



Save Rural Angwin Quarterly Update February, March, April 2016

Just as the February, March, April quarter for our Save Rural Angwin (SRA) updates was closing information came available that Pacific Union College (PUC) has, once again, listed up to 578.5 acres of their land holdings for sale exclusively by Newmark Cornish & Carey. This time the land is being aggressively marketed for “premium vineyards and luxurious estate homes with spectacular valley views”. Up to “296.7 acres are plantable”, assuming Napa County environmental factors allow conversion of 40% of the forested areas. Marketing information assures an abundant water supply; very small gray print states “the information is believed to be accurate”. If PUC's parcels are sold for vineyard we can all be sure of one thing - trees will be coming down and additional negative influences could take place in our watershed. Although SRA has always been in favor of agriculture and open space, it would be heart-wrenching for our rural beauty to see more deforestation occur. The land offerings lie adjacent to the Angwin Airport (one parcel to the west and four to the east that include the “Mill Valley” and forest eastward). To view the property listing, see:

www.newmarkccarey.com/resources/propertysearch/SearchResultsPage.aspx

Do a property search for Howell Mountain Estates.

What comes to mind when you, Save Rural Angwin supporters, think of Howell Mountain and Angwin? Close your eyes and visualize what makes up that “picture” in your mind and what you see or want to see as its future.

Since 2007, the mission statement for Save Rural Angwin has been “*To protect agriculture & the natural environment, the twin sources of Napa County’s prosperity & quality of life.*” Our primary focus has been to achieve appropriate land use designations for the rural and unincorporated community of Angwin, much of which was accomplished in 2008 and 2009. Since the County completed the General Plan Update (GPU) in 2009, the focus has been to complete the County planning effort to re-evaluate areas of Angwin still designated Urban Residential. (GP Action Item AG/LU-114.1) The “mission” of saving rural Angwin is larger than this singular task. “The twin sources” rely on quality water supply, “clean” air, healthy forests and viable habitat for wildlife, balanced within a community of schools, small businesses and dispersed homes. As the headwaters for both the Bell Canyon and Lake Hennessey reservoirs, Howell Mountain streams provide the majority of the drinking water to the cities of St. Helena and Napa. Sustainability and survivability of this rural community must be defended on multiple fronts.

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Volker Eisele*

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SRA's last Quarterly Update described numerous activities occurring around the county that directly and/or indirectly affect the mission of SRA. What has happened since January 2016 on these topics?

- General Plan Action Item AG/LU 114.1: Public hearings to address the land use designations for approximately 100 acres in Angwin continue to be pushed further into the future. (Possibly late summer or fall 2016?)
- The Water, Forest and Oak Woodland Protection Initiative of 2016 is very relevant to Angwin and all of Napa County. Go to www.protectnapawatersheds.org. As our trusted friend and long-time advocate for the preservation of Ag land and open space, Volker Eisele, proclaimed back in late 2014, "Forty years ago we took care of our Ag Preserve; now we need to take care of our Ag Watershed. All the pressure for vineyard expansions will be in our hillsides, and trees are standing in the way." Out of that vision arose the idea for the Water, Forest and Oak Woodland Protection Initiative of 2016. The reason for the Initiative is that deforestation is occurring in numerous locations in Napa County. One project in the east hills above Napa plans to clear-cut up to 24,000 trees. The City Water Manager in Napa is particularly concerned about that vineyard development and others above Milliken Reservoir. The core group responsible for bringing this to our ballot in November has been gathering the required 5,000 signatures from the citizens of Napa County. Over 80 volunteers have collected signatures exceeding the required number and will have handed them over to the Registrar of Voters on May 12. The next step after the signature verification will be analysis by the current County Board of Supervisors. After that, it will be placed on the November ballot. This initiative directly affects land use decisions in Angwin.
- Three timber harvest conversion applications are currently in process in Angwin. All are designed to convert forested land to vineyard. One is near the Friesen Lakes area and located in the Bell Canyon watershed. Another is sandwiched between the Cold Springs Road neighborhood and directly above the Land Trust Linda Falls Preserve. The third is along Summit Lake Road. Local, grassroots neighborhood groups have organized to oppose these projects because of their negative cumulative affects on the watersheds on Howell Mountain. Over 1,200 acres of forested land has already been cleared in Angwin, and the Hennessey Reservoir is full of negative nutrient fed algae.
- For all the latest news and discussions concerning county-wide issues, including final outcomes of the eleven-month-long deliberations of the Ag Protection Advisory Committee (APAC), the Economic Forum sponsored by Napa Vision 2050 that addressed potential consequences of a tourism- driven economy, the proliferation of winery "event centers" throughout Napa County, and the cumulative threats and impacts to our hillside watersheds by clear cuts, go to www.napavision2050.org

- Formation of the Angwin Fire Safe Council is progressing. Since last Fall, a cross-section of community members have been meeting under the guidance of the Napa County Firewise Foundation (NCFE) program and have established the Angwin Fire Safe Council (AFSC). Working with NCFE and Fire Services, a plan has been drafted, community and neighborhood risks assessed, and projects identified to mitigate fire dangers within the Angwin community. If you live in Angwin you are probably familiar with the annual Angwin Flea Market. It will be held Sunday, May 15, 2016, at the Angwin Plaza. AFSC members will be at the Flea Market to share information. Beginning the week of Monday, May 16, the first Angwin AFSC roadside treatment project is scheduled to begin. For the remainder of May crews will be clearing brush along Howell Mountain Road between the hairpin turn at Viader and Burgess wineries and the Angwin Plaza. Historically, 80% of wild-land fires in California have started within 10 feet from a road. The AFSC needs Angwin residents to participate in a variety of specific tasks. Ask anyone you may know in Lake County, particularly on Cobb Mountain, at Middletown, or in Hidden Hills, about wild-land fires. Ask yourself if the Angwin community is prepared for a wild-land fire. Become an AFSC volunteer!