
From: Martin Ryan <jacksontiger69@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 2:35 PM

To: info@cityofsuttercreek.org; Pam Caronongan <pcaronongan@cityofsuttercreek.org>; eventura@haugbrueck.com

Subject: Correspondence Submission to Planning Commission re: EMBARC

Please add the downloaded document to the official record of correspondence regarding the EMBARC dispensary application/Planning Commission Review.

Thank you,
Martin Ryan

Sutter Creek

PLEASE add my comments to the official record of the City of Sutter Creek Planning Commission's pending consideration of the proposed EMBARC Marijuana Dispensary.

I am strongly opposed to the City of Sutter Creek's consideration of amending its existing City Ordinance to allow the creation of a marijuana dispensary within the city limits, which would be the only dispensary allowed in Amador County. My opposition is based on my research and professional training and experience which produced the following proven **FACTS** concerning the alarming impacts of marijuana on our youth here in Sutter Creek and Amador County if this project is allowed.

FACT: In the 1970's, marijuana's psychoactive THC potency levels averaged 1-3%. Today, Indoor cultivation and breeding have increased THC potency to 15-30%. Products like marijuana-based oils, waxes and vapes can now contain THC at 50%-90%. My Internet search reveals that **EMBARC sells marijuana concentrates and vapes at over 90% THC.**

FACT: While you must be 21 years of age or older to obtain a Recreational Marijuana Card in California, **18-20-year-olds may purchase an online Annual Medical Marijuana Recommendation for under \$100 after a brief online consultation with a doctor which can be used immediately.**

FACT: Medicinal marijuana recommendations in California do not set individual limits on THC potency, only the amount of product to meet the expressed medical need.

FACT: The California Department of Cannabis Control stated in 2024 that human brain activity develops until age 25 and that **daily cannabis use, near-daily cannabis use, or higher potency use has been linked to schizophrenia, depression, and suicide.**

FACT: San Diego County reported in 2022 that 43% of all suicides among persons age 25 and under involved THC in their systems at time of death.

FACT: The California State Auditor reported accidental ingestion of THC by infants and children resulted in significant increases in Emergency Room visits. Children under 5 were the most vulnerable with ER ingestion cases increasing 1,477.7% from November 2016 to 2023. National Poison Control calls for children 0-12 years for THC edible exposure jumped 752% between 2018 and 2023.

FACT: A 2021 report noted that 33% of fatal accidents in Mendocino County and 24% in Santa Cruz County involved positive tested marijuana drivers. Nationwide, a 2025 study by the American College of Surgeons noted that 40% of deceased drivers tested positive for active THC.

FACT: A 2019 Addictions, Drug, and Alcohol Institute report stated that THC and CBD can react negatively with many common and critical prescription drugs by either magnifying or negating their intended effect.

Examples include Anti-anxiety, anti-depressant, and anti-psychotic, and pain medications.

The above proven facts clearly expose the significant threats that a marijuana dispensary in Sutter Creek presents to the youth of Sutter Creek and Amador County.

The City of Sutter Creek views this marijuana dispensary as a means to improve the City's financial situation. It is noted that the voters in Sutter Creek approved Measure P, an increase to the local sales tax of 1% which is projected by the City to annually bring \$600,000 into the City budget which the Ledger-Dispatch has reported to be \$7.92 million in 2025-2026. This report includes General Fund revenue of \$2.2 million and solid financial reserves of around 40%. Measure P tax revenue, as projected by the City, will be a nearly 30% increase in the General Fund without the expected harm to our youth associated with this marijuana dispensary.

JUNE 26,2026

Martin Ryan

Former Amador County Sheriff 2007-2021

Sutter Creek

