Calaveras Health Officer To Step Down From Position

After 20 years of serving as Calaveras County Health Officer, Dr. Dean Kelaita has decided to step down from his position. Over that time span, he worked side-by-side with a team of dedicated and committed public health professionals and staff during his time at Calaveras Public Health. Dr. Kelaita provided medical oversight and informed decision- making for 23 different elected county supervisors during his tenure, worked with numerous county health departments, served with four different county sheriffs, and collaborated with many community partners over the years. He guided public health measures during significant public health crises including multiple disease outbreaks, the events of 9/11 and bioterrorism threats, H1N1 swine influenza, natural disasters such as the Butte fire, and now the COVID-19 novel coronavirus pandemic. In a prepared statement Kelaita said, “I have always strived to assist community leaders and decision-makers through providing unvarnished medical and scientific information, as well as technical expertise unbiased by subjectivity or partisan influence. Under the current political climate, this is no longer possible. Due to these considerations, I am resigning as Health Officer.” He went on to say, he is confident that under the leadership of Health and Human Services Agency Director Kristin Stranger and public health professional staff, they will continue to guide the community through the COVID-19 pandemic and protect the health of County residents. Calaveras Public Health is working to secure interim Health Officer support and will provide more information to the public soon.

