

# County of Placer

## Board of Supervisors

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August 5, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: COVID-19 Statewide Response

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write this letter to first express my sincere gratitude for your efforts on behalf of the State of California to fight SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19). Few, if any of us, could have predicted in January and February of this year the coming devastation that would be thrust upon our local communities, state, country, and world.

I further thank you for the recent distribution of the CARES Act dollars to the County of Placer. At the local government level, we have also worked hard to fight Covid-19. As a county supervisor, I witnessed firsthand Covid-19's catastrophic effect on children, adults, businesses, and churches (to name only a few). I know the federal CARES Act dollars will help our county address a small portion of the loss suffered by the residents of Placer County (for which I am grateful).

My constituents have asked me questions about the State's response to the Covid-19 public health emergency. At the local level, there is a sincere confusion as to your strategy to address Covid-19. Some businesses are forced to close while other businesses are open even though the risk of spreading Covid-19 is logically indistinguishable between the two businesses. You have frequently stated that the State response will be dictated by science, but the science to date has shown that there is an extremely low statistical chance (i.e. thousandths of one-percent of the state population) that any given person in the state will be hospitalized and die from Covid-19.

It has been expressed to me that at this point in the state of emergency, you cannot stop the Covid-19 spread rate without literally destroying our society. For example, a plan to suppress social interaction until the spread rate drops to a specific number could take years given that a successful vaccine is not guaranteed and people may not take a vaccine because, among other reasons, it was rushed to production without proper vetting. If the goal is to reduce the spread rate, then what is the acceptable spread rate and how are you balancing the negative physical, mental, and economic effects created by the shut-down itself?

By emphasizing standard, accepted precautions (e.g. social distancing, hand washing, face coverings, etc., etc.) but allowing normal business to occur for persons that are not the truly at risk population, like the elderly or physically compromised, wouldn't the state naturally move toward herd immunity, without a significant increase in the infection fatality rate? Why couldn't the State pivot toward a herd immunity policy while making sure the social supports, medical capacity and PPE are available to treat the at-risk populations?

That is, until immunity is achieved either through the natural spread process or through a vaccine, the state could focus the emergency response on the at-risk population, not the entire population.

Some constituents wonder if politics have taken over the State's response to Covid-19 and that after the November election there will be a dramatic shift in the State's response. I agree with you that during this time we must set politics aside. We all must continue to work together to find the best solutions to combat Covid-19 at all levels of government. I thank you in advance for taking the time to consider and respond to my correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonnie M Gore". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bonnie Gore, Chair (District 1)  
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors  
Todd Leopold, Placer County Executive Officer  
Shaw/Yoder/Antwih