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Legislative Updates

Each bill number links to the newsletter in which it was introduced. Amendments are in red.

- ❖ **October 10** was the last day for the governor to sign bills
- ❖ The **2022 legislative calendar** has been published and can be found [here](#)

[SB41](#) (*Broadband Accessibility Map*)

- The governor signed [AB41](#) on October 8 (two days before his Oct 10 signing deadline), mandating the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to create a comprehensive Broadband Accessibility Map.
- This map will show the percentage of each census block that meets state and federal speed standards. CPUC's current Broadband availability map can be found [here](#).
- Opponents of this bill argued that these efforts will be duplicative, as the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has its own mature [mapping program](#).
 - See [this](#) AppGeo blog post suggesting the FCC likely won't update their maps until 2023
 - FCC underestimates over 1 million unserved ([Politico](#))
- [SB28](#), also signed by the governor on Oct. 8, requires CPUC to collect "granular data" on locations serviced by state cable franchise [holders](#). See [Senate Analysis](#) for more details.
 - Right now, companies send data by census tract: one location served = tract "served"
 - >96% of connected Californians have internet through a cable franchise holder
 - Audit of sorts - this will reveal whether ISPs are in compliance with obligations
 - They are prohibited from discriminating by denying service based on income

Budget Updates

- ❖ The Assembly's Budget Committee [released](#) its final Floor Report of the 2021-22 Budget
- ❖ California's Legislative Analyst's Office released their [Fiscal Outlook](#) for the 2022-23 Budget
 - Revenues - \$202B
 - Surplus - \$31B
 - Reserves - \$21B (10% of revenues, lower than the pre-pandemic 13%)
 - Press Availability [video](#) (November 17, 2021)
 - Key Issue: State Appropriations Limit (SAL) - projected \$12B in excess for 2022-23
 - \$14B need to be allocated for 2020-21 & 2021-22
- ❖ **These large numbers will likely translate into more policy items where GIS can be leveraged**
- ❖ In December, Governor Newsom began holding budget meetings for 2022-23
 - Departments send in Budget Change Proposals by Monday, January 3
- ❖ Both the [Senate](#) & [Assembly](#) released their priorities for the 2022-23 Budget cycle

K12 GIS Education

- ❖ Marc Epstein of the [California Environmental Technology Education Network](#) forwarded a budget request to key CA legislative staffers to increase the use of geospatial technology (esp. Web Mapping) by K12 educators and students. \$2M is requested.

- Humboldt State’s Geospatial Program would implement the project
- [Priority Districts](#) have been identified based on enrollment
 - High Schools with 1100-1200 students
 - Grades 5-6: sufficient enrollment for stand-alone grade level class (~25)
- Marc has put together a series of videos called [Teachers Need to Learn WebGIS](#)

Ballot Initiatives

- ❖ [Here](#) is information on how to *qualify a ballot initiative*
 - Signature requirement for statutes: 623, 212
 - Signature requirement for constitutional amendment: 997, 139
- [Water Infrastructure Funding Initiative](#) – LAO’s [Fiscal Impact](#)
 - *Increase water supply in the state through new water projects, until a goal of additional 5 million acre-feet is met (using streamlined CEQA & coastal permitting processes)*
 - *Restricts future legislatures from making budgetary modifications*
 - Fiscal Effects – cost could be \$100B or more (\$2.5-4B per year for a few decades)
- [Local Land Use](#) - LAO’s [Fiscal Impact](#)
 - *Constitutional Amendment: Actions by a charter [city](#) or [county](#) relating to zoning, development, or land-use override conflicting state laws, with exceptions (general law cities/counties prevail in matters of zoning and land use)*
 - Fiscal Effect – would depend on decisions made by cities and counties

Follow Up

This section provides updates on items discussed in previous editions of this newsletter, including legislative and budgetary items.

Middle-Mile Broadband Budget Items:

- ❖ These efforts will enable *last-mile* network connectivity throughout California
- ❖ Dept. of Technology (CDT)-led [Middle Mile Advisory Committee](#) (MMAC)
 - Members from CDT, CPUC, Finance, Caltrans, State Assembly & Senate
 - [Meeting Resources & Recordings](#)
 - Submit a public comment/question [here](#)
- ❖ Third-Party administrator (TPA) [selected](#) – responsible for developing the fiber network
 - CENIC California Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative, LLC
 - Work (through December 2026) overseen by MMAC
 - [GoldenStateNet](#) – website for the program; subscribe to updates [here](#)
- ❖ CPUC’s [Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Proceeding](#)
 - Goal: “...to set the strategic direction and determine changes necessary to expeditiously deploy reliable, fast, and affordable broadband internet access services that connect all Californians.”
 - Documents, rulings, decisions, and public comments for the proceeding [here](#)
 - August 6, 2021 Ruling Requestion Comments on Middle-Mile Locations ([Link](#))
 - [Comment](#) window closed September 3 and reply comments September 21
 - “Anchor Build Fiber Highways” - Proposed statewide open access middle mile network
 - # of Unserved households per census-designated places

