

From: Dan Pantoja < DanPantoja@clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 9:56 PM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning
Cc: Robert Holt; Dan Pantoja

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons. We have been working hard to change the culture and doing positive thing in our Community. Adding drugs that our kids can see everyday people purchasing is not what we want our kids to witness. There is a house right next store to the parking lot they want to extend, it should not even be an option to have a cannabis dispensary in a residential area. But we will not dow down, to people who have political power. We the people of Pinedale will be there to appeal this nonsense. My family has live in Pinedale since 1960. I was born and raised here and I will fight for what is right for my family, my community and you should also. Would you allow a dispensary to be in your neighborhood. We already have 2 with in a half a mile radius of this location that is not in residential area. The artist tree 7835 N palm commercial area, tiny weeds riverpark delivery only commercial area. NOT RESIDENTIAL. I have been working with the youth of Pinedale since 1988. I coach football, wrestling, softball and track. I see the effect of drug and you should to . May the God you swore on oath that you would protect the people, keep their promise. TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

From: Megan Corrao < Megan Corrao @clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 10:13 AM

**To:** PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves.

I am opposed for the following reasons:

- Too close of access for our kids to purchase drugs (many of our elementary and Junior high students walk by the area to get to and from school and they already have enough pressures to do drugs, they do not need a dispensary in their neighborhood)
- More people coming into the area to purchase drugs and coming into the community under the influence
- More people using & becoming addicted to marijuana
- Increased crime & disputes

My relationship to the area or location is as an educator at Pinedale elementary. For the last 16 years I have been a proud member of the Pinedale community educating the children of Pinedale and I know that placing this dispensary in our community so close to our kids' school is an irresponsible and inconsiderate decision that will negatively affect our community.

Sincerely, Megan Corrao

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Bianca Oyoque <BiancaOyoque@clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 9:34 AM

**To:** PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons...

My relationship to the area or location is that I am a 2nd grade teacher at Pinedale Elementary for the past 9 years. I am opposed to the dispensary being located so close to our school. The reason being is that my students live right behind the vicinity of proposed location. Our Pinedale students, their families and myself, frequently visit the Little Caesar's, Donut shop and neighboring businesses. Our students do not need to be exposed to armed guards when doing so. I don't understand the push for dispensaries other than financial gain that doesn't benefit the community or our school. As if teaching wasn't hard already, some of our kids don't have best resources and home lives, let's just throw in another adversity to the community. As if we didn't already have factors that hinder their learning.

Want to do something for our community? Build a park, create activities for our kids, donate to our to Boys and Girls Club, Community Center, sponsor our youth for summer camps, provide adult courses and resources. These are the types of opportunities this community needs, temptation and taking the sense of community is not it. Pinedale is a very special place and the people of Pinedale do not want this. We will stand up for our community and our youth!

Also, there is already two dispensaries less than a mile away and don't see the need for a third. Why hasn't this been proposed elsewhere, why is there no other school with a dispensary nearby, we know why. Do not prowl on our community because we will not stand for it! We will stick together and we will stand against this!

Thank you for your time,

Respectfully, Bianca Oyoque

Get Outlook for iOS

From: angela garcia-coleman <bebecoleman@sbcglobal.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 9:17 AM **To:** PublicCommentsPlanning; Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Ave. I am opposed because I don't believe that this should be happening near an elementary school. There will also be junior high and high school students passing this facility daily. Embarc has another place up the road on Blackstone Ave and their customers can shop. We all know that money talks! Now, is when it should be about the children and families of Pinedale Community.

My relationship to the Pinedale Community is a concerned elementary school librarian.

**From:** jimmytristan91 < jimmytristan91@aol.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 10:08 AM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves.

My family has lived in Pinedale since the 1960's. My children, as well as other family members attend and work at Pinedale Elementary. Only a multimillion dollar company that is completely disconnected from this historic community, morals, and common sense would place armed gaurds and drug sales in such proximity to an elementary school. Many members of the Pinedale neighborhood that are homeowners have worked tirelessly for several years to better this community; while this corporation moves in with false promises and half truths to gentrify the area and erase our identity. Please here us out in our time of need, please consider the future of our children. We are Pinedale.

-Jimmy Tristan

From: Angie Lopez <lopada89@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2023 7:07 PM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

#### **External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons..I am apposed to this dispensary because I love this community. It's my hometown. My relationship to the area or location is... from Angie's iPhone

From: Luisa Morales < luisa.morales1@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2023 6:55 PM
To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons...

My relationship to the area or location is I am from Pinedale. My daughter attends school there. We are in the process of buying a home in pinedale. I don't understand why just because we are a poor economic community they would consider this business. I seen the footage of the Restaurant on Marks and Bullard wanting a bar. It was denied because of the children and residential area. What about our children and our neighborhood.

Thank you

Luisa Tristan

From: Brandon Daniels <daniels.brandon17@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 18, 2023 10:11 AM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

1 am writing in opposition to the cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed because it exposes children to armed guards and cannabis everyday to and from their walk to school. I currently teach at Pinedale Elementary and I was raised in Pinedale.

**Brandon Daniels** 

From: John Ellenberger < john.c.ellenberger@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 8:56 PM

**To:** PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

Attachments: IMG\_1045.MOV

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Thank you for reading this.

Subject:

C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental Assessment # P23-00801

I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary at 7363 N. Blackstone, Pinedale CA 93650

I have many friends in Pinedale who are distressed over the proposed expansion of the Embarc Cannabis Dispensary into the Pinedale community. Attached is a short video showing people of all ages who were at the protest that I participated in on Thursday night.

The location that has been selected cannot accommodate the expected 300-500 customers per day due to the extremely limited parking spaces for that location. As a result, the residential streets around the dispensary will be overwhelmed with traffic creating very dangerous conditions for the children and elderly that live as near as 200ft from the proposed building. Please decline this application submitted by Embarc.

Sincerely, John Ellenberger From: Aide Madrigal <AideMadrigal@clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 8:34 PM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

Subject: CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons...

- **1.** The proximity is too close to the elementary school.
- **2.** Many families would be impacted negatively because of past personal struggles with substance abuse.
- **3.** The youth of Pinedale do not need something so close to home to be a temptation waiting to fill their curiosity.
- **4.** Many children frequent the area on their own to visit Little Caesars Pizza, the laundromat and donut shop and we do not want any of them to encounter people who would frequent this establishment.
- **5.** As it is, we have many homeless people in the area and adding this type of business would just attract more of the same type of people.
- **6.** I am a Teacher of Pinedale Elementary and a resident of the area close to Woodward Park, in the Dominion neighborhood. I consider this area of the North Fresno, also my neighborhood and it is too close to home.

I hope you sincerely take my statement into consideration and know that I oppose the opening of Embar Cannabis Dispensary. Thank you.



Aide Madrigal Kindergarten-Pinedale ASES P.M Lead From: Cynthia Salomonson < Cynthia Salomonson@clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 4:21 PM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed as this is near Pinedale Elementary School and various homeless locations.

My relationship to the area or location is a Clovis West area teacher that teaches in schools between Clovis Weat and Nelson.

Cynthia Salomonson

Clovis West Area Music
Fort Washington Elementary, 327-6600
Nelson Elementary, 327-7600
VAPA Resource Teacher
Elementary Classroom & Choral Music
cynthiasalomonson@cusd.com



From: May Moua <MayMoua@clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 4:02 PM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning
Cc: Robert Holt; Debra Bolls

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

#### Hello,

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons: 1.) student safety traveling from Kastner to Pinedale before and after school (adults under the influence hanging around the area when kids are present), 2.) student has easy accessibility to drug and paraphernalia to and from school, 3.) due to access and exposure to drugs, it will increase chances/opportunities for students to be persuaded to furnish and/or use cannabis on campus, 4.) disrupting the learning and positive environment that we as educators have tried so hard to help families who are wanting to break free from this generational poverty and lifestyle, and lastly, 5.) community's continued negative and "fearful" perspective of the Pinedale community (when that's not who they are; they are loving, nice, kind, and respectful individuals and families).

