

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: APRIL 20, 2026
FROM: TOM DuBOIS, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC

Please find attached all correspondence received from March 31, 2026 to April 13, 2026 for your review.

ATTACHMENT

1. All correspondence received from March 31, 2026 to April 13, 2026 (5:30 PM)

Marijuana dispensary

1 message

Barbara Comnes <

Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 5:40 PM

To: Dan Riordan <driordan@cityofsuttercreek.org>, Claire Gunselman <cgunselman@cityofsuttercreek.org>,
"sfeist@cityofsuttercreek.org" <sfeist@cityofsuttercreek.org>

Cc: jswift@cityofsutter.org, "jsierk@cityofsuttercreek.org" <jsierk@cityofsuttercreek.org>

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council:

After attending Embarc's meeting Sunday, I have given more thought to what a dispensary in Sutter Creek might mean. It seems to me that in return for a percentage of Embarc's revenue, the City would make a number of significant sacrifices. Consider the following:

- Wouldn't Sutter Creek sully its very long term reputation as the *Jewel of the Mother Lode* in taking money from the sale of drugs that are not only controversial in Sutter Creek, but also still illegal at the federal level and in many states?
- Given that dispensaries are presently illegal in Amador County and all of its cities, including Sutter Creek, wouldn't a dispensary serving only Sutter Creek's City coffers not only show disrespect for Amador county's citizens, but also be divisive? In Calaveras County, which permits dispensaries, the local added taxes go to the whole county. This was decided by a vote of the people in Calaveras County, not by a city council or Board of Supervisors.
- Studies have shown that legalization of recreational cannabis has resulted in increased mental illness among youth and that today's potent cannabis in its many forms, including candy-like gummies with high levels of THC, is harmful especially to young developing brains. Other studies indicate that in communities where dispensaries have been permitted, use among youth goes up. Wouldn't a local dispensary, therefore, add to the health risks already facing our youth?
- 18-year-olds who have medical certification and are still in high school can purchase significantly more marijuana products of all sorts in dispensaries, without specification by a doctor, than adults without such certification. Since they are able to legally give away products they purchase, what would keep these teens from giving them to their friends at school?
- Won't our youth see the hypocrisy of the City permitting a marijuana dispensary and making money from the sale of such drugs (illegal at the federal level) while their schools and elders tell them to "just say no" to drugs? Isn't this a good recipe for cynicism?
- In spite of harms posed, in partnering with Embarc, the City will effectively join them, to use their CEO's own words, ". . . to deliver the kinds of experiences that break down stigma and introduce cannabis to these new communities." In other words, the City would partner with Embarc to grow the number of marijuana users in our city and county. Just considering the increase in DUI arrests related to marijuana since its legalization, do you think that is a desirable goal?
- Embarc representatives have said the company would invest whatever large funds are needed to create a dispensary in Sutter Creek that meets their usual security and design standards, even though the dispensary is described as a "pilot project" for one year. What if the City should decide to pull the plug on the dispensary? This project also lacks the usual, at times fierce, competitive bidding process. Is the City prepared to take on the legal challenges these scenarios could represent?

It is my understanding that presently the City remains solvent and expects this to be the case for the next several years at least. In the meantime the City is exploring other means for increasing its revenue. The City has met such challenges in the past without reliance on these controversial drug sales. I hope you will reject what looks like a Faustian Bargain.

Regards,

Barbara Comnes

High Potency

Consuming higher-potency THC products does not mean a better cannabis experience.

Higher-potency THC products are harder to control and come with a higher risk of adverse effects. Using them often may cause dependency in some people.

If you are new to cannabis, be careful with higher-potency products like concentrates and vape cartridges.

If you are buying cannabis, compare labels and consider lower-potency products:

- Flower with less than 20% THC
- Edibles with close to 5mg THC per serving (or consume half of a 10mg THC serving)

If you are inhaling cannabis, wait between puffs until you feel the full effect.

Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

There are risks to your baby from using cannabis. Your baby consumes what you do.

