

## Measure U is a win-win for Napa, PUC

November 1, 2012 • [Mike Hackett](#)

There's been so much negative publicity expounded from Pacific Union College that it boggles the imagination. So, I have compiled a list of all the extraordinarily positive results that will come out of passage of Measure U:

- Pacific Union College will continue to have the right to develop or sell more than 1,800 acres of prime farm land in Angwin. Measure U deals with re-designating only 50 of their more than 1,800 acres. The school has stated it intends to sell 600 plus/minus agricultural acres east of the airport helping to build its endowment.
- PUC, or the successor owner, will continue to have the absolute right to build 191 houses on two parcels, which they own. This is more than four times the number that they said they need for future requirements of faculty and staff. And these houses would be affordable.
- PUC can revitalize the current commercial center in the heart of Angwin. They have more than eight acres upon which to modernize and economize the current area.
- The 25 acres north of the main campus, which will be designated "public institutional" (as is the main campus) can be used for anything related to their educational mission.
- The roads in and out of Angwin will, at least, be maintained to the same level of safety as they are currently. Although the school is located in a high fire danger area, a stable population on Howell Mountain will help alleviate future concerns, by not compounding the danger. Napa County residents will not get stuck paying for some developer's dream.
- Passage of Measure U addresses an oversight and unfinished land-use designation in the General Plan. The public institutional land-use designations will carry a minimum lot size standard, and the farm land designation of AWOS (Agriculture, Watershed and Open Space) will synchronize for the first time with what's reality on the ground.
- A majority vote of "Yes on U" will prompt the college's administration to look at alternative methods to build its endowment. Adventists for Preservation of Pacific Union College's Heritage will have another opportunity to advance their vision of how to build the school's endowment.

Pacific Union College has seen the immense opposition to their large-scale housing development plans, and that exposure will allow them to look at options other than disposal of their most precious asset: the land.

Other, more successful universities scoff at the idea of selling land, and, in fact, are always looking at ways to expand their campus holdings.

- Pacific Union College should expand its curriculum to include many of the new green initiatives of the 21st century. Many have requested the college look into agriculture programs, technical studies, and environmental studies.
- Pacific Union College was recently honored by Newsweek magazine as having one of the most beautiful campuses in the nation. Passage of Measure U will ensure that tradition continues.
- The proposal by the school to sell its land to a large-scale developer has fractured Angwin. Passage of Measure U will begin the healing process.

The citizens will be honored to share the responsibility with the college, to keep Angwin rural, and will help continue the tradition established by the PUC more than 100 years ago. That is a tradition of conservation and preservation.

Please vote “yes” on Measure U. Let’s bring peace and equality to Howell Mountain forever.

*Hackett is the chairman of Save Rural Angwin and lives in Angwin.*