

Danco + Cannabis Dispensary = A Bad Combination

Danco and No Place Like Home are a “low barrier” permanent supportive housing for homeless and those with serious mental health needs and low-income housing. This 46-unit facility, which could house up to 100 individuals, will be in the city of Sutter Creek on the corner of Valley View Way and Bowers Road. “Low barrier” means there will be NO criminal background checks and NO requirements for the individuals to obtain assistance or counseling for their addictions or mental health illnesses to reside in the facility. Danco is currently obtaining building permits to begin construction.

The Sutter Creek City Council is considering changing local laws to allow a cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek. The cannabis dispensary, operated by Embarc, will be in the vicinity of Highway 88 (Ridge Road) and Highway 49. Within walking distance from the Danco facility that will house the homeless and seriously mentally ill.

Due to no required assistance or counselling, the future success of the individuals residing in the Danco low-income housing project is tenuous at best. Many will have active addictions, severe mental issues, and may be on medications which would have devastating medical and psychological effects when consumed with cannabis. Especially the cannabis with the higher levels of THC, which is sold at an Embarc cannabis dispensary.

Higher levels of THC (the component in cannabis that makes you high) have been linked to Cannabis Use Disorder and may lead to the following: Hallucinations, Schizophrenia, Depression, Anxiety,

Temporary psychosis, Thoughts of self-harm, Suicide attempts, and Suicide. (Source: California Department of Cannabis Control).

The Sutter Creek Police Department will be the law enforcement agency responding to all incidents at the Danco project involving the above situations and others when required. Law enforcement protocol in many of these incidents is to request back-up from their local law enforcement partners, the Amador County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol, and the Jackson Police Department. These agencies are already stretched thin, and if the city of Sutter Creek decides to allow a cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek, those agencies will be stretched even thinner due to backing up the Sutter Creek Police Department. Unfortunately, none of those law enforcement agencies called in for additional back-up are compensated financially by the city of Sutter Creek.

The Sutter Creek City Council is putting tax revenue from a cannabis dispensary above the safety and well-being of the citizens of Sutter Creek and Amador County. Please contact the Sutter Creek City Council at cityofsuttercreek.org, and Just Say No to a cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek.

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Sutter Creek