San Diego Regional GIS Council
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2005

1. Welcome and Introductions

Matt Brown (San Diego County Water Authority) welcomed everyone to the Spring quarterly meeting and thanked SanGIS for hosting the meeting at their new facility. See Attachment #1 for list of attendees.

2. GEONEWS

a) CGIA & California GIS Council Updates

The last Council meeting was held at the CalGIS conference. It was announced that California's Strategic IT plan contains a section on GIS that includes a statewide GIO (Geospatial Information Officer) with money for positions and support. Two workgroups were also started. One will look at developing standards for a cadastral data set for the entire State, this group is headed up by Craig Gooch of PSOMAS. The other workgroup will look at the governance of the GIS Council, this group is headed up by Carol Ostergren of the USGS.

CGIA has been taking a proactive role with the California GIS Council by serving as a communication portal, and setting up state wide meetings and conference calls. The State Council approved motions to use CGIA as an outreach arm and to partner with CGIA for help in obtaining and administering grants in support of Council activities and initiatives.

Matt suggested that people keep their eyes open for grants to help support local and regional GIS. He indicated that SDRGC could at a minimum provide a letter of support to show that applications had regional support. He also indicated that it may be possible for SDRGC to take an even bigger role on regional projects.

Handouts:

- Notes from California GIS Council Meeting, March 16, Bakersfield
- Funding Categories for CAP Grants
- Information on the USGS National Map & Catalog Training
- Draft copy of California's GIS Vision

b) Geodatabase Subcommittee

The Geodatabase Subcommittee meets on a bi-monthly basis and is headed up by Tom McDowell (City of Chula Vista). The last meeting was hosted by the City of Encinitas. The City gave a presentation about the geodatabase they have implemented to manage and maintain local data. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12 at SANDAG. At this meeting Camp Pendleton will discuss the NSDI Geodatabase standards they follow. Other agenda items include strategies for street center line data and a matrix of data maintained locally.

c) GIS Management Subcommittee

Bob Canepa (County of San Diego) and Sue Carnevale (SANDAG) are working to finalize the Guidelines for GIS Implementation and Management document.

It was suggested that this group consider conducting the regional GIS survey in the fall. This survey looks at the status of GIS in the region and conveys what software local agencies use, the types of employees, and the types of data being maintained.

d) Mesa College GIS Certificate Program

John Johnson provided us with an update on the development of a GIS curriculum in the region. This is an NSF funded project that is serving as a pilot for GIS curriculum development in the nation. Currently they are developing a follow up survey based on the information they gathered during the DACUM (Developing a Curriculum) workshop. SDRGC, as a participating advisory committee to the program, agreed to provide its membership mailing list for the survey. It was also suggested that they contact SoCal URISA for more contacts in the private sector. We encourage everyone who receives the survey in the next few weeks to take a moment to fill it out. For more information on the program go to http://geoinfo.sdsu.edu/hightech/index.html.

Handout:

- Letter inviting people to participate in the Duties and Tasks of a GIS Technician survey

f) Imagery Projects Update

Lisa Lubeley said that the City of San Diego contract for 3" true color imagery and LIDAR was awarded to Merrick. At the time of the meeting 85% of the photography and 25% of the LIDAR had been acquired. Fifteen other agencies took advantage of the City's RFP process. Most of the agencies are in the North County and will be receiving 3" true color imagery along with 2' contours.

3. ESRI Conference Host Booth

This year's ESRI Conference will be held July 25-29. Everyone agreed that last years host booth was very successful and that we should follow the same format again this year. The following people volunteered to help organize this year's booth: Harry Johnson (SDSU), Karl von Schlieder (City of Carlsbad), Lisa Lubeley (City of San Diego), Matt Brown (San Diego County Water Authority), Lisa Stapleton (SanGIS), Paul Hardwick (SANDAG).

The big discussion was on what to do with the San Diego Showcase poster competition. For several years John Hofmockel (SANDAG) has organized the showcase. He has done an excellent job, but he needs a break from this task. There were many suggestions made about the competition. Most felt that we should keep it, but allow the posters to be displayed within the appropriate ESRI category instead of a San Diego section. The volunteers mentioned above will look into several possibilities and come up with a solution that will work for everyone.

