

Please make this correspondence part of the administrative record for the August 17, 2026, City Council Meeting.

August 11, 2026

To the City of Sutter Creek City Council, City Manager, and City Planner,

I strongly oppose the proposal for a marijuana dispensary in Sutter Creek. I urge you to reject, with a no vote, a zoning ordinance amendment, a development agreement, a site plan, and other proposed changes and recommendations from staff.

Marijuana dispensaries are currently prohibited in Amador County and all five cities in Amador County, which of course includes Sutter Creek. Sutter Creek, the Jewel of the Mother Lode, has always been known for the Gold Rush, its rich history, and its historic charm. While on Sutter Creek's City Council, and as Mayor of Sutter Creek, residents repeatedly voiced their concerns about any change, anywhere in Sutter Creek, that would impact its history, its uniqueness, and its charm. Sutter Creek is one-of-a-kind, which is why visitors from all over the world come here to our small town.

Do not allow one business to destroy our identity. Calaveras County used to be known for Mark Twain and the Jumping Frog of Calaveras County--now it is known for its pot. Humboldt County used to be known for its beautiful redwoods--now it is known for its pot. Don't turn Sutter Creek into just another location on the map known for its pot. Do not turn your back on our history, our charm, and our unique culture.

Most concerning about a marijuana dispensary in Sutter Creek, however, is the harmful impact it will have on the youth in our community. Recent studies show the very negative impact on children living near a marijuana dispensary. Additionally, the International Academy on the Science and Impact of Cannabis (IASIC) concluded, based on scientific evidence, that the public health effects of high potency cannabis are harmful. The IASIC also notes the significant evidence linking cannabis use and suicide, especially in teens and young adults.

I personally know a number of people who can attest to the harmful effects cannabis has had on their family members, most of them very young, including psychotic episodes, attempted suicide, and attempted harm to family members.

A Resolution Opposing Cannabis Dispensary from the Board of Trustees of the Amador County Unified School District dated July 22, 2026, describes their concerns regarding marijuana use in the schools, and states that they do not believe a cannabis dispensary is in the best interest of the District, its students, or the City. Having a cannabis facility in Sutter Creek will only exacerbate an already bad situation by increasing the availability of very potent cannabis.

At the City's request for input, you have received correspondence not only from the School District, but from the County, ACTC, and many other agencies, regarding their numerous concerns about the impacts this proposal will have not only on Sutter Creek, but on all of Amador County. The decision you make tonight, will not only effect Sutter Creek, but all of Amador County.

The residents of Sutter Creek, and the County, are depending on you to take your time and carefully review, and address, each of the concerns they have voiced. I believe that if that is done, you will see that there is no option but to deny the proposal for this cannabis facility.

I encourage you to vote NO on adoption of a resolution approving a marijuana dispensary in Sutter Creek. The City of Sutter Creek should not put money ahead of its residents, especially when it comes to the most vulnerable, our children.

Linda Rianda

Sutter Creek