- [Online map](#) of proposed network
- ❖ [Oct. 20](#) Update – inventoried all partner data (CPUC, CalTrans, & TPA); centralized data repository with AGOL; working to create innovative mapping application & dashboards
- ❖ On Nov 17, Governor Newsom [announced](#) the Phase I Projects ([map](#) and [details](#))
 - These projects (and their locations) will drive middle-mile infrastructure development

California Citizen Redistricting Commission:

- ❖ Changed draft map deadline from November 13 to **November 10**
- ❖ Paul Mitchell at Redistricting Partners [continued](#) to supply prescient updates on the process
- ❖ Cal Matters [discusses](#) public commenters not being required to disclose political affiliation
 - Also from Cal Matters – some [historical context](#) on the California redistricting process
- ❖ On [Oct 26](#) & [Nov 2](#), the commission posted preliminary “visualizations” for the public to review
- ❖ On December 20, the commission posted the [final approved maps](#)
- ❖ On December 27, the lines were officially sent to the Secretary of State
- ❖ A dozen [local independent commissions](#) formed in California for this round of redistricting
 - Authorized for cities and counties by 2019’s [AB849](#) (Fair MAPS Act)
- ❖ FiveThirtyEight [published](#) a helpful visualization comparing the new maps to the old maps
- ❖ An [Emergency Petition](#) was written against the Commission on November 30
 - Allegation: commissioners communicated with stakeholders outside of official meetings
 - The Commission’s [Preliminary Opposition](#); Petition denied on December 15

Cal-Adapt:

- ❖ Funded further by 2021-22 Budget’s Climate Resiliency Package – see [Budget Addendum](#)
- ❖ [Brief Intro](#); [Quarterly Webinars](#)

Geo-Enabling Elections:

- ❖ [Free courses](#) on Geo-Enabled elections, following NSGIC’s [five best practices](#)
- ❖ NSGIC released a [Survey](#) of the nation’s election directors for election modernization

Other State Initiatives/Challenges

Little Hoover Commission (LHC)

- ❖ Nov. 4 [post](#) following up on their 2019 Report, “[Mapping a Strategy for GIS](#)”
- ❖ This recent post reiterates the following points from the Report:
 - The need for a “strong, centralized, and coordinated approach to GIS across state government”
 - The State Geographic Information Officer (GIO) should “develop geospatial data standards and coordinate GIS projects across the state enterprise”
 - “A GIS Advisory Council made up of government leaders and key stakeholders, to advise the State [GIO].”
 - all state agencies should use GIS technologies to help make data-informed assessments about the efficiency and effectiveness of their programs, and to assist in ensuring that any disparities across regions are addressed.
- ❖ Collaborative work example used: The [newest version](#) of CalEnviroScreen, [announced](#) Oct 13.
- ❖ The California GIS Council is [considering](#) repurposing and renaming itself in anticipation of the establishment of a GIS Advisory Council

External Review of the California Geological Survey (CGS)

- ❖ [Lawrence Livermore Laboratory](#)'s External Review Committee | Oct 14, 2021
- ❖ Outlines several objectives CGS should pursue to revitalize
- ❖ *Become State's Center for Geospatial Information*
 - "avoid duplication of effort and data acquisition"
 - "consolidating existing and future geospatial database needs"
- ❖ *Become State's Primary Repository for the Acquisition and Distribution of Remote-Sensing Data*
 - "support more efficient and complete mapping of surface features"

California Road-Sharing (CaRS) Initiative - Road to Governed Centerlines ([Flyer](#))

- ❖ FHWA [Pooled Fund Study](#) under [Applications of Enterprise GIS in Transportation](#) (AEGIST)
- ❖ Caltrans & CalOES are partnering with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to prepare guidance for developing an interagency architecture design for Road Centerline (RCL) data
- ❖ Motivations: current state of CA's coordination; established best practices in other states
- ❖ Establish Roads Data, Applications, and Technology Architecture through Pilots
- ❖ Next Step: CaRS GIS Working Group; implementation scope & schedule; workshops
- ❖ [Presentation](#) given at California GIS Council's Q4 2021 Meeting
- ❖ New California GIS Council [workgroup](#) – join if you are interested!