4. Discussion on Vendor Presentations at SDRGC
In a concern for time this discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

5. USGS Presentation
Carol Ostergren out of USGS California Mapping Office in Sacramento provided us a presentation on the status of many projects within the State and nation.

Regional products available for download include the National Hydrologic Dataset in geodatabase format, imagery both 2004 1 foot for the costal area and 2003 1 meter for the entire county. Currently under development is a 10 meter DEM that will include updates from the 1970 series topographic mapping series. Also the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service will be acquiring 1 meter aerial photography for the entire state in 2005.

Carol mentioned that USGS is on a 2-3 year cycle for air photo acquisitions and would be interested in joining any partnerships that might be formed in the region. This fits in well with the imagery acquisition plan that was developed for the region.

She provided us with information on Project Homeland Security that is being done in cooperation with the Bay Area Regional GIS Council. This project will serve as a model for the rest of the state in how to organize and coordinate data for emergency responses. For more information on the project go to www.bargc.org.

USGS is undergoing a large reorganization. They will be downsizing the organization by 80% over the next few months and will be consolidating several of their services. They are moving towards an enterprise data system and by June they hope to have all of their web based data programs under the Geospatial One-Stop Shop site, http://gisdata.usgs.net/iadd/geo.asp . In addition, they will be forming several local, regional, and state wide partnerships to help complete their tasks.

She spoke about the CAP Grants and Homeland Security Grants that are available. She also discussed the upcoming training on the National Map and Catalog being held May3 in Rancho Cucamonga. She suggested that if there was enough interest USGS could hold a second training in San Diego sometime in June or July.

6. Other
Sandy Woodhouse of the County Assessor's Office informed everyone that they have recently awarded a contract to redesign their property records database. She invited agencies to contact her if they have any input on what they would like to see in the database or had any ideas they would like to share about the database. Her email address is sandy.woodhouse@sdcounty.ca.us

ATTACHMENT 1

Attendees at the April 13, 2005 San Diego Regional GIS Council meeting:

Name	Agency	Email Address
voh Schlieder, Karl	City of Carlsbad	kvons@ci.carlsbad.ca.us
Hildebrand, Daniel	City of Escondido	dhildebrand@ci.escondido.ca.us
Hoskinson, Andrew	City of National City	ahoskinson@ci.national-city.ca.us
Reeder, Martin	City of National City	mreeder@ci.national-city.ca.us
Lubeley, Lisa	City of San Diego	llubeley@sandiego.gov
Carnevale, Sue	San Diego Association of Governments	sca@sandag.org
Hardwick, Paul	San Diego Association of Governments	pha@sandag.org
Kunkel, Steve	San Diego Association of Governments	sku@sandag.org
Woodhouse, Sandy	San Diego County Tax Assessor	sandy.woodhouse@sdcounty.ca.gov
Brown, Matthew	San Diego County Water Authority	mbrown@sdcwa.org
Stryker, Paul	San Diego Data Processing Corp.	pstryker@sddpc.org
Johnson, John	San Diego Mesa College	jjohnson@sdccd.edu
Johnson, Harry	San Diego State University	hjohnson@geography.sdsu.edu
Stapleton, Lisa	SanGIS	lstapleton@sangis.org
Preciado, Guillermo	Sante Fe Irrigation District	memo@sfid-h2o.org
Ostergren, Carol	USGS	costergren@usgs.gov
Toney, David	USMRC Camp Pendleton	toneyds@pendleton.usmc.mil
Interested Parties		
Hall, James	Chambers Group, Inc.	jdhall@chambersgroupinc.com
Craig, Tim	ESRI	tcraig@esri.com
Goff, Eileen	GeomorphIS	egoff@geomorphis.com
Rodgers, Martha	GeomorphIS	mrodgers@geomorphis.com
Bradshaw, Brian	GeoVisual Solutions	bkb@geovisualsolutions.com
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Baron, Kurtis	WEST Consultants, Inc.	kbaron@westconsultants.com

NOTES FROM CALIFORNIA GIS COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 16, 2005
BAKERSFIELD, CA

1. **Introductions** – John Ellison opened the meeting with a brief roll call of Council members (see attached list of Council attendees)
    a. **Are all currently identified regional GIS collaboratives still part of the GIS Council?** Yes. A request has been made to add San Francisco to the Council.

