

Marijuana dispensary

1 message

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Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 5:40 PM

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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

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

High-potency THC products are harder to use 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:

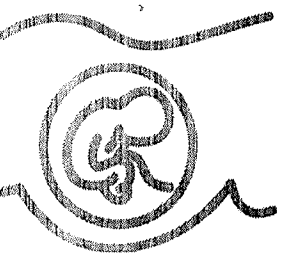
- pregnant or may be pregnant
- breastfeeding

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



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Cannabis Control
CALIFORNIA

Revised 12/2024

Ensure you have the most up-to-date information

