

Dear Board of Supervisors and Sheriff Kendall,

I am writing to urge you to follow the lead of other rural counties in reopening Mendocino County and lifting the Shelter in Place orders. The social, economic and political ramifications of continuing to inhibit both the public and our businesses are far more costly than continuing with the current governor-mandated approach. Please use the independent data, not the media or the governor's office, to make the leadership decision to get our economy and our people back to a more normal, and ultimately healthy, state.

Continuing with this SIP order, even with "lightened" Phase 2 restrictions, is detrimental and unfounded, due in part to many reasons, including the following:

1. We have one active case in the County - one. The risks are nearly zero.
2. Herd immunity is factual and has absolute proven scientific basis. Continuing to isolate us is a medical mistake. Those that are more compromised can continue to self-isolate as is their right in a free society.
3. The longer this continues, the more negative the societal impact. Homelessness is a disaster already in this community. Continued unemployment will exacerbate it. Law enforcement, already hamstrung by California's political stance, is now forced to release with zero bail. The result - lessened accountability for criminals and scofflaws and further erosion of our society founded on law and order.

If the reason for staying the course is to avoid the penalty the governor has threatened, I say take the penalty (withholding coronavirus emergency funding per Ted Williams Facebook post citing LA Times 5/8/20). The State only pays 10% of this funding anyway. 75% is paid for at the federal level and I highly doubt our President will side with Governor Newsom in withholding funding. The penalty to taxpayers and businesses is far greater than the 10% the Governor may withhold. We have smart people at the County, please do the math on this business decision.

Esteemed Board and Sheriff, beyond the data, I urge you to consider where this situation can ultimately take us in this nation if you do not stand up and say no to the inevitable government overreach that will result from economic collapse. If you have taken your oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, the time is now. Follow the lead of the other brave counties who have said no to the unconstitutional acts of our governor's office. End the Shelter in Place and let us get back to fighting the flu and restarting the economy.

With respect,

Aaron Niderost
Ukiah, CA
5th District