

## Please Preserve Sebastopol's Local Economic Identity

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**From** Angela Rodriguez [REDACTED]  
**Date** Mon 5/11/2026 3:37 PM  
**To** Victoria Henkel <vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Greetings,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed Grocery Outlet project in downtown Sebastopol.

Sebastopol's identity and economic strength are deeply tied to its locally rooted businesses, independent character, and community-centered economy. I believe the City should continue prioritizing the long-term vision established in the General Plan, particularly the policies focused on preserving downtown vitality and supporting local economic resilience.

The concern is not whether residents have access to groceries. Sebastopol already has multiple grocery stores serving the community. The larger issue is whether adding another national chain retailer into an already saturated market aligns with the city's long-term economic goals and community identity.

Independent businesses help keep money circulating locally, support local jobs and producers, and contribute to the distinct environment that residents and visitors value about Sebastopol. Once those businesses are lost, rebuilding that local economic ecosystem becomes incredibly difficult.

I respectfully ask the Planning Commission and City Council to carefully evaluate the long-term economic and community impacts this project could create before approving it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Angela Rodriguez