



California GIS Council – Bay Area Regional GIS Council Plan

PREFACE

A California GIS Council (CGC) has been formed to improve coordination within California State government and among State, federal and local governments, with input from the California GIS community. The Council will “work together to develop, maintain and share accurate, consistent place-based information that is accessible to all Californians and the agencies and organizations that serve them.” More information about the CGC is available at <http://www.gis.ca.gov/council>.

The CGC has created a Regional Subcommittee “to develop a Regional GIS Council structure to provide input into the Council’s planning, policy development, and project partnerships.” This Subcommittee has solicited input on the definition of regional coordination areas from GIS stakeholders. In response, this plan identifies the boundaries of the San Francisco Bay Area and makes recommendations for forming a Bay Area Regional (BAR) GIS Council.

It is worth noting that this plan is a preliminary, working document. The actual structure of the BAR GIS Council, its members, and its activities will evolve from consensus building activities that involve numerous GIS stakeholders in the Bay Area. An initial working group, comprised of GIS representatives from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Bay Area Automated Mapping Association (BAAMA), Contra Costa County and the City of Berkeley, has prepared this plan. Input from other regional partners has also been incorporated.

REGIONAL CHARTER

Function as a regional body for the Bay Area to review the California GIS Council’s reports, provide recommendations on policy alignment with local and regional needs and be a focal point for partnerships to build California’s geographic information infrastructure.

REGIONAL DEFINITION

Proposed Regional Makeup

The proposed makeup of the Bay Area Regional (BAR) GIS Council addresses both criteria of the CGC Regional Subcommittee: Administrative/Political boundaries and Geographic Affinity.

The recommendation for the BAR GIS Council is a nine-county area:

- Alameda
- Contra Costa
- Marin
- Santa Clara
- San Francisco
- San Mateo
- Solano
- Sonoma
- Napa





To deal with existing regional affiliations that don't adhere to this grouping of counties, a loosely defined network of overlapping working relationships is proposed. For example, San Mateo County is a member of the existing Central Coast Joint Data Committee, and Mendocino county considers itself to be part of both the northern Bay Area and the central coast region stretching from Marin County to the Oregon border. The BAR GIS Council would regularly invite representatives from these overlapping jurisdictions to attend meetings to serve as liaisons.

Business Case for Regional Makeup

There are several Bay Area organizations that are mandated to use the nine counties identified above as their jurisdiction. These include:

- The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG is the Bay Area's regional planning agency that works on land use, housing, environmental quality, economic development and other issues),
- The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC is the Bay Area's transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency that functions as the state-designated regional transportation planning agency and the federally-designated metropolitan planning organization),
- CalTrans District 4 (this district is the regional office of the California Department of Transportation).

The Bay Area Automated Mapping Association (BAAMA) is the northern California chapter of the Urban & Regional Information Systems Association (URISA). In practice, BAAMA serves almost exclusively the GIS community in the nine-county Bay Area.

The extensive knowledge of the political, environmental, and geographical issues involving these jurisdictions makes this regional definition our greatest strength.

This regional configuration would also "fit-in" well with the proposed Sacramento Region and the existing Central Coast Joint Data Committee.

BAR GIS Council GOALS

Consensus

- To build consensus on regional area definition
- To develop a Risk Assessment Plan for success of the regional council formation
- To be inclusive on the BAR-GC, of all stakeholders of geographic information system development, implementation, utilization and distribution.
- To foster communications
- To identify a return on investment for all levels of stakeholders
- To Share, develop, and improve regional spatial databases.

Representation

In the initial formation phase the following representation is proposed:

- 1 representative from each of the counties. (It is felt initially that these stakeholders will be able to provide the most regional data and can help facilitate city representation.)
- 1 representative from MTC.
- 1 representative from ABAG.
- 1 representative from BAAMA.



- *Representatives from regional offices of state agencies.*
- *Representative from Parks.*
- *Representative from the Utility industry.*
- *Representatives from Cities.*
- *Representative from an educational institution.*

(These seats being evaluated by a sub committee of the BAR-GC as possible at-large positions)

It is expected that several of these seats will be rotated on a regular basis in an effort to keep the representation neutral and focused on planned projects and the needs of the CGC. Currently the CGC has defined the Regional Council seats as a two (2) year term. The BAR will evaluate the short term –vs- long-term issue, six (6) months after the BAR formation, in November 2002.

Currently, the council organization is flexible; input into the process is highly encouraged.

Advisory Council

In the initial six (6) months of the BAR GIS Council the following commercial representation is proposed:

- Representatives from GIS related Vendor Organizations.
- Representative from GIS related Consultants.
- Representatives from GIS Data providers/developers
- Representatives from GIS related Non-Profits and Organizations

These advisory councils will have non-voting status on the Council, however it is recognized that this group brings very valuable input and perspective to the regional effort. Through the Advisory Council, this group will receive the same information and documentation from the State and Regional Councils and will be queried for input regarding any BAR GIS Council action item or deliverable to the CGC.

The Advisory Council will meet as a part of the BAR Council and may hold additional coordination meetings separate from the BAR Council.

We do feel that this is the best forum for input from the commercial realm of geographic information systems and encourage the opportunity to address issues related to the impacts of data sharing and joint data development. Several proposed projects of the BAR GIS Council will require extensive input from the commercial side of GIS.

