

# The Regional Technology Clearinghouse

and  
The Technical Assist Database  
Presented to the  
Regional GIS Council  
October 8, 2008

# A Regional Strategy for Technology

After the catastrophic wildfires of October 2003, the San Diego Regional Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness Task Force identified the need for an independent regional organization to:

*“ . . . develop a consolidated approach to identifying technological improvements that will provide enhanced safety for our responders and improve our information sharing and effectiveness... ”*

*“...A regional strategy should be developed to evaluate regional needs ... There should be some consideration by the Unified Disaster Council (UDC) to establish a regional committee to identify needs and screen vendors and products that meet those needs.”*



The UDC established the Regional Technology Partnership (RTP) in 2005 as a means to enable a technology support structure for the region.

# Regional Technology Partnership

- **The Framework for Coordination**
  - Provide advice and recommendations to policy bodies on direction of regional strategy.
  - Define scope and priorities for the technology clearinghouse, including the creation of the Regional Strategic Technology Plan
  - Assist in the prioritization of regional technology grant funding
- **Organization consists of nine members**
  - San Diego County Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association
  - San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association
  - San Diego County Office of Emergency Services Director
  - City of San Diego Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Public Safety
  - San Diego Regional Technology Center Director
  - City of San Diego Chief of Police
  - City of San Diego Fire Chief
  - San Diego County Sheriffs Office
  - San Diego Fire District Chiefs Representative
- **Provides Advisory Committee Support**

