

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 and would be the only one allowed in the county. My opposition is based on my research and professional training and experience which produced the following facts:

**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%.

**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:** California's Recreational Marijuana laws allow people 21 years and older to legally purchase 1 ounce of marijuana DAILY for recreational use.

Annual Medical Marijuana Recommendation cards can be purchased online for under \$100 after a brief online consultation with a doctor allowing DAILY purchases of 8 ounces or more.

**FACT:** California law also allows 18-20-year-olds to obtain an online Medical Recommendation for DAILY purchases for up to 8 ounces or more. The [familyrecoverycenter.org](http://familyrecoverycenter.org) reports that 8 ounces of marijuana can produce over 600 cigarette size joints with a current street value of an ounce going for \$100-\$200 in CA.

**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, anti-psychotic, pain, high blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood thinning medications.

**FACT:** A UC San Diego Health study highlighted a 1,808% increase in cannabis related ER visits for Californians aged 65 and older between 2005 and 2019.

Based on the above facts, a marijuana dispensary in Sutter Creek will also impact other city and county agency resources in Amador County, such as medical first responders, Sutter Amador Hospital, other police departments, CHP, the Sheriff's office, and county mental health services, without any financial compensation.

A marijuana dispensary may provide some financial boost to the City of Sutter Creek; however, in my opinion, the negative community health and socio-economic impacts far outweigh any projected gain.

Martin Ryan

Sutter Creek



**PLEASE add my comments to the official record regarding the City of Sutter Creek's pending Embarc Dispensary development consideration.**

**April 20, 2026**