

DATE: September 22, 2014

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Dana Mahaffey, Associate Planner
Community Development Department

RE: **NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND SCOPING MEETING FOR THE I STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT: A NEW BRIDGE OVER THE SACRAMENTO RIVER (IDENTIFIED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD AS THE "C STREET BRIDGE")**

COMMENT PERIOD

September 22, 2014 to October 21, 2014

INTRODUCTION

The City of Sacramento ("City") is the Lead Agency for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed I Street Bridge Replacement over the Sacramento River (Project). The EIR will evaluate potential significant environmental effects of the project. Written comments regarding the issues that should be covered in the EIR, including potential alternatives to the Project and the scope of the analysis, are invited. The EIR for the Project is being prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Project is subject to state as well as federal environmental review requirements, and project documentation will be prepared in compliance with both CEQA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The City of West Sacramento, co-sponsor of the project, is a Responsible Agency under CEQA. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is the NEPA lead agency and anticipates preparation of an Environmental Assessment. In addition, the Federal Highway Administration's responsibilities for environmental review, consultation, and any other action required in accordance with applicable Federal laws for this Project will be carried out by Caltrans as assigned under Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) (23 United States Code [USC] 327), effective on October 1, 2012.

Under CEQA, upon deciding to prepare an EIR, the City of Sacramento as lead agency must issue a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to inform trustee, the public, and responsible agencies of that decision. The purpose of the NOP is to provide information describing the Project and its potential environmental effects to those who may wish to comment regarding the scope and content of the information to be included in the EIR. Agencies should comment on such information as it relates to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the Project.

The project description, location, and environmental issue areas that may be affected by development of the proposed project are set forth below. The EIR will evaluate the project-specific and cumulative

impacts, identify mitigation measures that may be feasible to lessen or avoid such impacts, and identify alternatives to the proposed project.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Comments and suggestions as to the appropriate scope of analysis in the EIR are invited from all interested parties. Written comments or questions concerning the EIR for the proposed project should be directed to the environmental project manager at the following address by October 21, 2014. Please include the contact person's full name and address in order for staff to respond appropriately:

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300 Richards Blvd., Third Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811
Telephone: (916) 808-2762
E-mail: DMahaffey@cityofsacramento.org

SCOPING MEETING

A public scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9th, 2014 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the following location:

**Stanford Gallery
111 I Street
in Old Sacramento**

Responsible agencies and members of the public are invited to attend and provide input on the scope of the EIR. The scoping meeting will be conducted in an open house format. Written comments regarding relevant issues may be submitted at the meeting.

PROJECT LOCATION/SETTING

The Project is located in both the City of Sacramento and the City of West Sacramento and crosses the Sacramento River. The location is shown on the attached figure. The project area is approximately bounded by the I Street Bridge, the intersection of C Street with 3rd Street in West Sacramento, the intersection of Bercut Drive with Railyards Boulevard (under construction) in the Railyards planned development, Jibboom Street, and the I Street/I-5 onramp near 3rd Street in Sacramento.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed I Street Bridge Replacement Project would be constructed north of the existing I Street Bridge as shown in the attached location map. The Project would include the construction of a new bridge across the Sacramento River between the Sacramento Railyards and the West Sacramento Washington planned developments. The new bridge would provide a new vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian crossing connecting C Street in West Sacramento to Railyards Boulevard in Sacramento. The proposed bridge would include a moveable center span to allow passage for watercraft. Additional roadwork would include new signalized intersections at Jibboom Street and Bercut Drive connecting at

Railyards Boulevard and the extension of C Street from the intersection of 3rd Street to the proposed bridge. The River Walk Park in West Sacramento and the Sacramento River Parkway trail in Sacramento, which connects to the American River Bike Trail at Discovery Park, would be extended to the new roadway and pass underneath the abutments of the proposed bridge. The levee maintenance road in West Sacramento will intersect at grade with the new crossing.

The existing I Street Bridge would continue to be used by the railroad. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic would be removed. The existing approach structures for Jibboom Street, I Street and J Street in the City of Sacramento and C Street in the City of West Sacramento would be demolished.

The proposed bridge crossing could also accommodate future transit options, including a streetcar alignment within the bridge. No such use is proposed as part of this project; any future streetcar expansion would be considered under separate CEQA/NEPA review.

Additional information and materials relating to the proposed project are available on the City's website at <http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/Engineering-Services/Projects/Current-Projects/I-Street-Bridge-Replacement>.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND SCOPE OF THE EIR

The EIR will analyze potentially significant impacts that could result from construction and operation of the Project. Pursuant to section 15063(a) of CEQA Guidelines, an Initial Study has not been prepared for the Project. The EIR will evaluate the full range of environmental issues contemplated for consideration under CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. The environmental factors that the City has determined would potentially be affected by the Project include:

- Transportation/Traffic
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Biological Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Aesthetics
- Noise
- Recreation

The EIR will identify and evaluate alternatives to the proposed project.