

Resolution of the California Coastal and Marine Geospatial Work Group to Improve State Agency Data Sharing

January 2011

WHEREAS, California is a coastal state that is dedicated to the protection of ocean and coastal resources and human enjoyment of the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the California Ocean Protection Council, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and the National Ocean Council have recognized that accurate and current geospatial information is essential to comprehensive planning and decision-making for improved management of marine resources, including coastal and marine spatial planning; and

WHEREAS, other states on the West Coast, including Washington and Oregon, possess online statewide Coastal Atlases containing all manner of coastal and marine geospatial information, from bathymetric data to water quality indices and recreational access points; and

WHEREAS, California agencies possess a wealth of geospatial data on coastal and marine resources, human uses, and existing and potential environmental conditions relevant to coastal management, but currently do not possess a coordinated statewide system for sharing and accessing this data; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need for improved geospatial data sharing and management among state agencies, the California Coastal and Marine Geospatial Work Group (CCMG-WG) formed in early 2010 as an advisory work group to the California GIS Council to lead the way in recommending relevant policies and tools for managing and sharing state coastal and marine geospatial data; and

WHEREAS, the CCMG-WG has convened its participants¹ a minimum of once per month to discuss, assess, and prioritize geospatial data relevant to state agency efforts; existing tools to assist agencies with planning and management; and policies to improve statewide geospatial data management and sharing.

NOW, THEREFORE, the California Coastal Marine Geospatial Work Group hereby:

RESOLVES to urge the state of California to expediently fund a stakeholder requirements study for the development of data-sharing resources to support the efficient access, management, viewing, and downloading of coastal and marine geospatial information for the benefit of natural resource management agency staff, decision-makers, and the greater public; and

¹ The CCMG-WG is composed of state and federal agency representatives, as well as private, non-profit, and academic members. For a full list of members, visit <http://www.cio.ca.gov/wiki/CGCOceans.ashx> and view the CCMG-WG charter under the list of attachments.

FURTHER RESOLVES to support state efforts and policies leading to improved geospatial information management and sharing through technical input, staff support, and sharing of geospatial data.

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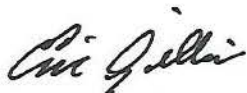
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