My relationship to the area or location is the middle school Principal who will serve the Pinedale community at the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade level. These two years in middle school are the most crucial years of a child's life, therefore, any way possible to prevent cannabis exposures and access it HUGE for my school site and student population/parent community. Let's not promote cannabis at the cost of destroying our future generations, but let's break free from generational poverty and build our future generations filled with a different outlook in life!

Thank you,

Mrs. May Moua

Principal

Kastner Intermediate School



From: Chris Contreras <contreraschris548@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 3:48 PM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

My name is Christal Contreras a life long resident of Pinedale California. My residence is 239 W. Spruce Ave Apt 104 Pinedale CA, 93650. I am in opposition to Embarc opening at 7363 N. Blackstone Ave. I do not have an issue with cannabis as it is legal what I do have an issue with is the location Embarc wants to establish. I'm opposed to Embarc and any dispensary for that matter being in a residential area especially my hometown of Pinedale. My family has been established here in Pinedale since my great grandmother first came here she would've been 99 years old this past February. I'm here to take a stand for the Pinedale community and the children and future children of this community. We don't need a dispensary here with an ARMED guard outside of it. How can you stop an irresponsible adult who is willing to go into this establishment and purchase cannabis for under aged youth? There's no need or room here for Embarc, our community kids are already at a disadvantage being subject to gangs and violence and poverty. Cannabis is a gateway drug to much harder drugs. I started off with cannabis at a young age, the same age as my teenage sons who are 16, & 15 and it's started off with cannabis but eventually opened the door for me to a 10 year meth addiction, a life of crime and eventually prison. So this is why I feel so strongly about Embacrs location. There are so many industrial buildings in district 2 that Embarc can choose but they chose the community of Pinedale.

Christal Contreras 239 W. Spruce Ave Apt 104 Pinedale CA, 93650 (559)939-3552 From: Lacey Huntington < Lacey Huntington@clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 12:48 PM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed because this corner is already littered with drug addicted homeless individuals. This dispensary will not bring any benefit to a neighborhood filled with children. My relationship to the area or location is I am a teacher at Pinedale elementary school and a coach to many of the kids who call this neighborhood their home.

From: Julie Duwe <JulieDuwe@clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 10:43 AM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning
Cc: Robert Holt; Debra Bolls

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

### Good morning,

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves.

#### I am opposed for the following reasons:

- This location is extremely close to a school. Clovis Unified and the Pinedale community have worked extremely hard to redevelop the student population into students who believe in themselves and that they can be successful adults. This is happening and we want this continue to happen in this impoverished community.
- Having a location this close to a very vulnerable population would only add to the issues with addiction that some community members already have or the potential to start.
- The increase in foot traffic and the product they are selling will contribute to an increase in criminal activity.
- Homelessness in this area is a big concern, adding something as Embarc will not help with this issue as the homeless will have yet another place where they will beg for what is offered there.
- Having this product being sold next to services such as a laundromat and restaurants will be
  putting individuals in a position to encounter others (potentially intoxicated) while just
  trying to do their laundry or eat.
- Marijuana IS a DRUG and regardless of it now being legal, it should not be anywhere near a housed community, regardless of closeness to other retail.

#### My relationship to the area or location is, I have lived in Northeast Fresno the majority of my life.

- I attended Kastner and Clovis West High School and had many friends that lived and/or still live in the Pinedale community.
- In my youth the area was riddled with gang violence, although through the efforts of many, this has become so much better. Let's not put something in proximity that can and will negatively impact a community.
- The community is in need of development in a positive manner, not with something that could potentially put a vulnerable child at risk of being exposed to drugs, regardless of them being legal. The potential for exposure will be greater just because of access.
- It has been a full team effort of all the Clovis West area principals to help Mrs. Bolls in her efforts to improve Pinedale. As educators we see ALL of the things that impact a child.

Please consider this heavily in making the decision to NOT move forward with the Embarc Cannabis Dispensary.

**Julie Duwe** 

Principal
Valley Oak Elementary School
Phone 559-327-8200
Email julieduwe@cusd.com Web valleyoak.cusd.com
465 E. Champlain Dr. Fresno CA, 93730

From: Gina Kismet < Gina Kismet @clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 10:26 AM

**To:** PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

#### **External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

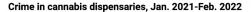
I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reason which is proximity to Pinedale elementary which is already an at-risk community. The youth in this area require OPTIMAL circumstances to achieve success. A business of this kind near an elementary school raises grave concerns for me about our communities welfare and prioritization of the safety of our children. A cannabis dispensary will increase traffic and pollution, as well as potential exposure to inappropriate content or behavior from the business in one of our most vulnerable communities. Additionally, the presence of a cannabis dispensary may detract from the peaceful and educational atmosphere that should be maintained around a school. It is the moral obligation of business owners and local authorities to consider these concerns and prioritize the well-being of the children and community first. Further, I understand the financial gain to the city for such businesses and I think that we can do BETTER than that.

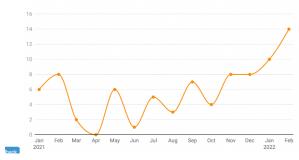
My relationship to the area or location is that I serve as a colleague to the school's administration, a lifelong member of the Fresno community, a concerned parent, as well as an educational leader.

#### I would like to site some data:

<a href="https://xtown.la/2022/03/28/cannabis-crime-los-angeles/">https://xtown.la/2022/03/28/cannabis-crime-los-angeles/</a> States "burglaries and robberies made up 71% of all cannabis crimes)

https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2022/03/26/pot-shop-robberies-washington-us/7155149001/?qnt-cfr=1 "more dispensaries are targeted by armed robbery"







# Principal Maple Creek Elementary

559-327-7300



My working hours may not be your working hours. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your normal working hours.

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From: Gloria Tovar <GloriaTovar@clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2023 4:50 PM **To:** PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reason: I am a teacher at Pinedale Elementary and have been teaching there for 26 years. Throughout those years, I have developed positive relationships with students and parents. I know that opening this dispensary in Pinedale will only have a negative impact on this community, families, and school. Please do not allow this to happen.

My relationship to the area or location is: I am a teacher at Pinedale Elementary and have been teaching there for 26 years.

From: Mitch and Andrea Wall <mitchandandrea@att.net>

**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 3:20 PM **To:** PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

Subject: CUP Application No. P23-00801 and Environmental Assessment No. P23-

00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing because I am worried about my little town, my home for more 50 years. I'm writing because I don't agree with another marijuana store being opened in Pinedale.

First of all, there are already 2 other stores close by where people can get it if they need it. They don't need to come into Pinedale to get it.

The other reason I don't think we should have it is that we have a school right over there close to where they want to put the store and I don't think it should be so close to the childlen.

Some of the young people in Pinedale might want to try it if it's so available and then who knows what might happen? Some people might take it and then start acting crazy, driving too fast through our streets and the little children are only blocks away. They might be walking home and someone might get run over.

And people might try to break into the store if they know the marijuana is there. And we already have enough crime and trouble in our streets.

I think they should put the store somewhere where people want it, but not in Pinedale.

Thank you,

Mrs. Tommie Contreras 7235 N. Maroa Ave. Pinedale, California From: Ron Vega <vegahomerentals@outlook.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 4:41 PM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** Conditional Use Permit Application No. P23-00801 Embarc Pinedale This

project should not be approved

Attachments: Pinedale Embarc.pdf

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

June 21, 2023

Jennifer Clark, Director

Planning and Development Dept. 2600 Fresno Street Room 3043 Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Public Input; Not Supportive of Embarc Pinedale

This purpose of this letter is to oppose Embarc placing a dispensary location in Pinedale. This cannabis dispensary, will be their second location on Blackstone Ave. Just because it's in a different City District, does not explain the necessity to have a location 4 miles away from their Blackstone & Gettysburg location and 1.5 miles from the Artist Tree Dispensary.

