

March 9, 2026

Sebastopol Planning Commission Members
C/O Sebastopol Planning Department
7120 Bodega Avenue
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Dear Planning Commission Members:

I am writing to share my concerns regarding the proposal to allow a Grocery Outlet to occupy the former Rite Aid location in Sebastopol.

Sebastopol's General Plan emphasizes maintaining the city's unique character and supporting the economic vitality of existing local businesses that contribute to the fabric of our community. Many of Sebastopol's locally owned businesses regularly give back through donations, food drives, sponsorship of youth sports teams, and support for our schools and community organizations.

Local businesses are deeply rooted in the community and often reinvest directly in the place where they operate. Larger national chains, by contrast, typically operate under centralized corporate structures where decisions about community giving and reinvestment are made at a broader corporate level. As a result, the type of locally focused support that many small businesses provide is often more limited.

Given that Sebastopol already has several grocery providers in such small population, I am concerned that introducing another chain grocery store may place additional pressure on the locally owned businesses that help sustain the civic and charitable life of our town.

I would encourage the city to explore alternative uses for the former Rite Aid building that could provide a broader community benefit—such as a recreational or activity center offering amenities like a gym, pickleball courts, or other multi-use spaces that residents of all ages could enjoy.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of the long-term impacts this decision may have on Sebastopol's local economy and community character. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to deny the Conditional Use Permit for the proposed Grocery Outlet.

Sincerely,



Received
MAR 12 2026
City of Sebastopol
Admin Services - Finance