

Measure U protects education and land

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Save Rural Angwin and Adventists for the Preservation of Pacific Union College's Heritage should be commended for its efforts to keep Angwin a rural community as described in the Napa County General Plan Update and to protect Pacific Union College from urban encroachment.

This is in accord with Ellen G. White, a cofounder of the Adventist Church, who led Pacific Union College from Healdsburg in 1909 to Angwin because of urbanization. She observed, "While men slept, the devil sowed houses." Neither Save Rural Angwin, nor Adventists for the Preservation of PUC's Heritage is sleeping.

Measure U supports Pacific Union College in its academic mission. However, Pacific Union College's Board of Trustees — with few members living in Napa County — has scant concern for Angwin and Napa County.

The 591-unit subdivision they once proposed for Angwin would have increased Angwin's population by 46 percent and put 1,200 vehicles and their accompanying pollution on Napa County's roads. Now they are collaborating with the same developer on a new project, and again, vulnerable land is in the bull's-eye.

Measure U benefits Angwin and Pacific Union College. Fields farmed for 100 years in the heart of Angwin will be beyond the grasp of developers, Pacific Union College will have a larger core campus, and its water treatment plant will be able to expand if the college grows.

Measure U saves Napa County taxpayers the enormous costs year after year for services such as fire, police and road maintenance that a city on the top of Howell Mountain would require. On average, residential development costs the taxpayer \$1.50, while realizing \$1 in tax revenue; agriculture and open space gives opposite results.

Measure U targets an inappropriate designation. The county assigns designations for the good of the whole community, not one property owner. This is fairness.

Measure U has a fail-safe (severance) clause that protects the substance of Measure U if a legal error is discovered.

If Measure U passes and opponents sue and force Napa County voters to defend their decision in court, the legal costs would be nothing compared to the costs to Napa County of servicing a city year after year in remote Angwin.

The people of Napa County have traditionally and wisely protected agricultural land and open spaces from inappropriate development. That is why Napa County is special in its unspoiled beauty. Please continue Napa's proud tradition and preserve the rural character of Angwin.

Vote "yes" on Measure U.

(Tully lives in Angwin.)