SALTON SEA
DATA MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL WORKGROUP
MEETING NOTES

November 6, 2007
2:00-4:30
Department of Fish and Game, Ontario, CA

Welcome and Introductions

Kristina White, Department of Fish and Game (DFG), welcomed the attendees and led introductions of those present (see attached list).

The meeting was attended by at least one member of each of the other technical workgroups (Air Quality, Water Quality/Hydrology/Sedimentation, Biology, Socioeconomics, and Engineering/Geology/Geography) in order to provide cross-workgroup coordination on the issue of management of data.

Presentation from DFG

Steve G and Kristina White presented information about the DFG Biogeographic Data Branch and their online data management tool, BIOS. Within DFG, the role of the Biographic Branch is to centralize GIS and data management support in an effort to standardize data collection and storage efforts across projects. The Branch establishes standards and provides support with database development, GIS support, and field data collection.

BIOS
DFG has developed and maintains a online data management tool, BIOS. BIOS houses over 400 spatial datasets and includes customized tools for web-browser based data access. BIOS is available at http://bios.dfg.ca.gov/.

- The BIOS website includes a number of tools, including online tutorials, queries, search capabilities, etc.
- There are various levels of security that can be established for data access; securities can be applied to each layer of data. This would allow for draft datasets to be reviewed and quality controlled prior to making them publically available.
- Per DFG standards, all data that is uploaded into BIOS must meet minimum metadata requirements and be FDGC-compliant. Metadata are the “data about data” that describe the characteristics of a dataset, such as when it was collected, who collected it, accuracy, etc. FDGC is standardized format and content that is commonly used in GIS applications. The minimum DFG metadata requirements are described in Attachment B.
- BIOS is currently hosted on an ArcIMS server. All of the data in BIOS are housed on the DFG ArcIMS server. At this time, BIOS does not have the ability to serve

"distributed data". Distributed data GIS tools offer the capability to access data that are stored on several remote servers, rather than on one central server.

- A DFG Data Dictionary is available that offers standardized terminology for various common data fields. To the extent possible, new datasets should utilize the Data Dictionary in order to standardize efforts.

DFG's Role

DFG is available on the Salton Sea project to assist with development of spatial datasets, databases, field work, standards, and metadata review. To the extent that it is logical to include new datasets within BIOS, DFG will work to that end. The primary types of data that are well suited for integration into BIOS are biological spatial datasets. Where there is a need/interest in incorporating other data, including "dense datasets" such as those to be collected for air quality observations and hydrology observations, DFG will coordinate with the workgroups to identify the best course of action.

Discussion

Representatives from each technical workgroup discussed their thoughts on data management needs. Each of the workgroups will be developing Monitoring and Assessment Plans (MAPs) that will describe data needs, standardized methods, and

Key themes:

- There is a definite need to have one central portal for all Salton Sea data. As a long-term goal, a distributed data network should be seriously considered.
- The Data Management Workgroup will serve as an important forum for identify cross-workgroup data collection opportunities and needs.
- Questions remain as to where specific data will be housed. These questions will need to answered as the workgroups move forward in development of their MAPs.

Air Quality

The Air Quality workgroup will be collecting long-term observations, as well as conducting special studies (e.g. those associated with construction of the Demonstration Project).

With respect to long-term observation at existing and proposed air quality monitoring stations, the Air Quality Workgroup is coordinating with existing State air quality monitoring programs. Under the Air Quality MAP, it is likely that data will need to be archived at a finer resolution than is currently archived under the State programs. For instance, although data loggers may take readings every 15 minutes, the data are processed and only the hourly averages may be stored. However, for additional evaluations and project level models, the Air Quality Workgroup may identify a need to store the 15 minute data. The question of where these data will be housed is to be determined.

For special studies, data may likely be collected using handheld data loggers. To the extent possible, new datasets would rely on existing database structures.

Air quality is also very interested in identify cross-workgroup data needs. These could include information related to construction of the Demonstration Project (construction emissions, trip distances, numbers and types of equipment, etc.)

Engineering/Geology/Geography

The Engineering/Geology/Geography workgroup will be collecting information about soils, bathymetry, etc. There is opportunity for co-locating sampling stations/events to collect data of use to other workgroups.

Biology

The Biology workgroup will be identifying a number of data needs associated with the Demonstration Project and Early Start Habitat. The workgroup will coordinate with the DFG Biographic Data Branch as the Monitoring and Assessment Plan is developed.

Other

Other datasets that were identified as useful include: land use, land owner, demography (for socioecomic workgroup), Bulletin 118 groundwater basins, new high resolution aerial photography and topography (LIDAR), utilities.

Attachment 1
Attendees

Name Affiliation
Jerry Boles, DWR
Summer Bundy, CH2M HILL
Lee Case, USGS, Salton Sea Science Office
Steven Goldman, DFG
Check Keene, DWR
Keith McGregor, CH2M HILL
Vic Nguyen, DWR
Serene Ong, Redlands Institute
Doug Osugi, DWR
Pamela Vanderbilt, CH2M HILL
Kristina White, DFG

By Phone

Arturo Delgado, DFG
Robert Lugo, USGS
Sylvia Oey, ARB