
Grocery Outlet Conditional Use Permit Application

From M.MILLS-THYSEN [REDACTED]

Date Tue 5/12/2026 12:29 PM

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

Mills-Thysen
[REDACTED]

To:

Planning Commission Public Comment: jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov

Permit Technician: vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov

City Council: citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov

May 11, 2026

To our City Representatives,

We are writing to formally oppose the Grocery Outlet project that is proposing to move into downtown Sebastopol. We respectfully urge the Planning Commission to deny the Conditional Use Permit application, and the City Council to refrain from facilitating the Permit.

Sebastopol's economy depends heavily on its locally rooted businesses, its independent downtown environment and its distinctive community identity.

It is the very distinctive quality of our city that attracts and holds businesses and residents, yet it is the elements of this very quality that are undermined and jeopardized by chains like Grocery Outlet that see to capitalize on the vitality they would sap.

Sebastopol's General Plan emphasizes preserving downtown vitality, supporting local businesses, and protecting the city's unique character, elements which are not easily replicated or replaced when destroyed.

As representatives and custodians of our beautiful city, it behooves you each to resist the false promise of shiny new tax dollars and jobs, a promise that will fade with shoddy employment practices and the loss of funds and support for our community service organizations, at-risk residents, and non-profits that have long benefited from existing local groceries.

Sebastopol's economic vitality is closely tied to maintaining a trustworthy, vibrant and local business ecosystem that supports and is supported by independent merchants, local

investment, tourism, and honorable community connections.

Approving another national chain grocery retailer in an already saturated market would move the city further away from the long-term vision residents have worked so hard to preserve. It is not financially wise to rush and grab a dishonorable renter rather than exercise caution and work more actively and creatively to attract a decent tenant that will truly fit, honestly respect, and nurture the local environment it seeks to enter.

For all these reasons, as long time Sebastopol residents, we urge the Planning Commission and City Council to deny the proposed Conditional Use Permit application for the Grocery Outlet chainstore and to keep this predatory business out of our city.

Thank you for your public service and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marghe and Mark Mills-Thysen