

July 18, 2026

Dear Members of the Planning Commission and City Council,

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed Grocery Outlet project at the former Rite Aid site in downtown Sebastopol.

We have lived in Sebastopol since 1968 and have owned a home within the incorporated downtown area since 1980. Over the years, we have seen many changes, but what has always made Sebastopol special is the people and the locally owned businesses that give the community its unique character.

We are concerned that introducing another formula grocery store into a market that is already well served would place additional pressure on the hardworking business owners who have invested in this community for decades. These businesses contribute to the distinct identity of Sebastopol and deserve thoughtful consideration as the City evaluates proposals that may affect their long-term vitality.

The General Plan was adopted to protect the economic vitality and character of the community. We hope the City will carefully consider whether introducing another grocery store into the downtown core aligns with that vision and whether there are alternative uses that would better strengthen downtown and complement the businesses that already serve residents.

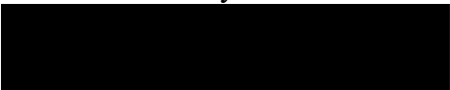
With the recent closure of the Sebastopol Regional Library due to environmental concerns, we hope the City will think creatively about future community-serving uses for this prominent and accessible site. As long-time residents, we believe this location presents an opportunity to invest in something that brings people together and strengthens the civic life of our community.

What makes Sebastopol special is not that it looks like every other town. It is the collection of local businesses, institutions, and gathering places that create a true sense of community. We 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,

Susan and Barry Wosk



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