

SDRGC Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2011

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome by Harry Johnson, SDRGC Webmaster (for Pat Landrum ,Chair). For a list of attendees, please see attachment. Hosted by Karl von Schlieder in Carlsbad's Police & Fire Safety Center. A special thanks to Karl for providing a place to meet.

2. GEONEWS

CA GIS Update – Pat Landrum

- Statewide Parcel Data - State GIO has purchased a subscription with CoreLogic for statewide parcel data. The "ParcelPoint" data will be accessible to all state agencies, with quarterly updates. TBD how the roll-out will be implemented (data published as services, stand-alone viewer apps, shapefiles for download, etc.)?

http://www.corelogic.com/product-media/asset_upload_file584_10944.pdf

<http://www.corelogic.com/products/parcelpoint-technology.aspx#container-ProductDetails>

- Statewide Aerial Imagery - Currently some discussion among state agencies regarding aerial imagery. Survey has been sent to state agencies. Looking into both subscription services or publishing data through one or more state agencies. Funding is an issue in either case.
 - NAIP – 2012 NAIP planned for CA. Will be four band and possible buy up to ½ meter (\$1.1M). Looked at Non-Farm Service Agency needs. Will try to fit higher resolution imagery requirements into next 5-year contract. FSA realized there was a large customer base and conducted a survey to determine existing & future non-FSA imagery requirements. Survey will be posted on the SDRGC website.
Drew Decker from USGS said NAIP imagery can go down to half-meter, but no further, since it would slow down production.
 - Climate Change – The state is looking at climate change projects for potential inundation. Sea level rise inundation analysis required for Caltrans projects. We have a "Climate Change" branch in HQ. Hydro Dept. is currently developing a model to be used in project specific analysis. Using Bay Area LiDAR.
 - Shake-out 2011 - is 10:20am, Thursday October 20. This announcement triggered the following discussion: Is anyone using HAZUS? Not really, because the resolution of datasets is not good and outputs are not detailed enough for analysis. (Caltrans uses a small component of HAZUS for structures in order to prioritize bridge inspections.) There is a component that will translate your data into input HAZUS needs, so you don't have to use Federal data. HAZUS needs to be addressed at the regional level. The biggest challenge would be – who will champion? County OES? Concluded that the SDRGC should invite Terrence Newsom from US-DHS to speak to the group about HAZUS.
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USGS – Drew Decker

1. NGA Funding – Possibility for new imagery (minimum 1 ft resolution) in San Diego region next year (2012). Have NGA funds on tap and can combine them with local and regional dollars, if available.

- Major issue is to gauge interest in region
- Will communicate via listserv and hold calls
- Need to see if local agency would be willing to provide project management.
- USGS can do project management and handle contract though costs may be higher – getting estimate.
- Area covered could be urban region (coast to mtns) up to entire county.

(Brad Lind suggested a general discussion on imagery for the whole region would be a good agenda topic at the next meeting.)

2. USGS Historical Topo Maps – Collection is being released now. All maps scanned and in PDF format (with geo-extension). Every scale, every edition, everywhere. California maps have been scanned but not released online yet – planned for this Fall though.

- Over 13,000 maps for CA
- Maps available for free download via USGS Store site (store.usgs.gov). Go to Map Locator...
- High resolution scans – 600 dpi, unlike older DRGs
- Probable release in GeoTIFF for use in GIS, though this isn't certain

(John Hofmocker asked what ESRI had on ArcGIS Online re: topo maps. Drew was not sure and would have to look, probably generated from DRG's)

- National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) – Stewardship is ongoing in CA. SanGIS is local steward for SD region. We are planning additional NHD Tools training in Sacramento on week of February 6th. All local and state stewards invited. We will also have several sessions of NHD Applications training (one day workshop) likely built around CalGIS conference (a couple sessions each in SoCal and NorCal). Latest addition to substeward family may be LA County Department of Public Works and main goal would be to integrate storm water drainage into NHD network. Also, CA Department of Water Resources makes progress in investigating possible state steward role. One initiative they're looking at is using LiDAR in automated process to generate NHD. They had demos from Marin County and Iowa State University.

3. National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA) - USGS has wrapped up major stage of (NEEA) for US. Created a national inventory of higher resolution (better than 10m DEM) holdings. And also gathered data requirements from State and Federal government. Document serves as a "needs assessment" for several business areas such as Coastal, Hydro, Geology, Forest, Wildfire, Infrastructure, etc. Would like to work on local needs too and can go through CA GIS Council. Several documents should be available, which will be shared with SDRGC for posting:

- CA report on state data needs – based on survey and workshop held in Sacramento
- Spreadsheet of data project holdings
- Shapefile of data footprints
- PDF illustration

- Digital Map Beta – US Topo maps to be produced for CA in 2012. These will replace “Digital Map – Beta” products that you may or may not have used. 2012 version adds hydrography, contour lines, green vegetation tint, and some boundaries and structures. Continuous improvements seen over life of series. Data to be available at USGS Store and also through The National Map viewer (nationalmap.gov/viewer) which is replacing the old seamless data download site.
- 2012 NSDI CAP Grant - Has been released through FGDC. Official announcement will be at end of October. Have list here to share. Note that CA has two projects outstanding at this time. Go to <http://www.fgdc.gov/grants/2012CAP/2012CAPDescriptions> for more info. Application period ends in January 2012. Applicants must use the Grants.gov site requirements.

SANGIS Update – Brad Lind

Brad welcomed Lisa Stapleton, who is now working for the City of San Diego. Welcome back Lisa!