I live within the 1,000 feet of the property that has requested a special permit. My family's trust and I own 37, 51, 57 and 102 W. Minarets Ave. We own 8 properties in Pinedale and I am the only landlord with multiple properties that actually lives in the community.

When Pinedale was an unincorporated community, the City of Fresno explained the benefits of annexation. This dispensary is not a benefit to the community. **According to City code:** 

 Should Not be Detrimental to Public Health, Safety, Convenience or Welfare of Persons Residing, working, Visiting or recreating in the Surrounding Neighborhood and will Not result in the Creation of a Nuisance.

The traffic and lack of parking that will come with the dispensary will be a nuisance to the community. Families and children frequent the proposed location often. This includes Little Caesars Pizza, a laundromat, a doughnut business and Wienerschnitzel. The community already has to deal with the unhoused population, along with drug users and individuals with behavior health issues.

Explaining to children the reason for armed security, possible confrontations between armed security guards and individuals with behavior health issues concerns me. Illegal car racing and sideshows concerns me.

I believe this project, Embarc Dispensary, should not be approved for the Pinedale Community.

Sincerely,

I wish to be notified of the director's final action.

Ron Vega 51 W. Minarets Ave Pinedale, CA 93650 559.304.4304 From: Susan Brosi <br/>Sent: Susan Brosi <br/>Saturday, June 17, 2023 12:11 PM

To: Robert Holt

**Subject:** Embarc application for conditional permit P23-00801

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am the property owner of 7314 N Blackstone(7-11) my first notice of the meeting held at the Hyatt on June 8 2023 was sent to my POBox 25124 Fresno 93729. I forwarded that notice to my son Louis Brosi so he could attend in my absence. My next notice was for June 12 2023 and I was present for that meeting. I have been a part of the Pinedale community all my life. My husband(deceased) and I had a bait and tackle business where the 7-11 store is located. We have had a land lease with them since 1970. My objection is based in my conserve for the Pinedale community.

Susan Brosi

From: Jennifer Ruiz

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 5:09 PM **To:** PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** FW: Contact Mayor Form submitted on Mayor

## Regarding cannabis CUP @ 7363 N Blackstone

From: Abel Garcia < ucllabel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2023 12:55 AM

To: Mayor < Mayor@fresno.gov >

Subject: Contact Mayor Form submitted on Mayor

#### **External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

First Name	Abel
Last Name	Garcia
Email	ucllabel@gmail.com
Phone Number	(559) 917-4940
Subject	Pinedale and Marijuana Dispensary near Pinedale Elementary School
Message	June 19, 2023
	Re: Pinedale Community/Marijuana Dispensary
	Dear Honorable Mayor Jerry Dyer,
	This letter is a request for your immediate assistance in protecting the community of
	Pinedale located in the North side of Fresno city. Please assist in stopping the approval
	of a marijuana dispensary, which the city of Pinedale has already defeated 2 other
	attempts. There is a blatant relationship at the local level of leadership in charge of
	approval and the dispensary, a clear conflict of interest for the families of Pinedale.
	In a community where there are many challenges, a marijuana dispensary near the
	children of Pinedale elementary, a member of the Clovis Unified School District is one
	less challenge the families of that community need. Please have Pinedale exempt from
	future targeting of other marijuana dispensaries.
	As a member and Deacon at Pinedale Community Fellowship church, as a father of 5

	children, this small request of help from someone of your authority would be greatly appreciated and further cement your legacy as someone who continues to protect the
	children and families of today and future generations to come.
	Best Regards and God Bless,
	Abel Garcia Deacon, CRNA, MSN
	559-917-4940
IP Address	207.177.179.241
User-Agent	Google Chrome 113.0.0.0 / OS X
(Browser/OS)	
Referrer	https://www.fresno.gov/mayor/contact-us/

From: Teresa Leonard <teresaannleo@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2023 2:44 PM **To:** PublicCommentsPlanning

**Subject:** Marajuana Dispensary - Application No P23-00801 & Environmental

Assessment No P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Dear City of Fresno,

I am petitioning & begging you not to allow a Marajuana Dispensary in the PInedale neighborhood. I am deeply concerned about its proximity to the Pinedale Elementary School. As a teacher, I have seen the availability of drugs and drug culture influence children at a younger and younger age. There is another dispensary just 1.4 miles away and that is PLENTY.

Please protect our children and do not allow a dispensary to be in Pinedale!

Teresa Leonard

From: frank guerrero <frankrg2002@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 7:07 AM

To: Robert Holt Subject: No on P23-00801

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

As a concerned citizen, I oppose the application Embark Cannabis Dispensary. I do not oppose a dispensaries if it is established in a designated business park district/area away from residential neighborhoods, food establishments and schools.

This location poses several social risks to the city, especially to the nearby community of Pinedale, as it has had its share of social hardships. There is also a nearby school, public library, community center and church close to the vicinity. Not to mention the nearby business establishments that serve families, such as the laundromat, donut store and post office.

Also I think this is not an appropriate representation for Fresno as this location is on a historically busy street in Fresno. As applications continue to be proposed, I hope our city and county management work to establish designated zones where neighborhoods are not impacted and away from public view. This area deals with homelessness and crime, which could heighten additional calls of service from police. This type of business could pose a risk as they are a prime target for robberies/burglaries.

These types of cannabis dispensaries would not be accepted in the shopping centers around Van Ness extension, the Bluffs, Fort Washington or the Woodward lakes area and should not be at this location either. As a concerned community member, Frank R Guerrero

From: Shirley savala-rubiolo <savala\_rubiolo@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 7:01 AM

**To:** Robert Holt; savala rubiolo@yahho.com

**Subject:** Pinedale, Caslifornia and why I do not want a third drug dispensary in

Pinedale, CA/Cannabis Cup/No,P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Mr. Holt,

Drug awareness is a vital part of service to the community of Pinedale, California. Young people often start with just testing drugs and then end up getting addicted ti them. They consume drugs sometimes because of unfair expectations and stress. The drug's name makes them feel high and its after-effects are quite relaxing but it's in the long run, can damage their brain and so much more.

Students also get this drug addiction when they fail to get emotional su[[prt. So, they turn to drugs to calm their anger.

Drug use makes students physically weak and mentally weak. Drugs also attract various diseases. it makes their recovery difficult.

Please vote against bringing, bringing dispensaries into Pinedale. marijuana store.

Please do not support a **third** drug dispensary in Pinedale, California. Thank you.

Sincerely, Shirley Rubiolo From: Veronica Vela < Veronica Vela @clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 2:13 PM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** Subject: CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No.

P23-00801

#### External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons it is too close to Pinedale Elementary, and those kids already have a hard time breaking from the stigma that comes from living in a low-income area.

My relationship to the area or location is I am one of the fifth-grade teachers at Pinedale Elementary

Veronica Vela 5th Grade Pinedale Elementary From: Matt Verhalen < MattVerhalen@clovisusd.k12.ca.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 10:14 AM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** Subject: CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No.

P23-00801

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons...

My relationship to the area or location is as the principal of Lincoln elementary school, Clovis Unified. I am beyond myself wondering why Fresno government would place this so close to a school. Is Fresno going to follow our far left government and make choice that with distract and destroy a community. Pinedale already has enough challenges. I realize we live in California, but Fresno used to have strong conservative base that didn't go with the flow. I ask you to be wise. I know a few pot smokers, they don't mind driving to go get weed. Once you allow this in Pinedale it will be hard to go back. If you wouldn't put it next to Clovis North or Clovis West, don't do Pinedale.

Matt Verhalen, Principal Lincoln Elementary.

From: Cathy Garcia <garcia.cathy@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 6:33 AM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** Subject: CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No.

P23-00801

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons it is close to Pinedale elementary and it would bring harm to our children and their families.

My relationship to the area or location is it has been my home for over 40 years.

