



River Valley Times

Rancho Murieta, Sloughhouse, & Wilton, California

Wilton residents meet with officials on parking of railcars

By Fran Soto

River Valley Times Staff - Area residents, including many Wilton homeowners who live along the Central California Traction (CCT) rail corridor, turned out in large numbers to meet with CCT General Manager Dave Buccolo and Union Pacific (UP) representative Wes Lujan at a public forum on Tuesday, May 12. The meeting, held at the Dillard Elementary School, was regarding the proposed parking of railcars along the corridor.

Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli, Elk Grove Mayor Pat Hume and representatives of area legislators joined the discussion. "The economy is in a bad place," Lujan said. "Nothing from our standpoint will change. But we want open dialogue on this issue."

Lujan offered an overview of the economic situation facing the railroad industry, emphasizing that the parking of railcars along the CCT corridor is unavoidable. Citing statistics of the number of cars already in storage, Lujan emphasized storage yards are full. "We are running out of places to store the cars," he said. "However, it is not our intention to do 23 miles of cars." Lujan also emphasized that the railroad would be in compliance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations. Members of the audience reacted, saying good neighbor



Photo by Fran Soto

Officials and legislative representatives attend a Wilton meeting with homeowners to discuss parking of railcars. Shown (from left) are Chanel Murray, aide to Assemblywoman Alyson Huber; Elk Grove Mayor Pat Hume; Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli; Central California Traction General Manager Dave Buccolo; Union Pacific representative Wes Lujan; and

policies are important in notifying homeowners about scheduled maintenance and policing of the parked cars. Sara Tomlinson, aide to Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan.

"We need a good neighbor approach, and we need to make sure people know what's coming," Supervisor Nottoli said. "We need to know someone gets out there as quick as possible in case of an emergency."

Residents were most upset with crews clearing vegetation along some parts of the corridor, which left tree limbs and branches littering the corridor and waterways as well as damage done to the trees. Although Lujan admitted the debris had been removed, he reiterated that the railroad is operating within the law and that it is necessary to create a clear line of sight for worker safety.

When residents protested that the railroad is not operating within the intent of the law or decency, General Manager Buccolo said, "We're not going to be cutting trees from Herald north. We are only doing weed abatement now for fire safety."

Also in contention were safety and health concerns to neighbors. Buccolo emphasized that no tankers that have carried toxic materials would be parked along the corridor. "If the economy gets worse, we may park boxcars. They will have a locked bar so they can't be opened," he said. "If there's a problem, we work with local first responders. Call 911 and then call 1-888-UPRR-COP. We will be out there on the scene when we get a call." Lujan added that the railroad would be monitoring the parked cars on a weekly basis.

Other concerns voiced by those present included how parked cars would affect property values, damage to organic businesses along the rail line and graffiti. "You are not going to like hearing this," Mayor Hume said, in answer to some of the concerns. "The laws are set up to protect the railroad. They are federally protected because of interstate commerce."

Although no concessions were made to the homeowners, Lujan asked residents to call 1-800-892-1283 regarding any problems that may arise from the parked cars. He also suggested that, on a regular basis, he and elected officials meet with a core group of residents to resolve any problems that might develop.

This is an Online publication of
The River Valley Times

PO Box 209
Wilton CA 95693
(800) 700-2166

For comments or questions,
email us

President: Roy Herburger
rherburger@herburger.net.

[Editorial email](mailto:rvt@herburger.net)
rvt@herburger.net

Managing Editor: Judith Unzner
rvt@herburger.net.

Publisher: David Herburger
dherburger@herburger.net.

Advertising Director: Jim O'Donnell
advertising@herburger.net.

Advertising Sales: Donna Kendro
dkendro@herburger.net

Webmaster: Daniel Herburger
daniel@thegaltherald.com.

[Front Page](#) - [Wilton](#) - [Rancho Murieta](#) - [Opinion](#) - [Obituaries](#) -
[Archive](#) - [Real Estate](#) - [Classified](#) - [Subscribe](#) -

Online publication, Copyright 2005, The River Valley Times.
Web page design, [Copyright 2005, EZ Edit Web Publishing](#).