2. **Minutes from the *February 20*, 2004 Council meeting** were adopted on a voice vote. No changes were requested.

3. **Announcements:**
    a. Erich Seamon (City/Co. of San Francisco) mentioned that he has been participating on the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Future Directions working group – a written report should be coming in June 2005.

4. **Council members' reports on their activities**:
    a. Richard Mader (Southern CA GIS) described a proposed high resolution, oblique imagery acquisition project for the SCAG region. He also mentioned that SCAG is planning to launch a metadata service soon.
    b. Carol Ostergren (USGS) provided the Council with a summary of the USGS, National Geospatial Programs Office reorganization. This reorganization is intended to improve the coordination between and effectiveness of *The National Map*, Geospatial One-Stop, and FGDC. This effort will expand USGS mapping Liaisons to more states.
    c. Joe Concannon (Sacramento Council of Governments) –
    d. Bob Slobodian (San Joaquin Valley GIS Council) – working on improving regional GIS coordination in the San Joaquin Valley.
    e. Oscar Jarquin (Caltrans) – Caltrans continues to make progress working *ad hoc* with local and regional governments on transportation datasets. But it would be nice to have a more statewide strategic plan for developing transportation geospatial data.
    f. Steve DeMello (OES) – the OES information technology and GIS groups are undergoing a re-organization; OES is working with Resources Agency and State CIO on GIS capacity building within OES and the emergency response community; ongoing work with the Dept. of Homeland Security and the State Office of Homeland Security.
    g. James Christy (US Census Bureau) – Census is still on track to have approximately 500,000 Census-takers enter 2010 Census data in the field using GPS-enabled handhelds; TIGER Accuracy Improvement Project is well underway, with 18 Calif. Counties completed and approved, 20 acquired and under review for

accuracy and the balance of counties in various states of availability.

h. Pat DeTemple (BAR-GC) – BAR-GC's Homeland Security Data Server Pilot Project is progressing (servers in Berkeley & San Francisco; eventually four will be launched); mtg. with USGS and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency went very well; ABAG has agreed to be the signatory agency on local Data Sharing Agreements.
i. Robert Beckler (Stanislaus Co.) – there have only been a few meetings of the GIS collaboration group in Stanislaus Co., but many local governments are still interested; the group is looking at a local, high-res. imagery consortium.
j. Julia Lave-Johnston (Off. Of Planning & Research) – OPR is supportive of the Resources Agency Digital Atlas. The Digital Atlas has Dept. of Defense data on military facilities, training corridors and restricted airspace corridors to help local planners avoid urbanization conflicts with these important military facilities/operations. OPR is hoping to geo-enable a statewide Development Projects database to help local governments with planning and CEQA issues.
k. Michael Byrne (Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development – DHS) – Dept. of Health Services is working on intra-departmental GIS coordination between programs such as First 5 (Family and Children Commission), Cal. Nutrition, HIV Preparation, Div. of Drinking Water Source Assessment, and Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). OSHPD is coordinating with the Department of Conservation on hospital earthquake preparedness.
l. Leo Anguiano (State Water Resources Control Board and CalEPA) – CalEPA is collaborating with the Resources Agency, CERES Program on developing protected Interagency Internet mapping services (the agencies involved include the SWRCB, Dept. of Fish and Game, Dept. of Water Resources, Air Resources Board, and Dept. of Pesticide Regulation). CalEPA is working on consolidating GIS software and data sharing licenses. In addition, the SWRCB is developing ArcGIS applications via terminal servers.
m. Siran Erysian (US Bureau of Reclamation) – USBR has been supporting the development of the California Watershed Boundaries database. USBR is also collaborating with DWR and local water districts to improve/update water district boundaries across California.