Please do let this happen to our neighborhood.

Cathy Garcia

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Christina Romero <christinaromero3390@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2023 3:40 PM **To:** PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** Subject: CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No.

P23-00801

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing in opposition to the Embarc cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons...

My relationship to the area or location is that I am a 30 plus year resident of Pinedale Community. I grew up in Pinedale, went to school and attended various activities and places in the community. I love my community and what it has to offer for our children & seniors and the whole family. Pinedale is a small historical community that is united when one hurts, we all hurt and come together as a community. We have a Pinedale Community Center where I attended as a kid because I knew it was a safe place that offers so many amazing programs for children and adults. The list is endless to say they even offer a senior program for our seniors in our community. We have Pinedale Elementary School that is a prestigious school that has received numerous awards and recognitions for its academics and athleticism. We have our very own Boys n Girls Club that offers amazing programs for our children throughout the year. Four beautiful churches that the community attends to. I'm not against cannabis at all. I think none of us are the only thing is location. Why would we want to have more negative stigma in Pinedale? We already have enough of it. As a kid growing up, I dealt with so many negative comments about where I live or grew up. People already see Pinedale as a drug community full of violence and gangs. Like I said I've lived here for 30 years not once have I personally dealt with any of those negative comments inside my community. I've never been offered drugs or been involved in violence. So, it's hard for me when people think we Pinedale people are all the same. We are not, anywhere in Fresno you find negative situations, not only Pinedale. STOP making Pinedale look like a drugged community by putting all these cannabis dispensaries around us! I'm tired of having to fight the negative comments but I will for our children and my own people. Our kids deserve to have a chance to go for scholarships and sports once in high school is not looked away because of where they come from or live, they didn't choose to grow up in Pinedale their parents did because they knew it was a beautiful safe place for them to be raise in. So please hear and listen to us the COMMUNITY the people that do live in PINEDALE don't betray us keep this a residential historical community. Thank you for your time.

From: Paula Chacon <paulachacon88@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 7:35 PM

To: PublicCommentsPlanning

Cc: Robert Holt

**Subject:** XUP Application No. P23-0081

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

To: PublicCommentsPlanning@fresno.gov

Cc: Robert.Holt@fresno.gov

Subject: CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801

I am writing in opposition to the cannabis dispensary opening at 7363 N. Blackstone at the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I am opposed for the following reasons...

My relationship to the area or location is that I am resident of Pinedale for the past 14 yrs. We moved back to Pinedale while I was pregnant with my last Son so he and my school age children could attend Pinedale Elementary. My husband and his family have been Pinedale residents since the 1940's. Please don't put a dispensary in my neighborhood where I am raising a family and where we work. Thank you for your time Paula Chacon

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Ms. Clark: June 23, 2023

My name is Elise Emmanuelle Higgs. I am 23 years old, born and raised in Fresno. I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and active member of the Fresno community. I attended Pinedale Elementary, Kastner Intermediate, Clovis West High School, and California State University, Fresno. I graduated last May with a B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy: Prelaw, and I am currently working on law school applications in pursuit of a career in legal-medical advocacy. At Fresno State, I was an avid member of the Mock Trial and Moot Court teams, as well as a President's Scholar in the Smittcamp Family Honors College. For the past year, I have been a substitute teacher for Clovis Unified; I taught at Pinedale Elementary more often than any other school due to my connections with the school staff and community itself. My mother was born in Pinedale and taught kindergarten at Pinedale Elementary for over 30 years; my maternal grandparents lived, raised their family, and owned a small business known as Liz's Mini-Mart on Minarets Avenue; my grandfather helped build St. Agnes Mission Church on Birch Avenue; my grandparents babysat me my entire childhood in Pinedale; and I spent countless hours at my aunt's house and the Pinedale Boys & Girls Club with my cousins, who live in Pinedale to this day. In middle and high school, my friends who lived in Pinedale would give me rides to the elementary school when my mom was stuck at work.

Although I am not a current Pinedale resident, I have been connected to the community my entire life, and I care deeply about the people who reside there, as many are my family members. Additionally, my immediate family is currently involved in the Pinedale Community Association, the non-profit which organized the Pinedale Centennial Celebration earlier this year. The Pinedale community is near and dear to my heart, and it is for these reasons that I am writing in opposition to establishing a cannabis dispensary in the proposed location at 7363 N. Blackstone Ave, between Pinedale Avenue and Alluvial. As an aspiring legal advocate, I strongly believe community engagement and political participation are vital to a well-functioning democracy. Therefore, I am grateful for the opportunity to express my opposition to the pending establishment of the project, which will pose a detrimental threat to the health, safety, and welfare of residents in the historical community known as Pinedale.

Pursuant to Article 33 § 9-3307 (d)(8) of Fresno City Municipal Code, all cannabis retail businesses applying for a Cannabis Conditional Use Permit must "provide a neighborhood

responsibility plan so the review authority may find that the proposed use and its operating characteristics are not detrimental to the public health, safety, convenience, or welfare of persons residing, working, visiting, or recreating in the surrounding neighborhood and will not result in the creation of a nuisance." During District 2 Project Review Committee meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023, Dustin Moore – co-founder & Chief Compliance Officer of Embarc – claimed the presence of the dispensary will ultimately make the Pinedale community a safer neighborhood by "improving vagrancy and drug abuse" among the unhoused population living just outside the existing property. He attributed this improvement in safety to the armed guards who will carry pistols as a crime deterrent, the 24/7 surveillance cameras which will record all activity, and mosquito alarms, which emit loud sound at high frequencies intended to deter loitering. During the committee's meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023, Moore admitted this mosquito alarm will be used to forcefully displace unhoused people and those loitering near the property. According to the German Federal Institution for Occupational Safety and Health, children, young infants, and those with auditory hypersensitivity are especially at risk for significant pain and overstimulation when exposed to mosquito alarms. While this alarm may be intended to displace the unhoused, it carries high potential to harm young children and others visiting the adjacent laundromat; the safety of this tactic is widely known as questionable and inhumane.

Simply displacing unhoused people does not improve the ever-pressing existing social and economic conditions which have produced the prevalence of homelessness. In fact, the unhoused who live near in the area may be inclined to move toward houses in the community, which would undoubtedly present concerns to the nearby residents. This is not to say unhoused people are inherently unsafe or violent, but many struggle with mental health conditions and drug addictions, which may be triggered by mosquito alarms and/or armed guards. However, the measures Embarc claims to be deterrents of crime are inherently violent and disruptive. In fact, Moore asserted during the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, "Our job to make our location unhospitable for vagrants." If the company's intention were to improve social problems such as homelessness and drug addiction, Embarc representatives would take the time to understand the deeply rooted public health issue that is homelessness in the City of Fresno. Despite their assertions regarding improved safety, the company has failed to fulfill the safety requirement based on its permit application evaluation safety scores. Although Embarc has consistently and adamantly stressed a commitment to the public health, safety, and welfare of Pinedale, the company received only 130

points of the 300 possible points, or 43.3%, on the evaluation of its safety plan. The following lists includes the exact sections which scored 0 on the safety component of the application:

#### Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Application Evaluation (not including sections which scored above 0):

4.1 The Safety Plan shall be prepared and/or assessed by a professional fire prevsuppression consultant	ention and
Safety Plan Prepared for CCB Address:	0/10
Safety Plan includes Site Plan of Premise:	0/10
4.2 Describe accident and incident reporting procedures	
Written accident/incident procedure provided:	0/20
Procedures Address Multiple Accident/Incident Scenarios:	0/10
Total Number of Scenarios Described:	0
Active Shooter Incident Described:	0/10
Robbery Incident Described:	0/10
4.3 Describe evacuation routes	
Evacuation Route Distance to Public Right of Way:	0/10
4.4. Location of fire extinguishers and fire suppression equipment	
Location of fire suppression system elements identified:	0/10
Type of Fire Suppression System Elements Identified:	0/20
4.5 Describe procedures and training for all fire and medical emergencies	
Cardiac Arrest Medical Emergency Described:	0/20
Gunshot Wound Medical Emergency Described:	0/20
Other Medical Emergency Conditions Described:	0/20

