

# Building Authentic Community Relations



By: Edgar Garibay

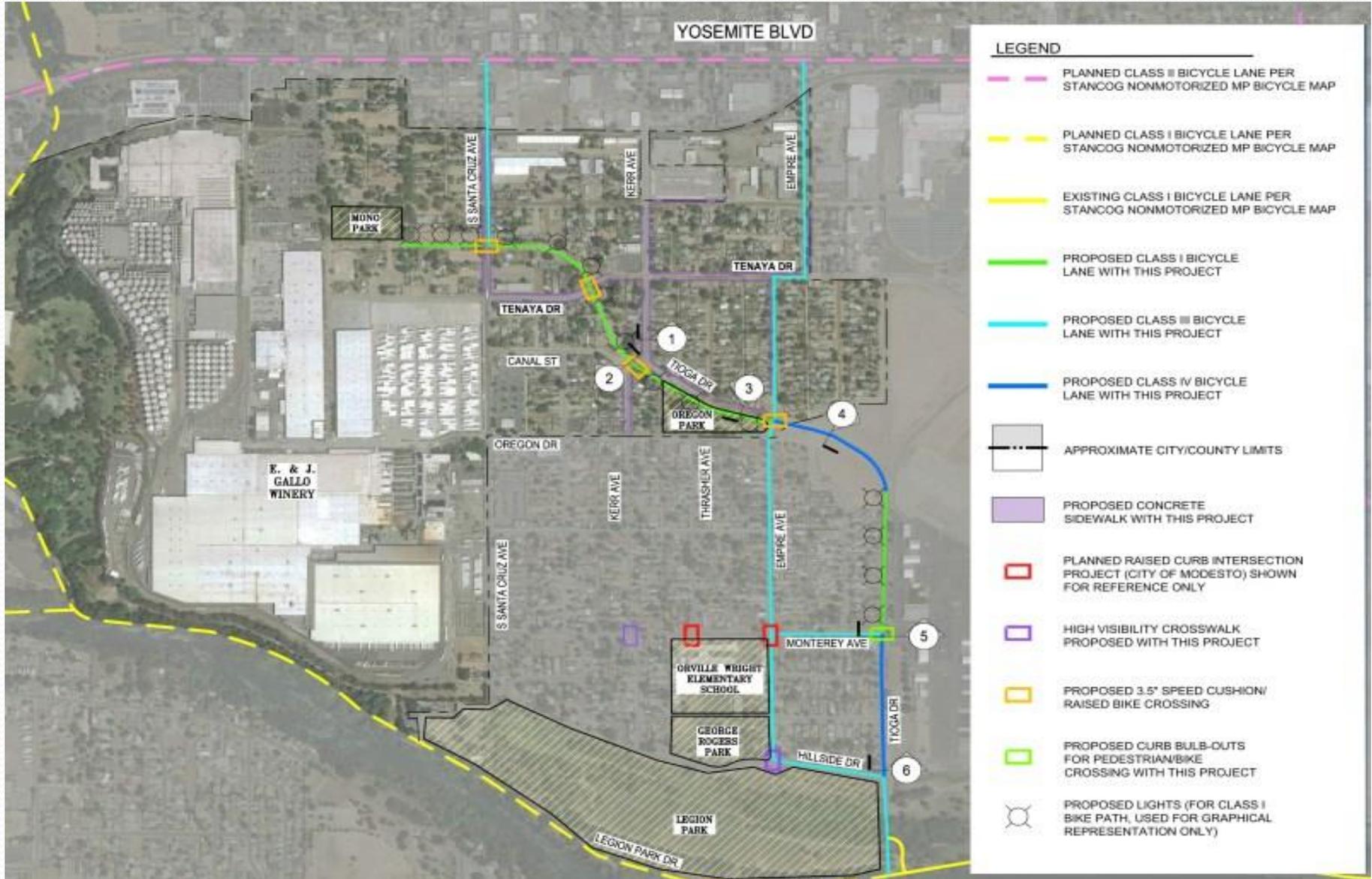


**Tuolumne  
River Trust**

# Agenda

- The Airport Neighborhood
- History of the Neighborhood
- Tuolumne River Trust (TRT)
- Airport Neighborhood Collaborative (ANC)
- Charlas Comunitarias/Community Chats
- Airport Neighborhood Initiatives
- Walking Audits
- Safe Routes to School Initiatives
- Airport Neighborhood Accomplishments
- Airport Neighborhood Active Transportation Project

