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SUBJECT: Web GIS instruction in K12 California curriculum

Dear Governor and Members of Legislature,

The California Geographic Information Association (CGIA) writes to express support for **funded incorporation of Web GIS instruction into the K12 curriculum of California.**

CGIA is a non-profit, statewide association formed in 1994 to facilitate coordination, collaboration, and advocacy for California's Geographic Information System (GIS) community. Its membership is 250 GIS professionals from around the state.

**Geographic information systems (GIS)** allow users to ask and answer questions about the world using location-aware data. This includes identifying geographic concentrations of phenomena (e.g. disease hot-spots), analyzing patterns of events through time and space (e.g. traffic analysis), and predicting future outcomes based on past and present conditions (e.g. climate modeling).

**Web GIS tools** provide more accessible means to explore such questions. They facilitate data sharing and exchange, as well as encourage civic engagement and participation. Web GIS tools are irreplaceable components of many critical state-funded programs, including:

- CalOES Data Hub – mapping hazards throughout the state
- CA Nature – a product of California's 30x30 Strategy
- Middle Mile Broadband Initiative

Web GIS tools empower Californians, non-governmental organizations, and private industry to investigate geographic phenomena on their own and expand upon the work of state agencies. *GIS tools* are ubiquitous in the workforce, and the insights gained from them are valued in most major career fields. Empowering California's students with the skills to utilize these tools would go a long way in building the next generation's workforce.

Accordingly, **incorporating Web GIS instruction into the curriculum of middle- and high-schools would be a prudent use of state resources. Formalizing and funding such an incorporation would assure consistent instruction.** GIS is an integral part of a thorough STEM/STEAM curriculum. Thus, these efforts would undoubtedly help prepare students for their collegiate and vocational stages. It would also increase the awareness and use of the state's Web GIS efforts, adding further return on investment for these programs.

Sincerely,

Chris Robinson  
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