Do not use any cannabis if you are:

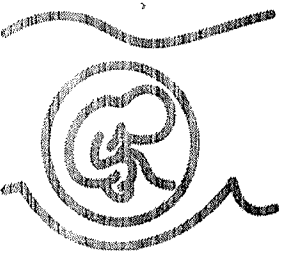
- pregnant or may be pregnant
- breastfeeding

This includes:

- inhaling cannabis (smoking, vaping, dabbing)
- eating or drinking cannabis products
- applying cannabis-infused creams or lotions

No matter how you consume cannabis, THC and other chemicals will be passed to your baby through your placenta and breastmilk.

If you use medicinal cannabis, ask your doctor about alternative treatments during pregnancy or while breastfeeding.



Effects of Cannabis Use

Wondering what to expect when using cannabis?

Cannabis has two major chemicals that affect the brain differently:

- **THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol)** makes you feel "high". How you feel depends on how much THC you take, and the effects can vary from person to person.
- **CBD (Cannabidiol)** doesn't make you feel "high", but can have other effects.

The effects of using cannabis may include:

- Trouble with thinking, remembering, and problem-solving
- Seeing or hearing things that aren't real (with high doses and/or high potency)
- Feeling like time is moving slower or faster
- Feeling relaxed or paranoid
- Having mood swings
- Having increased or decreased anxiety
- Feeling dizzy
- Having dry mouth or bloodshot eyes
- Relieving pain and reducing nausea/vomiting
- Impaired movement and coordination
- Feeling hungry
- Faster heartbeat or lower blood pressure

Edibles: Start Low, Go Slow.

Use extra caution, as the delayed onset of edibles can have unintended effects. If you consume a cannabis

edible (like brownies, gummies, or an infused beverage), it can take up to 2 hours to begin feeling the effects, and up to 4 hours to feel the full effects. This is much slower than smoking or vaping, and the "high" can feel stronger. Start with a small amount of THC (5mg or less) and wait at least 2 hours to see how you feel.

When consuming edibles, you can always take more later, but you can't take it back.

Drive High, get a DUI. Driving under the influence of cannabis is illegal and increases your risk of getting into an accident. Penalties for driving high are the same as driving drunk.

Mental Health

There are potential risks to your mental health from cannabis use.

Research suggests that mental health disorders may develop or worsen from:

- Daily cannabis use
 - Near-daily cannabis use
 - Higher-potency cannabis use
- These types of use have been linked to Cannabis Use Disorder, and may lead to:
- Hallucinations
 - Thoughts of self harm
 - Schizophrenia
 - Suicide attempts
 - Depression
 - Suicide
 - Anxiety
 - Temporary psychosis

Minors and Young Adults

Our brains actively develop until around the age of 25. Using cannabis regularly while younger can cause long-term problems with thinking and mental health.

Parents, be aware. Edibles and other cannabis products can be mistaken for food or candy. Like medications, you should keep cannabis products in child-resistant packaging. Store and dispose of cannabis products where they cannot be easily seen or accessed by children and pets.

California Poison Control: (800) 222-1222
Animal Poison Control: (888) 426-4435
Dept of Cannabis Control: cannabis.ca.gov
Dept of Public Health: cdph.ca.gov



**Department of
Cannabis Control**
CALIFORNIA

Revised 12/2024

Ensure you have the most up-to-date information



Dear Sutter Creek City Council

My concerns, as a Medical Doctor about a Marijuana Dispensary in Amador County:

You gave me the privilege to speak at the City Council Meeting on March 9, 2026. The following are my notes.

Since the legalization of Marijuana in the USA and Canada, data shows more ER visits and hospitalizations for acute cannabis induced Psychosis with hallucinations, paranoia and delusions. Ontario, Canada had an 83.7% increase in Psychosis after legalization.

Twenty-one-year-old men are at a significantly heightened risk of developing cannabis induced Psychosis and subsequently Schizophrenia. Studies indicate that 30% of schizophrenia cases in young men age 21-30 could be prevented if cannabis use disorder were eliminated. Please refer to Brian Connes letter to the editor in the Ledger Dispatch published Friday March 13, 2026, which highlights a study of 370,000 California teens which revealed that "Any and frequent cannabis use among youth was markedly lower where all retail sales were banned"

Once you change the law and allow a dispensary in Sutter Creek you make it appear socially acceptable and the youth in our community will notice and think that it "must be ok".

