



It's all about them

November 1, 2012

Property rights advocates who say they should be able to do whatever they wish with their land are the first to complain when neighbors do something out of the ordinary on their land. For property rights advocates, its all about them.

Designations and the zonings within them are detailed in the Napa County General Plan. This is a great help to civility: legal courts are less jammed and graveyards less busy. A designation is not a property right. It is assigned to a piece of land for the benefit of the entire community, not one property owner. The Board of Supervisors can change most designations by a majority vote. In Angwin the BOS saw an inappropriate designation; it was as obvious as a bird dropping on a wind shield, and the BOS moved to get rid of it and assign more appropriate designations. But the BOS left three areas temporarily unchanged as a favor to Pacific Union College because the college had a 380-unit development application in mid-process with the County. The BOS issued an "action item" to revisit these sites after June 2010. This was in 2008. The BOS got involved in other matters and did no revisiting, and earlier this year when the college withdrew its application, those three areas became vulnerable to new development schemes. Because the BOS had not acted, Save Rural Angwin and Adventists for the Preservation of Pacific Union College's Heritage began the process that culminated in Measure U.

Measure U does not interfere with PUC's selling a third or more of its 1800 acres. Measure U is not concerned with PUC's right - or any developer's right- to build 191 affordable units. Measure U does not in any way dispute PUC's right to fulfill its educational mission by building classrooms, dormitories, and faculty and staff housing. Measure U is focused on about 50 acres in the heart of Angwin. Destroying the heart means you destroy the rural character of Angwin. PUC is trying to sell a designation to a developer which was meant for college buildings and facilities and not for subdivisions and commercial uses. It is unethical on its face, but when money is involved, ethics be damned.

Please vote for Measure U.

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