5. **State CIO Announcements** – John Ellison summarized the sections of the California Information Technology Strategic Plan (http://cio.ca.gov/PDFs/ITStrategicPlan_111704.pdf) that pertain to creation of a new Technology Services Department and the appointment

of a Geospatial Information Officer. The CIO, working with OES and Resources Agency, submitted a Homeland Security GIS pilot project proposal to the State Office of Homeland Security for federal DHS funding. If funded, this pilot project would build a statewide geospatial data server for access by State, local, and regional emergency services agencies/first responders, and build on work done by NGA and BAR-GC through their Project Homeland.

John reviewed the Resources Agency Handout on CERES-related activities. John also mentioned that a request was received by the Attorney General's office for a Legal Opinion on parcel data/digital land records and access to these datasets through the California Public Records Act. The AG's office has indicated they expect to render a written opinion sometime in July 2005.

6. **Election of a California GIS Council regional GIS councils' Co-Chair** – this issue was deferred until basic governance issues could be resolved (see action item below regarding formation of Council Governance Work Group). There was a call for hands from representatives of all of the regional GIS collaboratives. Representatives from the following regional GIS collaboratives were in attendance:

    Channel Islands Regional GIS Collaborative
    Southeastern California GIS Council
    Eastern Sierra Land Information Network
    San Diego Regional GIS Council
    Southern California GIS
    San Joaquin Valley Regional GIS Council
    Sacramento Council of Governments
    Far North Regional GIS Council
    Stanislaus Co. Regional GIS Collaborative
    Bay Area Regional GIS Council
    Central Coast Joint Data Committee(?)

    John Ellison and Craig Gooch (CGIA) reminded the Council that CGIA has prepared a Regional GIS Collaboratives Profile document. Please contact Craig Gooch, CGIA President, if your regional GIS collaborative has not prepared a profile and would like to, or if you would like to update your existing profile.

7. **Council Action Items (see briefing papers):**
    a. Should the Council form a Governance Work group to review Council governance and make recommendations for improvement?
    Action: Approved without opposition
    Volunteers for work group were:

Bob Slobodian (Cal State Fresno University)
Patrick Parsons (Dept of Water Resources)
Karen Beardsley (UC Davis, ICE)
Michael Byrne (Office of Statewide Health Planning & Devel)
Pat DeTemple (BAR-GC/City of Berkeley)
Erich Seamons (City of San Francisco)
Carol Ostergren (USGS)
Huasha Liu (So Cal Association of Governments)

b. Should the Council use the California Geographic Information Association (CGIA) act as an outreach arm of the Council? Action: Approved without opposition
c. Should the Council partner with the CGIA and request that it help with obtaining and administering grants in support of Council activities and initiatives? Action: Approved without opposition
d. Should the Council appoint a member of the Council to represent the Council at CGIA meetings? Action: Approved without opposition
e. Should the Council commit to meet at least every six months? Action: Approved without opposition

8. State Digital Land Records Information Study
(http://gis.ca.gov/council/docs/DLRI_Report_Final.pdf) - Craig Gooch (Psomas), consultant to the California Mapping Coordinating Committee (via the lead of the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection), discussed the Digital Land Records Information (DLRI) Study that was prepared for the State looking at the need for/use of DLRI in State government, availability of parcel data in California, and some potential options for encouraging the development of and getting access to DLRI.

Joe Concannon (SACOG) mentioned that it would be helpful for his agencies to hear the State say, 'we need this parcel data because . . . we need this information for emergency services, or homeland security, or help get transportation funding, etc.' Huasha Liu (SCAG) concurred with Joe's comment.

Steve DeMello (OES) expressed the importance of DLRI and the need to use transportation information as a catalyst for acquiring funding to develop access to statewide DLRI. DLRI needs to be a budget priority and we need to go after homeland security funding.

Proposed Action: **Form DLRI working group**. Action: Passed without opposition. The following people have volunteered to participate on this working group:

Oscar Jarquin (CalTrans)

Craig Gooch (PSOMAS)
Ray McDowell (Resources Agency)
Robin Marose (Cal Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection)
Bruce Joffe (GIS Consultant)
Dennis Wuthrich (Farallon Geographics, Inc.)
Malcolm Adkins (Michael Baker Jr., Inc.)
Joe Concannon (SACOG)

The Council also recommended that CGIA and the California Mapping Coordinating Comm. participate on the DLRI working group, the Work Group focus on financing strategies and CGIA should help with outreach to local and regional government.