**Total safety score: 130/300 (43.3%)** 

Although there is an overall minimum requirement all permit applicants must meet to move onto Phase II of the process (80%), there is no minimum threshold for each individual section, including the safety plan. It is especially concerning that there are no procedural specifications for a potential gunshot wound medical emergency in this project's evaluation, even though the third-party security guards will be armed with pistols, according to CCO Dustin Moore. If security were to use their weapons against a potential threat, the probability of that person(s) dying skyrockets without a proper safety plan in place for a gunshot medical emergency. Despite such, Embarc prides itself on "integrating respectfully, responsibility, and sensitively into the

community." The comments and actions of Embarc representatives have failed to corroborate this promise to the community, many of whom oppose this integration. Special and intricate attention should be paid to receive this permit, especially because Embarc's existing Fresno location is currently their only location with third-party armed guards, who are required by the City of Fresno. Nonetheless, the company irresponsibly applied for a conditional permit without an in-depth, complete, and proper safety plan, despite seeking a location near multiple areas of sensitive use and businesses used by families and children daily. As a frequent customer of the tenant next to this proposed project, Taco Grande, I know the area very well. Given this area's high propensity for loitering, coupled with the risk of robbery and other crimes, the potential risk for consequential gun violence and drug abuse will increase, especially among young teenagers. The legalization of cannabis has failed to deter use of street-bought cannabis in impoverished communities such as Pinedale, and the mere existence of dispensaries are not enough to undo the institutional violence born during the War on Drugs. For these reasons, Embarc does not sufficiently satisfy Article 33 § 9-3307 (d)(8), given their operating characteristics have incredibly high potential to become detrimental to the public health, safety, convenience, or welfare of the Pinedale community.

In addition, the authorization of this project would seemingly violate § 9-3307(b), which states: "Cannabis retail businesses shall be dispersed evenly by Council District. If changes to Council District boundaries create an un-even distribution, existing cannabis retail businesses shall be allowed to remain and subsequent cannabis retail businesses approved by the City Manager shall create even distribution by Council District." At this point in time, there are only two officially recognized cannabis retail dispensaries in the City of Fresno: The Artist Tree at Palm & Nees (located in District 2) and Embarc at Blackstone & Gettysburg (located in District 4). If the proposed location were established, it would be within the boundaries of District 2, as well as 1.6 miles away from the Artist Tree, which is a 5-minute drive by car. If it is the case that cannabis retail businesses must be dispersed evenly within districts, the Artist Tree and the Embarc location would not be evenly distributed by common interpretation of the term. If it is the case they must be evenly dispersed throughout the city, then there should not be more than one dispensary located within a single district. While the zones eligible for retail cannabis businesses are quite limited in the City of Fresno, the new Embarc location must be distributed elsewhere to create even distribution among the city itself as well as its districts. Moreover, most

Pinedale residents in opposition to this location are not opposed to the legalization and decriminalization of cannabis – it is merely the proximity to nearby residential homes, businesses, and schools which present significant ethical and philosophical concerns.

To be clear – I am not opposed to the legalization nor the decriminalization of cannabis. I appreciate the lifelong work of cannabis policymakers and activists involved in this project's making. This is not the issue at hand. I am in opposition to the proposed location being in such proximity to the residents of Pinedale, in a mixed-use property which includes a laundromat, donut shop, and several restaurants which the students of Pinedale Elementary, Kastner Intermediate, and Clovis West High School frequent. The presence of a dispensary will not contribute to the community in the way Embarc representatives have posited. Most importantly, the Pinedale community has adamantly and passionately opposed this project, in addition to two other cannabis dispensaries in the past several years.

Pinedale is a historical community with an immensely rich and vibrant culture and history, plagued by many social and economic issues facing numerous neighborhoods in our city, state, and country. Pinedale residents are grasping at strings to protect and preserve the character of an originally unincorporated and sovereign community, which very well may cease to exist in the next century. Mr. Moore was correct in his assertion that Pinedale is one of the zip codes that was negatively impacted by the failed War on Drugs, and which billions of dollars of cannabis tax revenues never quite reached. Embarc claims on their company website that operating their business is a privilege, not a right, and that the enforcement of drug policies have marginalized and disenfranchised low-income communities and people of color. Pinedale is one of those communities. I wholeheartedly agree with their statements, and I strongly urge you to reconsider granting a permit for this project based on these truths. The children of Pinedale cannot speak for themselves in this matter. With all due respect, you have the opportunity to speak on their behalf. I am confident you will make the right decision, and I appreciate your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Elise Higgs

CUP Application No. P23-00801 and Environmental Assessment No. P23-00.00801 I Leovigilda Garzon write in opposition to the opening of the cannabis dispensary at 7363 N. Blackstone on the northwest corner of West Pinedale and North Blackstone Aves. I object for the following reasons

It is very close to Pinedale Elementary school. I have small children and I would not like to have this place with armed men. We would not be safe going for a pizza or some donuts would be at risk to some extent our lives.

My relationship with the area; My family and I have lived in Pinedale for 14 years, my children were born and raised here.

I am a mother concerned about my community and the future of our children, and above all safety because of this business



Dear Ms. Clark,

I am writing in opposition to CUP Application No. P23-00801 & Environmental Assessment No. P23-00801. I am writing today on behalf those who lack the voice, technological means, or navigational skills to pen a letter. Many English Language Learnings in our community have also voiced their opposition to applicant Embarc opening a retail cannabis dispensary at 7363 N. Blackstone in Pinedale.

My name is Lori Garcia. My parents owned and operated a small grocery store in Pinedale beginning in 1968. It was also our home- we lived in a small apartment in the back of the store. In the late 1980's, with the expansion of North Fresno, our family market was unable to compete with the rise of franchise convenience stores. Consequently, the business closed in 1989. It was through growing up at the Mini Mart- serving the Pindalean customers who would become my friends, and even my family- that I became a Pinedalean myself.

As I college student, I worked for the City of Fresno at the Pinedale Community Center. As I distributed summer sack lunches, I built relationships with Pinedale families. Finally, as part of Clovis Unified educational team, my life's work has been dedicated to educating and empowering students at Pinedale Elementary. After 32 years of teaching at Pinedale Elementary, I retired last June. I currently serve as the Board Secretary of the Pinedale Community Association. I am wholeheartedly invested in the Pinedale Community.

Pinedale is a unique, historical community. 2023 is the Centennial year of our town's founding. We have generational families dating back decades. In March, we held the celebration of the century, a truly a successful and joyous event. People of all ages came together. It was rewarding to witness sheer joy in old friends reuniting and pride amongst the community, most especially our senior guests. The love of community was evident that day, as it is evident now in our opposition to the proposed dispensary.

We are vehemently opposed to the dispensary for the following reasons: Safety, Public Health, Convenience, and Welfare of Our Community Members Who Reside, Work, Visit, or Recreate in the Surrounding Neighborhood. It will create a nuisance.

Here is a snapshot of Embarc's Commercial Cannabis Permit Application Evaluation: Section 4: Safety The Safety Plan has a dismal sub-total score of 43%. We are highly concerned due to the scores in Section 4 sub-sections:

- **4.2** Accident & Incident Reporting Procedures
- d. Active Shooter Incident Described: 0/10 Points Not Mentioned
- e. Robbery Incident Described: 0/10 Points Not Mentioned
- 4.2 Sub-Total 0/50
- **4.3** Describe Evacuation Routes
- a. Evacuation Route Distance to Public Right of Way 0/10
- **4.5** Describe & Procedures & Training for All Fire & Medical Emergencies
- d. Gunshot Wound Medical Emergency Described 0/20 Not Mentioned
- e. Other Medical Emergency Conditions Described 0/20
- 4.5 Sub-Total 40/100

The Pinedale Community, as residents of District 2, deserve far more than a failing score of 43% for Safety. Public health and safety are at risk. The location is approximately 350 feet to the nearest residence.

