

July 21, 2020

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Re: 5a Covid

Dear Board,

There has been much discussion about the effects of uncontrolled tourism in our County. I know that Dr. Doohan has said that they have not been able to link Covid directly to tourism, but at the same time she has said that they have not been able to eliminate it as a source. It seems to me that it is inevitable that people coming into our area will be “vectors” for the virus. We now have the first incident of a person testing positive for Covid after leaving the Hill House in Mendocino.

I operate a vacation rental in Albion, and a friend of mine operates one in Mendocino, and we are both operating in strict compliance with the Health Orders of “one family unit”. Recently she had guests staying, when several cars arrived with adults and children ,against the agreement that they had signed, thus creating a “gathering”. She told them they had to leave immediately. Vacation rentals can “meeting places” for people ,and it very difficult to control. With over 600 vacation rentals county wide, I am sure that this type of situation is happening more than we know.

In addition to this problem, there are many reports of out of town people not taking the health orders seriously, becoming combative at times, and stressing businesses as they try to require compliance.

There are also reports of people with campers parking and camping on the streets of Fort Bragg as other Counties have decreased availability of services.

Andrew Cuomo, on Friday was asked what are the problems they are facing, in NY, now that their cases numbers are under control. He said reinfection from outside the area. They have imposed a 14 day mandatory quarantine for anyone coming into their State from certain areas, with a \$2000.00 fine for violations. This is when they have low numbers. Our numbers are rapidly increasing and we have no controls such as these.

There are many people who want to see a roll back which will help to control the massive influx of people from outside. After all, we are in a Pandemic. This would have to be accomplished with a closing or reduction in allowable occupancy percentage of lodging, camping, etc. I think this is needed at this time in order to protect our County. I would close lodging for a period of time until we have some control over this virus. If there is too much pushback against this idea, then a reduction of occupancy to a maximum of 30—40% would help. What is in place now is not working.

Best regards,

Ron Stark  
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