



Date: October 17, 2001
To: Inter-Regional Partnership Members
From: IRP Staff
RE: Inter-Regional Integrated GIS Update

Background

At the August 2001 meeting, the IRP members directed staff to utilize GIS in the creation of both “preview” and individual Zone evaluation maps for each county in the IRP study area. The preview maps show in general terms, where Jobs/Housing Opportunity Zones might best be located. The Zone evaluation maps will be used to evaluate and score each proposed Zone against a set of criteria identified by the Partnership and State law as important in the selection of Zones.

This report includes information on the following GIS related items:

- the status of both the preview and Zone evaluation maps;
- currently available GIS data and maps to IRP members; and
- additional GIS data staff is pursuing for future IRP related projects.

Discussion

Preview Maps

The preview maps were created so RFP respondents could review the IRP study area as a whole and the individual county where their proposed Zone will be located. While Zones may be proposed anywhere in the study area, the previewing helps to show applicants and the Partnership what areas best reflect the goals and intent of jobs/housing balance. Those goals include housing near jobs, jobs near housing, and an improvement of the transportation relationships and opportunities between them.

At the last IRP meeting, staff presented the preview map for Alameda County. All five preview maps have now been completed. These maps were attached to the RFP, which was released on September 17, 2001. Both the RFP and the color preview maps are available on line at <http://www.abag.ca.gov/planning/interregional/resources.htm>.

Individual Zone Evaluation Maps

The Zone evaluation maps were created to evaluate and score each proposed Zone against a set of criteria identified by the Partnership and State law as important in the selection of Zones. Attachment 3 of the RFP describes the point allocation system for individual zone evaluations. The top score available to a potential Zone in the GIS section of the RFP is 25 points. These points equate to twenty percent of the total 125 points possible in the RFP scoring. This scoring system was established by the IRP following considerable discussion at the August IRP meeting.

Based upon direction from the IRP, staff scored each area of the IRP study area based upon weights given GIS related categories. The weights were determined based on its relative importance in the Zone selection process. Specifically, all categories, including Zone Characteristics, Transportation/Infrastructure, and Urbanized Areas were each given 5 points, with the layers within those categories equally weighted. The Jobs/Housing Imbalance and Impact category received a total of 10 points, in consideration of its relative importance to the IRP. Grouping the layers into categories that relate to the goals of the IRP, and then weighting those categories allows the goals to determine the points received by any one potential Zone.

Data Availability

Preview Maps: County level and IRP region preview maps are currently available in both print and online as part of the RFP packet. Interested parties may download the county of interest as a graphic image. Staff is working to expand the availability of GIS data on line.

Zone Evaluation Maps: County level and IRP region Zone evaluation maps are available in hard copy for IRP members. These maps will also be available on line as graphic images by the end of October 2001.

Base Maps: Staff has been working to develop several base maps for the IRP region. Base maps will include environmental related maps (brownfields, flood zones, wetlands, slopes and habitat), general plan maps, demographic data (including population, household, and employment projections), and transportation maps. These maps will be available through the IRP's Internet site via an interactive GIS Internet site hosted by ABAG. This site will debut in December 2001.

Expanded GIS

Staff has continued to pursue expanding the existing set of GIS data layers that have been utilized thus far in the State IRP Pilot Project. Staff has identified a number of layers that could be used to expand the capabilities of the integrated GIS. Specifically, staff is working with CalTrans to obtain congestion data and has added journey-to-work data to the list of available GIS data for the IRP region. Staff continues to seek out other available data, including water service, sewer service, agriculture contract lands, soil data, planned expansion of freeways/major roads, and fire protection services.

Requested Actions

1. This item is information only, therefore, there is no requested action by the IRP.