As most impoverished areas, our children are bombarded by adult habit-forming vices through liquor stores, smoke shops, and gambling propaganda, all visible from Pinedale Elementary and/or our main street. Families battle alcoholism, drug addiction, and poverty. What other school in all of Fresno County has a cannabis dispensary within 1000 feet?

The Pinedale Community previously faced two attempts by cannabis dispensaries to open a business in our neighborhood. First, Token Farms presented their plan at a public meeting at the Pinedale Community Center, but respectfully declined after hearing resident input. Second, we were in a hard battle with Lemonade Dispensaries. Thankfully Councilmember Karbassi supported us and appealed the decision. We are grateful for the City Council who denied the application. Yet, here we stand again, battling a **third** cannabis dispensary encroaching our beloved neighborhood. Embarc's public meeting was held in District 6, when it should have been held in District 2, at the Pinedale Community Center; instead, it was held in a posh hotel. They canvassed the neighborhood, but failed to provide notices in Spanish. Furthermore, notices only went directly to property owners, no notification to any resident renting their home in Pinedale. Although that is acceptable within Fresno code, it is unacceptable to us morally. Embarc claims community outreach, but it was clearly selective. The people of Pinedale will have to live with the dispensary IN their neighborhood, so community meeting should have been scheduled in Pinedale.

Pinedale School is one-half mile from the proposed dispensary, within legal limit. The Spirit of the Law versus the Letter of the Law--200 more feet, and we wouldn't have to fight yet another dispensary. We implore the City to once again consider its moral obligation and do right by the People, most especially our children who are powerless in this process.

Clovis Unified has spent years re-energizing the community through an intentional focus on successful educational student outcomes, known as the Pinedale Project. As a teacher, I have witnessed firsthand Pinedale Elementary pull itself up from a low performing school at risk of state control, to a California Distinguished School and recognized as National Blue Ribbon School (2014). With high standards of excellence, the majority of Pinedale students no longer graduate from continuation high school, but from Clovis West High School. Our intermediate and high school students walk past this retail area to get from home from to school, as well as to access major retail shopping and entertainment centers. Our children, too, deserve the right to safety. To grant the permit the dispensary at this location is a slap in the face to educators, parents and students themselves.

Armed Security guards will be stationed indoors, as well as outdoors in the parking lot. That particular retail shopping center is frequented by our community, and we don't feel secure in sharing space with *security guards* carrying guns. These are not officers of the law. They are *security* personnel. I recently saw a video where LAPD arrested a cannabis security guard because he was not licensed to carry a weapon. To permit this in a residential community is a failure. The public expects government to provide safe environments. To have armed guards in a public area is a disservice, risk, and threat to our sense of safety. Consequently, we expect business in the retail center to decline.

We are particularly concerned for youth safety during the late night when the business is closed. Teens are curious, and at times mischievous. Our fear is that adolescents may taunt an overwhelmed security guard. Miscommunication and human error can easily turn a situation into tragedy. One merely needs to read the daily news to know that Black, Brown and impoverished students are frequently victims in these situations. It is recipe for disaster.

If permitted, both District 2 dispensaries will be in proximity to Pinedale. Artist Tree is .9 of a mile away. Tiny Trees, across the street in District 6, is also in close proximity at .7 of a mile in Riverpark. The City code should emphasize spacing the dispensaries within a District. Let's spread out to other areas of District 2 such as the

industrial area of Palm Bluffs. The system is built against disenfranchised communities. We have faced two dispensaries, yet here we stand once again, facing institutionalized racism and socio-economic favor. Embarc's North Fresno customer base does not have to live where they purchase their products. We do. Our children do. We urge the City to deny the permit application. The Pinedale Community is bombarded by cannabis, legal and illicit. To quote CUSD Superintendent Dr. Buchanan, "A fair break for every kid." That's what we community members are asking for--a fair break for our kids. We love our children too.

Embarc anticipates 300 cars in an already congested area. We frequent the retail shopping businesses, where parking is already limited. Why wasn't a FULL traffic study completed? Traffic is going to spill into the neighborhood and become a public nuisance. Minarets Ave. is currently used as a throughway, as drivers avoid Herndon. Recently a young bike rider was struck by a vehicle as he rode along Minarets. Exiting off Blackstone is time consuming due to heavy traffic, so Embarc customers will likely exit the shopping center through the neighborhood. This will increase traffic and impact public safety. Pinedale Elementary students cross a high-risk intersection at Minarets and SugarPine. With the influx of cars, the intersection will increasingly become an area with safety concerns.

#### SEC. 9-3307. - LOCATION AND DESIGN OF RETAIL CANNABIS BUSINESSES.

Each proposed *cannabis* retail business shall: Subsection (d) (8)

Each applicant shall provide a neighborhood responsibility plan so the review authority may find that the proposed use and its operating characteristics are not detrimental to the public health, safety, convenience, or welfare of persons residing, working, visiting, or recreating in the surrounding neighborhood and will not result in the creation of a nuisance.

The proposed location is approximately 800 feet from a historic Catholic Church, St. Agnes Mission Church, who celebrates its Centennial next year. A federal post is approximately 400 feet in proximity. The parking lot is limited, so many visitors park in a dirt lot which is directly across the street from the proposed location. Our residents will likely share and compete with overflow parking. This adds to public inconvenience and nuisance. The laundromat is adjacent to the building location, and there is no significant boundary between the two. Families with young children visit the laundromat. Children with developing lungs will breathe cannabis odors.

Based on the aforementioned points, we believe permitting Embarc to open a retail cannabis dispensary in Pinedale would be a violation of the City code.

Pinedalians are hardworking people who love their families, homes, and neighborhood. In our humble opinion, it is a hidden gem in Fresno. Though we are a historically disenfranchised minority community, we are rich in pride and love. Our Centennial motto is Celebrating 100 Years of Family, Friendship, and Community. We stand proud in protecting our children and future generations.

#### SEC. 9-3307. - LOCATION AND DESIGN OF RETAIL CANNABIS BUSINESSES.

Each proposed *cannabis* retail business shall: Sub-section (d) (8)...the proposed use and its operating characteristics are not detrimental to the public health, safety, convenience, or welfare of persons residing, working, visiting, or recreating in the surrounding neighborhood and will not result in the creation of a nuisance. Based on the aforementioned points, opening a cannabis dispensary in Pinedale would be a violation of the City code. Thank you, Director Clark, for your consideration in this matter. I wish to be notified of the final project action.

With utmost sincerity, Ms. Lori Garcia



June 21, 2023

Jennifer Clark, Director

Planning and Development Dept. 2600 Fresno Street Room 3043 Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Public Input; Not Supportive of Embarc Pinedale

This purpose of this letter is to oppose Embarc placing a dispensary location in Pinedale. This cannabis dispensary, will be their second location on Blackstone Ave. Just because it's in a different City District, does not explain the necessity to have a location 4 miles away from their Blackstone & Gettysburg location and 1.5 miles from the Artist Tree Dispensary.

I live within the 1,000 feet of the property that has requested a special permit. My family's trust and I own 37, 51, 57 and 102 W. Minarets Ave. We own 8 properties in Pinedale and I am the only landlord with multiple properties that actually lives in the community.

When Pinedale was an unincorporated community, the City of Fresno explained the benefits of annexation. This dispensary is not a benefit to the community. **According to City code:** 

• Should Not be Detrimental to Public Health, Safety, Convenience or Welfare of Persons Residing, working, Visiting or recreating in the Surrounding Neighborhood and will Not result in the Creation of a Nuisance.

The traffic and lack of parking that will come with the dispensary will be a nuisance to the community. Families and children frequent the proposed location often. This includes Little Caesars Pizza, a laundromat, a doughnut business and Wienerschnitzel. The community already has to deal with the unhoused population, along with drug users and individuals with behavior health issues.

