

# Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman  
Mark-Up Memorandum

January 12, 2018

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

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

Mark-Up: **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.

**January 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.; 1324 Longworth House Office Building**

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## ***H.R. 805, Tulare Youth Recreation and Women's History Enhancement Act***

### **Summary of the Bill**

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 of Tulare, California. These two properties currently provide youth recreational opportunities, and serve as important historical sites for the community. Specifically, this bill authorizes the conveyance of, and relinquishes the reversionary interest in, specified Tulare Railroad Parcels 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 once the Union Pacific Railroad conveys the parcels to the city.

### **Cosponsors**

Rep. David G. Valadao [R-CA-21]

### **Background**

In 1996, Congress passed legislation introduced by Congressman Bill Thomas (R-CA) that provided for the conveyance of 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>

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

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 a meeting and event site since the 1800s. For many years it housed the Tulare library as well as the Salvation Army. The 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 always been a park for people of Tulare to gather in. In recent years, the Tulare Rotary Club has made the park even more appealing for the City of Tulare by turning it into a skate park that has been a popular recreation

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

area. The Union Pacific Railroad has agreed to allow the purchase of these parcels and have provided a letter of support for this legislation.<sup>3</sup>

### **Major Provisions/Analysis of H.R. 805**

Section 1: Short Title

Section 2: Findings

Section 3: Authorizes the conveyance and removal of reversionary interest of two parcels of land within the Tulare City business corridor that are a part of the railroad right-of-way owned by the Union Pacific Railroad.

### **Cost**

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

### **Administration Position**

The Administration's position is currently unknown.

### **Anticipated Amendments**

None

### **Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)**

None

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.