

May 8, 2020

Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board County of Nevada  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Nevada County Stay-at-Home Order Stage 2 Reopening

Dear Ms. Patterson Hunter,

I am a business owner and resident in Grass Valley. I've served on the Grass Valley Planning Commission for eight years (seven as the chair), I'm a board member for the Nevada County Contractors Association (NCCA), I'm a member of the Tahoe-Truckee Contractors Association (CATT), I co-chaired the Yes on Measure E committee for the City of Grass Valley's sales tax measure, I've been a past president and board member of the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation. I participated in the Nevada County Community Leadership Institute (NCCLI). I've volunteered and served for many other non-profits in the community. I say this to give context that I am well aware of many challenges and aspects of our community.

On March 19th, Governor Newsom issued his shelter-in-place order, just over seven weeks ago now, 43 days as of writing you this. We all participated in the closing of non-essential businesses. My wife is a dental hygienist and was immediately laid off. She's been home now home schooling our daughter and taking care of our toddler son. As a general contractor and an essential business I continued work taking proper precautions for myself, my employees, and all the workers we come in contact with. This is a challenging thing no doubt for anyone who wants to continue to work. But we did everything we were supposed to do from the very beginning.

The point of flattening the curve was to prevent the hospital system from being over run by the pandemic. As we sit here on day 43 it never has been. In fact hospitalizations have been on a steady week over week decline since April 4<sup>th</sup> in California. We currently have no cases at all for the last 5 days in Nevada County. In fact it has been three weeks since the last case was recorded. The sacrifices made by everyone has worked. It's time we get Nevada County fully re-opened and back to work.

Over the last week I have seen neighboring counties be first to write letters to the Governor to demand that they be allowed to reopen their counties. These counties have similar data now to what we have in Nevada County. Several are even open right now with precautions. I've seen our US congressional members, Doug LaMalfa and Tom McClintock, both advocating strongly to reopen us and neighboring counties. The City of Grass Valley even is working on their own plan to start to reopen and yet we hear nothing from the county leaders or supervisors about doing anything other than follow the state guidelines. As someone who has been a champion of Grass Valley it sickens me to see the economic hub of Western Nevada County seem to have no backing or support from the County. What works for LA or San Francisco should not be what works for Nevada County. People leave those areas to come here because we are NOT like those areas. At least we used to not be...

The more we learn about the virus the more frustrating this is. We now know it is far less lethal than thought. Yes we need to protect the elderly but for the families and businesses that are suffering we need to get back to work already. The unintended consequences of this shut down at this point are going to far out weigh the destruction of the virus its self. The mental health issues, divorces, suicides, drug use, and sexual abuse that will be discovered after this shut down I believe is going to

rock our world and we will be sick about what we've done by letting this continue for so long.

I really do feel strongly a sense of betrayal to myself and my family and to the business community as a whole for the lack of leadership that I'm seeing right now. As elected officials I think it is time for you to stand up for us. The families, the small businesses, who are going to be financially and emotionally devastated if we do not open up. You all get paid a guaranteed salary, but I have to face the uncertainty of having any business in the future. I have to look my kids in the eye and find a way to feed and clothe them. You might say, well you are an essential business and you didn't have to shut down, and that is true. But for a General Contractor it's a long game to get work. If you don't have work coming in then you won't have food on the table in the future. My clients take 4-24 months to develop and the building season ends for starts in the late fall. If I don't get another new job in the next month I'm not sure how I'm going to survive. I have work now but I don't have work for next winter and the window to get that started is closing fast. We need Nevada County to open.

The freedoms we have lost in this pandemic seem like they will never be the same after. But we won't even have freedoms if you don't stand up now and find a voice to say it's time. If you do that we will support you. We will applaud that action and be grateful. And if you don't we won't forget. And as a small business owner I won't feel bad when the county sees a massive deficit in the budget. For me and my fellow business owners of Nevada County support our rights as citizens to get back to work, serve our community and restore our lively hoods. The lack of action will only depress our community and the economy for years to come. Be the solution now.

Please send a letter to California's Governor and terminate the current state of emergency declaration, give local control back to the County of Nevada and reopen our businesses, save our families, and save your Nevada County. If you don't business are going to start the process of reopening on their own and it will start a flood of overwhelming animosity between the County and the people. They are just trying to feed their families and provide for their employees. People are suffering and many don't have the luxury of having a regular paycheck. They are taking steps even now to secure their safety and financial situation as any freedom loving American would want to. Please start leading from the top and make a stand for the freedoms your constituents desire for themselves and our community.