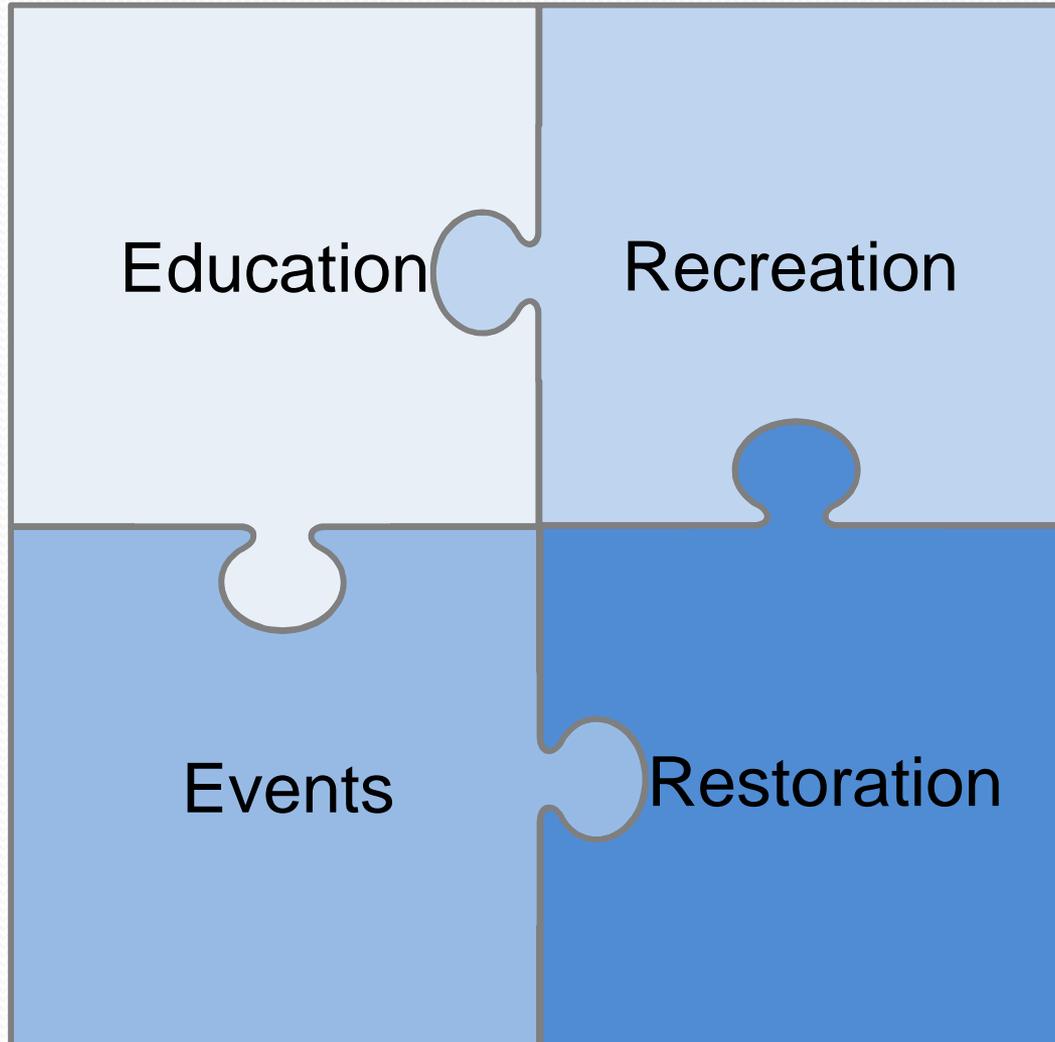
# Modesto's Airport Neighborhood



# History of the Neighborhood

- The Airport Neighborhood (AN) was settled by Dust Bowl immigrants in the 1930s, it was once known as "Little Oklahoma."
- The AN is a small community hampered by several factors including:
  - Geographic location (bordered by an industrial area, the Modesto Airport, and Railroad/Highway 132);
  - Jurisdiction (half the neighborhood is within Modesto City limits; the other half is county);
  - Extreme socioeconomic challenges;
  - Lack of infrastructure & recreational activities; and
  - Criminal activity, and its negative reputation.
- The small neighborhood is home to the scenic of the Tuolumne River and river parks, **and a small group of active resident leaders.**