Projects

It is a goal of the BAR GIS Council to define projects that will benefit all members of the region and support the goals of the CGC. Preliminary projects that have been suggested include:

- Supporting the OES Coastal Region GIS Atlas of Disaster Planning Maps with data source information from the Bay Area GIS Survey project co-sponsored by MTC and BAAMA.
Possible lead agencies: OES and Contra Costa County
- Development of a regional hazards map for long range planning.
Possible Lead Agency: ABAG



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- Investigate options and issues for “Street Centerline Stitching” and database normalization of the most accurate street data available in each of the nine counties.
Possible lead agency: MTC
- Perform a research project on “Parcel Framework Layer Stitching” and database normalization, identify issues, risks, and define a draft process plan.
Possible lead agencies: ABAG and MTC
- Expand and build upon the Bay Area GIS Survey project co-sponsored by MTC and BAAMA with additional “Don’t Duck Metadata” grant funding for training of regional GIS personnel on metadata development and maintenance.
Possible lead agencies: BAAMA, MTC and/or ABAG
- Work toward the development of a regional data server with possible Internet download capabilities, with a primary focus on Homeland Security Layers.
Possible lead agencies: ABAG, Contra Costa County
- Work toward GIS Enabling ABAG’s Policy Development Survey
Possible lead agency: ABAG
- Capture or procure regional imagery data, sampled at various resolutions.
Possible Project Lead: Advisory Council

It is expected that the BAR GIS Council would prioritize these projects internally with input from the Regional Formation CGC Subcommittee, Advisory Committee, and the CGC as a whole.

Possible Deliverables

- Risk Assessment Plan for the design and implementation of the Regional Council focused on the 9 proposed Counties. (Note: This document is currently in Draft Form.)
- Draft Process Plan for “Street Centerline Stitching” across agency, city and county boundaries.
- Draft Process Plan for “Parcel Framework Layer Stitching” across agency, city and county boundaries.
- Plan for BAR Metadata Training.
- Draft Design for access to a regional Public Safety/Disaster Data Server.
- Draft documentation on imagery availability in the BAR from the current Metadata Survey with identification of issues for complete BAR coverage.

Marketing

Our long-term marketing goals are to gain buy in for the development of the regional council based on realistic goals, strategic and critical projects, and cross-market stakeholder representation.

Funding

The BAR GIS Council will likely seek funding for some of the aforementioned projects from various sources, including the CGC. Plans are being considered to apply for additional FGDC funds to build on the Bay Area GIS Survey, which has been partially funded by the FGDC’s “Don’t Duck Metadata” program. Funding through the FEMA Fire grants and other grant sources will be actively pursued. Other funding may be forthcoming to complete the possible projects through existing relationships and partnerships. Funding risks, issues, and opportunities will be a section in the BAR Risk Assessment Document.



Returns on Investment:

- Better mutual aid/cross-border response for police, fire, emergency personnel, etc.
- Will result in base level data redundancy allowing access to a county's data even if the data server site is down for technical or disaster/incident reasons.
- Allows direct input to the state level GIS council.
- Mutual benefit - contributing your county or agency data will be repaid by receiving data from surrounding counties and agencies.
- As a group, the council may be able to acquire data more easily than as individual requests, both because of the possibility of pooled funding and the clout of a larger body. May be able to get state or federal funding for data and data management.
- Can determine a consistent data format for all to use (software/data maintenance/format issues need to be discussed).
- Improved output from regional earth science models.

REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

Description of Our Customers

Our customers are GIS professionals involved in the design, development, distribution and application of Geographic Information Systems.

Our Customers' Needs

Our stakeholders are looking for a regional council that will provide them with information and input into the CGC from all vertical markets in GIS and all phases of design, development, distribution and application of Geographic Information Systems.

What Sets Us Apart

Key partners that have cooperatively developed this plan have a long-standing relationship and history of working together toward common goals.

The BAR formation team is actively pursuing the development of the Bay Area Regional GIS Council. The next meeting of the Council will be held on June 20th, 2002.

Next Steps

Consensus

Meet with County GIS Managers or Coordinators to present this BAR GIS Council plan and gather input to process. The target date for this meeting is April 18, 2002.

Representation - COMPLETE

Provide draft plan to MTC, ABAG, BAAMA Board, County GIS Managers or Coordinators, Cities of Berkeley, Fremont, and San Francisco, OES Coastal Region, CGC Regional Coordination contact (Rob Ball) and others to solicit review and comment.

Projects

Formation group to meet with Risk Assessment Project Manager to provide input and direction on document.



Deliverables

Develop a Project Schedule for deliverables.

Marketing – State has provide a web site for the BAR GIS Council formation efforts

Utilize BAAMA Web Site and possibly other stakeholder sites to facilitate market process.

Funding

Focus on application for FGDC Funding of Phase 2 Don't Duck Metadata and start process for FEMA Fire Grants. Identify Grant writers for applications. Inquire about time frame for possible CGC funding of projects.

TIME FRAME

Formation Start Date

February 4, 2002 - Complete

Proposal Review and Acceptance by Counties, MTC, ABAG, BAAMA

April 1-5, 2002

Formation Plan Presentation to Regional Formation Sub Committee Representative

March 6, 2002 - Complete

Initial BAR GIS Council Formation/Coordination Meeting

April 18th 2002

BUDGET

Annual Marketing Budget

In development

Budget For This Effort

Voluntary

Cost-Saving Measures

We plan to keep costs down by targeting the most appropriate projects for our stakeholder's business needs that also support the needs of the CGC. This includes the Homeland Security efforts and framework data layer development.

CONTACTS

The primary authors of this plan are listed below. To get more information or provide input, contact any of these individuals.

Name	Organization	Phone	E-mail
Elizabeth (Lis) Klute	Contra Costa County	925-313-2174	eklute@pw.co.contra-costa.ca.us Tti10@aol.com
Mike Skowronek	Metropolitan Transportation Commission	510-464-7808	miskowronek@mtc.ca.gov
Kearey Smith	Association of Bay Area Governments	510-464-7994	KeareyS@abag.ca.gov
Pat DeTemple	City of Berkeley	510-981-6540	pdetemple@ci.berkeley.ca.us



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