

HR 805

The Union Pacific Railroad sold land to the City of Tulare for redevelopment purposes in the mid-90s. H.R. (105th Congress-March 5, 1997) was the vehicle used to achieve this and it included 12 lots. Two lots were excluded from this group, a historic Women's Club House and a Skate Park. For redevelopment purposes, we are currently working with the Railroad to own these two parcels of land. There is currently no opposition on the subject matter as the railroad is open to selling both lots to the City of Tulare.

The Women's Clubhouse is of historic significance to the City of Tulare, we are currently working to maintain this and keep it open to the public. The Skate Park has just received state funding and planned upgrades are ready to be made for our City Residents.

As a resident of Tulare, this brings a special sentiment to me personally due to the fact that the history of this property is deeply rooted within my personal family. I come from a large Tulare first generation family. My father is the fourth son of 17 brothers and sisters all born and raised in the City of Tulare. The eldest son of these 17 children was drafted to the Korean War where he lost his life in combat. The vicinity of this property remains special to my family as it is where the railroad company delivered my Uncle's body to my Grandparents. My grandparents were accompanied by the remaining 16 children all lined up dressed in their Sundays best upon delivery of my Uncles remains. The bitter sweet memory remains special to my family as does the property. My family values this property as a form of honor and history not only to our family but to many other families with special memories and sentiments as it relates to this property.

As a Councilmember, I represent the area in which this property sits on and have had many requests to preserve the history of this historic Women's Club house and the property itself. I hope you can understand why these properties remain special to the City of Tulare and hope that we can move forward with the purchasing of this land.

Thank you,

Maritsa Castellanoz

City of Tulare Vice Mayor