Dispensaries are potential targets for burglary and there will be a large sum of cash at the facility. Since marijuana is still illegal at the federal level, (Visa and Mastercard) officially prohibit cannabis purchases because financial institutions are under federal oversight. Some dispensaries mask transactions by offering "cashless ATM or PIN debit payment processing. Armed Burglary at Sutter Hill or anywhere in our municipalities has obvious health concerns.

According to a Google search with AI over 9 web addresses, Marijuana does contribute to homelessness in our communities. The causes are multifactorial but let the stats speak for themselves. Washington State had an increase of homelessness of 18.9% from 2013-2017 after they legalized MJ. Colorado had an increase of 9.1% after they legalized MJ.

Many physicians believe (myself included) that tobacco, nicotine products and Marijuana are gateway drugs that open adolescent's minds and behavior to explore other debilitating drugs such as Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Hashish, Opiates (including Fentanyl) and LSD and its derivatives.

Mark Faryan D.O. Family physician for over 3000 citizens of Amador and Calaveras counties from 1990-2020.

4/6/26

After the March 9, 2026 meeting I found a website "EVERY BRAIN MATTERS.ORG" that further substantiates the above.

EVERY BRAIN MATTERS (EBM) IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEVELOPED BY FAMILIES IMPACTED BY COMMERCIAL MARIJUANA.

TRUTH

EBM is a trusted educational resource that challenges misinformation and empowers families, youth, policymakers, and communities with evidence- and experience-based information about the risks of cannabis.

HOPE

EBM offers compassionate resources to help individuals and families navigate and recover from the harms of cannabis use, including support meetings and testimonies.

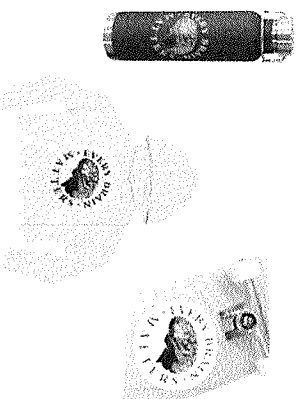
CHANGE

EBM advocates relentlessly to reform policies and confront industry practices that normalize and promote THC, while advancing prevention, early intervention, recovery, and accountability.

EveryBrainMatters.org
info@everybrainmatters.org

THE EVERY BRAIN MATTERS STORE.

Drive a change and promote health.

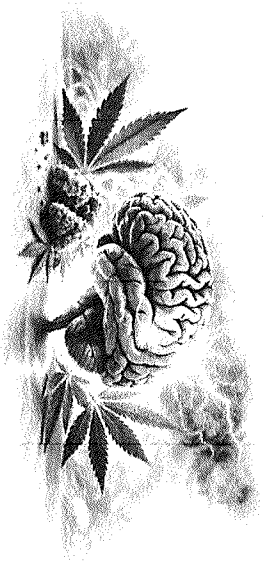


everybrainmatters.org/store

This is not about a War on Drugs. This is about a Defense of our Brains, the repository of our humanity.

Bertha Madras, PhD
neuroscientist

LEARN ABOUT CANNABIS-INDUCED PSYCHOSIS (CIP)



EveryBrainMatters.org

**The words marijuana and cannabis are being used interchangeably in this pamphlet.*





How Legal Marijuana Is Worsening America's Homelessness Crisis

OVERLAP IN IMPACT

- States that aggressively commercialized marijuana report some of the highest homelessness rates.
- Colorado (legalized 2012): Among the largest increases in chronic homelessness
- California (legalized 2016): ~180,000–200,000 homeless nightly (= one-third of U.S. total)



KEY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

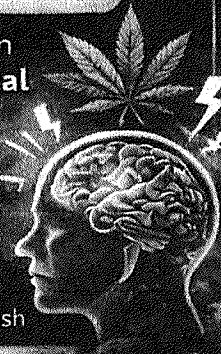
1. Substance Use Connection

- 68% of cities cite substance abuse as top cause of homelessness (single adults).
- ~45% of marijuana users later use other drugs (longitudinal studies)
- Cannabis often co-occurs with polysubstance use



2. Mental Health Risks

- Strong link between cannabis and mental illness
- 47% of cannabis-induced psychosis cases later develop schizophrenia or bipolar disorder (Danish)
- Cannabis addiction Major risk factor



BOTTOM LINE

Marijuana legalization didn't create America's homelessness crisis, but it has amplified it.

