

San Diego Regional GIS Council Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2026

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

WELCOME AND SDRGC NEWS

Yuko Oliver, SDRGC Chair:

- Thanks to Esri and all the regional members who participated with the SD Regional Booth in the Map Gallery at this year's User Conference.
- Agenda
 - GeoNews
 - USGS Update – Cynthia Ritmiller
 - SANDAG Update – Andy Gordon
 - SanGIS Update – Tod Chee
 - GIS Managers Update – Monique Larragoitia
 - Presentation
 - Data Science vs. GIS: Mapping the Intersection – Ross Martin, Chief of Data Analytics - OEPA

GEONEWS

USGS UPDATE

Cynthia Ritmiller with USGS reported:

- The San Diego Lidar Project collected is in the process of publishing. The first work unit is expected in the next 2-3 weeks.
- The North portion of the Lidar San Diego County project has been accepted and will be published soon. Once published, the data can be accessed at:
<https://rockyweb.usgs.gov/vdelivery/Datasets/Staged/Elevation/OPR/Projects/> or via the [USGS Lidar Explorer Map](#).
- The 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP) quarterly data service was released August 5, 2026:
<https://3dhp.nationalmap.gov/>
 - For more information on the 3DHP, join the [USGS Hydro Community Call](#).
- Feel free to reach out with any questions. Cynthia Ritmiller, USGS National Map Liaison (critmiller@usgs.gov)

SANDAG UPDATE

Andy Gordon with SANDAG reported:

- The 2025 Population and Housing estimates have been released.
 - SANDAG Estimates and Forecasts: <https://opendata.sandag.org/stories/s/g7b3-cqbg>
- With the adoption of the 2027 budget, there is an updated capital projects viewer dashboard available.
 - SANDAG FY 27 Capital Improvement Projects: <https://www.sandag.org/funding/budget>

SANGIS UPDATE

Tod Chee with SanGIS reported:

- The Emergency Data Drive should be available by the end of the month.
 - Let Louise or Tod know what you need.
- Offline copies of county-wide imagery have been received. From an initial pass, the data looks good, though the data was uncompressed.
 - The 3-in resolution data will require a 3TB external drive, if you want a copy.
 - The 6-in resolution data will need a 1TB external drive.
- We need help with compressing the imagery data. If anyone has experience with this, we welcome your skills, tips, and suggestions! Feel free to reach out to Tod Chee (tchee@sangis.org).
- SanGIS is starting the move to change the billing cycle for Nearmap, and within the next few years, billing will be in November. This is a heads-up for future planning if you have a different fiscal year cycle.

GIS MANAGERS UPDATE

Monique Larragoitia with City of Escondido reported:

- The GIS Managers Group met August 4.
 - Post-UC Discussion:
 - Attendees appreciated the format of the GIS Leadership Summit (Sunday, July 12). They liked the panels and various presentations.
 - Considerations on how to track engagement at the SD Region Booth going forward. Perhaps visitor counts on the SDRGC web page.
- Discussed holding the in-person SDRGC meeting in the afternoon on GIS Day, then ending the day with happy hour, since that was very well received last year.
 - Looking to have more involvement from students and the GIS Day meeting would be a good opportunity to kick it off.
- Migration to ArcGIS Enterprise 12.x
 - SANDAG and Port of San Diego have both migrated their test environments to 12.1. They shared their challenges, which included:
 - The prep work required to migrate the Tile Cache Data Store the new Object Data Store
 - Issues with GeoEvent
 - Finding MMS services and working around MS Defender blocking various aspects of the upgrade process
 - They were able to upgrade and are now in testing phases
 - Other agencies are currently looking to upgrade as well, but need to migrate out of deprecated Apps and/or other preparations before doing so.
- Discussed creating stronger employment pipelines within the region and mentoring early GIS professionals.
 - We are looking to work directly with the education institutions to increase communication between SDRGC and students, being more explicit in welcoming students to attend and participate in the local GIS community.
 - Discussed potential approaches to demystifying the hiring process in government agencies and to provide guidance on what hiring managers look for in a candidate.
- The GIS Managers Working Group is formed by individuals who manage or administer the GIS program in their respective agency (public entities and jurisdictions only). If you are a GIS manager and would like to join, contact Monique (monique.larragoitia@escondido.gov).

PRESENTATIONS

Data Science vs GIS: Mapping the Intersection, Defining the Boundaries, and Exploring the Union

Presented by: Ross Martin, Chief of Data Analytics, Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics (OEPA), San Diego County

- Defining the core distinctions between Data Science and GIS (Geography)
- The evolution of 'GeoSpatial Data Science' sits at the union of Data Science and GIS.
- The proposal: SDRGC creates subgroups for collaboration between data science professionals and GIS professionals
 - There is no good space in the Data Science field where people meet regularly, and there are data people in the workforce now that need more training in the spatial fields.
 - SDRGC has an established regular meeting where discussions about the relevance of Data Science in the daily GIS workflow can go beyond Python and scripting, and provide mutual learning opportunities.
- The [presentation](#) is available for download on the SDRGC website.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Announcements:

- Next SDRGC Meeting:
 - Wednesday, November 18 (GIS Day).
 - In Person
 - Location: County of San Diego Operations Center (tentative)
 - Time: Afternoon (TBC)
- Geospatial San Diego will have their next meeting on September 30, and GIS Day at 5:30 p.m.
 - Location TBD
 - Will be sending out agenda for meetings
- CalGIS Conference 2027:
 - January 25-27, 2027
 - Location: San Luis Obispo
 - <https://thegpn.org/general/custom.asp?page=CalGIS>

SDRGC MEETING ATTENDEES FOR 8/12/2026

Adam Attar
Alex Samarin
Andy Gordon
Aurora Moreno-Resendiz
Brenda Maldonado
Carl Sorenson
Crystal English
Cynthia L Ritmiller
Daniel DuGal
David Saborio
Elizabeth Ridder
Ellen Denzel
Emily Fisher
Emily Orsborn
Eric Pate
Griffin Macondray
Jen Gordon
Jessica Sanchez
Joseph Paoletti II
Julie Uhren
Justin Nettleton
Kevin Highland
Kris Manske

Lorie Roberts
Louise Wedley
Mario Terrazas
Matthew McSpadden
Maya Holdren
Melisa Caric
Monique Larragoitia
Nick Camacho
Oliver Sandoval
Pete Coulter
Philip Mai
Robert "Space" Kraft
Robert ODonnell
Ross P Martin
Russell Mercer
Ryan Bohan
Saeid Noori Bushehri
Stephanie Odell
Suresh Kakileti
Tod Chee
Yuko Oliver
Zahra Khani
Zhan Shi