Testimony for Scott Gregory
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How could GIS be applied to asset management in California? How are other states or other asset management systems using GIS to better manage assets?

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) could be applied in a variety of ways to support asset management within the State of California. GIS allows organizations to take a holistic approach to understanding the locations of assets and their relationship to other entities (environmentally sensitive areas, population, natural hazards, etc…); to provide a comprehensive view of how to manage state owned assets. GIS can be used to support asset condition assessments, space utilization studies, disaster and continuity planning, and energy and sustainability projects. Understanding the location and the condition and disposition of assets, is best managed in a GIS because it provides a visual, analytical and paperless platform for decision making.

Many organizations, and some states, leverage GIS for asset management. The federal government has used GIS to manage assets for a number of years. One such example is NASA. NASA Langley Research Center uses GIS for space management, and have realized significant cost savings in doing so. Visit http://bit.ly/yE6vzg for more information. The US Army Corps of Engineers has developed asset and faculties management systems for US Army installations worldwide. It has helping in everything from construction to force projection of personnel and facilities.

What benefits can be achieved by mapping state assets through GIS? How would GIS help make asset more effective and efficient in California?

Many benefits are realized by utilizing GIS for asset management. One of the primary benefits obtained from this approach is the knowledge of where assets are located and their proximity to other physical features. For example, an organization may want to understand the natural hazard threat to locating a facility. This is readily done by layering natural hazard information over the locations of facilities. Another example is the amount of usable square footage of warehouse facilities statewide. The user of GIS could run a simple query against the data to display, graphically, the locations and amounts of available warehouse space statewide.

GIS could help asset management in the state from many perspectives. In state government we contend with many challenges when it comes to asset management. There are fiscal and budgetary mandates and pressures, compliance with regulation and law, public pressure to streamline asset management and operations, operation

cost control, asset security, and utilizing our assets in the most sustainable and environmentally friendly way possible. GIS support these types of activities because it is an interactive tool. GIS provides its users with the opportunity to visualize, analyze, query, and disseminate location based information related to assets.

What are the potential costs of instituting GIS? What policy or operational changes are needed in order to make it work?

There are some costs when instituting a GIS. Considerations should be given to the scope and extent to which an organization would like to institute the use of GIS in its workflows and business practices, as well as the current format and availability of the necessary data. Typically, the costs associated with GIS are software, hardware, training, and infrastructure. Once these items are obtained, an organization needs to begin to look at how it approaches its business processes, and how these processes can be enhanced by taking a geographic approach to understanding problems.

What is the role of the GIS office within the California Technology Agency? What projects are currently under way in the GIS office?

The Geospatial Information Systems Division within the California Technology Agency is led by the State Geographic Information Officer (GIO). The goal of the GIO is to develop and mature the state's GIS capabilities by providing leadership, technology, and geospatial capabilities to the State of California. The role of the GIO is also expressed in the development of geospatial policy, standards and consistent GIS practice to be leveraged statewide. This will be realized through the thoughtful and efficient use of state resources and technology to meet the needs of the statewide GIS community.

Current project underway are the following:

Statewide Geocoding Service – This will be a mapping service provided to all State of California government partners to geocode their data. This tool was developed in response to IT-PL 10-15 (Geocoding Policy) that requires organizations to geocode, or map, the locations of assets or entities that they manage within databases. This is important because organization will be able to understand their data in a different context by being able to visualize it. Organizations will be able to understand trends and patterns in data by leveraging this tool.

Statewide Geoportal – This project will provide the state with a holistic view of what geospatial data, applications, and assets we currently have. It will provide citizens, governments and businesses access to important location based information for making critical decisions. The system will be an intuitive and easy to use interface that will interact seamlessly with existing GIS systems in the State.

Data Development – Recognizing the importance of parcel based information, we are currently developing a capability for State of California and allied partners, to be able to have access to all 58 counties assessor's parcel data.

GIS and Mobile Application Development – with the changing landscape of computing moving more towards mobile and smartphone platforms, we are developing a GIS\Mobility framework for the development of mobile applications that will take advantage of location based services. Essentially, we will be developing a framework by which organization can share their GIS data to be consumed and used on mobile and smartphone devices. As location based services become more prevalent, we will be able to keep pace by providing government, citizen, and business the ability to utilize geospatial data on mobile devices.