMileHouseReopenLetterPlumasBoardofSupervisors.pdf

Hello Plumas County Board of Supervisors,

We are writing to you from the Twenty Mile House, a wedding venue in Cromberg, Plumas County regarding policy decision making for reopening of businesses in Plumas County. I have also attached this email as a letter in a word document to be submitted as a public comment during upcoming meetings for reopening.

I recently spoke to Jerry Sikes regarding reopening plans. I understand this is a difficult situation and decision making around COVID-19 is not easy. However I am concerned with how these decisions are being made.

On my phone discussion with Jerry Sikes on Friday, May 9 when I asked about reopening plans for the hospitality industry including lodging and weddings he stated:

We are waiting until Memorial Weekend when we expect to see an influx of visitors and then we will have to wait 3 weeks after this to see if there is a spike in cases and then we will decide on reopening plans.

Jerry Sikes clearly indicated that they would not even be considering the decision of reopening any lodges or the wedding industry until at least the end of June based on these findings. Therefore these industries, very important to the economy of Plumas County are being expected to wait until the end of June before the Health Department will even address any reopening plans for them.

Our concerns with this are as follows:

- This plan does not seem to be based on the current data or other indicators for reopening. We are not sure at all what scientific data this reopening plan is based on. Instead it seems it is just a general decision that has been made by Dr. Satterfield and the Health Department on wanting to just wait and see what happens.
- The goal for the shutdown was never based on eliminating COVID-19. It has been clearly stated that this time has passed in the United States and that mitigation is the goal along with flattening the curve and ensuring hospital capacity was not overwhelmed. This goal has been achieved and should be the basis on how reopening is decided upon.
- Continuing to keep businesses shut and people unemployed after already 2 months of closures when this goal has already been achieved makes no sense and is excessively restrictive.
- In a community such as Plumas County where the majority of income and employment happens between May and October, at this point in the year the waiting to see what happens approach does not seem to best serve the community as a whole.
- A detailed reopening plan must be provided to the business community with dates in place. With the peak lodging and wedding season underway we need to be able to provide our customers with clear answers. In addition we require this information to be able to make decisions as a business to ensure our survival.

- The wedding industry has become an important economic aspect of Plumas County and provides significant employment and revenue for the County and the local economy including many local businesses.
- Businesses in the community have been submitting detailed reopening plans that go beyond those outlined by the County. These are not being considered by the Health Department and they have asked us not to submit that but instead go along with their guidelines. If we are able to meet and exceed their guidelines it does not make sense we are forced to remain closed.
- Businesses and the local community should be given more of a voice in the decision making for reopening plans to ensure these are made on a basis that balances both the need to mitigate COVID-19 while ensuring there does not end up being a devastating economic impact on the entire community that causes more public health issues.
- Visitors are currently coming into Plumas County already unrestricted with little or no oversight. When this is already happening forcing local businesses to stay shut and local people unemployed seems to only serve as providing economic devastation to the community rather than mitigating COVID-19.

It is unlikely that the Twenty Mile House will survive the year without having to declare bankruptcy if we are unable to start hosting weddings in the near future. We are daily having concerned couples contacting us for updates on reopening. In addition we are starting to be served and threatened with lawsuits by clients due to COVID19 closures and impacts. This is devastating both for the Twenty Mile House and personally to our family.

As a wedding venue we do not have the same flexibility such as retail stores or restaurants. We will not be able to even begin taking in revenue or operating for at least 2 months after we are allowed to open. Weddings are planned well in advance and couples are wanting to reschedule their weddings 2-3 months in advance of their wedding date due to the logistics. We cannot open our doors the day after it is announced we can. So if by the end of June we are not able to announce we can operate that will have ultimately ended the season for us as by then even our Fall weddings would have wanted to reschedule.

The Twenty Mile House has provided many employment opportunities in the County over the last 10 years. We have been very generous with our staff over the years, ensuring they are well taken care of. We are known as a great place to work in the community. Unfortunately we have had to let go the majority of our long term dedicated staff at this time. For many of our staff their employment with the Twenty Mile House has provided them with a purpose and improved their life situation immensely. It is not in the best interest for our staff to be sitting home on unemployment. With no opening day currently in sight we are not able to bring them back on for employment.

In addition we provide an important financial foundation for a number of other long term small businesses in our community. We committed early on to finding ways to keep our impact as local as we can and created strong long term vendor partnerships with a number of local small businesses including Gray's Flower Garden, Pangaea, Southern Accent Catering, Composing Reality Photography, DJ Wildsmile and Grandma Jane's Place. The loss of income to the Twenty Mile House directly trickles down to impact these small local businesses who rely on serving our many weddings as an important source of their income.

We also recently started to connect earlier this year before the impact of COVID19 with Plumas Rural Services in the hope of starting a partnership with them to find a way to help with developing a support program for vulnerable populations in the local area.

As you know Plumas County is a seasonal area where income for businesses such as ours occurs for just a limited time of the year from May until November. We are just coming off being closed for the winter and revenue is notoriously tight for businesses such as ours already at this time.

Twenty Mile House has been a part of the history of Plumas County for over 160 years. Since 1854 it has been a place of meeting and gathering of people and once the town of Cromberg. Our family also has a long history with the Twenty Mile House starting back from the mid 1940's.

In 2008 after losing our employment and family home in San Francisco due to the recession we moved up here with our 1 year old daughter to take over the Twenty Mile House from Kevin's mom. Over the last 10 years, starting on a shoestring budget, we have through our hard work and commitment built the Twenty Mile House into a thriving wedding business in the County.

Last year in 2019, we were very excited to finally be in a position to purchase the Twenty Mile House from Kevin's mom and fulfill a dream of owning it and continuing the family history. This business is everything to us. It is our sole income and what provides for our family. We put everything we have into the business over the last 10 years.

We understand this is a challenging public health situation. We are committed to working with Plumas Health to assist in protecting the safety of the local community while also balancing the need for the economy to restart before the County is devastated by the economic impact and the Twenty Mile House goes bankrupt and we lose everything we have worked for over the last 10 years. We believe it is unreasonable of the County to keep businesses shut in the area without providing any answers or support for these businesses to ensure their survival in a situation that has not been created by them.

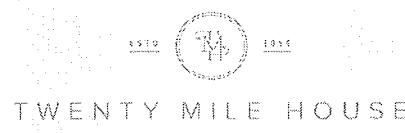
Due to their currently being no active cases of COVID19 in Plumas County we believe our plan is extensive in ensuring the safety of both our employees, guests and the local community.

We look forward to hearing your response and plans for how to get the Plumas economy and businesses back up and running.

Sincerely,

Karen Steele & Kevin Gage
Owners
Twenty Mile House

--
Karen Steele
Owner



TWENTY MILE HOUSE

ECO-ESTATE WEDDING VENUE

Ph: 530 836 0375

www.TwentyMileHouse.com



TWENTY MILE HOUSE

ECO-ESTATE WEDDING VENUE

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Karen Steele & Kevin Gage
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