

BAAMA President's Message  
March 2001

### **Statewide GI Council Organizing**

Those of you who attended the CalGIS 2001 conference know that the State is trying to organize a Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC).

Such a council would provide leadership for issues such as geographic information (GI) data sharing & data sales by public agencies, standards for GI data records, and the promotion and use of on-line metadata catalogs. Other issues of interest to our GIS Community include certification of GIS Professionals, changes to the Business and Professional Codes regarding professional licensure, State financing of local GIS development or maintenance, and State use and distribution of locally-produced GI.

The State government is finally taking initiatives to build on the coordinating efforts that have been conducted by non-profit professional associations (like BAAMA and CGIA) since 1992, and BAAMA is eager to participate in this organizing process. We highlighted various representatives of the State's effort at the CalGIS conference, and we will continue discussing the issue at our next educational meeting, March 15.

We believe it is important for the State to hear the concerns, ideas, and offerings of local governments, utilities, private companies, educational institutions, and professional associations, along with the State agencies and Federal offices currently being consulted by State organizers. That means YOUR participation.

Do let our BAAMA Board members know your ideas and issues concerning a GICC. Do take the time to participate in a BAAMA-sponsored forum, or on-line eForum. The GICC is still being formed, and your opinions matter at this time. Two issues, for example, about which you may have an opinion include:

- 1) Do you agree that the State should make seats on the GICC available to "members" who are willing to pay an annual fee of \$ 3,700?, and
- 2) What proportion of GICC members should represent each interest sector, and each geographic region of California, on the Council?
- 3) What are the priority issues and actions you would like a GICC to undertake?

We are building a cohesive community of GIS Professionals, whose professional association represents and responds to their needs. To be effective, we need to hear from you, our members.

Ready to hear your opinions, your ideas, and your offering to volunteer,  
I remain,  
Your BAAMA President and Left Wing Commander,

Bruce Joffe