

San Diego Regional GIS Council Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023

In-person meeting @ Palomar College

WELCOME AND SDRGC NEWS

Brenda Maldonado, SDRGC Chair, announced:

- Welcome to all new SDRGC members!
- Introduction of the SDRGC board and host, Professor Wing Cheung, GISP.
- Abe Coughlin (GIS Managers Working Group) will not be able to join this meeting, but Jennifer Maria-Benavides (SDRGC Secretary) will step in for Abe.
- Andy Gordon (SANDAG Manager of GIS) will not be able to join this meeting, but Paula Birdwell (Assoc. GIS Analyst, SANDAG) will step in for Andy.
- Upcoming SDRGC Board Elections FY 2024-2026
 - Each term position serves 2 years.
 - One person elected per public agency; submit nominations to jennifer.maria-benavides@sdcounty.ca.gov (subject: SDRGC 2024-2026 nominations)
 - Webmaster agency must host the website.

GEONEWS

USGS UPDATE

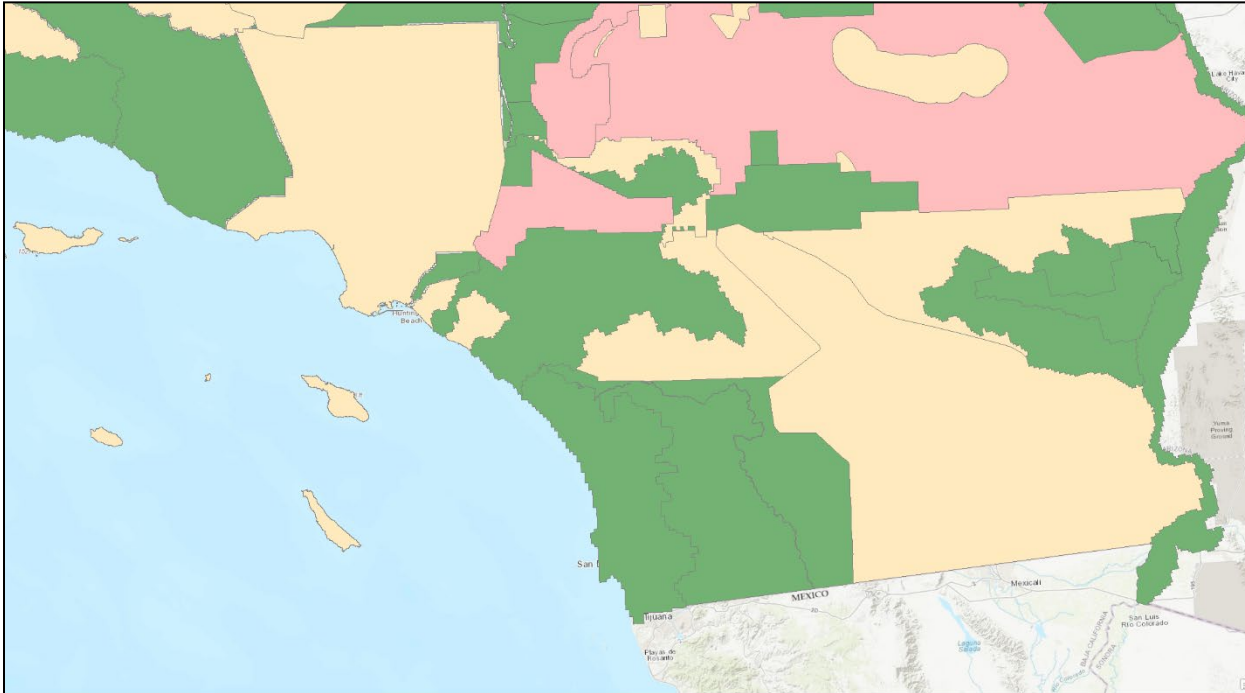
Drew Decker reported:

- The 3D National Hydrography Program (3DHP) is a new direction in surface water data. It's a revision to the current NHD whereby surface water features will be derived from recent high resolution elevation data. A new data model and new processes for data generation and review are in work. USGS will support partnerships with organizations to generate new 3DHP data across the nation. 3DHP link: <https://usgs.gov/3DHP>
- The new "Data Collaboration Announcement" (DCA) is a mechanism for partnering with USGS and other federal agencies to acquire new 3DHP and 3DEP data. It replaces the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) which has supported 3DEP elevation data projects. The FY2024 DCA was released in September. It has many similarities to the BAA and offers process improvements and the ability to collaborate on elevation and hydro data. Anyone interested in lidar or hydro data development, building partnerships, or having any questions is welcome and encouraged to contact us. DCA link: <https://usgs.gov/3DNTM/DCA>
- The 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) continues and will be supported by the DCA. Several projects are underway in southern CA: Imperial County and the Salton Sea area, Los Angeles County, and portions of OC, Riverside, and San Bernardino. A large project to collect data for the Mojave area in southeastern CA is expected to get underway in early 2024. This should complete statewide lidar for CA. Link: <https://usgs.gov/3DEP>
- The National Digital Trails program is now beta testing its Trail Data Portal. The Portal is a new tool for submitting and reviewing contributed trails data. This should allow for the inclusion of trails data from local and regional sources. The San Diego GIS Managers Group has been interested in contributing data for the County and they are involved with the Portal beta testing. SanGIS is supporting this and I've been in contact with Tod Chee and Louise Wedley, who are here today. They may have more to share on this? Link: <https://www.usgs.gov/national-digital-trails>
- A recent USGS web application enables the public to create custom topographic maps on demand. The online application is called **topoBuilder** and the output maps are known as **OnDemand Topos**. Users are able to build a USGS-style topographic

map with choice of format, area of interest, and contour smoothness. I showed a quick demo of this on a call last year. Links for related datasets include:

- TopoBuilder page (<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/national-geospatial-program/topobuilder>). Intro to new application
- USGS Store for historical and current topographic maps (<https://store.usgs.gov/>). Including print option for current maps
- topoView for access to historical topographic maps (<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>)
- TNM Downloader. Download structures, US Topo maps, elevation, NAIP imagery, hydrography, boundaries, names, and more (<https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader>)

3DEP status for Southern CA. Green areas are complete; tan is in work; rose color is planned.



Please contact Drew Decker (ddecker@usgs.gov, 619-225-6430) or Kim Jones (kjones@usgs.gov, 801-908-5032) with any questions or requests for presentations on the above topics.

SANDAG UPDATE

Paula Birdwell, on behalf of Andy Gordon, reported:

- SANDAG is in the process of migrating GIS services and applications over to our new Portal. We will inform SDRGC via the e-mail list when these become available.
- We recently wrapped up collecting land use inputs from jurisdiction sore the Series 15 Regional Growth Forecast. A draft version of the forecast is expected to be available in the Spring.
- SANDAG recently released the Traffic Safety Dashboard (<https://opendata.sandag.org/stories/s/5f7y-nefe>), which provides traffic collision data for the San Diego region in support of Vision Zero planning efforts.

SANGIS UPDATE

Tod Chee, reported:

- ARCC Mapping Division is now co-locating with SanGIS
 - This move is a permanent move to allow more close collaboration on the landbase with ARCC.
 - Jointly managing parcel data with Parcel Fabric.
- Emergency Drives

- Louise is here with emergency drives.
- Pick up from her today or contact SanGIS later if needed. lwedley@sangis.org
- Data Access MOA (DAMOA)
 - SanGIS has an instance of portal on AWS with weekly updates of SanGIS data.
 - Full dataset that is going to JPA members weekly available to non-JPA members
 - Data available as services to download.
 - DAMOA will be at cost to offset the operational costs of maintaining AWS, Portal, and administration.

Contact Tod if interested or want to know more.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

GIS MANAGER'S WORKING GROUP

Jennifer Maria-Benavides, on behalf of Abe Coughlin, reported:

SD GIS Managers met August 2023.

- The biggest discussion point at the managers meeting was talent acquisition, retention, and generation. The GIS Managers group discussed how best to identify the skills required for city staff and how this may assist colleges and individuals decide on training options. Scott Daeschner (city of San Diego) had suggested a SDRGC working group for this topic – this would of course comprise government, education, and commercial individuals – Although we are not sure what the ultimate goal would be for this group, it's important that conversations are happening on this topic. The reason we are hosting the meeting here, at Palomar is to reach out to students and inform them about GIS organizations i.e., SDRGC; you can join for free and receive information about job opportunities, GIS information; it's our best interest to collaborate with Colleges on training opportunities.