Sincerely,



Daniel Swartzendruber  
Tru-Line Builders, Inc., President

CC: Alison Lehman, CEO  
Dist. 1, Heidi Hall, Chair of the Board  
Dist. 2, Ed Scofield  
Dist. 3, Dan Miller, Vice Chair of the Board  
Dist. 4, Sue Hoek  
Dist. 5, Richard Anderson

Tim Kiser, Grass Valley City Manager  
Grass Valley City Council:  
Lisa Swarthout, Mayor  
Ben Aguilar, Vice Mayor  
Jan Arbuckle  
Howard Levine  
Hillary Hodge

## Julie Patterson-Hunter

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**From:** Daniel Swartzendruber [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 8, 2020 2:27 PM  
**To:** BOS Public Comment  
**Subject:** Letter for Public Comment - BOS Meeting Tuesday, May 12 9am  
**Attachments:** BOS Letter to Reopen Nevada County.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Julie,

I'm submitting the attached letter for public comment during the BOS Meeting May, 12 at 9am. Please confirm this is received.

Thank you!

Daniel

**Tru-Line Builders, Inc.**  
Daniel Swartzendruber, *President*  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Sandy Mills [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 11:28 AM  
**To:** BOS Public Comment  
**Subject:** Letter to the Board of Supervisors  
**Attachments:** Letter to Nevada County Supervisors-Reopening.pdf

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My concerns regarding the Nevada County Supervisors hesitance to reopen Nevada County.



Sandy Mills, CFO



May 11, 2020

Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board County of Nevada  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Nevada County Stay-at-Home Order Stage 2 Reopening

Dear Ms. Patterson Hunter,

As resident and business owner in Nevada County, I care deeply about our communities. On March 19th, Governor Newsom issued his shelter-in-place order, closing non-essential businesses and prohibiting all non-essential travel. I knew that it was the right thing to do, to protect our community, business, and the traveling public. I commend the Governor for making this difficult decision and taking early action in the fight against COVID-19 and support the County of Nevada, issuing Stay-at-Home guidelines to keep us safe.

Nevada County is where I choose to live, because of the nice quality of life and the location in the mountains. We have grown our business here for the last 30 years. The people are what make this community strong. We have weathered catastrophes like economic recessions, and PSPS outages, events that have interrupted our lives and livelihoods, which we have faced them together, and come out the other side more resilient for having survived.

I have been keeping up to with the data on the Nevada County COVID 19 Dashboard which is a clear indication that our community has been successful in following the State and Nevada County Stay-at-Home guidelines and that those afflicted with COVID 19 have recovered. Our curve is flattened, with no new cases reported.

Daily, we wait for news from our Supervisors that measures have been taken to follow the examples of neighboring counties whose COVID 19 data mirrors our own. The Supervisors of those counties have written letters to the Governor and reopened their counties with precautions in place. We in Nevada County are compelled to remain sequestered and non-essential businesses are mandated to remain closed. It is difficult to watch our friends and neighbors go down the hill to neighboring counties to purchase goods and services or support Amazon to have their purchases mailed to them. More now than ever we really need to support local businesses to keep them from financial collapse. Dollars spent outside of Nevada County; dollars that would help us recover economically were we open.

In addition, many of those forced into confinement suffer health and mental health issues.

It is our feeling that you, as our elected officials have chosen to not stand up for us. If you do not help us reopen, many small businesses in Nevada County will perish. We ask the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to stand with the constituency of the County. To support our right as citizens to open our doors, our right as business owners to serve our community, and to restore our livelihoods.

We respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors write a resolution asking California's Governor to terminate the current state of emergency declaration, give local control back to the County of Nevada and reopen our businesses.

Sincerely,



Sandy Mills  
Alpine Aviation, Inc

May 8, 2020

Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board County of Nevada  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Nevada County Stay-at-Home Order Stage 2 Reopening

Dear Ms Patterson Hunter:

On March 19, in response to the spread of the coronavirus, Governor Newsom issued his shelter-in-place order, closing non-essential businesses and prohibiting all non-essential travel. Since that time, Nevada County has experienced a vanishingly small number of COVID cases. As of this week, there appear to be no active cases at all.

