**Chinese Community Actively Developing a California Yee Fow Center for History, Culture, and Trade**

According to Chinese-American media reports, next to California Highway 5 in downtown Sacramento, Thomas Enterprises has purchased a large piece of open space and has plans to build a massive development called The Railyards in the near future. The history of the land includes the Chinese laborers involved in making the Central Pacific Railway over a hundred years ago. Because of this, widespread public attention has called for more of the Chinese preservation of the historical Chinese years.

The highest ranking ethnic Chinese in the California State Legislature, Senator Leland Yee was the first to express his support and participation.

The Chinese have a long history in California and in Sacramento, the capital of Yee Fow Center or Yee Fow is home to the historic Deng family association, the Ong Ko Met. On learning of the forthcoming development of the Railyards, Ong Ko Met President Sam K. Ong expressed keen interest in the Chinese history associated with the land.

Since last year, Deng clan descendant Steve Yee has lobbied and called attention to constructing a long overdue Chinese history, culture and trade center in hopes of honoring the early ancestors of Chinese who almost exclusively built the Central Pacific Railroad through the Sierra Mountains.

Steve Yee and Sam K. Ong moved immediately to participate in this important project with enthusiasm and perseverance. The two Deng clan members, while actively promoting the work of one another, have already begun promoting the revitalization of the historic Chinatown Mall.

Senator Leland Yee and the Senate Select Committee on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs hosted a hearing with several historians of Chinese American history giving presentations to the committee and discussing a proposed Chinese American Museum for the Sacramento railyard, which is the same area of one the country's major Chinatowns.

Carlota Gutierrez and Chinese Assistant to Senator Yee, Joanna Gin worked diligently to coordinate the arrangements. Growing up among the Chinese community, they were very familiar with Chinese exclusion and the injustices of the early Chinese laborers. After learning of The Railyards, the Yee Fow Center for History, Culture and Trade, and the redevelopment plan, they immediately stepped forward and sought the support of state officials.

Senator Leland Yee said he firmly supports the Yee Fow Center proposal and the significant contributions of Yee Fow to Chinese-American history. The true story of the buried history and unsung heroes in The Railyard's Chinatown of Yee Fow, once known as "China Lake," is worthy of praise and is California gold to future generations.