

Cannabis Dispensary: Convenience or Curse?

The word “convenience” has been used many times in sales pitch presentations by Embarc, who wants to open a cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek, and by the Planning Consultant, in reports to the Sutter Creek City Manager, the City Council, and the City Planning Commission.

The Embarc Cannabis Dispensary is hoping that those of you that have never used cannabis, or have not ingested, smoked or vaped cannabis products in many years, will shop at their “conveniently” located Embarc Cannabis Dispensary on Ridge Road and Highway 49 in Sutter Creek.

Who else will find this to be a “convenient” location? An 18-year-old high school student with a medical marijuana recommendation card that they purchased from an online doctor. The medical marijuana card does not limit the level of THC (the chemical that makes you high) in products they are able to purchase. Some of the Embarc Dispensary products exceed 90% THC. The 18-year-old student would be able to “conveniently” purchase cannabis before, during or after school and sell it for a profit to the junior high and high school students. The Embarc Cannabis Dispensary will be “conveniently” open from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., 14 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Our brains are actively developing from birth until around the age of 25. Regularly ingesting, smoking or vaping cannabis in junior high, high school and college hijacks that brain development and can cause long-term problems with thinking and mental health.

Who else would find this Embarc Cannabis Dispensary to be a “convenient” location? The potentially 100 residents at the Danco/Valley View Commons project for the homeless and severely mentally ill, which is currently under construction, and is “conveniently” located within walking distance to the Embarc Cannabis Dispensary. Increased foot traffic across Highway 49 and Ridge Road, day and night, should be a major concern to the City Council, City Manager, and the City Planning Commission. They have chosen not to address this concern.

Many of us have given the Sutter Creek City Council, the City Manager, and the Sutter Creek Planning Commission volumes of information pertaining to the potential harm and adverse impacts an Embarc Cannabis Dispensary will potentially have upon our children, citizens, and Amador County. Many have shared their heartbreaking personal experiences of how regular use of cannabis has had devastating mental, physical, and financial impacts upon their lives and those they love.

Please do not be duped by Embarc's attempts to destigmatize and make "convenient" the sale and use of high-level THC cannabis products. The "inconvenient" truth is the City Council is promoting an Embarc Cannabis dispensary because they want the additional sales tax revenue. And in doing so, the City Council is saying money is more important than our health, safety and welfare.

City Council members, Dan, Claire, and Susan, we are pleading with you to please vote NO to an Embarc cannabis dispensary on August 17th. Teresa Ryan, Sutter Creek