

Measure U demands sustainable growth

October 08, 2012

On Nov. 6, I urge my fellow residents of Napa County to pass Measure U.

Angwin is a small rural village located on Howell Mountain, between Napa and Pope valleys.

Measure U allows for reasonable and sustainable growth in accordance with the wishes of the voters of Napa County. It is in concert with the Agricultural Preserve established in 1968 and the voter-supported measures J (1990) and P (2008).

It protects Angwin, and therefore all of Napa County, by limiting the potential for massive, out-of-scale subdivision developments that would burden taxpayers throughout Napa County.

Labeling Angwin as “urban” is, and would continue to be, erroneous. If Measure U is not passed, we will have an inappropriate invitation to subdivision developers to propose to build out-of-scale developments.

Measure U will moderate that potential impact by designating land farmed for the past 100 years as agriculture and open space and land that should be serving the college campus as public-institutional.

Pacific Union College, or any subsequent owner of these lands, is already permitted to build 191 new homes.

The roads to and from Angwin are narrow and dangerous. It will cost the taxpayers, not the developers, to make them safe. Another tragic fatality has just recently and sadly reminded us of the safety issues.

It is ludicrous to think that building hundreds of homes on Howell Mountain will decrease traffic on the existing arteries that lead to the area. Angwin is neither a job center nor transportation center.

Out-of-scale development in rural areas is doomed to fail and severely burdens the taxpayers, as we have seen in the six or seven subdivisions at or near Lake Berryessa.

In my more than 50 years as a successful businesswoman and mayor of St. Helena, I have seen that it is with moderation, compromise, and careful, forward thinking that we have and can continue to preserve, protect and defend the future of our very special Napa County.

So, once again, I strongly urge your “yes” vote on Measure U. Over-development of the Angwin area on Howell Mountain by a single entity is grossly out of scale.

Greta Ericson / St. Helena