



Ramirez, Angelica

LATE
DIST

From: CORI HAYMAN <corihayman@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 10:38 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Supervisor Das Williams; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter; Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: Public Comment for Board Hearing on 3/31/2020, Agenda Item D-1; 20-00235 (COVID-19)
Attachments: letter 203272020.pdf; ATT00001.htm

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Dear Clerk of the Board of Supervisors:

Please read into the record the following comments to the Board of Supervisors and accept for submission the attached document. Thank you.

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Attached please accept for public comment a letter prepared by Brian Goebel and sent to various elected officials stressing the need for daily, timely, and complete data reporting by the State of California regarding COVID-19 for purposes of accurate modeling and transparency. It is worth noting that, as of March 30th (10:30 am), the State has not provided updated data on COVID-19 since 2:00 pm on March 27th, **nearly three full days**.

Since the Board of Supervisor's meeting of last week, the County Public Health Department has greatly improved its daily data reporting to the public on COVID-19 in Santa Barbara County. For purposes of monitoring when the curve is flattening, please consider directing County Health to provide bar graphs or similar visual tools demonstrating the daily rate of new infections, hospitalizations, and other relevant data. The Los Angeles Times has a tracking tool for your reference.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cori Hayman.

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, California

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Senator, 19th District, California

The Honorable Monique Limon
Assemblymember, 37th District, California

The Honorable Das Williams
Supervisor, 1st District, Santa Barbara County

Via electronic and U.S. mail

Re: *In furtherance to my letter dated March 23, 2020 – The State and Counties must collect and publish the data necessary to assess whether the State has successfully flattened the curve*

Elected Officials,

I am writing to follow-up on my letter dated March 23, 2020, regarding whether the statewide stay at home order was both necessary to “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 hospitalizations (to avoid overburdening our healthcare system) and worth its enormous collateral costs.

As I stated, I support the goal of flattening the curve. That has not changed.

Since writing my initial letter, it is worth noting that there has been substantial reporting in the LA Times, Wall Street Journal, and other respected publications documenting the concerns I raised earlier: The stay at home order is triggering an economic collapse in California; the combination of stock market losses combined with job losses in our State will decimate our public finances; and there will be collateral public and mental health consequences that will be felt in our State for months (if not years). In light of these enormous collateral costs, I continue to urge you to lift the stay at home order as soon as it is clear that California has flattened the curve and can maintain a flattened curve with more tailored and less disruptive public health measures.

How will we know when this has occurred?

As I wrote previously, the State needs to “immediately develop and publicize objective criteria for assessing when to end the stay at home order. As data come in over the next 2.5 weeks, we can far more accurately model our actual trajectory weeks and months into the future and discern whether we have flattened the curve.” To date, none of this has been done, and the lack of transparency on this issue given the sacrifices the public is being asked to bear in order to flatten the curve is, quite frankly, appalling:

- I have called on the State to publish its model for healthcare capacity so that it can be peer reviewed. It has not done so. The perils of this approach are now obvious – the initial study by the Imperial College that predicted massive healthcare system capacity shortages in the UK (and has been relied on by many policy makers in the U.S.) – has now been substantially revised *downward*. Moreover, assumptions of a 20% hospitalization rate for those infected may prove to be much too high. In New York, which has the most cases in the U.S., the hospitalization rate is roughly 12%.

- The State is not reporting the key data required to model healthcare capacity and the flattening of the curve (most counties are not reporting these data either):
 - Number of newly admitted hospital patients with COVID-19, per day;
 - The average duration of a hospital stay for an admitted COVID-19 patient;
 - Total number of available hospital beds dedicated to COVID-19 patients; and
 - Total number of hospital beds occupied each day.

With these data elements, it would be very straightforward to build a working model for healthcare system capacity and measure this capacity on a daily basis. I've built several working models with data-driven estimates for each of these data elements, and I'm sure others have done the same. My models suggest that the State has ample healthcare system capacity with 20,000 beds (although certain localities may face shortages), and this will be clear in the data by April 6th. I have published my models to promote debate and the development of even more precise predictions: www.2040matters.com. I am going to update them regularly.

Given the State's justification for its extraordinary stay at home order, it is essential that the State use objective data to inform the public in a timely manner whether our unprecedented sacrifices have flattened the curve. I implore you to ensure that this is done as soon as possible.

Lastly, as I stated in my prior letter, the State should plan for success. By April 6th, we should know whether the curve has been flattened. I believe it has been. Over the next week, the State needs to do the planning and modeling necessary to identify less disruptive public health measures that will control the rate of spread of the virus while allowing Californians to gradually return to more normal lives. In a State as large as ours, this may mean that the State should set certain minimum requirements, but then delegate to counties and municipalities the responsibility for devising tailored measures in their communities based on local population demographics and virus spread.

Thank you for your service and dedication during these unprecedented times. I am confident the actions taken since March 8th across the State have flattened the curve. But we must quantify these gains and develop a sustainable plan for living with the virus for the foreseeable future.

I would appreciate the courtesy of a reply.

Sincerely,



Brian C. Goebel
Montecito, California

cc: The Honorable Salud Carbajal, U.S. Representative, 24th District
The Honorable Peter Adam, Supervisor, 4th District, Santa Barbara County
Ms. Mona Miyasato, CEO, Santa Barbara County