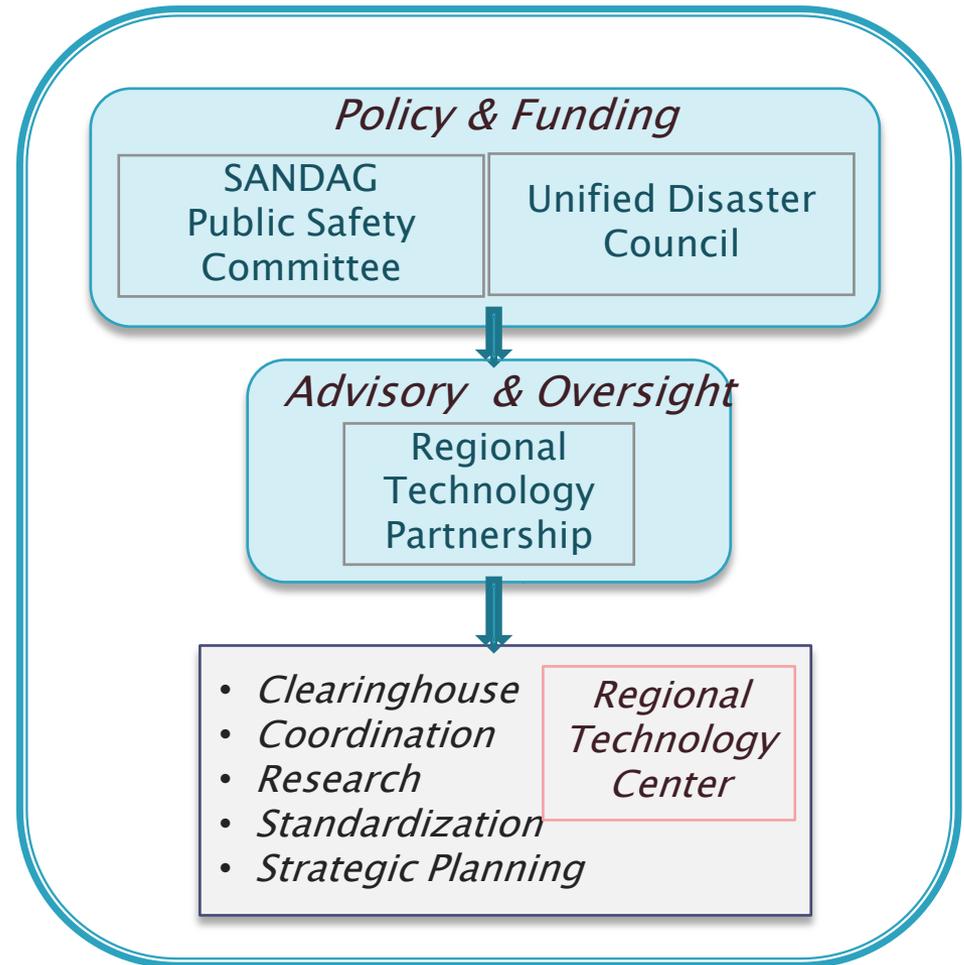


# Regional Governance Structure

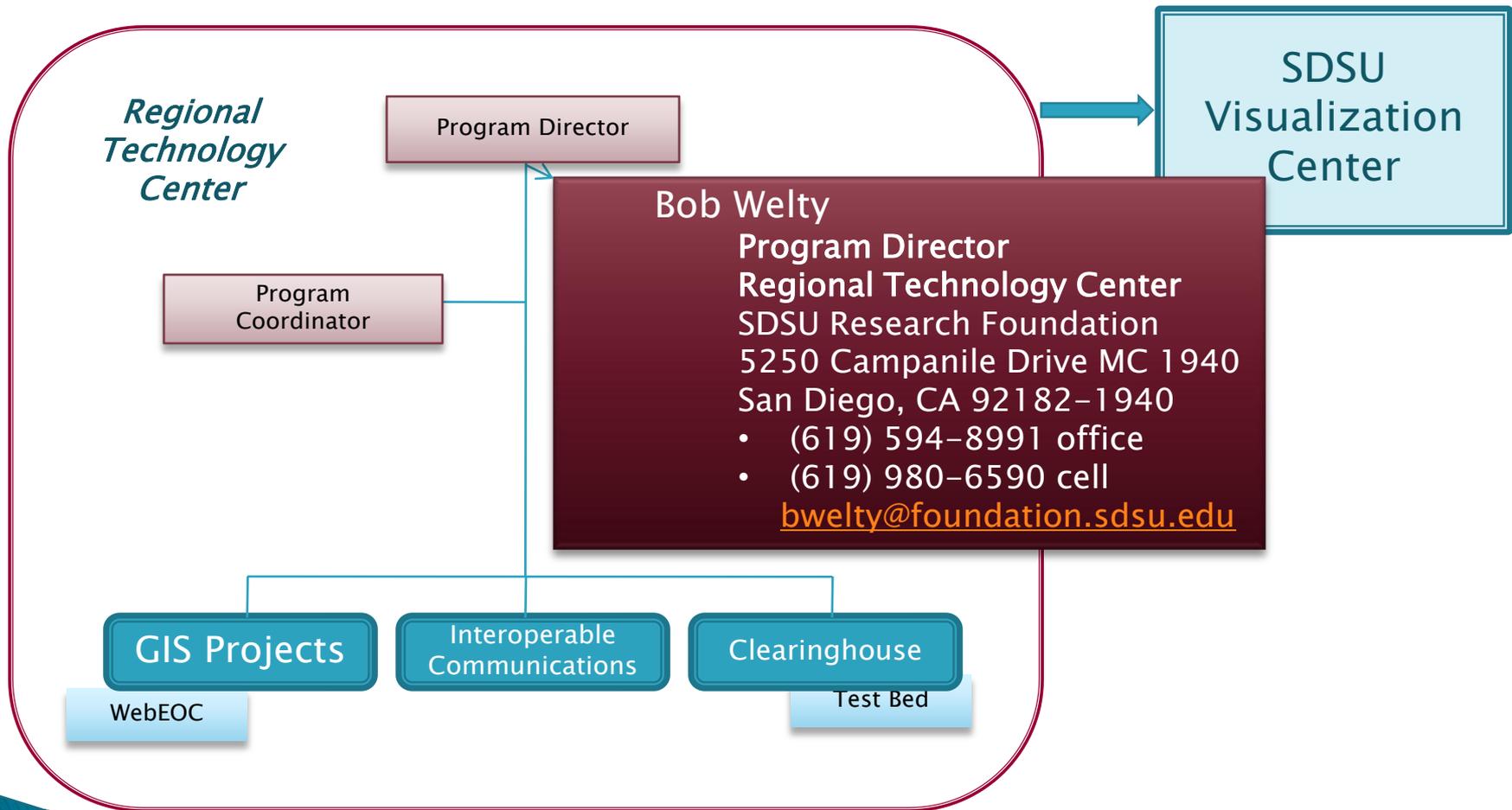
A series of workshops in the San Diego region created:

- A plan for voice and data communications and interoperability,
- A framework for improving coordination of regional efforts,
- The Regional Technology Center (RTC).

- The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Executive Board, its Public Safety Committee (PSC) and the UDC approved formation of the RTC.
- The RTC falls under these organizations operationally through oversight provided by the RTP.



