South Bay Cities Council of Governments
GIS Working Group Meeting
City of Redondo Beach
Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 10:30 am

Minutes

Introductions and Sign-in

Attendees: Michael Ferris CSUDH, Michael McDaniel (El Segundo), Sonali Tambe (Hermosa Beach), Elsa Moreno (Inglewood), Bonnie Shrewsbury (Manhattan Beach), Pei-San Tsai (Port of LA), Ryan Tucker (Redondo Beach), David Magarian (SBESC), Rosemary Lackow (SBCCOG)

November Meeting Notes - Approved

Discussion Items:

1. **Nominations and election for chair**

   This being his last day as Chair, Michael McDaniel opened nominations for a new chairperson. Sonali Tambe was nominated and by unanimous vote, elected. Everyone congratulated Sonali.

2. **COG GIS for Server 10.1 update**

   Mike M. confirmed that the server 10.1 update is paid for and authorized. It was noted that hydrants will be a new separate map service, so cities can now work with that, but may not be available until January.   This program will be a mobile app for Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach – and may include El Segundo.

3. **COG General Assembly**

   The South Bay COG's General Assembly will be held 2/22/13, with the theme "At What Cost? Unintended Consequences of Declining Revenues." The GIS group has been offered an exhibit space, providing an opportunity to showcase the Working Group's GIS capabilities to the many decision makers who will be attending the event. Suggestions were made regarding possible map exhibits. First, do something on the "slap down rate" (relating to the state's refusal to return money to cities lost through the dismantling of redevelopment agencies). This can be shown pretty readily. A second idea discussed is the impact to staffing in the face of revenue reductions - comparing a period of time (e.g. the last 5 years).

It was noted that the collection of data should be consistent with all the cities, so the request for data has to be very clear and defined. For example, do we want data for all the city funds, or target the General Fund? Regarding staff reductions, for example, there are some positions that have a "vacant" status – in such cases when does a vacant position become considered a reduction of a position? It was suggested that staffing should be requested simply as "on the ground" or existing employees currently working and that the data should be for the last five years. After further discussion is was determined the time frame for staffing should be based on calendar year (as of 12/31), and that for budget expenditures, data should be from the General Fund, CIP (Capital Improvement Fund) as well as any enterprise funds, also for the last 5 years, but based on a fiscal year.

David Magarian of the COG said he may have an opportunity for mapping utility savings for cities, as he has data for street lighting. He suggested mapping existing costs as well as potential cost reductions. He would need space for two posters. It was explained that while there may be only one display in the Exhibit Hall, there will be other posters on easels set up in other spaces (as last year). David was encouraged to look at a tool, Maplex, offering superior labeling capabilities.

Discussion refocused to the content of the Working Group exhibit. It was suggested that the degree to which cities' work load has gone up, while there is less revenue - - can work load be counted by the number of planning or building permit applications, and public works department work orders? (Work orders would capture all the public works field tasks based on public service requests, as well as routine maintenance).

Mike M. will send out an email requesting data as specific as possible on four items for the last five fiscal or calendar years : 1) number of existing employees; 2) General Fund, CIP and Enterprise funds expenditures; 3) total number of building permit applications; 4) total number of Public Works Department work orders.   It was agreed that the group would finalize this project at its next meeting on January 9[th.] .

Recent meetings & events

a. County GIS Day – November 14th

It was noted that the GIS Working Group had a well-attended booth manned the entire time, providing the South Bay cities with excellent visibility and a strong presence. The booth was well located, but maps mounted in the gallery were moved to a poorer location without permission. The Port of LA also had a booth and a very impressive portable exhibit hall at the event.   Other observations were that there was redundancy in the sessions from last year, and that rooms could have been larger and/or provided with additional seating, even if they were without computers for "hands-on" sessions.

b. LAR-IAC/Pictometry User Group Meeting – December 6th

Bonnie reported that a lot of information and material was provided. Lina from RPV also attended. Now cities can upload their own data to Pictometry Online and symbolize as they want. There was talk about how there will be a separate log-in and an administrator for each city.

A Pictometry representative offered to come to the South Bay group and demonstrate their programs – the question is when? It was agreed that Pictometry should be invited to present to the Working Group in February. Bonnie will make the arrangement and keep Sonali in the loop.

Regarding Sanborn, its representatives talked about options for 2014 flight (LAR-IAC IV). It was agreed that Pictometry is the best for obliques.

In response to an inquiry from David Magarian (who is seeking grant funding through SCE for climate action planning), it was indicated that LAR-IAC was provided to cities by portable hard drives. It was suggested that David inquire directly to the County to get a price for the COG (contact: Mark Greninger).

It was noted that under the current situation, cities are getting a lot more "bang for the buck" in terms of aerial pictures and the offerings are actually quite a bargain. It was also suggested that since many of the COG cities already participate in LAR-IAC that perhaps a lower fee could be negotiated, or that a single Mr. SID image of the entire South Bay purchased instead

Other Business

The subject arose as to which mobile applications are being used by Public Works Departments in the field. After brief discussion it was determined that Redondo Beach uses iWater (InfraMap software allowing collection of data in the field and uploading to a central database at the office) and Inglewood uses IWORQ applications.   Redondo Beach will organize a field demonstration and Inglewood will also look into whether a demonstration can be arranged. Bonnie indicated she would like some of the WG to look further into this.

Volunteer for Goodies Next Meeting: Bonnie