

## **Report to Directors, Angwin Community Council**

**Subject: Napa County Board of Supervisors meeting, April 28, 2009**

**From: Herbert Ford**

### **Late edition -**

**The Board meeting got underway** with some 50 or more placard-carrying folk who care for disabled and other home-bound persons dominating seating space in the meeting room. These are people who have been paid \$11.50 per hour to care for others, but who, because of State short-falls are slated to be dropped to \$9.50 per hour. It was touching to hear some of the stories these people have to tell of how they will just not be able to cope financially if the cuts to their income are made. Supervisor Dodd assured all that if somehow the State will come up with the money that will allow a continuation of the \$11.50 per hour that amount will certainly be continued.

**Consent Items voted by the Board** had a couple of interesting facts attached to them. Piner's Ambulance company was approved for a maximum payment of \$6,750 for a presence at Lake Berryessa for the term May 23, 2009, to September 7, 2009. Similar but larger payments were assured to Piners for this service in each of the past few years.

The Director of Public Works requested and had a resolution adopted in the Consent Items that certified there are 446.40 miles of Napa County roads through the county. This certification is being sent to the State Department of Transportation to comply with Section 2121 of the Calif. Streets & Highway Code.

Yet another Consent Item saw an acceptance and filing of the 2008-2009 Grand Jury Final Report on the Napa City-County Library, and the preparation of a response to the Grand Jury by June 28 that speaks to the seemingly numerous findings of the Grand Jury about the library.

**In reports from County departmental chiefs,** the County Public Health Officer gave a report on the then-present state of the invasion of influenza into the county and plans in place to fight any possible serious spread of the disease. Her report seemed all-encompassing and notable for its straightforward assessment.

**After a really brief "closed" session of the Board,** Supervisors took up the director of Conservation Development and Planning's request that the Board hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution amending the Napa County General Plan to implement changes to the county's Official Land Use Map re-designating portions of the Angwin and Pope Creek areas from Urban Residential to Rural Residential, Public -Institutional, and Agriculture, Watershed and Open Space, and making other changes to the map and text of the General Plan as shown in an exhibit brought to the Board.

This brought to the fore in the Angwin portion of this Board item (admittedly the larger part) the question of whether or not land Pacific Union College wishes to sell that would become a so-called "Eco-village" would continue to hold a Planned Development (PD) designation. If the PD designation were to continue, then the college and the Triad organization to which the

college might sell the land, could, if they wished, continue in the county the EIR process that will set out all findings about the sale and subsequent development. If the PD designation were to be changed to AWOS or Public-Institutional, then there would no point in continuing the EIR process.

At least two thirds of the morning session of the Tuesday meeting, and a smaller portion of the afternoon were given over to various opinions being expressed, and various motions made that mainly “whittled away” at PUC’s lands. One such action taken, for example, changed the PD designation of the college’s ball fields and tennis courts to AWOS, a move many found without rhyme or reason since the activities on the concerned land combines educational instruction and recreation of the college. A change from PD to AWOS for that land was moved by the Board, thus making it a restriction which may well find its way to judicial review since it so clearly takes from the college a freedom of use which appears unwarranted. Supervisor Dodd, the lone dissenter from the move, declared before the vote was taken, “This appears to be is a clear violation of the property rights of this property owner.”

At last came the really big question: Would the PD designation remain for the 63 acres of land the college wanted to hold that designation so its sale would be unimpeded if the EIR process did not nix the plan. Supervisor Dillion was strongly opposed, believing that a host of hoops would have to be jumped through before there would be clearance for a continuation of the designation. Finally, Supervisor Wagenknecht moved that the PD designation remain, largely so the normal EIR process could continue if desired. Four Supervisors - Caldwell, Wagenknecht, Luce and Dodd voted to support the motion. Supervisor Dillon stood alone against it.

**The annual report of the Napa County Resource Conservation District**, presented to the Board in the afternoon session provided enlightenment on this organization’s helpful activities which seeks to provide “a balanced approach to resource conservation by integrating voluntary, cooperative and scientifically sound methods to ensure that the watersheds within the District are sustained, conserved, restored and protected within a landscape of productive agriculture, growing cities, and wild lands”

The district’s report noted its engaging youth in watershed stewardship, helping the community (of Napa County) generate watershed opportunities, conducting local assessments to address local and state interests, and developing voluntary restoration plans using a watershed approach. One of the district’s major accomplishments reported was the opening of 16 miles of stream habitat to threatened steelhead trout. A total of 26 different federal, state and county agencies help fund the district’s nearly \$1 million budget.

**Reports were also received** on the “progress” of various California state legislative items, and the county’s Director of Health and Human Services Agency briefed the Board and responded to questions regarding the effect of the economic downturn on the demand for human services in Napa County.

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