# Regional Technology Center At the San Diego State Research Foundation

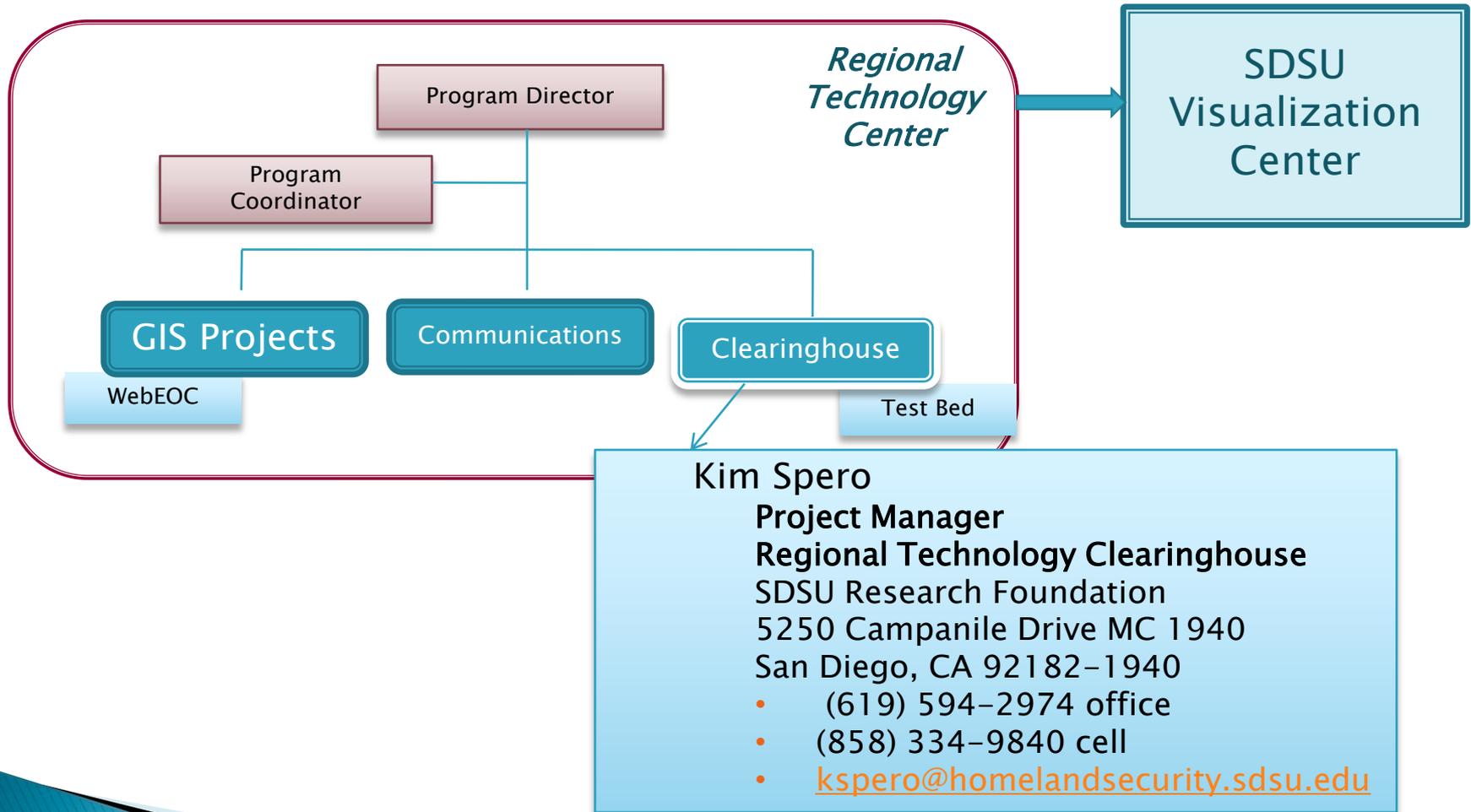


# Regional Technology Center

- ▶ Serves as a coordination point for technology initiatives throughout the San Diego Urban Area.
- ▶ Serves the region by providing independent research, guidance on standardization and interoperability, and conducting reviews to identify viable technological solutions.
- ▶ Publishes and maintains the Regional Strategic Technology Plan, a baseline and roadmap for technology use across the region.
- ▶ The RTC operates at the San Diego State University Research Foundation in close conjunction with the:
  - SDSU Center for Homeland Security Technology Assessment
  - SDSU Center for Information Technology and Infrastructure
  - SDSU Visualization Center
  - Department Of Homeland Security Science and Technology Test bed



# Regional Technology Center At the San Diego State Research Foundation



# Clearinghouse Overview

- ▶ A regional resource designed to facilitate technology efforts
  - Serves as an independent, centralized information resource for existing and emerging public–safety technologies.
  - Serves as a consistent and central contact point for regional technology questions, issues and referrals.
  - Acts as a sounding board for regional agency ideas and vendor concepts, helping to link suitable vendors and agencies for proof of concept or pilot projects when appropriate.
  - Provides a test bed to allow local communities to understand how a specific technology will interact with the baseline capability currently in use.

*The clearinghouse collaborates with other organizations with similar clearinghouse functions at academic institutions and at state and national levels*



# Technology Test Bed

- The clearinghouse is standing up the Homeland Security Science and Technology Test bed (HSSTT)
  - This test bed allows local communities to understand how a specific technology will interact with the baseline capability currently in use.
    - A technology may be highly tested, and robust, yet when inserted into an existing environment, it does not provide additional capability or effectiveness.
    - The HSSTT will allow potential users to evaluate and understand the technology's using deliberate measurable metrics in a static test environment.

# Clearinghouse Tasks

- Technology Searches
  - Needs-based
- Vendor Demonstrations
  - Evaluations
  - Archive of capabilities
- Baseline Studies
- Regional Strategic Technology Plan
  - Regional Priorities
  - Periodic maintenance



*How can I access  
this information?*



# Technology Assist Database

- ▶ The Clearinghouse website and Technology Assist Database are online:
  - <http://rtc.sdsu.edu>
    - Website provides
      - Upcoming events and reviews
      - Details about exercise participation
    - Database provides
      - Password protected security
      - Archive of baseline studies
      - Inventory of reviewed technologies

This is an initial release. We are working to further enhance this resource and are open to comments or suggestions from our users.



# Demonstration of Technology Assist Database



# Database Access & Assistance

- <http://rtc.sdsu.edu>
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