Department of Finance (DOF) 2020 Census Efforts

- ❖ See DOF's 2020 Census [landing page](#) which contains important dates and data
- ❖ The Census Bureau's [Census Question Resolution](#) (CQR) Operations have begun.
 - States, localities, and tribes may request a review of their 2020 Census results
 - Allows for correction to population and housing counts
 - Active October 2021 to December 2023
 - See [challenges submitted](#) by California jurisdictions for the 2010 CQR
- ❖ DOF's Demographic Research Unit (DRU) has built a [CA CQR Explorer](#) ([User Guide](#))
- ❖ Explore more of the DRU's 2020 census work at their [Data Portal](#)

2021 Climate Adaptation Strategy:

- ❖ Legislative mandate to release an updated strategy every 3 years
- ❖ See the draft [here](#) prepared by the California Natural Resources Agency ([Video](#) overview)
- ❖ Highlights actions in progress or proposed to *build climate resilience*. GIS-related examples:
 - ResilientCA Adaptation Planning Map ([RAP-Map](#))
 - Climate-related health impacts – [Heat Assessment](#); [Health Vulnerability Indicators](#)
 - California Ocean Protection Council's [Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#) (several mapping efforts)
 - San Francisco Bay Adaptation Tracker Map ([EcoAtlas](#))

30x30 Initiative

- ❖ [Goal](#): Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature
- ❖ By [Executive Order](#)
- ❖ Pathways to 30x30 ([draft](#))
 - [Public Comment Survey](#)
- ❖ CA Nature – interactive mapping and visualization tools to further goal
 - Full version will be released in 2022 with final *Pathways to 30x30* document
- ❖ 30x30 Advisory Committee – [register](#) for January 12 Virtual Meeting
- ❖ Sign up for Updates [here](#)

Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation

- ❖ 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMPs)
 - Now managed by the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, WMPs (found [here](#)) were mandated by the California legislature in 2018 (SB 901). They must be submitted annually, with time to accept public comment.
 - WMPs heavily feature GIS use and risk mapping
 - See Section 7.3.2 and Appendix 9 of the [2021 WMP Guidelines](#)
 - Extensive [GIS standards](#) are provided for the Utility companies to use
 - Wildfire Safety Advisory Board ([established](#) by AB1054 in 2019) [published](#) recommendations on 2022 WMP guidelines and safety metrics (see Section 2 for GIS recommendations)
- ❖ [Fire Prevention Grants](#) – utilizing ArcGIS Hub for [Grants Mapping Center](#)

Port Congestion & Supply Chain

- ❖ Newsom [Executive Order](#) N-19-21 – “Supply Chain Resilience” – Oct 20, 2021
 - Caltrans: Find routes to temporarily exempt current gross vehicle weight limits
 - GO-Biz: identify *non-state* parcels available “to address short-term storage needs”
 - DGA: review *state-owned* properties proximal to ports to address the same
- ❖ [Oct 14 briefing](#) with White House Port Envoy and Port of L.A. executive Director
- ❖ On Oct. 28, the Biden administration [approved](#) \$5 billion in loans to improve California’s supply chain in the transportation realm. (U.S. Dept. of Transportation’s [TIFIE](#) & [RRIA](#) programs)

Drought & Water

- ❖ With help from [Land IQ](#), local agencies are quantifying farms’ water usage [with satellite imagery](#).
 - A 2014 state law, [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#) (SGMA) places limits on how much water farmers can pump. It places much of the enforcement in the hands of local [Groundwater Sustainability Agencies](#) (GSAs), while the Dept of Water Resources (DWR) supports implementation and provides [technical assistance](#) (including the [SGMA Data Viewer](#)). An insightful [StoryMap](#) highlights the importance of SGMA.
- ❖ [California’s Groundwater Live](#) - Latest Groundwater Information & Conditions
- ❖ NASA is launching a platform called [OpenET](#) which will provide open source, satellite-based data on evapotranspiration updated daily. [Watch](#) their intro video here. [Sign up](#) for free!
- ❖ See [Water Year 2021](#), a report published by California’s Dept. of Water Resources

NSGIC 2021 Geospatial Maturity Assessment – California Report Card

- ❖ “The NSGIC Geospatial Maturity Assessment (GMA) provides NSGIC members, sponsors, and other partners with a summary of geospatial initiatives, capabilities, and issues within and across state governments.” (From the Assessment’s [main page](#))
- ❖ California participated this year – see [full Assessment](#) and the [Report Card](#) with grades

Federal Legislation & Notable Budget Items (U.S. Congress)

The following are federal bills introduced in *this* quarter:

[HB5512](#) | Reviewing and Updating Regional And Local Broadband Mapping Act

Notes: permits States to submit their own mapping data to use for any broadband-related funding program

[HB5522](#) | Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2021

Notes: requires Secretary of Interior to develop & maintain a cadastre of Federal real property. (Companion Bill SB2433)