PRESENTATIONS

COUNTY OF SANDIEGO GIS WORKFORCE, EDUCATION, AND NETWORKING.

Prof. Wing Chung facilitated a panel discussion for industry members (public and private) to connect with the directors of various GIS degree and certificate programs in San Diego County.

Guest speakers:

- Wing Cheung, Professor of Geography, Palomar College (wcheung@palomar.edu)
- Taya Lazootin, Professor of Geography, Mira Costa College (tlazootin@miracosta.edu)
- Elizabeth Rider, Professor of Geography, CSU-San Marcos (eridder@csusm.edu)
- Rachel Russell, Professor of GIS, San Diego Mesa College (rrussell@sdccd.edu)
- Atsushi Nara, Professor of Geography, San Diego State University (anara@sdsu.edu)

The topics of discussion encompassed the following:

- Barriers and strategies to attract students to GIS positions at various agencies.
- Partnership opportunities (e.g., internships and serving learning projects) between educators and employers that can increase the workplace readiness of students and the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of entry level workers in the ever-changing GIS workforce.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Feedback was received from members of the private sector, public agencies, educators, and students.

- The panel discussed:
 - There is a lack of paid opportunities (internships) for students.
 - Lack of paid positions causes students to drop from GIS, therefore widening the workforce gap.
 - Paid positions incentivize and strengthening of labor relationships with future employers.
 - Within the student body, there is abundant food insecurity, housing, and family obligations.
 - Telework accommodations would open inclusive opportunities for students with parenting obligations or commuting challenges.
 - The panel encourages employers to provide small scale tasks that would serve as a capstone project that students may be able to complete within a semester. The employers can take advantage of these small-scale projects as could be used as probationary period that led into a paid position (internship or fulltime).
 - By state law, schools are required to have advisory committees on curriculums however it takes about two years for curriculum changes to be approved.

- Attendees discussed:
 - Scott Daeshner (City of San Diego) discussed that there is a federal employment grant that agencies can apply for to fund paid internships.
 - Office work needs to be promoted as post-covid graduates have then expectation that most positions offer full-time telework when government positions are in-office.
 - Scott Daeschner added that SDRGC is well positioned to be an aggregator.
 - Robert “Space” kraft added that the Geospatial Networking Group is designed to serve as a “clearing house” for employers and students to connect on new opportunities via their professors.
 - A list of main contacts at universities and agencies was requested. These contacts would serve as POC for communication on open opportunities.

Announcements

Job Opportunities:

-Quartic is hiring entry level GIS positions. Timo Luostarinen timo@quarticsolutions.com

- GISi Surveyors, Inc. careers@gissurveyors.com

Confirmed attendance for November 15, 2023

Alex Olivier-Morgan

Alex Sainz

Anthony Aguilar

Atsushi Nara

Aurora Moreno-Resendiz

Axel Pliego Flores

Brittany Burson

Camille Lill

Daniel DuGal

Delilah Espinoza

Drew Cover

Drew Decker

Ed Gregory

Elias Issa

Ethan Vahov

Falisha (Fali) Field

Haleigh Watkins

Harry Johnson

James Crandall

Jennifer Maria-Benavides

John Prevo

Justin Nettleton

Kari Palm

Kate Gallegos

Kevin O'Brien

Liz Ridder

Lorie Roberts

Louise Wedley

Marcus Chiu

Melisa Caric Lee

Mohamad Yassin

Monica Vazquez

Nick Archer

Patrick Home

Paula Birdwell

Ruth McColly

Rachel Russell

Reyna Orozco-Ramos

Rick Trent

Ryan Bohan

Saeid Noori Bushehri

Sam Adams

Sam Powvall

Sami Jalel

Sarah Goldstein

Scott Daeschner

Scott Redlin

Sima Sohrabi

Suzanne Walther

Taya Lazootin

Tim Williams

Tyler Packett

Valerie Neale

Victor Smetana

Wing Cheung

Yuko Oliver

Susie Ortega

Timo Luostarinen

Todd Chee

Harry Moore

Space Kraft

Jen Gordon

Randy Parker

Brenda Maldonado

Monique Larragoitia

Matthew Mcspadden