Contrast that with New York City, where on March 19 I came down with a case of COVID that nearly killed me. My wife found me comatose early that morning and called 911. The ambulance took me to the Mount Sinai Hospital West on the West Side of Manhattan. The ER confirmed me as in critical condition, COVID positive, plus bacterial pneumonia and severe hyponatremia, that is, dangerously low blood sodium. The doctors sedated me, intubated me, treated me with chloroquine and Zithromax and worked to clear the multiple threats from the disease and to restore the proper level of sodium.

After six days, they woke me up. A very friendly nurse who grew up in Sunnyvale informed me that I was the first patient in the hospital on a ventilator who would be able to get off it. "What about the others"? Answer: "Not so good." In total I spent fifteen days in the hospital.

When I went into a coma, America was open. When I finally was able to watch TV ten days later, it was shut down. "Destroying the entire economy to stop this thing strikes me as an over-reaction," that was my first thought, even as I considered the chaos around me. We are experiencing the worst economic downturn in American history, yet it was brought on not by greedy capitalists or crooked Wall Street bankers but rather by the very government we thought we elected to serve us.

In New York, I was part of a community at the very center of this storm. I learned later that a 41-year-old father of four died in the ICU on the same day that I was taken off the vent. Hundreds of people joined him in dying that day. Thousands joined me in falling ill. Every time a doctor or nurse visited me, they risked their own life. Their courage and their dedication and a gift of grace from the Lord is what kept me alive.

In such circumstances, extreme conditions justify an extreme response.

Contrast that with Nevada County. More people died in a couple of days at Mt. Sinai West than ever got the disease in Nevada County. The risk here remains low. Continuing these shutdown orders in the face of this reality feels authoritarian and unconstitutional. The residents here should be allowed to make up their own minds about the risks they wish to take. Restaurants should re-open. People should be called back to work. The schools should try to get into session within a couple of weeks. The County should no longer threaten churches with punishment if they exercise their Constitutional right to hold services.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to petition the Governor to lift his orders as they apply to Nevada County. If he does not do so, I urge the Board of Supervisors to lift them on their own.

Sincerely,

Alfred C. Jones  
Grass Valley  
Supervisory District Three

**Julie Patterson-Hunter**

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**From:** alfred jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 9, 2020 7:17 AM  
**To:** BOS Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Nevada County Stay-at-Home Order Stage 2 Reopening  
**Attachments:** Board of Supervisors May 12.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached please find a letter addressing this topic.

Thank you.

Alfred C Jones  
Grass Valley  
Supervisory District Three



## Project Proposal



May 8, 2020

Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board County of Nevada  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Nevada County Stay-at-Home Order Stage 2 Reopening

We're heartened that the data on the Nevada County COVID 19 Dashboard is a clear indication that our community has been successful in following the State and Nevada County Stay-at-Home guidelines and that those afflicted with COVID 19 have recovered. Our curve is flattened, with no new cases reported.

Daily, we wait for news from our Supervisors that measures have been taken to follow the examples of neighboring counties whose COVID 19 data mirrors our own. The Supervisors of those counties have written letters to the Governor and reopened their counties with precautions in place. We in Nevada County are compelled to remain sequestered and non-essential businesses are mandated to remain closed. It is difficult to watch our friends and neighbors go down the hill to neighboring counties to purchase goods and services while many of us are on the brink of financial collapse. Dollars spent outside of Nevada County; dollars that would help us recover economically were we open.

In addition, many of those forced into confinement suffer health and mental health issues.

It is our feeling that you, as our elected officials have chosen to not stand up for us. If you do not help us reopen, many small businesses in Nevada County will perish. We ask the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to stand with the constituency of the County. To support our right as citizens to open our doors, our right as business owners to serve our community, and to restore our livelihoods.

I respectfully request that you allow all Stage 2 businesses to reopen with guidelines as quickly as possible. Nevada County meets all the criteria that the State has outlined for reopening.

J. Chris Bozarth

Bozarth Construction

## Julie Patterson-Hunter

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**From:** Chris Bozarth <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 9, 2020 10:14 AM  
**To:** BOS Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment open letter concerning Covid19 Phase 2 reopening  
**Attachments:** Board of Supervisors letter May 2020.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to submit the attached letter to be read aloud at the Tuesday May 5th Nevada County Board of Supervisors meeting during public comments as pertains to the Covid19 reopening agenda item.

