

California GIS Council Meeting Summary
DRAFT – March 9, 2004

Location:

CalGIS Conference at the
 San Jose McEnery Convention Center
 150 W. San Carlos St., San Jose, CA 95113
 Between Almaden Boulevard and Market Street

Time and Date:

Friday, February 18, 2004, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Agenda:

Item	Responsible Party	Time
Welcome & Introductions	Luree Stetson for Secretary Mike Chrisman, Chair (Resources Agency) Donna Hansen, Co-Chair (City of Modesto) Alan Mikuni, Co-Chair (USGS)	15 min
Secretary's Message <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Current State Government Environment—Challenges and Opportunities • A Continuing Commitment 	Luree Stetson for Secretary Chrisman	10 min
House Keeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept Minutes of Prior Meeting 	Co-Chair Donna Hansen	5 min
Council Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagery • Transportation Data Clearinghouse • Metadata 	Workgroup Leads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Watkins • Oscar Jarquin • Richard Mader 	10 min 10 min 10 min
Consider Resolution Requesting Federal Funding of California Imagery	Donna Hansen, Co-Chair (City of Modesto), All	15 min
CGIA Recommended Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider action on recommended policies 	Joe Concannon, CGIA Chair	30 min
Council Member Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regions • State • Federal 	Council Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Members • State Members • Federal Members 	30 min
Closing Remarks		15 min

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Introductions

Luree Stetson, representing Resources Agency Secretary and Council Chair Mike Chrisman opened the meeting. All in attendance were asked to introduce themselves.

Welcome by Chair and Co-Chairs

Luree summarized the key points from a letter from Secretary Chrisman expressing his appreciation for the Council's interest in reducing costs and increasing efficiencies between local, state, federal and private sectors. The Council clearly holds the potential for realizing efficiencies from cost sharing and improvements in effectiveness of government operations and services through the establishment of the California Performance Review process. The Administration has begun an intense review of its program and operations to determine how it can reorganize to better serve its constituents. A report with recommendations is due by June 2004. Luree indicated that we would brief the Governor's new cabinet about the Council.

The letter from Secretary Chrisman was as follows:

February 19, 2004

Dear Members, California Geographic Information System Council:

I want to extend my congratulations to the California GIS Council for taking the initiative to collaborate on GIS issues that affect local, state and federal governmental entities and the private sector. I regret not being able to attend this meeting, but wish you well in the conference deliberations.

You all know that California State government is facing a budgetary crisis of unprecedented proportions. Clearly this crisis brings many challenges but it also gives us a unique opportunity to make substantive change that will result in a state government that is more effective, affordable and responsive to the needs of its citizens. The voters elected Governor Schwarzenegger with a mandate to respond to these issues. The Governor has directed the state to engage in a detailed, in depth, comprehensive review of its operations. This process – called the California Performance Review (www.cpr.ca.gov) -- has already started and over 150 of our most experienced and talented managers and analysts will form performance review teams. I encourage you to visit the web site and offer suggestions to the CPR.

These teams, with the help of a consultant experienced in similar government reform initiatives, have been given the considerable task of coming up with specific recommendations within 6 months for how state government can be improved.

The State's information technology infrastructure will be carefully examined as IT is viewed as being important to making these changes. Common infrastructure will be

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consolidated while steps are taken to ensure that appropriate levels of service are delivered in an affordable manner and our data centers are made responsive and accountable. There will be a concerted effort to “right size” our IT systems. These changes may require new legislation to modify state government statute and regulations and perhaps even constitutional amendments - everything is on the table.

The California GIS Council plays a constructive role. It is obvious that this council has a tremendous potential to save money and identify ways in which we can work together more effectively, but more importantly our collaboration on spatial data development and maintenance and sharing helps us build a common framework for our collective decisions and actions. There is one critical test that we must pass, however. What improvements will be identified and implemented? Will there be tangible, concrete benefits and savings?

This meeting -- and the presence of other local, state and federal agencies and GIS community -- reflects an ongoing commitment to this effort, even in these challenging times. I know today’s meeting will be productive.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the role the California Geographic Information Association (CGIA) has played in helping the State sustain its efforts in this regard. We are especially grateful for the work CGIA has done in facilitating the formation and meeting of Regional GIS Councils.

I look forward to working with the State GIS Council and GIS community on ways to improve GIS services and programs.

Sincerely,

/S/

Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources

Co-Chair Alan Mikuni, USGS, gave a report. He spoke about the USGS National Map and how important the Council can be in fostering the type of collaboration needed to make this project a success. USGS is pleased with Secretary Chrisman’s decision to go forward with the Council.

