CGIA
CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

September 30, 2005

Secretary Mike Chrisman
Chair, California GIS Council
C/o California Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Chrisman:

CGIA is pleased to support the California GIS Council with implementation of coordination and collaboration strategies that are directed at enhancing the Council's effectiveness in several ways: focused initiatives, an improved CGIA web site, establishment of a Council Communications Committees, and an annual calendar of events.

First, since the Council's meeting in February 2005, CGIA has adopted the following strategic initiatives, several of which focus on CGIA's communication role with CGC:

- Redesign and Update CGIA Web Site Content,
- Administer Grants Consistent with CGIA's Mission,
- Improve Coordination among Public, Private, and Non-profit Sector Organizations,
- Facilitate Coordination for the California GIS Council,
- Facilitate Collaboration with Regional GIS Councils/Collaboratives,
- Provide Programs that Meet the Needs of the GIS Community, and
- Partner with CERES and California GIS Council to develop a geospatial data plan.

Second, to support the above strategic initiatives, CGIA has improved its web site to provide a clear organization of current purposes, directions, programs, activities, and events. The new web site fosters a better understanding of CGIA's programs and activities and facilitates better coordination of regional and state council activities. The site also contains links to regional and resource web sites to promote better coordination and collaboration. Finally CGIA's web site (www.cgia.org) has created a California GIS Community section to focus on both regional and statewide council collaboration and coordination.

Third, CGIA's organization approach includes the creation of a Council Communications Committee to coordinate activities dealing with the National States Geographic Information Council, the Federal Geographic Data Committee, the California Geographic Information Council, and California's regional GIS councils/collaboratives. The Council Communications Committee will have members attend conferences and other events to facilitate better collaboration between CGIA and these organizations. The Committee will be involved with CGIA also administers three grants in concert with these organizations that are focused on producing 1) positive use of metadata, 2) increased data sharing, and 3) development of a GIS Framework Data Plan (a project that started in September 2005, with support from USGS and an FGDC Institution Building and Coordination grant). This committee will closely coordinate activities associated with the "California GIS Framework Data Plan Project." CGIA has assigned a Board member to be the communication liaison between regional council/collaboratives and the CGIA Board. Finally, CGIA is promoting collaboration between regional councils by hosting periodic telephone conferences.

Fourth, CGIA has created an annual calendar of events, which will be updated monthly on the CGIA web site. An important aspect of this events calendar is for CGIA Board liaisons to attend regional council/collaboratives meetings throughout the state. One of the key new activities of 2005-06 is to facilitate policy forums and workshops in various parts of the state to improve collaboration on policy issues that challenge the GIS community. The purpose of these policy forums is to define specific regional challenges and problems that have state-wide implications, identify alternative strategies, and create action plans for the resolution of priority concerns. CGIA is working with the CALGIS 2006 programs committee to create a program track that will deal with policy challenges and obstacles to the effective use and management of GIS resources.

In summary, *CGIA facilitates coordination, collaboration, and counsel for California's GIS community*. CGIA undertakes activities in the above four strategic coordination areas to foster collaboration so we can provide counsel to the California GIS Council on policy and strategy issues that challenge the California's GIS community, public sector mangers, and decision makers who fund and administer GIS programs.

Sincerely,

George White

George White
CGIA Chair 2005-06

Cc. John Ellison
CGIA Board Members