<https://everybrainmatters.org/2025/11/28/legal-marijuana-is-worsening-americas-homelessness-crisis/>



HOW MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IS FUELING THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

KEY FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:



Migration to Marijuana States

Increased influx of transients seeking easy access to marijuana

Addiction & Mental Health Issues

Heavy marijuana use worsening addiction and psychiatric disorders



Unemployment & Decline in Motivation

Users struggling to hold jobs, losing motivation to improve.

Homeless Encampments Growing

Camps expanding, crime and disorder increasing



INCREASED STRAIN ON SERVICES



Shelters Overwhelmed



Healthcare & Emergency Calls Surging



Public Safety Concerns



<https://everybrainmatters.org/2025/11/28/legal-marijuana-is-worsening-americas->

How Organized Crime Hijacked the Promise of Marijuana Legalization

When legal markets become cover for criminal networks

The Promise of Marijuana Legalization



- ✓ A regulated marijuana market
- ✓ Fewer illegal Sales
- ✓ Reduced Organized Crime

Reality:

Nearly a decade later, these promises remain unmet.

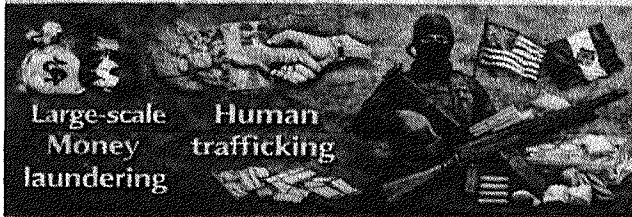
Legalization has not eliminated organized crime – it has often given it cover and strengthened it.

Why Legalization Is Failing

- ✓ Legal markets do not automatically replace illegal ones
- ✓ Criminal networks adapt faster than regulations
- ✓ Weak oversight enables large-scale abuse
- ✓ Poor systems become regional drug supply hubs
- ✓ Modern mass communications make regulation increasingly difficult and impossible

What Legalization Has Created

Federal investigations reveal a disturbing trend: **Chinese Transnational Criminal Organizations** have embedded themselves deeply in the U.S. marijuana supply chain.



Large-scale Money laundering

Human trafficking

FIREARMS & CARTEL COLLABORATION

The Choice Is Clear

- ✓ More normalization = stronger criminal markets
- ✓ More prevention = safer communities

The Real Solution

- 1 Public Education That Protects**
Evidence-based education grounded in brain health, public safety, and long-term well-being of our nation.
- 2 Reframing the Legalization Narrative**
Legalization is not about freedom — it enables an addiction-for-profit industry that embeds itself in communities, targets vulnerable populations, and drives preventable harms to public health and safety.
- 2 Prevention-First Policy**
Discourage initiation, delay first use, and reduce exposure.
- 4 Accountability for Downstream Harms**
Hold industries and policymakers accountable for the health, safety, and social cost.



EveryBrainMatters.org

Please add this to the official record of correspondence regarding the dispensary/Embarc development agreement

Danco + Cannabis Dispensary = A Bad Combination

Danco and No Place like Home are a “low barrier” state mandated permanent supportive housing for the homeless and those with serious mental health issues. “Low barrier” means there will be no criminal background check or requirement to seek treatment for their addictions or mental health issues to reside in the facility. The facility could house up to 100 individuals. The facility is located on the corner of Valley View Way and Bowers Road. Danco is in the process of obtaining building permits.

Currently, the Sutter Creek City council is considering changing local laws to allow a cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek. The cannabis dispensary, operated by Embarc, will be in the vicinity of Highway 88 (Ridge Road) and Highway 49. **Within walking distance from the Danco facility that will house the homeless and seriously mentally ill.**

Many in the Danco facility will have active addictions, severe mental issues, and may be on medications which would have serious medical and psychological effects when consumed with the higher levels of THC, (the ingredient in cannabis that makes you high) which is sold at an Embarc cannabis dispensary.

Higher levels of THC have been linked to Cannabis Use Disorder and may lead to the following: Hallucinations, Schizophrenia, Depression, Anxiety, Temporary psychosis, Thoughts of self-harm, Suicide attempts, and Suicide. (Source: California Department of Cannabis Control).