Thank you,

J. Chris Bozarth  
Bozarth Construction

**From:** Gordon Mills [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 8, 2020 6:34 PM  
**To:** BOS Public Comment  
**Subject:** COVID 19 Nevada County Stay at Home order reopening  
**Attachments:** 05-08-2020.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

RE: Nevada County Stay-at-Home Order Stage 2 Reopening

Dear Ms. Patterson Hunter,

As residents, neighbors, and business owners in Nevada County, we care deeply about our communities. On March 19th, Governor Newsom issued his shelter-in-place order, closing non-essential businesses and prohibiting all non-essential travel. We knew that it was the right thing to do, to protect our community, business, and the traveling public. We commend the Governor for making this difficult decision and taking early action in the fight against COVID-19 and support the County of Nevada, issuing Stay-at-Home guidelines to keep us safe.

Nevada County is where I choose to live. There is no other place like it. Our rich heritage, diverse culture, and quality of life make it the best place imaginable to grow a family and grow a business. The people are what make this community strong. We've weathered catastrophes like the 49er Fire, economic recessions, and PSPS outages, events that have interrupted our lives and livelihoods, but we've faced them together, and come out the other side more resilient for having survived.

We're heartened that the data on the Nevada County COVID 19 Dashboard is a clear indication that our community has been successful in following the State and Nevada County Stay-at-Home guidelines and that those afflicted with COVID 19 have recovered. Our curve is flattened, with no new cases reported.

Daily, we wait for news from our Supervisors that measures have been taken to follow the examples of neighboring counties whose COVID 19 data mirrors our own. The Supervisors of those counties have written letters to the Governor and reopened their counties with precautions in place. We in Nevada County are compelled to remain sequestered and non-essential businesses are mandated to remain closed. It is difficult to watch our friends and neighbors go down the hill to neighboring counties to purchase goods and services while many of us are on the brink of financial collapse. Dollars spent outside of Nevada County; dollars that would help us recover economically were we open.

In addition, many of those forced into confinement suffer health and mental health issues.

It is our feeling that you, as our elected officials have chosen to not stand up for us. If you do not help us reopen, many small businesses in Nevada County will perish. We ask the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to stand with the constituency of the County. To support our right as citizens to open our doors, our right as business owners to serve our community, and to restore our livelihoods.

We respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors write a resolution asking California's Governor to terminate the current state of emergency declaration, give local control back to the County of Nevada and reopen our businesses.

**Gordon Mills**  
**AlpineAviation**



May 8, 2020

Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board County of Nevada  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Nevada County Stay-at-Home Order Stage 2 Reopening

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It is our feeling that you, as our elected officials have chosen to not stand up for us. If you do not help us reopen, many small businesses in Nevada County will perish. We ask the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to stand with the constituency of the County. To support our right as citizens to open our doors, our right as business owners to serve our community, and to restore our livelihoods.

We respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors write a resolution asking California's Governor to terminate the current state of emergency declaration, give local control back to the County of Nevada and reopen our businesses.

Sincerely,



Gordon Mills  
AlpineAviation  
13310 Nevada City Ave.  
Grass Valley, CA

D. 43

May 8, 2020

Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board County of Nevada  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Nevada County Stay-at-Home Order Stage 2 Reopening

Dear Ms. Patterson Hunter,

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Daily, we wait for news from our Supervisors that measures have been taken to follow the examples of neighboring counties whose COVID 19 data mirrors our own. The Supervisors of those counties have written letters to the Governor and reopened their counties with precautions in place. We in Nevada County are compelled to remain sequestered and non-essential businesses are mandated to remain closed. It is difficult to watch our friends and neighbors go down the hill to neighboring counties to purchase goods and services while many of us are on the brink of financial collapse. Dollars spent outside of Nevada County; dollars that would help us recover economically were we open.

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It is our feeling that you, as our elected officials have chosen to not stand up for us. If you do not help us reopen, many small businesses in Nevada County will perish. We ask the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to stand with the constituency of the County. To support our right as citizens to open our doors, our right as business owners to serve our community, and to restore our livelihoods.