Explaining to children the reason for armed security, possible confrontations between armed security guards and individuals with behavior health issues concerns me. Illegal car racing and sideshows concerns me.

I believe this project, Embarc Dispensary, should not be approved for the Pinedale Community.

Sincerely,

I wish to be notified of the director's final action.

Ron Vega 51 W. Minarets Ave Pinedale, CA 93650 559.304.4304

vegahomerentals@outlook.com

#### Letter of Opposition for Cannabis Dispensary in Pinedale June 22, 2023

My Name is Linda Amparano. PineSalt@aol.com

559-908-8195

My relationship to the area is that I live at 7361 N. San Pablo. I am also a community leader and my husband and I have a Church at 7061 N. San Pablo.

I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!

C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801 Additional Comments-

Having a dispensary in Pinedale would further change the landscape of our community in a negative way. We constantly battle the image that everyone in Pinedale is a drug addict. Having a Dispensary in Pinedale proper(Blackstone/Ingram- Herndon /Alluvial) would "legally" solidify that image. Embarc is saying how they will "clean up" the unhoused in the area where they will reside. Somehow, the owner of Embarc has a magic wand to get rid of the unhoused that Mayor Dyer and Governor Newsom don't know about. (a promise from Embarc) Furthermore, we don't need our children idolizing a Marijuana Dispensary because they sent them to camp. (Another promise) Or that Embarc bought an air conditioner unit for the Boys and girls Club, although a group of business already purchased an AC unit for the B&G Club last year.(Another promise he didn't even know was already done) We have amazing community Partners, we don't needs Embarcs money! Embarc claims they exceed the Cities requirements for a Dispensary, that many be true by the letter of the law, however by the spirit of the law they fall short in being a good neighbor. They are not listening to the Communities concerns. The owner says our efforts to stop him from coming into Pinedale is nothing more than "Political Theater". (Look at you District 2 Planning Review Committee meeting on June 12, 2023)

My hope is that the City will consider the residents of Pinedale who would have to deal with the repercussions of having a Dispensary in their community when making your decision to grant Embarc a C.U.P.. We are fighting for our children here and we will not be bought!

#### Continued for Linda Amparano's...

#### <u>Letter of Opposition for</u> <u>Cannabis Dispensary in Pinedale</u> <u>June 22, 2023</u>

**My Name is** Linda Amparano. PineSalt@aol.com 559-908-8195

Its important to note the owner of Embarc, Dustin Moore said he had been trying to get ahold of me since March of 2020 and that I had refused to come to the table with him. First of all, March of 2020 the world shut down and we were not even able to see family so meeting Mr. Moore wasn't even on my radar.

Second of all, I have no recollection of Mr. Moore trying to contact me. Trying to do so when the entire world was in crisis mode is opportunistic at its best. One of my greatest strengths is that I am a team player and have honest and open dialog with people, however, some things are non-negotiable and the integrity of my community is one of those things.

Two prominent community members state Mr. Moore has a good business plan and we need to support him coming into Pinedale. They are darn right he has a good business plan, he made one hundred million dollars last year! If we came to the table to "talk", who would be changing their mind on this conversation? Surly Mr. Moore isn't going to change his stance on having such a profitable business in my community, he would try and change my mind as he did 2 other prominent community members. I am not a fool to minimize his ability to pursued one to see his vison. He states he was instrumental in making sure Prop 46 passed. Someone of that caliber cannot be underestimated.

Mr. Moore attempted to contact me again on May 15, 2023 through David Rodriguez(The chair of the District 2 Planning Review Committee) and I refused to meet with Mr. Moore one on one. I was willing to listen to his "Presentation" two times and nothing I heard made me what to change my stance. Mr. Moore knew my husband and I ran a food pantry and we had closed it down. He wanted to "help" to get it started up again. We have chosen not to partner with Embarc under any circumstance.

Dispensaries do NOT belong so close to communities! I am fine with Artistry on Palm/Nees, that is the kind of area they belong in. **My fight is against the location.** 

We said no to Cookies & Lemonade and to Token Farms and we are saying no to Embarc! No means no!!!

June 22, 2023

My Name is Richard Amparano

My relationship to the area is a Resident for over

To years, Hownauner, Pastor in Pinedale for 23 years

I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on

7363 N. Blackstone

Pinedale CA 93650!

C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801

Additional Comments
I oppose the proposed dispersary based on the danger, t poses to our community a the City of Freswo requires the dispensary to have armod quards. Why? Precause of the nature of the regulated and controlled to bostance that is going to be gold. The Coiminal element will talke extreme in easures to a fain the Cammabis, so moch go that quis of the quisant it. This poses an unessucery visit to pinedale.

The Data Palo Palo Pinale CA 93650

Hiswill 56 e Aol. com

My Name is	Carleen Noel
My relationsh	ip to the area is <u>Susan Busi</u>
my freen	ovn 7-11 en lendale
	stone
Environmenta	tion #P23-00801 I assessment # P23-00801
Additional Co	mments-
more	important those a
Cannel	Children are so much emportant than a
<u>10-1-1-1</u>	
<del>11</del>	

My Name is Sara Dickman
My relationship to the area is
a teacher at Pinedale
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801
Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments- The children and families are so important, Build
CNITE COVERE E SEC.
^

My Name is Martin Avila
My relationship to the area is a member of Pinedale
Community Church and relatives who live in the
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on
7363 N. Blackstone
Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801
Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments- I feel that our children are at risk of exposure gent rification, and promises from the owner that will not be kept.

My Name is Regina Lope 2
My relationship to the area is Home Owner here
in Pinedale
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-  T do not want Dispensary here in Pinedale near my Parnily.  There is other areas it can be put in.

My Name is <u>Jaime Lian</u>
My relationship to the area is Resident
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Recause T. Yours Children, and ob
not want this business in my
MANUAL MA

My Name is Antonio Mejia
My relationship to the area is <u>Resident</u>
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments- Thued Kin Pinedale for 16 years and my hids at 10 sinedale Flementary
which is really close to the Cannabis dispensary. It is 100 dangerous to even come shop around with our hids.

My Name is Jessing Garda
My relationship to the area is Resident
Jessinygarcia 1436/amail.com.
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on
7363 N. Blackstone
Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801
Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-
to close to school zone

My Name is Leoyiailda Garzon
My relationship to the area is <u>Pesiden +</u>
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-  Move this bussines for a way we have xids it is near the school: We are scared when will be
Jove town.  Jove family.
we have many kids  No guard armael here.  Pinedale say No.

My Name is Rosie Chacon
My relationship to the area is resident
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-  I have I'ved in Pinedale since 1946, I was raised here im 75 years old I met my husband have both are families came in 1946, I'vaised 5 kids here 22 grandchildern and II great grandchildern. I plan an staying here as an old close to school for my grandkids

My Name is Christing Kumeru
My relationship to the area is Pinedalo
Lasting
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-
We continued more negative Stigma

My Name is	Megzn	Rodrig	ulZ	
My relationshi	p to the ar	ea is <u>(()</u>	nmunty	Membe
I oppose the p 7363 N. Blacks Pinedale CA 93	tone	nbarc Dis	pensary on	
C.U.P. Applicat			00801	
Additional Cor		does no	t went the	children

My Name is Vina Rodriguez
My relationship to the area is (315 at Pindate
Elementary
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on
7363 N. Blackstone
Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801
Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-
Our community is against the Embarc Dispensary.
Pinedale does not need their children exposed
to this.
1-an

My Name is Rosanna Calderan
My relationship to the area is resident
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-
I have childern im raising here.  I grew up here, my family has been here since 1941e, i plan to raise my grandhilder here, i want a future in Pinedale.

My Name is JESSE CHACON
My relationship to the area is RESIDENT
BOEN AND BAIST, PARENTS and
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on Comma puller
7363 N. Blackstone
Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801
Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-  LHAVE CHILDEN THAT LIVE  IN THE RESIDENTS and go to school  here.