The Sutter Creek Police Department will be the responding agency to all incidents at the Danco facility. Law enforcement protocol requires special training, equipment, and often back-up from additional law enforcement agencies in dealing with the addicted and mentally ill. Those agencies are Amador County Sheriff’s Office, California Highway Patrol, and Jackson Police Department. These agencies are already stretched thin, and if the city of Sutter Creek decides to allow a cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek, those agencies will be stretched even thinner. And zero financial compensation to them from the city of Sutter Creek.

The Sutter Creek City Council, City Manager, and Embarc need to seriously consider the adverse health and safety ramifications of a cannabis dispensary so close to the Danco homeless/mental health facility. The cost to the city, county, and citizens will not be worth it in tax revenue to the city. My request to the city council, the city manager, and Embarc is to just use Good Old Common Sense, and just say No, to a cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek. Teresa Ryan, Sutter Creek

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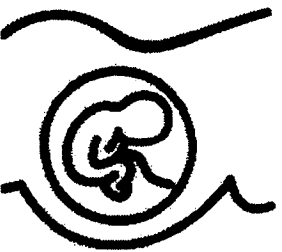
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Dept of Public Health: cdph.ca.gov



**Department of
Cannabis Control**
CALIFORNIA

Revised 12/2024

Ensure you have the most up-to-date information





Pam Caronongan <pcaronongan@cityofsuttercreek.org>

Fwd: Webform submission from: Contact City Council1 message

From: **Sutter Creek CA** <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 3, 2026 at 5:01 PM
Subject: Webform submission from: Contact City Council
To: <tdubois@cityofsuttercreek.org>

Submitted on Fri, 04/03/2026 - 5:00 PM

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Teresa

Last Name

Ryan

Email

tzryan55@gmail.com

Question/Comment

Danco + Cannabis Dispensary = A Bad Combination

Danco and No Place Like Home are a "low barrier" permanent supportive housing for homeless and those with serious mental health needs and low-income housing. This 46-unit facility, which could house up to 100 individuals, will be in the city of Sutter Creek on the corner of Valley View Way and Bowers Road. "Low barrier" means there will be No criminal background checks and No requirements for the individuals to obtain assistance or counseling for their addictions or mental health illnesses to reside in the facility. Danco is currently obtaining building permits to begin construction.

The Sutter Creek City Council is considering changing local laws to allow a cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek. The cannabis dispensary, operated by Embarc, will be in the vicinity of Highway 88 (Ridge Road) and Highway 49. Within walking distance from the Danco facility that will house the homeless and seriously mentally ill.

Due to no required assistance or counselling, the future success of the individuals residing in the Danco low-income housing project is tenuous at best. Many will have active addictions, severe mental issues, and may be on medications which would have devastating medical and psychological effects when consumed with cannabis. Especially the cannabis with the higher levels of THC, which is sold at an Embarc cannabis dispensary.

Higher levels of THC (the component in cannabis that makes you high) have been linked to Cannabis Use Disorder and may lead to the following: Hallucinations, Schizophrenia, Depression, Anxiety, Temporary psychosis, Thoughts of self-harm, Suicide attempt, and Suicide. (Source CA Department of Cannabis Control).

The Sutter Creek Police Department will be the law enforcement agency responding to all incidents at the Danco project involving the above situations and others when required. The SCPD does not have the man/woman power or necessary equipment to handle some of the incidents. Law enforcement protocol in many of these incidents is to request back-up from their local law enforcement partners, the Amador County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol, and the Jackson Police Department. These agencies are already stretched thin, and if the city of Sutter Creek decides to allow a cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek, those agencies will be stretched even thinner due to backing up the Sutter Creek Police Department. Unfortunately, none of those law enforcement agencies called in for additional back-up are compensated financially for their man/woman power, equipment and resources by the city of Sutter Creek

The Sutter Creek City Council is putting tax revenue from a cannabis dispensary above the safety and well-being of the citizens of Sutter Creek and Amador County. To quote Sheriff Gary Redman, Sutter Creek allowing a cannabis dispensary would be "A HUGE MISTAKE!"

4/13/26, 6:08 PM

City of Sutter Creek Mail - Fwd: Webform submission from: Contact City Council

Teresa Ryan
Sutter Creek