



Save Rural Angwin Quarterly Update

August, September, October 2012

Passionate about the principles of land use and protecting the rural character of Angwin and Howell Mountain, **Save Rural Angwin** launched the voter initiative – Measure U – in April and began an active campaign in August to engage the voters of Napa County in a call for the preservation of agriculture and open space in Angwin and their commitment to “smart growth” in Napa County. The August, September, October “quarter” was very intense for **Save Rural Angwin** volunteers who worked to educate county voters about Measure U. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, “I like to see a person proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a person live so that his place will be proud of him.” While Measure U did not prevail in the ballot process, SRA’s resolve to move forward and continue to work to protect the rural character of Angwin is stronger than ever. Measure U played an important role advancing the mission of **SRA**.

It was very important to **Save Rural Angwin** and Adventists for the Preservation of Pacific Union College’s Heritage that we conduct a positive campaign. Since the inception of SRA our focus has been and continued through the campaign to be on re-designating lands remaining in the so-called “urban bubble” to appropriately reflect their historic and current use. We have never been against PUC, but rather, against the PUC Board of Trustees’ decade-long effort attempting to “urbanize” the very core of Angwin which they regard as “empty space”. **SRA** seeks to prevent large-scale, character-changing development on Howell Mountain.

Though the grass-roots Pro-Measure U campaign fell short, the results do show **Save Rural Angwin’s** principles were heard by thousands of voters who do understand how quickly Napa County could become the mirror image of all other Bay Area counties instead of the agricultural jewel that it is. A very strong message has been sent to County officials. It is not going to be easy for PUC or the subsequent land owner to gain approval from the Board of Supervisors or citizens of Napa County for urbanizing development in Angwin.

PUC delivered a tidal-wave of mailers, television ads and aggressively placed campaign signs all over Napa County and into Sonoma County. They used unsavory tactics and spun allegations of “property rights” and potential lawsuit “costs to taxpayers”. Nothing in PUC’s claims of “stewardship” diminishes the long-term potential for inappropriate development on Howell Mountain as long as 100 acres remain designated “urban”. PUC’s outlay of at least half a million dollars to defeat Measure U is telling in and of itself.

John Muir said, “Nothing dollarable is ever safe from development.” Residents of Napa County, let’s together guarantee that PUC’s “promises” for “no large-scale development in Angwin” and “good land stewardship” are fulfilled.

Please bookmark www.SaveRuralAngwin.org and check regularly for the latest updates.