

Further response ...

My husband and I also came late to the game by recently attending several Yucaipa Valley Wine Committee and city council meetings. While we have great respect for the members who have devoted their time to working through the AVA process, somewhere along the way they have lost their passion for preserving the north bench.

Of course there is frustration expressed by a majority of the committee members towards one lone dissenting vote. Two of the voting members are the very developers who will reap the financial benefit of building condos (being called villas) on the North Bench!!! The other voting members are a city councilman who has made it known he supports the developers, a winery owner, and various others. Thankfully, she is outspoken enough to call into question what she feels is the wrong direction for our city. She's been a resident for over two decades and has earned a great reputation for her volunteer work on many committees dedicated to preserving our rural lifestyle. The committee members who live in the NB community who are in lockstep with the current plan are doing a grave disservice to the majority of residents who have become very vocal in objecting to their plan. Why can't a compromise be found that will better address everyone who will be impacted? Instead of reducing the lot sizes, reduce the number of acres devoted to vineyards. Why does Yucaipa need 25 wineries and all the necessary infrastructure? The original vision has become blown out of proportion on a massive scale. I have called on the committee to allow new members to be seated in January who can rework the current iteration and improve on their diligent work so as to come together with the current homeowners of the North Bench. Thus far, they have become intransigent and unwilling to compromise.

Vote for Sherilyn Long and Nena Dragoo who have given their word to listen to their constituents, not the candidates who are connected to the building industry and have skin in the game. Our beloved respected mayor Dick Riddell has once again got it right. Good stewardship is not based on the number and size of political signs. Follow the money.

Kathy Sellers