
Please Deny the Grocery Outlet Conditional Use Permit Application

From Katie Gagnon [REDACTED]

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To John Jay <jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Victoria Henkel <vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov>; City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Greetings,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed Grocery Outlet project in downtown Sebastopol and respectfully urge the Planning Commission to deny the Conditional Use Permit application.

My family and I recently chose to relocate to Sebastopol after spending decades living elsewhere because we were drawn to the city's unique character, locally rooted businesses, and strong sense of community. Sebastopol stands out specifically because it has maintained an identity that feels authentic, independent, and community-centered.

As a former small business owner myself, I understand how important independent local businesses are to the long-term vitality and character of a community. The businesses, downtown atmosphere, and locally focused economy in Sebastopol are a major part of what made us choose to make this town our home for the remainder of our lives.

Sebastopol's General Plan emphasizes preserving downtown vitality, supporting local businesses, and protecting the city's distinct identity. I am concerned that approving another national chain grocery retailer in an already saturated market would move the city further away from the very qualities that residents and newcomers alike value so deeply.

Communities that preserve their independent businesses and unique local culture maintain stronger long-term economic resilience, tourism appeal, and community connection than those that become increasingly dominated by corporate retail.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Planning Commission and City Council to deny the proposed Conditional Use Permit application for Grocery Outlet.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Gagnon