



## Public Scoping Meeting, October 14, 2013 Executive Summary

Stanislaus County, in cooperation with the City of Modesto, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), held a Public Scoping Meeting in Modesto, California, on Monday, October 14, 2013. Stanislaus County is the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and Caltrans is the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the 7th Street Bridge Project. Stanislaus County is the project sponsor, working closely with the City of Modesto.

The project is in the Project Approval and Environmental Document Phase (PA&ED). Alternatives for the 7th Street Bridge Project may include building a new bridge or rehabilitating the existing bridge, as well as a no-build alternative. The purpose of the 7th Street Project is to enhance safety for vehicular, as well as pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The Public Scoping Meeting provided members of the public and other interested parties an opportunity to provide comments, concerns, or suggestions that could be addressed during the scoping phase.

The Public Scoping Meeting was publicized through a jumbo postcard invitation sent by first-class U.S. mail, a public notice (advertisement) in English published in *The Modesto Bee* and in *Vida en el valle*, a news release to print and broadcast media that serve the Modesto area, and the websites of the City, County, and Caltrans. Additionally, a dedicated project website was established: [www.7thStreetBridge.org](http://www.7thStreetBridge.org).

Twenty-four persons signed in at the Public Scoping Meeting—eight members of the project team and sixteen members of the public and elected officials. The meeting was conducted as an open house with a presentation by the consultant project manager, followed by questions, comments, and suggestions from the audience. Members of the project team were also available during the open house periods to receive comments and answer questions.

Informational display boards and exhibits were available for review. Attendees were also provided with a print agenda and comment sheets. Traffic simulations were shown at the Traffic Station. Personnel from Stanislaus County, City of Modesto, Caltrans, and the consultant team staffed the information stations.

A Caltrans Title VI survey was done by the public outreach team.

Primary public comments included the following topics:

1. Timing of next public meeting.
2. Opportunity for additional comment.
3. Breadth of publicity for the public meetings.

4. Disposition of the old bridge if a new one is constructed.
5. Disposition of the lion statuary.
6. Potential loss of low-income housing if the new bridge/roadway alignments affect Sunrise Mobile Home Park.