



November, December 2009 January 2010

SAVE RURAL ANGWIN QUARTERLY UPDATE

Great news is the addition of Laurie Claudon, general manger of Clark-Claudon Vineyards, to our distinguished Advisory Council. Laurie & her husband, Tom Clark, have lived in Angwin since 1980. Laurie emphasizes, “I have joined Save Rural Angwin because I, like many who have come before me, recognize the value of fighting for what makes Napa Valley so special. I am strongly opposed to irrational development, rather than smart growth. I invite the entire community to become involved in this fight.”

Fundraising continues to be our top priority. Legal and Environmental Consultant fees will be required of us as soon as the public Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is released. Donations are greatly appreciated (SRA, PO Box 222, Angwin, CA 94508).

We hired Hollywood cinematographer and Angwin resident Brian Capener to produce a high quality DVD showing how the proposed PUC/Triad subdivision would not only destroy the agricultural character of Angwin but would contribute to the ultimate urbanization of the entire county. Supporters who have reviewed the DVD give it high praise. It has become a powerful fundraising tool and will eventually be available to the public on our website.

Improvements are being made to the SRA Website www.saveruralangwin.org. The County of Napa launched an all new website on February 1; our website includes the current e-mail addresses and phone numbers to contact Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors members.

The local scene may continue to seem quiet; however, Pacific Union College is proceeding with their proposed urbanizing project aimed at Angwin and SRA is preparing to challenge it. The County has received the first administrative DEIR for the project. Administrative drafts are reviewed only by County staff and some responsible agencies. What this means for supporters of SRA is that the clock has begun ticking; a public DEIR could potentially be released as early as mid April, though County staff estimate it will more likely be released in mid-summer.

The delay could mean a multitude of things, ranging from a need for a great deal of work still to be done on the DEIR to a strategy to stall pending the outcome of the June election, in which pro-agriculture preservation and slow-growth incumbents are being challenged by some pro-development candidates. SRA, in preparation for the 45-day public comment period, is researching each potential DEIR section so that we will be well prepared to respond when the public draft is released.

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