

From: Kay Crista [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2026 10:16 AM
To: Victoria Henkel <vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Proposed Grocery Outlet at former Rite Aide

Dear Members of the Planning Commission and City Council,

I urge you to carefully consider the long-term consequences of approving the proposed Grocery Outlet at the former Rite Aid site.

As you evaluate this proposal, I hope you will ask not only what new revenue it may bring, but also what existing businesses may be put at risk. Sebastopol is already served by numerous grocery stores, including beloved independent markets that contribute to the unique character and economic vitality of our community.

What makes Sebastopol special is not that it looks like every other town. It is the presence of locally rooted businesses and the sense of place they create. I hope the City will consider whether adding another formula grocery store to the downtown core supports the vision expressed in the General Plan or moves Sebastopol closer to becoming just another place that looks like everywhere else.

Before approving this proposal, I encourage the City to consider whether there are alternative uses for this property that would better serve the community and strengthen downtown. In light of the recent closure of the Sebastopol Regional Library, perhaps civic or other community-serving uses should also be explored. The former Rite Aid building occupies a highly accessible location and may present opportunities that align more closely with the long-term needs and character of Sebastopol.

I respectfully urge you to uphold the principles of the General Plan and deny the Conditional Use Permit application for the proposed Grocery Outlet.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the community.

Sincerely,
Kay Crista
Sebastopol resident and small business owner