9. National Agricultural Imagery Program – Collaborative Imagery Procurement for California – Ray McDowell (Resources Agency, CERES Program) provided a briefing on the ongoing effort to build a partnership of State and federal agencies to fund the acquisition of statewide one-meter resolution, color digital orthophotos (public domain) in Summer 2005. The U.S. Dept. of Agricultural (Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service) approached California federal, State and local agencies last Fall about partnering on a statewide imagery acquisition this summer. USDA has proposed a two-thirds cost share for the more than $2.2 million estimated acquisition cost. Several State and federal agencies have committed to provide the approximate $760,000 one-third share. But the multiple, multi-party contracting processes are proving to be a challenge. We should know by the end of March 2005 whether the project is going to succeed.

Funding Categories for the 2005 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program

Approximately $1,500,000 is available under this year's program.
Open about April 15, Close June 15

Category 1: ***Metadata Trainer and Outreach Assistance*** provides assistance to organizations with NSDI expertise knowledge and experience in assisting other organizations with the training and implementation of metadata, clearinghouse or web mapping services. Maximum award $30,000 (50% in-kind match), approximately 10 projects

Category 2: ***Establishing Framework Data Services*** using the OpenGIS Web Feature Service Specification provides assistance for establishing methodologies for serving and using Framework data over the Web using the OpenGIS Web Feature Service specification. A project will require formal collaboration between a data provider and a software provider. Maximum award $50,000 (50% in-kind match), approximately 6 projects

Category 3: ***Geographic Information Coordination*** provides assistance to consortia of public and non-profit organizations to develop new or strengthen existing multi-organizational collaboration that supports the development and maintenance of a shared digital geographic resource and to foster the establishment of cross-organizational coordinating councils that develop and advance the NSDI within a specific geographic area. Maximum award $20,000 (100% in-kind match), approximately 10 projects

Category 4: ***Geographic Information Integration & Analysis*** category provides assistance to organizations and consortia that maintain, update and make available data, in collaborating with the National Geospatial Program Office and *The National Map*. Funds are provided to help new participants overcome initial impediments to participation and to help existing participants improve their web services and provide them through The National Map. Maximum award $50,000 (100% in-kind match), approximately 10 projects

1-Day Training Workshop Course Syllabus

Introduction

This hands-on training is designed for potential partners seeking to understand and contribute to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and *The National Map*. The class introduces the catalog data model, the overall architecture of *The National Map*, Internet information service technology, Web Map Services, the catalog service, and database-driven applications. The class consists of 1 day of technical hands-on training.

Course Format

Catalog training is conducted using PowerPoint slides as well as on-line use of *The National Map* viewer. Web map service evaluation tools, such as MapView and MapConnect are also used during a set of class exercises. The training is broken down into 11 modules.

Learning Objectives

Each of the eleven presentations of the Catalog Training is designed to fulfill several important learning objectives.

Presentation 1 - Introduction

- Students should come away from this presentation with an understanding of what *TNM* is and how we are going to implement it.
- The USGS will proactively seek partnerships and business arrangements with Government agencies, the private sector, and other organizations to develop and operate *The National Map*.

Presentation 2 – Introduction to the Catalog

- A catalog is a shared inventory of WMSs maintained in a database.
- All Web Map Services (WMS) and Web Feature Services (WFS) that serve as data sources for *The National Map* must be OGC-compliant
- Data provider responsibilities
- Understand layer properties and how they are used by *TNM*

Presentation 3 - Web Map Services and Catalog Services & Beginning the WMS Evaluation

- Understand how the catalog interacts with a viewer
- Request parameters supported by a Web Map Service
- The components of a catalog
- Request parameters supported by the Catalog
- Use of a browser to request information from a service

Presentation 4 - Performing a WMS Evaluation Using MapConnect

- How to evaluate WMS using a different tool called MapConnect
- MapConnect is a Java application that allows a user to connect to OGC and ArcIMS web map services to obtain service metadata and image data from a single service.
- Map Connect is a tool we use to:
  Check for OGC complaint WMS
  Validate Service URLs
  Review layer data before harvesting a service into the Catalog
  Preview layers for content
  Review viewscales
  As a general trouble-shooting tool

Presentation 5 - Registering Web Map Services in The National Map Catalog & Using MapView

- What does "registering services" mean?
- *The National Map* is built on Open Standards
- Data Providers Areas of Responsibility
- Catalog Support Team (CST) Areas of Responsibility
- MapView
- How would we go about using MapView to evaluate a new map service?

