



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

**Re: Connecting**

1 message

Terry Kayes &lt;kayes.gov@gmail.com&gt;

Mon, Jul 20, 2020 at 10:40 AM

To: Chris Fiore &lt;cfiore@cityofslt.us&gt;

Cc: jirvin@cityofslt.us, John Hidahl <bosone@edcgov.us>, Shiva Frentzen <bostwo@edcgov.us>, Brian Veerkamp <bostthree@edcgov.us>, Lori Parlin <bosfour@edcgov.us>, Sue Novasel <bosfive@edcgov.us>, Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@edcgov.us>, Don Ashton <don.ashton@edcgov.us>, David Livingston <david.livingston@edcgov.us>, Don Semon <don.semon@edcgov.us>, "Dr. Nancy Williams" <nancy.williams@edcgov.us>, Greg Stanton <greg.stanton@edcgov.us>, Tiffany Schmid <tiffany.schmid@edcgov.us>, Rafael Martinez <rafael.martinez@edcgov.us>, edc.cob@edcgov.us

Greetings Chris Fiore (Communications Manager ,City of South Lake Tahoe),

Well, we finally managed to connect. Ironically, that initial connection was made the same day (Saturday, July 2020) the first death due to "complications from COVID-19" in El Dorado County occurred (if reported correctly), by a male (over age-65) resident of the Lake Tahoe region.

Given the naked disregard of the warnings of public-health and COVID-19 experts of the high risk of spreading and of greatly exacerbating the COVID-19 pandemic, by large numbers of people driving, visiting, recreating, running routine errands, towing boats and other recreational equipment, and conducting business along the U.S. Highway 50 corridor, from Folsom to the Nevada state line, I now find myself wondering if the county and municipal governments, as well as more responsible, less-frivolous residents of El Dorado County, are anytime soon going to recognize the very-large threat the pandemic over the next 2 to 3 years poses to both the near- and long-term health of the region's residents, its health-care system, and its economy -- especially if the region in the months ahead (e.g., next fall, winter and spring of 2021) is identified as an "epicenter" of increasingly severe surges or

outbreaks of the pandemic in the Sacramento, San Francisco Bay Area, and other high-population urban and large suburban areas in California.

Aside from my research and public-policy background in the integrative and environmental sciences, as well as probabilistic and statistical analyses, my "up-close" observations from my residence on 5 Mile Road west of the community of Camino about 60 feet from the north side of Highway 50 since about 2 weeks before the Memorial Day weekend (May 23-25), and especially over the weekend of July 3-5, the levels of motor-vehicle traffic along and in the-near vicinity of Highway 50 (as well as disregard for both the state's and the county's COVID-19 guidelines) were extraordinarily high -- as high or higher than I have ever seen in years past, with no serious pandemic).

In terms of the mathematics of probability, the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had (due to random good luck) remarkably modest human-health impacts on El Dorado County is totally irrelevant to potential multifaceted health, economic, and other adverse impacts in the weeks and months ahead -- which could easily, based on a few simple calculations, exceed 100 residents of the county dead, due directly to COVID-19 (not counting the deaths in other countries whose residents contracted the virus while visiting in the Tahoe region and elsewhere in El Dorado County), before the pandemic ends or significantly subsides statewide in 2021 or 2022 (or possibly later in similar or a genetically-different mutant form).

Add to this the very real possibility that the pandemic could continue in intermittently in unexpected surges for far longer, and that the development of a safe, efficacious,



long-lasting, cost-effective vaccine could be produced in sufficiently large amounts to protect very-large populations of people in less than 5-7 years, if ever. To think that the development of such an effective vaccine for any and all disease-causing viruses, especially an airborne coronavirus, is always possible, is a classic example of cliché-based wishful thinking. It's also a form of "denialism" that can often have very tragic consequences when applied to human health and safety. History is full of examples of nations and societies "brought to their knees" by such thinking.

I began "tracking" and "studying up" -- as well as networking nationally -- on the evolving COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. starting in February 2020, not long after it was first reported as being diagnosed in Washington, California, and other states. I really started to focus on it increasingly after my wife, Mary Jane, died on March 9th, at the close of 2 years of steadily declining health. Rarely in my over 35 years of experience working in science and public policy have I seen more muddled and haphazard "buck-passing" and "spineless decision-making" by government entities at all levels, as well as much of society as a whole, as I've seen over the months in the U.S., relative to the COVID-19 pandemic -- much of it propelled by a stunning ignorance of the lessons of history and a blind disregard of the known science.

If El Dorado County and the City of South Lake Tahoe governments, as well as other entities, want my (experience-based) insights on science-based approaches of how to deal with the COVID-19 situation (quite possibly in tandem with a catastrophic hurricane and tornado season, as well as a bad flu season, in the months ahead), I

am willing to help, to the extent my time and energy allow. My sense to date is that many local and county governments nationwide, and especially in California, are in a quandary and highly uncertain on how to proceed, in light of the recent dramatic increase in the intensity and lack of predictability of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An old saying has it that "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink."

Long experience has taught me to not waste my time or energy on people, private companies, or government entities that disregard science-based experienced-based advise out of near-term expedience, fear of plain facts, and willful incompetence.

If the City of South Lake Tahoe wants my insights on how to proceed in dealing with the COVID-19 situation, then it needs to so inform me before the end of July 2020.

California and El Dorado County are fast running out of time, to avoid a potentially-avoidable human-health and economic calamity, the adverse consequences of which could go on for years. There are no certainties in dealing with infectious diseases -- especially when they have reached serious-pandemic levels.

It may well be already too late to do anything more than to head off or curtail the worse that might happen in El Dorado County and the Lake Tahoe region, if the past seemingly-ongoing hesitance to implement "best practices," plus enforce guidelines proscribed by "documented leading experts on viral pandemics" and backed by the force of legal government directives, to get the fast-worsening COVID-19 situation under control and down to a low and far-more treatable levels. To do otherwise, in my opinion, would constitute "willful negligence" -- putting political expediency and





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I am e-mailing a copy of this message to Mr. Joe Irvin, City Manager, of the City of South Lake Tahoe, as well as the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, selected administrators and staff.

I look forward to your reply, or that of Mr. Irvin.

Best regards.

Terrence B. Kayes, PhD (Retired from University of Wisconsin-Madison)  
Integrative and Environmental Scientist (Grew up in/near Chico, California)  
2963 Five Mile Road (Off of U.S. Highway 50, west of Camino, California)  
PI

On Fri, Jul 17, 2020 at 3:42 PM Chris Fiore <[cfiore@cityofslt.us](mailto:cfiore@cityofslt.us)> wrote:  
Please send me and email and I will have the conversation with our city manager.

Chris Fiore

This is a verified communication from the City of South Lake Tahoe. If you suspect that this message was not sent from a verified source, contact the City of South Lake Tahoe IT department at [it@cityofslt.us](mailto:it@cityofslt.us)