

# California GIS Council Workgroup Report

## Workgroup: National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)

Workgroup page\*: <http://cgia.org/cagiscouncil/workgroups/hydrography/>

Workgroup Chair: Jane Schafer-Kramer ([jane.schafer-kramer@water.ca.gov](mailto:jane.schafer-kramer@water.ca.gov))

Report Date:  
June 11, 2020

\*See the workgroup page for workgroup charter, members, contact information, and prior reports.

### Requests for Council Action

No formal action, but a request for Council members to share their local authoritative hydro datasets to be used as reference data for NHD updates. Please see the attached Reference Data Solicitation Summary.

### Status Update

Members of the NHD workgroup regularly interact as part of the ongoing work of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) NHD Stewardship Program. (Stand-alone CA GIS Council NHD Workgroup meetings have not been held.)

### Ongoing Work

Comprehensive updates on the NHD at the 1:24,000 scale continue. All 140 HU-8 subbasins in California will have been updated by the end of 2020.

We review suggested corrections to the NHD received via the [USGS Markup Application](#) and resolve as best we can.

### Planned Future Work

The planned work that was reported at the March 2020 meeting is on hold for now. Budget cuts are expected to impact the NHD Stewardship Program, but the details are not yet available.

We received an inquiry from the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the development of HU-14 subwatersheds to be used as an environmental assessment and monitoring framework. We are planning a pilot project that will include a training session by the USGS' Watershed Boundary Dataset team on the delineation process in mid-July. We look forward to working with the scientists in DFW's Cannabis and Instream Flow Unit on this project which will help inform a plan for developing HU-14 subwatersheds statewide.

### Legislative/Policy Update

No update since last report; the Memorandum of Understanding between DWR and USGS has been approved by DWR and is still in USGS internal review.

Action	Key Date
Finalize MOU (awaiting action by USGS)	open
Continue NHD Update work	ongoing
Reevaluate our planned projects with CSU partners	FY 2021

### Notes



Organizations can participate in California's NHD Stewardship Program by contributing reference datasets and/or becoming NHD editors. Contact Jane at [jane.schafer-kramer@water.ca.gov](mailto:jane.schafer-kramer@water.ca.gov) for additional information. Any questions on NHD stewardship in California may also be directed to Jane.

DWR archives the California extracts of the NHD on the Natural Resources Agency Open Data site <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/nhd-archive> each time the dataset is refreshed on the USGS website, which happens two to four times each year. Also on the CNRA Open Data site are quick links to the various NHD websites and two derivative datasets: NHD Major Rivers, and NHD Major Rivers and Creeks. <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/nhd>

Errors in the NHD may be brought to the attention of DWR and USGS using USGS' Markup Application: <https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/national-hydrography/tools#Markup> or by contacting Jane directly: [Jane.Schafer-Kramer@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jane.Schafer-Kramer@water.ca.gov)

## Documents and Attachments

### Statewide NHD Update Local and Regional Reference Data Solicitation Summary

#### Solicitation Summary:

The Geographical Information Center (GIC) and The Center for Geospatial Science and Technology (CGST) are under contract with the California Department of Water Resources (CA DWR) to bring comprehensive updates to the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) within the state of California. In the near future, GIC and CGST will also be implementing NHD maintenance on previously updated watershed throughout the state. This effort aims at making the NHD reflect current conditions in order to make it more reliable and accurate for end-users. While this process primarily uses the latest NAIP aerial imagery, it benefits from having additional supporting hydrographic data to be used as reference in the NHD update process. Accurate and vetted regional and local reference datasets can be useful in bringing comprehensive improvements to the NHD as they can provide additional detail that is not always accessible from readily available datasets. While the use of reference data does not necessarily result in the integration/migration of the data into the NHD, it often time does allow for the transfer of local knowledge into the NHD, resulting in an even more valuable and vetted NHD. This solicitation aims to help identify and eventually, collect local and regional datasets for potential use in the California NHD update effort.

#### Regions of Particular Interest:

Alpine County, Amador County, Butte County, Calaveras County, Colusa County, Del Norte County, El Dorado County, Fresno County, Glenn County, Humboldt County, Imperial County, Kern County, Lake County, Lassen County, Los Angeles County, Madera County, Marin County, Mariposa County, Mendocino County, Merced County, Modoc County, Monterey County, Nevada County, Orange County, Placer County, Plumas County, Riverside County, Sacramento County, San Benito County, San Bernardino County, San Diego County, San Francisco County, San Joaquin County, San Mateo County, Santa Barbara County, Santa Cruz County, Shasta County, Sierra County, Siskiyou County, Sonoma County, Stanislaus County, Sutter County, Tehama County, Trinity County, Tulare County, Tuolumne County, Ventura County, Yuba County.

#### Specifications:

Hydrographic reference datasets with the following specifications are desired:

- Scale: 1:50,000 or finer
- Primary Composition/Features of Interest:
  - River/Streams

- Lakes/Ponds/Reservoirs
  - Washes
  - Swamps/Marshes
  - Canals/Ditches
  - Canals/Ditches
- ▮ Attribution Composition:
- Seasonality/Periodicity of Rivers/Streams
  - Feature Types
- ▮ Currentness: Updated within last 5 years

Contact Information:

Jane Schafer-Kramer

[Jane.Schafer-Kramer@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jane.Schafer-Kramer@water.ca.gov)

Department of Water Resources, Division of Planning

Erik Fintel

[efintel@csuchico.edu](mailto:efintel@csuchico.edu)

Geographical Information Center

Joel Osuna-Williams

[joel.osuna@csun.edu](mailto:joel.osuna@csun.edu)

Center for Geospatial Science and Technology