Our friends and neighbors throughout Nevada are preparing to open out of necessity to feed their families and employees. We do not want to be at odds with each other, but that will be the case if they do not step up to put an immediate end to the financial hardship and suffering going on all around us. The suffering is hard to see and feel if you are receiving a regular paycheck. Most of our friends and neighbors are not receiving a regular paycheck  
Sincerely,

I respectfully request that you allow all Stage 2 businesses to reopen with guidelines as quickly as possible. Nevada County meets all the criteria that the State has outlined for reopening.

Rob Sorum

Project Manager

530-273-0686 office

530-615-9645 mobile



GRAY ELECTRIC CO.

## Julie Patterson-Hunter

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**From:** Rob Sorum <rob.sorum@graelectricco.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 8, 2020 2:13 PM  
**To:** BOS Public Comment; Heidi Hall; CEO  
**Subject:** Letter to Board of Supervisors - Lack of Reopening Plan  
**Attachments:** Letter to Nevada County Supervisors-Reopening.docx

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Please find the attached for your consideration.

Thank you,

Rob Sorum  
Project Manager  
530-273-0686 office  
530-615-9645 mobile



[www.graelectricco.com](http://www.graelectricco.com)





Dist 3  
(Business)

May 8, 2020

Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board County of Nevada  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**RE: Nevada County Business Reopening**

Dear County Supervisors:

I would like to thank each of you for your leadership and support during this difficult time. The decisions you make have a direct impact to our community and I know your decisions are not taken lightly. I also understand a strong community depends on leadership, support and perseverance from many of our local businesses. I am a lifelong resident of Nevada County as well as a local business owner. The past several weeks has been extremely challenging however our community has pulled together to support each other through this unexpected public health crisis. Over the past few days however, the support and strength is beginning to wane and I believe we are reaching a tipping point that could be long lasting or even permanent for many of our community members who are limping along trying everything to stay afloat. Bottom line... OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

On March 19th, Governor Newsom issued his shelter-in-place order, closing non-essential businesses and prohibiting all non-essential travel. Given the information at the time, it was the right thing to do to protect our community. After eight weeks of putting our lives and businesses on hold for the common good, our curve has flattened and the risk to our health care system has been eliminated. Based on this recent scientific data, we respectfully request the Supervisors consideration to implement measures similar to neighboring counties whose COVID 19 data mirrors our own. The Supervisors of those counties have written letters to the Governor and reopened their counties with precautions in place. Without this step forward, I fear significant harm to our community is imminent.

People fear the unknown and I've listened to many express their fear that by opening up the economy, we are choosing financial gain over health. I strongly disagree. Both can be achieved as proven by the many "essential" business that have continued to operate in our community while practicing safe social behavior. Recent scientific data has proven this new awareness and modified behavior has made a positive impact. Now it is time to transition back to work and restore hope in the rest of our community that our cooperation has not been in vain.

It is my hope, you as our elected officials, will stand up for our community and be our loudest advocate. Without your help and support, many small businesses in Nevada County will quickly perish. You have an opportunity to make a significant and long-lasting difference by supporting our right as citizens to open our doors, our right as business owners to serve our community, and begin to restore our livelihoods.

I respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors to consider passing a resolution asking California's Governor to terminate the current state of emergency declaration, give local control back to the County of Nevada and fully reopen our businesses.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Wood  
CEO – Millennium Planning & Engineering



## Julie Patterson-Hunter

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**From:** Robert Wood <rob@millpe.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 8, 2020 1:43 PM  
**To:** BOS Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment Letter - May 12 BOS Hearing  
**Attachments:** Letter to Nevada County Supervisors.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I was hoping to submit this letter for public comment during the upcoming May 12 BOS hearing. Thanks so much for all you do. Your voices and actions are invaluable to our community. The purpose of my letter is to offer a perspective of the fear many in our community are feeling... not only the fear of an unknown virus but a fear that their livelihoods will vanish and things will never return to "normal". I care deeply about my community as all of us do... YOU have the platform to make a difference which is why I'm sending this letter.

Thanks for all you do!

**Rob Wood, AICP**  
CEO & Principal Planner

**Millennium Planning & Engineering**  
471 Sutton Way, Suite 210  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

530-446-6765 (Business)  
530-277-5092 (Cell)  
www.millenniumpe.com