JUSTIFICATION FOR LOUISIANA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION TEAM INITIATIVE

DECEMBER 2001

The Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council (LGISC) was created by an act of the Legislature in 1995 (Act 922) to guide the sound development of geographic information systems and geographically related information technology for the state of Louisiana. The Council's responsibilities include the establishment of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) policies, procedures and guidelines for the sharing of data and technology among state agencies and to coordinate the acquisition of statewide data sets. To facilitate the elimination of duplication of effort and unnecessary redundancy in data collections and to provide for integration of geographically related databases, the Council has adopted the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) seven framework data layers as the basis for Louisiana's geographic information system. At the national level, the need to coordinate data creation was addressed by a Presidential Executive Order establishing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The creation of these critical data sets at both the state and federal level will facilitate decision-making on policy and planning issues for the state of Louisiana and the nation.

In response to the Presidential Executive Order #12906 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has established the Framework Data Implementation Initiative Team (I-Team Initiative) as a joint project with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), the Council for Excellence in Government, Urban Logic, National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), National Association of County Government (NACO), and other strategic partners. The I-Team Initiative relies on locally formed interdependent partnerships of federal, state, local, and tribal authorities, academia and the private sector (I-Teams) to implement state and regional portions of the NSDI in accordance with interoperability specifications and data standards as part of their ordinary business processes. By establishing the Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure Team Initiative (Louisiana's I-Team) and aligning Louisiana's needs and resources under the I-Team concept, all levels of government and the private sector will have the opportunity to save money, migrate from existing legacy systems, make use of existing resources, and develop the business case for new and expanded public and private geospatial resources. Furthermore, because the I-Team Initiative addresses the major barriers to development of the NSDI by offering a coherent set of institutional and financial incentives, it will be easier for all levels of government and the private sector to collaborate in the building of the next generation of framework data.

"Geographic data users from many disciplines have a recurring need for a few themes of basic data: geodetic control, orthoimagery, elevation, transportation, hydrography, governmental boundaries and cadastral information. Many organizations produce and use such data every day. The framework provides basic information for these data themes. By attaching their own geographic data – which can cover innumerable subjects and themes – to the common data in the framework, users can build their own applications more easily and at less cost." From Framework Introduction and Guide, FGDC, 1997.

The state will benefit from cost savings by eliminating the duplication of data collection, creation and maintenance. The cost of creating all the accurate data sets needed for executive level decision-making is too onerous for any one state agency or any local government. Single purpose data sets should be a thing of the past. Furthermore, the state will benefit from decisions based on the framework data, which is derived from documented sources, with known accuracy and quality control. The combination of framework data and GIS software provide a unique and powerful method to display, process, and analyze information that is critical for decision makers in government and the private sector. GIS is becoming the decision making tool of choice in all branches of government, business and the military. It is

therefore essential that this powerful tool be accompanied with high quality, dependable framework data. These framework data layers will be an essential tool in addressing the issues raised by Vision 2020.

The FGDC and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget have created the I-Team Initiative to encourage the development of these framework data layers to populate the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Louisiana needs these same framework data layers for Louisiana's Spatial Data Infrastructure (LSDI) and to address Louisiana's priority issues (page 3). Taking advantage of the I-Team initiative would leverage the state's dollars, time and effort with those of the federal agencies. By taking advantage of the I-Team Initiative we can meet both State and Federal data development goals at the same time.

The state has been in the forefront of GIS technology beginning in the mid-1980s. Various state agencies have established robust GIS laboratories and applications to support their spatial data needs. Louisiana already has acquired one of the most important framework data layers, Orthoimagery, which has been compiled for the entire state. The development of digital orthophoto quarter quadrangles, (DOQQs), has been a Louisiana success story. Acquisition of this data layer was coordinated through an innovative partnership among various Federal and State agencies and was produced by a local company. Spatial data development is a national industry and Louisiana is home to one of the leading Orthoimagery service providers in the country. Another innovative partnership between FEMA and the state is underway for the acquisition of another critical framework data layer, elevation data.

In addition to our innovative data development efforts and nationally recognized geospatial industries, Louisiana can build on a statewide fiber optic infrastructure second to none. This telecommunication infrastructure advantage should be exploited to the greatest extent possible. This high-speed/high capacity data network is tailor made for sharing large geospatial data sets and will provide Louisiana's geospatial industries with a significant competitive advantage. The Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure Initiative builds on these early successes by creating a program that incorporates partnerships and cooperation through all levels of government, the private sector and academia. However, the LGISC only has authority to coordinate state agency efforts and to encourage the development of partnerships with other levels of government. To build on our existing telecommunications and spatial data infrastructure, and to provide the data needed to address the issues identified in Vision 2020 the LGISC will need executive level support. Executive support will be essential in the following ways:

- Encourage state agency department heads to make the creation, maintenance and sharing of geospatial data a top priority by fully participating in the Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure Initiative.
- Encourage local governmental agencies, universities and the private sector to fully participate in the Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure Initiative

The LGISC is requesting executive level assistance to ensure that the Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure Initiative provides the priority data sets needed to address the issues raised by Vision 2020.

The LGISC, working with the agencies they represent, identified many of the state's priority issues. The LGISC then identified which geospatial data layers would be required to fully address each issue. The analysis is summarized in the table below.

Louisiana's Geospatial Priority Issues (Defined in the Goals of Vision 2020)

Priority Data Layers (The critical data sets needed to address Louisiana's priority issues, includes the seven NSDI framework layers)	**Education** (Goal 1, a fully engaged well educated workforce)	**Economic Development** (Goal 2, a vibrant and balanced economy)	**Recreation & Tourism** (Goal 3, A quality of life placing us among the top ten states)	**Flood Control & Hurricane Protection** (Goals 2 & 3)	**Emergency Management & Homeland Security** (Goals 2 & 3)
Geodetic Control (a common land reference system)	**I**	**D**	**I**	**D**	**D**
OrthoImagery (positionally correct aerial photography)	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**
Elevation / Bathymetry (includes contours & spot elevations)	**I**	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**
Transportation (roads, railroads, waterways, airports)	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**
Hydrography (rivers, lakes, canals, oceans, shorelines)	**I**	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**
Governmental Units (states, counties, cities, tribal lands)	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**
Cadastral Information (surveyed parcels, lots and ownership)	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**
Land Use / Land Cover (land surface features: urban, forested, rural)	**I**	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**
Demographics (census data & population projections)	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**
Flood Plains / Wetlands (FEMA zones, designated wetlands)	**I**	**D**	**D**	**D**	**D**

D = Primary Product (used directly) **I = Derived Product** (used indirectly)