



Save Rural Angwin Quarterly Update

February, March and April 2012

Legal notice of our “Intent to Circulate Petition” for the county-wide November voter ballot posted May 4, 2012, in the Napa Register. Save Rural Angwin has launched the ultimate effort to protect the open green space that embraces residents and visitors when they first descend into Angwin.

The purpose of the initiative is to properly re-designate areas which are now still designated Urban Residential. These were held out by the Board of Supervisors during General Plan revision and were scheduled to be revisited (Action Item AG/LU 114.1) after June 2010. The revisiting has never occurred for a myriad of reasons, primarily pressure on the Supervisors from non-local sub-division developers and an active-at-that-time development application to the County from PUC. Now, two years later, these areas are for sale, once again a magnet to those attracted to the current Urban Residential designation. One developer showing interest was involved with the Eco-Village development proposal. Unless we amend the General Plan designation for these lands, this issue will arise over and over again.

The initiative has been filed with Napa County authorities. The full text and maps are provided on www.saveruralangwin.org. Workers will begin collecting signatures county-wide to qualify for the November election ballot. As registered voters in Napa County and SRA supporters, you can help most by signing our petition. The initiative process is a costly enterprise. None-the-less, Agricultural, Watershed, and Open Space (AWOS) lands that are lost are lost forever. SRA is canvassing for financial help; any donations can be sent to SRA, PO Box 222, Angwin, CA, 94508.

The two sites designated by the County for affordable housing are not included in the initiative, nor is the existing eight acre commercial area. This initiative will in no way hinder Pacific Union College in its educational mission. In fact, more acreage will be added to the core campus to allow for future college needs. This initiative seeks only to preserve the green heart of Angwin from unsustainable urbanization by developers.

For decades, Napa County has successfully protected Napa’s agricultural and open space by steering development to urban areas. While other Bay Area counties have allowed sprawl to consume important agricultural and rural areas, Napa County has preserved agriculture and open space lands using protective General Plan designations. In the Angwin area, 100 acres have been left vulnerable to subdivision development, including acreage immediately adjacent to the airport. Although members of the Napa County Board of Supervisors are sympathetic to this problem, it is generally agreed that a permanent solution can only be achieved by amending the General Plan as proposed in this initiative.