[HB6236](#) | Fixing Announcements for Intermittent Remapping and Notification Expectations to Stop Surprises (FAIRNESS) in Flood Insurance Act of 2021

Notes: Requires administration to provide notices to property owners when remapping

[HR797](#) | Expressing support for the designation of November 17, 2021, as "National GIS Day"

Notes: designates November 17th as an official National GIS Day

[SB3053](#) | Providing Research and Estimates of Changes In Precipitation (PRECIP) Act

Notes: requires NOAA to conduct a study which will include, "an examination of the use of geographic information systems and geospatial technology for integration, analysis, and visualization of precipitation data"

[SB3245](#) | Blue Carbon for Our Planet Act

Notes: requires an Interagency Working Group to build a national map of coastal blue carbon ecosystems to assess their carbon sequestration potential and emissions from degradation

Federal Funding for California

- ❖ [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#). California may [receive](#) (all are unofficial estimates):
 - Highways - \$25.3B (14,220 miles of highway in poor condition)
 - Bridges - \$4.2B (+ compete for \$12.5B [Bridge Investment Program](#))
 - Public Transportation - \$9.45B over 5 years | CA may be [ineligible](#) for these funds
 - Water Infrastructure - \$3.5B over 5 years
 - Airport Infrastructure - \$1.5B over 5 years (airports will receive the funds)
 - EV Charging Network - \$384M over 5 years (+ compete for \$2.5B in EV charging grants)
 - Broadband - \$100M (27% of Californians eligible for Affordable Connectivity Benefit)
 - Wildfire (\$84M) and Cyberattack (\$40M) protection funds
 - While this is the highest allocation for any state (~\$45B), [per capita](#) it will be one of the lowest (\$1100 per Californian)

2021-2022 Federal Budget Updates:

NextGen 9-1-1: House Energy and Commerce Committee [approves \\$10B](#) in federal funding (included in the \$3.5T proposal); only [\\$500M](#) made it into the \$1.75T reconciliation bill (\$470M grant program, \$9

cybersecurity center, \$1M for Advisory Board); October 2018 [study](#) estimates \$9.5-12.7B is needed to upgrade all PSAPs; there is a standalone bill in the Senate for \$10B (featured in the

Census: [The Census Project](#), with support from members of congress, [proposes](#) an increase of \$335 million in Census spending. This would bring the total for FY22 to \$2 billion. The Census Project also puts out a monthly newsletter. [Here](#) is the December 2021 edition, with many useful links and resources. Also, see the American Statistical Association's [Report on State Population Totals](#).

Executive Branch Highlights:

- ❖ *NextGen 9-1-1:*
 - [National 911 Program](#) has released [Chapter 5](#) of its NextGen 911 Interstate Playbook
 - [NASNA](#) sent a [petition](#) to the Federal Communications Commission proposing the start of a rulemaking to implement transition to NextGen 9-1-1 across the U.S.
 - The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), with [Mission Critical Partners](#), is [reviewing](#) the GIS used by 911 systems throughout the nation.
 - Goal: locate communities that need help to achieve nationwide data sharing
 - Next step in [the 911 DataPath Initiative](#)
- ❖ FGDC's [report](#) to National Climate Task Force, per Executive Order [14008](#)
 - *"discusses the potential development of a consolidated Federal geographic mapping service that can facilitate public access to climate-related information"*
- ❖ The Dept of Energy's GeoFlight [investigates](#) natural resources at the Salton Sea
- ❖ NGAC governance pilot // Alliance for National Leadership
- ❖ [Federal Data Strategy](#) has published a [2021 Action Plan](#)
 - See Action 11 – Geospatial Data Practices (Page 18)

Notable Congressional Research Service Publication

[Landsat 9 & the Future of the Sustainable Land Imaging Program](#) (ALSO: data [moving](#) to the cloud)
[National Flood Insurance Program: The Current Rating Structure and Risk Rating 2.0 – HB5802 & SB3128](#)
[The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Summary of the Broadband Provisions in Division F](#)
[FEMA Hazard Mitigation: A First Step Towards Climate Adaptation](#)
[General State and Local Fiscal Assistance and COVID-19: Eligible Purposes, Allocations, and Use Data](#)
[The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program \(NEHRP\): Issues in Brief](#)

Links to Past Editions:

[December 2020](#)

[Quarter 1 2021](#)

[Quarter 2 2021](#)

[Quarter 3 2021](#)

California's GIS community Links:

[CA GIS Council](#)

[CalURISA](#) – California's URISA chapter

[California Geographic Information Association \(CGIA\)](#)

*This publication has been developed by the [Policy Advisory Workgroup](#) of the California GIS Council.
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