# Improving the Health of the Tuolumne River and Riverside Communities



# Airport Neighborhood Collaborative (ANC)

- Established by Orville Wright Healthy Start Administrator & Principal
- Orville Wright Healthy Start Serves as the Chair & Tuolumne River Trust (Non-Profit) – Co-Chair
- Monthly Meetings throughout the School Year
- School & Community Partnership - The ANC is made up of community residents' organizations, business leaders, non-profits, elected officials, and city and county departments in the interest of supporting school and neighborhood health, safety, well-being, community events and identified projects.
- Members include:
  - ❖ City of Modesto/Stanislaus County (Depts & Elected Officials), Modesto PD, Stan Co Sheriff, Modesto City School District/Stanislaus County Office of Education, Modesto Junior College
  - ❖ Stanislaus County Public Health, Stanislaus County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
  - ❖ Self-Help Credit Union, Oak Valley Community Bank, Triple AAA, Health Plan of San Joaquin, Golden Valley Health Centers, Sierra Vista, Catholic Charities, Center for Human Services.



# Charlas Comunitarias/Community Chats

- Established by the Tuolumne River Trust
- Resident leaders participate in Charlas Comunitarias/Community Chats to help identify and prioritize community needs and projects (i.e. Safe Routes to School, public safety, illegal dumping/cleanups, community events).
- Learn more about advocacy, civic engagement, organize and participate community and school events.
- Meetings are twice a month.
- Leaders are developing a committee that will work with ANC partners to address school and neighborhood health, safety, well-being, community events and identified projects.

# Airport Neighborhood Initiatives

- Safe Routes to School
- Walking School Bus
- Community Capacity Building & Civic Engagement
- Recreational Activities
- Lack of Infrastructure
- Community Clean-Ups
- Public Safety
- Animal Control



# Walking Audits

- Assess the walkability of the streets and sidewalks in the Airport Neighborhood.
- 3 Walking Audits were conducted in the Airport Neighborhood
  - 2015 – Community Walking Audit
  - 2016 – California Walks
  - 2018 – National Safe Routes to School Partnership
- Data collected about conditions and presence of streets, sidewalks, transit stops, bicycle lanes, alleyways, illegal dumping, lighting, tagging and tree coverage.



# Safe Routes to School Initiatives



# Airport Neighborhood Accomplishments



## Survey Method & Results

On the morning of Friday, 9/15/17, all 297 students in attendance that day in grades 1-6 were asked if they walk, bike (ride), or are driven (dropped off) to school.

Through this survey, it was found that:



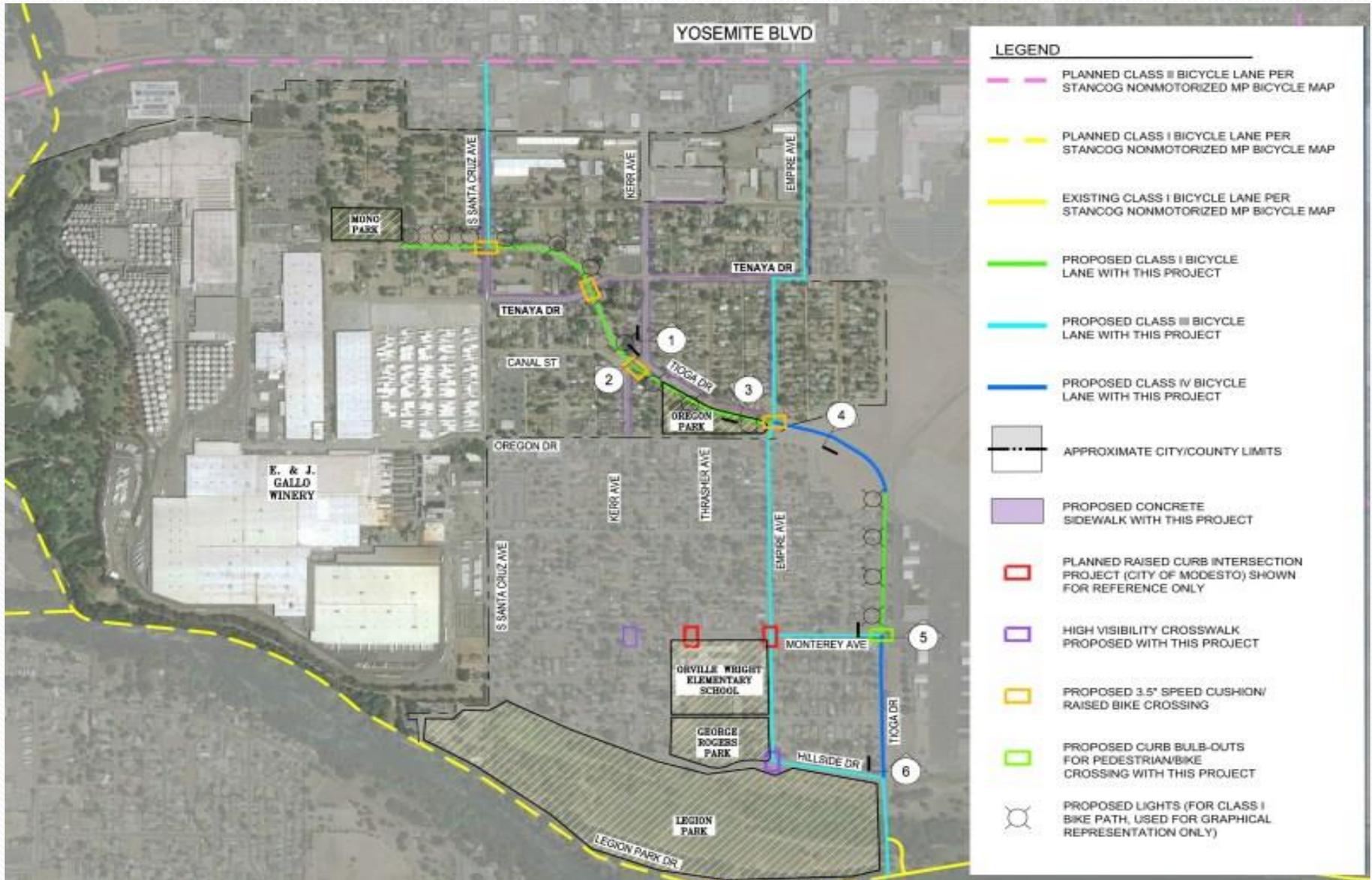
## School Overview:

Orville Wright Elementary School is located within the Airport Neighborhood. It is the single elementary school for all kids in the area. There are currently 364 students enrolled from kindergarten to grade 6.

Credit: Stanislaus County Public Health

- **3 Walking Audits Completed** – 2015, 2016 and 2018.
- **2016/2017**– California Walks facilitates the Community Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Training Program (CPBST) and Release of [CPBST Airport Neighborhood Report](#) (English & Spanish).
- **2016/2017** - Orville Wright (OW) becomes an active member of with Triple AAA Traffic Safety Program.
- **2016 & 2018** – The City of Modesto installs crosswalks and stop signs at OW.
- **2017** – Official launch of OW Walking School Bus Program
- **2017** – OW participates in Bike & Walk to School Day. Stanislaus County Public Health surveys students at OW method of transportation to school.
- **2018** – Safe Routes to School National Partnership (SRTSNP) facilitates the Modesto Airport Neighborhood Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Workshop and releases [Modesto Airport Neighborhood SRTS Action Plan](#).
- **January 2019** – Stanislaus County is awarded a \$4.9 million-dollar Active Transportation Grant fund infrastructure to build safe routes (e.g. sidewalks, and bike paths) in the Airport Neighborhood.
- **December 2019** – Safety and infrastructure improvements at Orville Wright Elementary School (Measure L funding).

# Airport Neighborhood Active Transportation Project



# Airport Neighborhood Active Transportation Project

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## Stanislaus County to Use Active Transportation Program to Improve a Neglected Neighborhood

County staff and partners say the project will transform the community

By Minerva Perez Jan 30, 2019



The Airport Neighborhood straddling Modesto's city boundary will receive crosswalks, sidewalks, and a protected bike lane thanks to the ATP. Image: Stanislaus County

## More sidewalks and bike paths are coming to one of Modesto's low-income neighborhoods

BY JOHN HOLLAND

FEBRUARY 07, 2019 05:53 PM, UPDATED FEBRUARY 07, 2019 06:53 PM



The airport district in Modesto, CA, will get sidewalks and bicycle paths thanks to \$6.1 million in state and county funding announced on Monday, Feb. 3, 2019. The low-income area has dealt with mud during rain.

BY JOAN BARNETT LEE | ANDY ALFARO



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## News Release

For Immediate Release

February 4, 2019

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### Modesto's Airport Neighborhood to See Nearly \$5 million in Safety Improvements from State Grant

Last week the California Transportation Commission awarded a \$4.9 million grant from the Active Transportation Program (ATP), a State funded program primarily for bicycle and pedestrian safety projects, to the County. Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) gas tax partially funds this program.

Airport Neighborhood is an historically disadvantaged region, geographically split between the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County. This area of the community has suffered from patterns of disinvestment in basic infrastructure that plague many unincorporated communities. Many streets in this neighborhood do not have sidewalks and conditions are unsafe for pedestrian traffic.

# Contact Information

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**Tuolumne  
River Trust**

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