Presentation 6 - Quality Assurance of Cartographic Data in Catalog Operations

- In traditional topographic mapping, editorial inspection of contour shapes, feature symbology, and text placement are examples of this kind of QA. In the distributed digital world of *The National Map* such inspection has different forms and purposes, but qualitative and subjective QA still has a place.

- One of the simplest types of quality improvement is the decision to include or not include a particular layer in *The National Map*
- The USGS presents data in *The National Map* by theme

- Maintaining layer-specific information about data scale improves overall quality by giving applications guidelines for when it is appropriate to allow a layer to be displayed.
- The USGS has for years strongly endorsed the FGDC (Federal Geographic Data Committee) metadata standard
- "Horizontal registration" is a weak form of horizontal accuracy
- The mechanism for symbol standardization is Styled Layer Descriptors (SLD).
- *The National Map* is a data integration and data delivery system, not a data production system. Data integration has different quality assurance objectives than data production.

Presentation 7 - Availability of *The National Map* Web Map Services

- *The National Map* depends on hundreds of data layers being served from more than 150 services, most of which are not owned or controlled by the USGS.
- The main point of *The National Map* is to present an apparently seamless, single-source map. The complexity of assembling this map from a large number of distributed sources is deliberately hidden.
- The need to quantify Web Map Service (WMS) availability was recognized early in the development of *The National Map* viewers. The deployment of the Catalog in May 2003 made it possible to monitor the WMSs, and the deployment of *The National Map* Catalog-enabled viewer made this monitoring relevant.
- WMS availability is just one of many factors that contribute to the apparent availability of *The National Map*. Most of the other factors have yet to be isolated and studied, but redundancy in the infrastructure of power, hardware, and software are almost certainly important.

Presentation 8 - Querying the Catalog

- A frequently asked question is "how can I query the catalog?" A common variation is "how can I find the URLs for layers I see in *The National Map* viewer?"
- MapView is a viewer designed for system troubleshooting and debugging. It exposes service metadata and GetMap URLs.
- The catalog service is the primary mechanism for making the database available to outside users and applications
- The catalog is an Oracle database and therefore can be queried with a variety of tools, such as SQL*Plus and third-party software like TOAD

Presentation 9 - Harvesting Services. Putting it all Together

- WMS Evaluation
- Validating the Harvest
- Gathering Information for the "Harvest"
- It is recommended that a "GetCapabilities" request be made on the service prior to harvesting, This is to ensure the WMS is up and "harvestable"

Presentation 10 - Metadata for *The National Map*

- Information about data. Metadata describes the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of data. Metadata for our purposes must conform to the FGDC's Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM)
- In The National Map implementation, each layer should have exactly one metadata URL.
- Service metadata is extremely important to the smooth operation of The National Map applications, but is of little interest to most end users. Consequently, The National Map public applications do not display service metadata.
- What Is Minimum FGDC-Compliant Metadata?

Presentation 11 - Consistent Symbology with Styled Layer Descriptors (SLD)

- Distributed map services can present data sets with varied symbology strategies

  The OGC SLD Specification provides a means of overriding the default Symbology
- The OGC Styled Layer Descriptor (SLD) is an optional feature of an OGC-WMS 1.1.0. and 1.1.1
- Dynamic SLD offers the following advantages:
  SLD symbol definitions are normalized in a single location within the Catalog simplifying maintenance and sharing issues.
  Scale-dependent, and layer-part filters are consistently defined within the Catalog at the layer or layer-part level.
  Legends are dynamically created from information stored in the Catalog to reflect each symbol change.
  Layer-part control of presentation. (Example: only show Interstate and US highways.)