Co-Chair Donna Hansen, City of Modesto, gave a report. Ms. Hansen expressed her appreciation for the efforts of Luree Stetson and John Ellison in staffing the Council. She acknowledged the challenges facing the Council including a complete turn over in State members with the change of Administration. She also thanked the California Geographic Information Association for their support of Council activities especially as they pertain to the facilitation of Regional GIS Councils. Joe Concannon, CGIA Chair, has been instrumental in this support.

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Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were adopted with only one change. Jim Watkins is the CIO not the Deputy of the Office of Emergency Services.

Report on Council Projects

Imagery Work Project – Jim Watkins (OES), work group lead, gave a status report, findings and recommendations from the Imagery Work Group. These were as follows:

- CERES to set up “Imagery Acquisition Collaboration” service/template and advertise its availability to California GIS Council (CGC) members.
- CGC members will test and provide feedback to Imagery Work Group (e.g., Jim Watkins) and CERES (e.g., John Ellison) about this site/service.
- Imagery Work Group and CERES will work together on final changes and the site will then “go live.”
- CGC will formally endorse the use of this site and direct their respective organizations to use this site for coordination of all imagery and spatial data acquisition and development efforts.

Council discussion included the following:

- Consideration of a Governor’s Executive Order requiring State agencies to use CERES (No action was taken regarding this idea).
- Roadblocks to implementation include burdensome and dysfunctional State procurement practices and regulations.
- This work group should get others involved in resolving issues on licensing and intellectual property (copy) rights. Formal agreements (e.g., MOUs) among collaborators may help address this issue.

The Council voted to accept the findings and recommendations of this work group.

Transportation Data Clearinghouse Project – Oscar Jarquin (CalTrans), work group lead, gave a status report, findings and recommendations from the Transportation Data Clearinghouse Work Group. These were as follows:

- Conduct survey by June 2004 to ascertain needs, projects underway and planned, and data holdings that can be shared relative to transportation data.
- CGC members should review and provide feedback on draft survey (web site address to be provided by CalTrans).
- CalTrans to summarize and provide results from previous surveys on this subject.
- Use CERES as “official” repository for metadata.
- Investigate the use of survey results to populate metadata records.
- Use survey results to plan next phase.

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Council discussion included the following:

- Need for communication plan for this and other Council efforts and initiatives.
- Work group should take advantage of surveys conducted by others like USGS in support of Homeland Security.
- Role of private sector in responding to this need.
- Consider providing site and capability to upload data to share for those ready to contribute data. Don't require metadata if not available.
- Promote use of National Map standards for transportation data.

The Council voted to accept the findings and recommendations of this work group.

Metadata Project – Richard Mader (So Cal Gov GIS UG), work group lead, gave a status report, findings and recommendations from the Metadata Work Group. These were as follows:

- CGC should declare CERES as “official” State metadata node.
- CGC should consider forming a standing committee on metadata. This committee should do the following things...
 - Advocate to create advocates
 - Promote success
 - Develop communication plan
 - Develop educational materials
 - Identify educational resources
 - Identify metadata funding sources
 - Identify and recommend core data sets
 - Identify and recommend core data elements (use CERES as an example)
 - Recommend effective metadata services (centralized and distributed)
 - Recommend follow up activities and needs

Council discussion included the following:

- Can/should Council endorse CERES as State's official metadata node and how might this be done?
- Don't seek Governor's Executive Order; Council should endorse to build momentum first.
- Organizations can save money by using CERES rather than building their own metadata web sites.
- Joe Concannon offered to lead work group to develop communications plan; will put on CGIA agenda
- Mary Tusi had developed communication plan for CERES and will find it and share it with Joe's work group.
- Expand CERES mission to include all data not just environmental.

The Council voted to accept the findings and recommendations of this work group.

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Resolution for Federal Funding of State Imagery

Co-Chair Donna Hansen presented a resolution by the Council to seek a federal appropriation to fund acquisition of high resolution (technical specifications and requirements to be determined) imagery of California to be shared by Council member organizations.

Council discussion included the following:

- How would technical specifications would be determined (by special technical subcommittee)
- Emphasis on homeland security (broaden to include emergency response and other uses)
- Changes in wording (specific changes were provided and are reflected in the following draft)

Revised draft resolution follows:

Body: California GIS Council
Delegate: Donna Hansen, City of Modesto
Sponsors: Council member organizations
Signatories: Council members
Topic: Effective Partnering for Homeland Security and Emergency Response

Preamble

The California GIS Council, with the strong support of its public and private sector members, is committed to improving the security, safety, economic well being, and resiliency of our nation through the use of advanced Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology combined with current and accurate spatial data and imagery, and improved data sharing capabilities.

