



An-Min Wu
Chair
University of Southern
California

June 15, 2020

Bond Harper
Vice Chair
City of Beverly Hills

Norman Wong
Secretary
County of Los Angeles

Mary Hurley
Treasurer
CIRGIS

Tia Morita
Past Chair
County of Los Angeles

Board of Directors

Jayme Laber
NOAA National Weather
Service

Ralph Jaggi
Caltrans

Sonja Thiede
Kings Rivers Conservation
District

Shaonna Chase
Yurok Tribe GIS Program

Dave Powers
Shasta County

Steve Steinberg
County of Los Angeles

Christine Lam
County of Los Angeles

Steve Kincaid
City of Redding

Jennifer Swift
University of Southern
California

Danielle Bram
California State University –
Northridge

Melanie Rosenberg
NorthSouth GIS LLC

Chris Robinson

Denise Tober
Parcelquest

Rachel Rodriguez
URISA

Dear Members of the California Geographic Information Association,

This has been a challenging year for our members and our profession. In the midst of issues like COVID-19 where GIS is being used extensively to analyze and convey information, many of our members are left struggling with a furlough or layoff. At a time when we are most stirred to action by witnessing the senseless death of George Floyd, our mental resources are stretched thin by worry, anxiety, and stress.

We've also witnessed our profession make headlines in the ethical debates surrounding Rebekah Jones' decisions related to publicizing GIS data in Florida. These issues of ethics, civility, and equity have come to the forefront in our profession, and we believe GIS is a powerful tool to increase understanding and encourage change by making order out of the chaos of data. CGIA encourages you to review the GIS Code of Ethics offered by our URISA colleagues as you ponder these topics: <https://www.urisa.org/about-us/gis-code-of-ethics/>.

It is clear to the CGIA Board that we must continue in our advocacy efforts to ensure we maintain a strong and connected GIS community in California, beginning by engaging with our new State GIO. As specific, actionable items emerge related to the potential of GIS to advance equity, human rights, and social change across California, we will encourage our State leaders to make data-driven policies. We encourage each of you, and our leaders, to continually strive to overcome prejudice. Black lives matter to us and our professional community.

As we enter a new CGIA Board year in July, we will be making plans for the coming year. If you have suggestions for what CGIA can do to support our members and the issues we care about, please email them to chair@cgia.org.

Sincerely,
CGIA Board