



February, March, April 2010

SAVE RURAL ANGWIN QUARTERLY UPDATE

As of April 2010, the County has received, reviewed and returned the first of two administrative drafts of the Environmental Impact Report for Pacific Union College's proposed development application. The timeline for release of the public draft is still projected for mid-summer. Once the public draft is released, we will have a 45-day period to comment.

In addition to preparing for review of the public Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), we are working with a local website designer to improve the look, content and user friendliness of the Save Rural Angwin website. The "new look" will be launched prior to the release of the DEIR and will better serve supporters with timely information, facts and resources, answers to common and not-so-common questions, and much more.

Land use issues remain the most critical concern for our Board of Supervisors. Napa County is greatly challenged by external pressures for housing growth. Internally, the availability of "affordable" housing options and where housing is best located relative to jobs, services and transit is a priority consideration and linked with many other concerns and issues for Napa County residents.

Our current Board of Supervisors, despite the financial problems at the state and federal government levels and the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression, has positioned Napa County with a substantial reserve and NO debt obligation. Because of their diligence, Napa County has one of the best bond ratings of any local government entity in the state which saves our tax dollars when capital improvements are needed.

Napa County was one of the first in the state to address post-employment benefit liabilities and is working to address future obligations. Most of us do not regularly follow the daily hard work done by our County Supervisors in these matters or their efforts to curtail regulatory and legislative requirements that could be imposed on the county such as septic system requirements or the potential elimination of volunteer firefighters; again, both examples could have been costly to residents and taxpayers.

Much is at risk in Napa County. It takes time and "boots-on-the-ground" effort to establish and effectively build access, respect and confidence in all of the external and internal arenas in which Supervisors must operate. Before any candidate can initiate seemingly good proposals or common sense ideas or programs, the individual must know, with confidence, how the county budget is set up. The candidate must know how it works, how money moves or cannot be moved from one need to another, and what state requirements play into funding. It is necessary to know all of the goals and policies of our General Plan and much, much more. Fair thinking and common sense are ineffectual without solid knowledge. We should not be misled or confused by "reform" rhetoric or good-guy intentions when casting our votes for June 8 representation on the Board of Supervisors.

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