Destruction of our infrastructure, natural resources, or services as we know them, regardless of cause, can have serious negative impacts on local, regional, and national economies and on the public's faith in the government's ability to provide basic protections and services to its citizens. Security measures which make the most effective use of technological advances can make terrorism more difficult, assist in preparing for and responding to both natural and human-caused disasters, help prevent incidents and detect anomalies, keep casualties and disruptions to a minimum, and reassure the public during crises situations.

Access to local, regional, and national spatial information and imagery is critical to our ability to prepare for and respond to major crises, regardless of cause. A diverse, redundant, responsive, and resilient GIS is critical to our nation's Homeland Security,

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emergency preparedness and continued economic vitality. Such a system will provide better support to the operating agencies responsible for the security of our nation.

Effective Partnering for Homeland Security and Emergency Response

Whereas,

The catastrophic terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 caused massive casualties and significant economic losses. This attack, as well as the devastation caused by natural disasters (such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes), clearly demonstrates the need to secure our local, regional, and national infrastructure, natural resources, and services so they can no longer be used or destroyed by terrorists. Effective management of infrastructure, natural resources, and services can support and materially improve the planning for, response to, and recovery from these events.

Whereas,

The terrorist incidents of “9/11” brought to light the fact that we need to improve our ability to share information, and coordinate our efforts, between federal, state, regional, local agencies as well as with the intelligence community, security, response, and planning personnel.

Whereas,

The California GIS Council recognizes that GIS is a critical element to managing the infrastructure, natural resources and services. Contemporary, accurate, high-resolution imagery is an important foundation for geospatial analysis, map updating, and change detection, as well as many government decisions, services and operations that benefit and affect the health, welfare, safety and economic well being of California’s citizens.

Whereas,

California’s experiences with natural and human-caused crises demonstrate the need to plan, prepare, and coordinate at the federal, state, regional, and local levels so that safety requirements and mobility requirements are balanced and managed effectively to maintain the safety of first responders and citizens. Such efforts facilitate the activities necessary for response and recovery, and ensure that accurate, timely, and useful information is communicated to the public. These types of crises also demonstrate the need to share data and intelligence information across agencies and jurisdictions to coordinate planning, prevention, response, and recovery.

Whereas,

California agrees to integrate homeland security and emergency response efforts, and to coordinate our efforts across local and regional territorial boundaries. California also agrees that, where possible and advisable, we shall make investments to create

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systems that are interoperable with other state and federal systems and to maintain essential services in the event of natural disasters or acts of terrorism. California agrees to maximize the use of these resources by developing a collaborative approach that will enhance integrated systems.

Whereas,

Areas of special concern include transportation infrastructure, communication systems (radio, telephone, television media, computer networks), power networks, water systems, and agricultural resources.

Whereas,

The California GIS Council is committed to increasing the effectiveness of current practices for acquiring, maintaining and sharing this imagery,

Whereas,

A coordinated, statewide effort will create high-resolution imagery from satellite and aerial photography for the State of California. Such imagery will be coordinated and shared by local, state, and federal agencies, enabling all agencies (from recognized regions) engaged in Homeland Security and emergency response activities to operate and respond to crises, natural disasters and terrorism deterrence efforts using accurate, consistent, and interoperable information.

Be it therefore resolved that,

The State of California GIS Council is requesting a Federal appropriation of \$4,000,000 in funding to develop high-resolution imagery and data acquisition for the State of California to be shared by local, state, and federal agencies, and \$400,000 for administrative oversight of this program until it is fully self-funded and made sustainable.

CGIA Policy Recommendations

Joe Concannon introduced a proposal for Council to accept policy recommendations from the CGIA. There was general agreement that these recommendations were consistent with the Council's purpose and mission. There was some discussion as to adopt "in concept" or as Council policy (John – do you agree with this change?). A motion to adopt "in concept" was made and approved with two abstentions. A second motion subsequently changed the first motion and instead the Council adopted the recommendations (with three abstentions) as general policy for the Council.

CGIA's recommendations are as follows:

1. The GIS Council seeks to enhance planning in California by advocating for the continued development, expansion, and ongoing maintenance of a geographic

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information catalog to enable information users to inventory and locate existing information that may fulfill their needs.