My Name is alice L Madrial
My relationship to the area is
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-  118, not in my neighborhood  1818, the Children

My Name is Ther AMPAIAND
My relationship to the area is 84 44.5 Old
Piredale Resident
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-
I strongly popose for the future 07 my grand Kids 3, my TOWN.

1 1 1
My Name is grendy Honso
My relationship to the area is Ma They North
Resident for 40 yrst
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on
7363 N. Blackstone
Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801
Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-
Additional Comments-
ILOVE MU Kids
HINCOMOR Had
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V

My Name is Janely Comel
My relationship to the area is resident
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on
7363 N. Blackstone
Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801
Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments- It's too close to the school, neighborhood; too close to our hids. The guards will be
close to our hids. The guards will be
armeai

My Name is Alejandra Gomet
My relationship to the area is resident
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801
Additional Comments-  It's too close to the elementary school I  grew up in! The guards well be armed  and can hurt the residents here!  The children need to be protected!!

My Name is Guadalupe Aneguin
My relationship to the area is Pinedale
resident
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801 Additional Comments-

My Name is Memodes Romers
My relationship to the area is Pinedale
Resident
I oppose the proposed Embarc Dispensary on 7363 N. Blackstone Pinedale CA 93650!
C.U.P. Application #P23-00801 Environmental assessment # P23-00801 Additional Comments-

For the aforementioned reasons, I am signing in opposition to the proposed cannabis dispensary located at 7363 N. Blackstone Ave. in Pinedale, CA.

FULL NAME	PHONE NUMBER	SIGNATURE	
1. Ernesting duan	288-0857	nesting been Junta	110
2. Lynette lane	432-5850	Lung that I Do a center	nee
3. Leticia Lopez	559 761653\$	The state of the s	
4. Exiberto Miquel	559 273 9639	FULL	
5. Ana Santiago	559 4306236	Ana Santiago	
6. Alfredo Miguel	589 439 9804	Alfredo Bague	
7. Micaela leyes	559 579 7056	Micaela Rues	
8. Stacy blint	551 270 4959	Dong gridedel	ı
9. Kelly Valencuet	659-718-3022	1000001	,
10. Jesse Soldway		- 00	
11. Cus Arow	951502 5439 Jenn	solder	
12 Vancisco Galia	93/559-776-1229 .	1101	
13. The Take 10122	559-518-5659	MIL Tan Japan	
15. Branch Schmiss	CZ 339 319-1865		
16. Irane Martinez	587-341-3786		
17. treky Gomer	559-376-0289 559-375-8953	Viene	
18. Juan Marner		TWO	
19. (Japrella Lopet	559 854 5913	Stall it	
20. Joseph Maldata	559 399 4/07	The second	
21. Jesse Annula	559-214-3149	0	
22. Jeffrey Garcia	559 903-6769	All of the second	
23. <u>Cathy Garcia</u>	559-567-8400	Cathalances	
24. Gloria Humandez	(559) 473 -1363-	Groven Hernander	
25. Bellinda Cardenas	15591 538 0774	Belinda curtenus	
26. Judith Ulius (0	1559) 394-3109	Tuenth Ollesco	
27. JOSUE Cardenas	(559) 540-1141	Josue arilenas	
28. JOSE GUTIENAEL	BSN 722-0148	12	
29. Bunna Pea	559 367 920	Papata	
30. Avagento Avila	(559) - 966-6937.	Herliet Centr	
31. ROSA ROBIES 32. Antonia Ramines	559 213 4213	Moon Rellia	
32. Antonia Raminez 33. Blichuel Enriquez	559 213 4213	antonia Rapirez	
34. Patricia Raza	559-130-0954	Askfricten 0	
35. 2PSUS 18070	660 265-0026	Paluela Raso	
36. * bulled Miren do	( SCA) 647 7 to 22	gever Fort	
37. millie Mayorga	459 139-4511	De Pai Tan	
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FULL NAME NAONI GARCIA PH	IONE NUMBER	SIGNATURE
1. The Arkan	(559) 917-6740	Now Hair
2. Aaron Cruz	(559) 241-9084	ancon
3. Annette Pena	9420805	(Indes
4. Demingo Pena	400 5505	Donnigh
5. Serma Ponn	347-1477	Serm fut
6. Concepain Belmonte	559-824-4448	amagrain Kalith
7. Maria Alcantar	559 288 1123	Marle I
8. Meerin Das	714-987-8473	Enadly
9. Jammy Ocegusda	559(547-9571)	Sanny Ocagneta
10. Japar Hermandez	(559)589-5154	Chu Hing
11. Brycen Santilegs	609-221-2603	32246
12. JORGE SALAZAR	448 899 1179	ALS
13. PRSU HOLIERE	(559) 412-9881	Olive
14. Fillerie Kodriguez	856 352 500 9848	anning
15. April (asti)	(539) 80385 11	The Contraction
16. Tania R. Galeans-Kine	559-371-9909	Temas Galeana Ky
17. Jamel a Our	5500	famelalce-
18. Josie Gracial	559 224 1342	- Comment
19. LAURA HARROLA	5593214634	Jen of
20. Seremiah King	559 37/ 9909	
21. Thornai King	(510) 499-9432	Jan Jan
22. MAI YANG	559 3216625	Mary
23. Michelle Verduzce	330-974-3/15	min
24. Modique Quiedz	1559 470-5674	The state of the s
25. Francisco Varia	ESG) 790-7672	Saci a
26. 180000	277 JA418	20284
27. NO + TO A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	MAR ECO BALO	12500
28.	5-59-301-821	2 100
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31. John a ( Oztz	109 890 9063 559 434 045	1000
32. <u>Vosa Offiz</u>	751 130 175	12)

FULL NAME	PHONE NUMBER	SIGNATURE
1. Ramon Zavala	CEG GIDA 800	
	559 222-5722	ha
2. James Junto 3. Raymond Cantre	105 559-375-6	334
4. Maria Udaye	559 547 7583	Maria Vildave
5. Francisla Morghs		Francisce MOXGLE
	1 /559)547 7982	000
7. Juana Villalobos	(559)907-8184	Allana Willelol
8. Martha Garcia	~	meetle fitter
9. Sabrina Sapien =		Sale Saje
10. Elise Higgs	559-288-1978	King for
11. Kathy Felipe	" 930 3575	atyl ore
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13. Brad Felipe	1 930 2760	M. S.
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FULL NAME	PHONE NUMBER	SIGNATURE
1. Mario Ozpi Ja	(550) 803 3703	11/5/15
2. Purkhand Hayes	559 704 3179	Olylon House
3. Mario Optiz SR	(559) 519158Z	Mario ( 2)
4. Martha Sinters		Maphe Syptom
5. Edward Murvietts	(559) 349 55 103	Colone Must the
6. Himeko Matsumoto	(209) 252 4468	Hincho mateumeta
7. SHAILEZA Aron	ra 559 313 9185	Shallege Town
8. Raigh Arora	5594309360	Rajesh Arm
9. CHAG MOUA	559·577·6741	Chao Mona
10. LENG VANG	559.577.6723	Long Vary
11. Penny Cio/Kosz	559392-0151	Town address
12. SIMONE RODGIGUEZ,	659-666-9569	Synthe Rolling
13. Elizabeth Miquel	559-709-405/	Colombia Colombia
14. Cee Vang	559-408-3121	Con la la constante de la cons
15 ( Ward Sunle	599-45-532	The fift
16. Jaquin Rivien	559-273-3027	
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FULL NAME	PHONE NUMBER	SIGNATURE
1. Tyrone JACK 2. Eddie Mor	son (559) 30!-45	71 7 292 Edumo
	Wrales 1 559 9	7 540 6426 Bld
A 1 /		6 7855 Reductor
5. Julian Santar	na Say-944-7	410 1/2
6. Angela Witeman	559.250.8823	Q. Coen
7. Juisa Trista	n 559 840-529.	2 Wasy M
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