CALIFORNIA'S GIS VISION

The vision for the effective use of geographic information systems (GIS) in California is that the public and private sector will cooperate to develop, acquire and maintain geospatial resources needed to deliver essential services, protect public health, safety and property, and promote a quality environment and a vibrant economy.

Much of what affects quality of life manifests itself at the local level. Health services, fire protection, law enforcement, road maintenance, utilities and other government operated infrastructure and services directly affect citizens daily. All these things have a geospatial component and all are improved with the intelligent application of GIS.

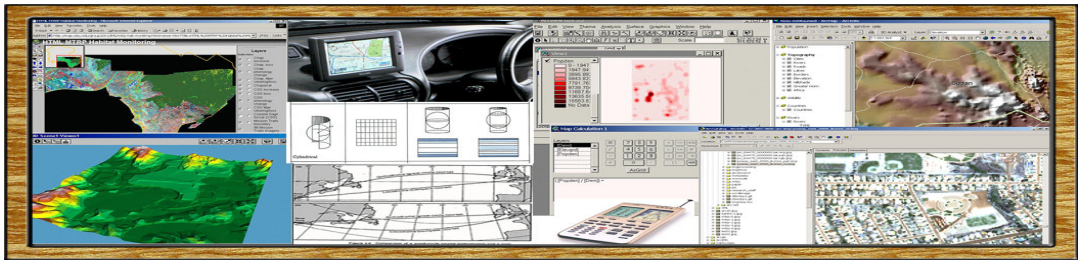
GIS is very data intensive and quality data are expensive to develop and maintain. Recognizing the great value that results from shared access to the same high quality data and the potential for significant efficiencies from pooling resources and working together, the California GIS Council (Council) was formed. With membership from the government, academic and private sectors, the Council strives to facilitate the coordination, communication and cooperation needed to pursue common geospatial data initiatives. This is especially important for data sets like parcels and roads where collaboration among a large number of participants and stakeholders is essential. Costs and benefits must be shared if key data are to be developed, maintained and made available.

Regional GIS collaboratives representing local government agencies, tribes, special districts, public utilities, private sector interests and academic institutions have an especially important role to play on the Council bridging local and state interests and perspectives. California is blessed and challenged by the fact that it is unusually large and geographically diverse. There are many groups with wide-ranging and sometimes divergent needs and interests. Communicating and developing consensus across this varied physical and political landscape requires a regional approach.

Council governance and sustainability continue to be challenges. However, recent State actions signify a renewed interest in the Council and, at last, a high level recognition of its importance. The State Chief Information Officer, Clark Kelso, has recently released California State government's first information technology strategic plan (http://www.cio.ca.gov). This plan calls for the Governor to "appoint a Geospatial Information Officer to lead and coordinate the development, licensing and sharing of geospatial data by state government agencies. The GIO will work with the California GIS Council to sponsor an integrated State Geospatial Data Service that will define the data architecture, systems, standards, and processes and coordinate the availability of geospatial data used by state agencies."

Almost all of that we do is placed based to one extent or another. Geography is the "language" and GIS the tools that will enable us to model our world, understand its processes natural and human caused, and comprehend how our actions as individuals and a society will affect our future.

GIS Professionals Needed to Complete a Validation Survey on the Duties and Tasks of a GIS Technician



A Scalable Skills Certification Program in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

San Diego Mesa College and San Diego State University

2004 Award, funded by National Science Foundation, Advanced Technology Education

The San Diego Educational GIS Consortium is seeking a diverse group of GIS professionals from both public and private sectors to complete a written survey to help validate a list of duties, tasks and related competencies performed by GIS Technicians. This list* was recently created by a local panel of expert workers and, upon validation, will become the foundation for the GIS Certificate Program at San Diego Mesa College, San Diego State University and San Diego City Schools.

This survey will be mailed out in early May and should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Your participation will insure that GIS skills required by your organization are addressed in this new curriculum. Participants and their organizations will also be recognized on the program's formal DACUM chart. If you or other members of your organization would like to receive a copy of this survey please send their contact information to:

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Thank you very much for your support and involvement with this project.

John Johnson
San Diego Mesa College

* to review a copy of the existing draft DACUM chart visit our web site @ http://geoinfo.sdsu.edu/hightech