SANGIS is working on 4 main goals, which are:

1. Implement MOA with SANDAG
2. Address quality updates
3. Revamp website – currently in beginning stages
4. Work into the maintenance process certain easements that are most important to the City and County

SANGIS would also like to use a simplified version of the Roads layer, by removing vertices with the ‘SIMPLIFY’ command. Would also like to eliminate RD20NAME. (*NOTE: If your agency uses this field, please let Brad know.*)

Questions, Answers & Comments:

Q: Any movement on replicating data to non-partner agencies?

A: This will be incorporated into the web redesign.

SANDAG Update – Steve Hossack

Steve discussed the MOA between SANDAG and SANGIS. SANDAG will be the one-stop shop for geospatial data. The goal is to finish by the end of October, and have the website up and running. It will be a complete cutover with no expectation to run parallel. SANGIS’s “Download Data” will redirect to SANDAG’s website. No login will be required.

John Hofmockel said that non-census data such as zipcodes, etc. should be posted in the data warehouse by the end of October.

3. CITY OF CARLSBAD GIS PROGRAM – Karl von Schlieder

Karl gave a presentation re: Carlsbad's GIS Program and future initiatives.

The presentation included:

- Mention of the citizen volunteers program (currently mapping addresses)
- Most staff use GIS web apps created through Rolta OnPoint
- Next OnPoint app is an app for DMS input and GIS/DMS integration, but they're waiting on server horsepower before moving forward with this
- Related GIS apps include: Accela Permits Plus; Hansen and Marshall GeoResults (for the field); GBA (pavement management system); Granite XP (CCTV pipeline inspection system)
- Links to water utility billing and business licensing via addresses
- Coming soon – CRM system
- Looking into charge back to Departments for maintenance etc. of custom apps, data entry scripts, etc.
- Looking into establishing a Steering Committee for organizational backing to support enterprise GIS
- Issues that are being addressed: outsourcing and managed competition. Council would like to save money but maintain same value. Should GIS be separated out from IT re: articulating value, and determining internal cost vs. competition?
- GIS is looking at Amazon EC2 cloud.

The presentation is available on the SDRGC website.

Questions, Answers & Comments:

Q: Have you looked at cities who've completely outsourced GIS?

A: No, not yet.

Q: If GIS was not in IT, do you think your group would be more secure?

A: No, because they are looking at lines of service.

Comment: A similar exercise is happening at the County Water Authority – looking at IT cost efficiencies.

Comment: This is a relevant topic across agencies. We're all faced with these kinds of questions. Internal costs are hard to determine. Cloud service costs are difficult to determine too.

4. SANDAG SMART GROWTH WEB APPLICATION – Steve Hossak and Rachel Rider, SANDAG

Steve and Rachel gave a presentation and demo re: SANDAG's Smart Growth application, which is an ArcGIS Server application that allows planners to add new Smart Growth areas for consideration. Smart Growth areas are those areas that qualify (via increased density or more transit) for funding.

Now, rather than send a hard copy map out to an agency and wait for it to be marked up and sent back, planners can go directly into the app and add new Smart Growth areas, and/or comments. Rachel from

SANDAG is able to review these new additions immediately. This has saved a lot of time in the process.

It is a collaborative tool between SANDAG and the region's planners. All comments and edits are stored in a log file.

The presentation is available on the SDRGC website.

Questions, Answers & Comments:

Q: How does Rachel know when a new Smart Growth area has been added for consideration? Is there built-in email notification?

A: No, not currently. She just checks on a daily basis for changes.

Q: Is the process for soliciting comments for the app on-going?

A: Yes, until the end of November.

5. AUTOMATING AERIAL IMAGING – Christopher Lippitt and Grant Fraley (SDSU)

Christopher and Grant gave a presentation re: digital aerial photographic mapping and terrain mapping technology using autonomous Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), which has been developed by TerraPan Labs at SDSU's Center for Earth Systems Analysis & Research (CESAR).

The presentation included:

- A background on the use of their UAV for high resolution mapping with SDSU;
- Airspace regulations for unmanned aircraft;
- Accuracies of mosaic and digital elevation data products generated from UAV imaging; and
- The application of TerraPan Lab's software for automated flight planning and image processing

This presentation was of interest to many agencies as a possible way to collect imagery during emergencies, and to update imagery in a patch work fashion when large development projects are completed.

The presentation is available on the SDRGC website.

Questions, Answers & Comments:

Q: There has been difficulty during EOC when trying to map fire lines on the ground. How fast can an area be flown and actionable imagery be turned around?

A: 5 minutes to get it in the air; 30 minutes to process. However, this UAV can't operate in CALFIRE controlled airspace, but other companies are set up to do this.

Comment: Emergency response folks need to make this an important part of the EOC process.

Comment: Currently, no standards, but the hope is that Cloud will help – so that no matter who captures the imagery, there is a standardized place to put it for access.

Comment: There are many different areas where this type of technology could be used.

6. SDRGC OFFICER ELECTIONS – Wendy Flynn

Wendy announced that it was time to start the election process for a new SDRGC Board for the 2012-2014 term. Positions up for re-election include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Webmaster. All nominees must be from a public agency.

The schedule is as follows:

- Post October Meeting: email Council members and ask them for nominations by November 30
- November: Wendy will contact the nominees and confirm they would like to run for the positions
- December: Hold the elections
- January SDRGC Meeting: Announce the election results

7. OPEN DISCUSSION –

John Hofmockel announced that SANDAG will be holding an internal GIS DAY on November 16 for staff. He would like to know if anyone in the region will be having a GIS DAY open to the public? If so, he will refer people to your event. Also, if you have a GIS DAY planned, be sure to register your event on ESRI's site.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next SDRGC meeting will be held on January 11, 2012. Tentative meeting location to be determined. If you have any ideas for possible agenda items please contact Grace Chung: cchu@sandag.org

Meeting Attendees October 12, 2011

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