

# Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Tom McClintock, Chairman  
Hearing Memorandum

December 5, 2017

**To:** All Subcommittee on Federal Lands Members

**From:** Majority Committee Staff—Brandon Miller  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

**Subject:** Legislative hearing on **H.R. 805 (Rep. Devin Nunes)**, To authorize the conveyance of and remove the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands in the City of Tulare, California.  
**December 7, 2017, 2:00PM; 1324 Longworth House Office Building**

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**H.R. 805 (Rep. Devin Nunes)**, *“Tulare Youth Recreation and Women’s History Enhancement Act”*

## **Bill Summary**

H.R. 805, introduced by Representative Devin Nunes (R-CA-22), would allow for the conveyance of two properties currently owned by the Union Pacific Railroad to the City. These two properties currently provide youth recreational opportunities, as well as serve as important historical sites for the community in Tulare. Specifically, this bill authorizes the conveyance of, and relinquishes the reversionary interest in, specified parcels of land that were retained as a right-of-way for the construction of a railroad and telegraph to the Pacific coast in 1866. The relinquishment of the U.S. reversionary interest will be effective when the Union Pacific Railroad conveys the parcels to the City of Tulare. Congressman Nunes’ bill will correct this error and allow for investment and restoration of these properties of historical significance.

## **Cosponsors**

Rep. David Valadao [R-CA-21]

## **Witnesses**

### **Panel I:**

*The Honorable Devin Nunes*  
Member of Congress, California’s 22<sup>nd</sup> District

### **Panel II:**

*Ms. Maritsa Castellanoz*  
Tulare City Council Member (District 2) and Vice Mayor  
Tulare, CA

## **Background**

In 1996, Congress passed legislation introduced by Congressman Bill Thomas to convey a number of properties along the railroad right-of-way owned by the Union Pacific Railroad. This legislation inadvertently missed two parcels of land that hold historic and cultural significance to the City of Tulare.<sup>1</sup>

### **Tulare Railroad Parcels Proposed to be Acquired April 30, 2015**

This map prepared at the request of Representative Nunes



Map showing the parcels involved in the conveyance and removal of reversionary interest in the city of Tulare, California.

**Source:** Map provided to the staff of Rep. Nunes by the Bureau of Land Management

The Women's Clubhouse and the Rotary Skate Park are two important pieces of land for the City of Tulare and its residents. The Clubhouse has been using the location as an event site since the 1800s. For many years, it housed the Tulare library as well as the Salvation Army. The

<sup>1</sup> Information provided by the office of Congressman Devin Nunes

Tulare Women’s Club gained ownership of the building in 1912. In recent years the site has been used for city-sponsored events and community gatherings.<sup>2</sup>

The Skate Park, historically known as Railroad Park, has historically been a locality for residents of Tulare to gather for civic purposes. In recent years, the Tulare Rotary Club made the park even more appealing for the City of Tulare by turning it into a skate park and popular recreation area. The Union Pacific Railroad has agreed to allow the purchase of these parcels and has provided a letter of support for this legislation.<sup>3</sup>

**Cost**

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

**Administration Position**

The Administration’s position is currently unknown.

**Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)**

N/A

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.