- The Council endorses the existing California Environmental Information Catalog at CERES as the State's catalog of metadata for geographic Information.
 - The Council supports the use of this catalog as the Inventory for Federal, State and Local geographic information in California.
2. The GIS Council promotes cooperative data acquisition among agencies that will serve to minimize redundant geographic information creation and maintenance, and should seek additional funding for collaborative GIS programs.
- The Council seeks to clarify that existing and cooperatively acquired information are the first and second places to look for new information needs.
 - The Council strongly advocates the publication of new information acquisition plans in a time frame that allows for coordination before State contracts are signed.
 - The Council seeks funds for collaborative programs that develop and manage priority geographic information.
3. The GIS Council advocates the development and maintenance of statewide framework information that serves as foundational support for critical and comprehensive information programs at Federal, State and local levels of government.
- The Council advocates cooperatively gathering the geographic information that meets our most immediate and comprehensive needs.
4. The GIS Council seeks to improve planning and coordination by endorsing the establishment of an entity (e.g., State Geographic Information Officer and office) that is responsible for coordinating intergovernmental geographic information management, facilitating information sharing partnerships, identifying information gaps, and prioritizing the development of new information to fill those gaps.
- The Council recommends a centralized State entity with the authority and accountability for coordinating and managing critical geographic information in California.

Council Member Reports

A few of the Regional GIS Councils gave brief reports of their activities. These included the following:

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- Dean Angelides for Far North Regional GIS Council
- Mike Skowronek for Bay Area Regional GIS Council
- Mary Tsui for Central Coast Joint Data Committee
- Donna Hansen for Stanislaus Region GIS Council
- Mary Cook-Hurley for Channel Islands Regional GIS Council
- Rob Ball for San Joaquin Valley Regional GIS Council
- Matt Brown for San Diego Regional GIS Council

Action Items

Item	Responsible Party(ies)	Deadline
Edit minutes from previous meeting and post on Council web site	John Ellison & Ray McDowell (CERES)	March 5, 2004
Develop and deploy “Imagery Acquisition Coordination” service for testing and review	Ray McDowell & Roger Kunkel (CERES)	March 5, 2004
Test and review “Imagery Acquisition Coordination” web service and provide comments to CERES and Imagery Work Group lead, Jim Watkins	Council members	March 26, 2004
Evaluate and approve suggestions for changes & enhancements to “Imagery Acquisition Coordination” web service	Jim Watkins (OES), Imagery Work Group, Ray McDowell & Roger Kunkel (CERES)	April 2, 2004
Start using “Imagery Acquisition Coordination” web service at CERES	Council members and member organizations	April 2, 2004
Post draft survey on transportation data needs for review and comment	Oscar Jarquin (CalTrans)	April 9, 2004
Provide review and comment on draft transportation data needs survey to Oscar Jarquin	GIS Council members	April 16, 2004
Review and approve suggested changes for transportation data needs survey	Oscar Jarquin (CalTrans) and Transportation Data Clearinghouse Work Group	May 1, 2004
Post and conduct transportation data needs	Oscar Jarquin (CalTrans)	June 30, 2004

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Item	Responsible Party(ies)	Deadline
survey on the web along with results of prior surveys		
Investigate feasibility of providing upload capabilities to an online repository for those that are ready to share their spatial data; provide this capability if feasible and affordable	Oscar Jarquin (CalTrans) and Transportation Data Clearinghouse Work Group, John Ellison, Ray McDowell and Roger Kunkel (CERES)	May 1, 2004
Analyze results of transportation data needs survey and develop "phase 2" recommendations for Council's consideration	Oscar Jarquin (CalTrans) and Transportation Data Clearinghouse Work Group	By next meeting of the GIS Council
Endorse CERES as State's Metadata Catalog	GIS Council Members and Member organizations	Immediately
Endorse National Map standards for transportation data	GIS Council Members and Member organizations	Immediately
Investigate the use of survey results to populate metadata records.	Oscar Jarquin (CalTrans) and Transportation Data Clearinghouse Work Group	May 1, 2004
Consider forming standing subcommittee on metadata	GIS Council	Next meeting
Form work group to develop GIS Council communication plan	Joe Concannon (CGIA)	By next meeting of the GIS Council
Locate and share CERES communication plan with Lead of Communications Plan Work Group	Mary Tsui	By next meeting of the GIS Council
Develop guidance document for imagery acquisition	Jim Watkins (OES) and Imagery Work Group	By next meeting of the GIS Council
Finalize Resolution to request federal appropriation to fund state imagery acquisition	Donna Hansen (City of Modesto), Alan Mikuni (USGS), Luree Stetson & John Ellison (Resources	March 12, 2004

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Item	Responsible Party(ies)	Deadline
and distribute to all Council members	Agency), Joe Concannon (CGIA)	
Initiate lobbying effort to support Council's Imagery Resolution; inform Co-Chair Donna Hansen about these activities	GIS Council Members	Start immediately; ongoing activity until further notice

Next Meeting

No specific date was set for the next meeting of the Council. The Council should meet in about 6 months time around August or September 2004.
