

March 29, 2025

City of Sutter Creek
18 Main Street
Sutter Creek, CA 95685

Dear Mayor Gunselman and City Council members,

We're writing to – again – complain about parking issues at the bottom of Greenstone Terrace. Today, March 29, 2025, around 1:30PM to 2:30PM, my wife and I walked to the Post Office to pick up our mail. The attached photos are of the parking violations we witnessed.

We get it. Despite limited parking, Sutter Creek wants to be a welcoming place for people to visit and enjoy the beauty of our town and the wholesome activities offered here. Sutter Creek wants specifically to encourage tourism and community and sporting events at Minnie Provis Park. *We want those things too.* *What we also want* is for emergency responders to be able to get up our street and respond to medical emergencies, fires, and police-related needs.

We also *do not want* our city to look amateurish and ineffective. That's what happens when the city does not enforce its own parking laws. Tourists from out of town may or may not be deterred by the "no parking" signs, but when Amador County folks come and park illegally without consequence, they figure it's OK the next time they do it, and they probably tell others.

You've put up "no parking" signs and we appreciate that effort. *Please also enforce the parking rules.* Your recent parking survey asked citizens for input on the city's parking needs. Our response was pretty basic: Enforce the rules you have in place.

I hope this doesn't happen, but someday, someone up our street is going to need emergency services and the level of illegal parking will delay or prevent response. I sincerely hope that an adverse outcome at our home or a neighbor's residence won't be the event that finally makes the City of Sutter Creek wake up and take action to keep people from clogging up the bottom of Greenstone Terrace.

How to fix this? For starters, we're asking you to please perform some easy, reasonably cheap improvements to the "no parking" signage, such as:

- "No parking" signs with arrows and language that states "no parking between signs", so that people know that they can't park between the signs
- More aggressive "no parking" signs *with the consequences* stated, such as "\$ fine" (whatever the citation cost is), or "vehicle will be towed".
- A few additional "no parking signs" in the large spaces between the existing signs.
- Red curbs or road edges with "no parking" language as an additional deterrent.
- Enforce the rules. Give out tickets. For locals, the word will spread. We understand that the police have plenty to do, and at any given moment the issuance of a parking citation may not be top on the list. For that reason, please improve the signage with more aggressive language as a starting point.

Thank you for listening,



Ian and Brenda Watts
90 Greenstone Terrace
Sutter Creek, CA 95685
(209) 267-5327

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Photos taken at the bottom of Sutter Creek on March 29, 2025 at approximately 1:30PM to 2:30PM:



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