



CALIFORNIA/NEVADA CHAPTER

Spring, 2006

To: Chapter Members

From: CA/NV GITA: CANVGITA@cox.net

Subject: CHAPTER UPDATE TO MEMBERS

Greetings California/Nevada Chapter GITA Members and special guests!

Your regional 2-state Chapter of the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) has been working the last year or so to build a more cohesive and unified organization. In an expansion of our services, we plan to increase both the visibility and communication of our Chapter organization. Realizing that not all members are able to travel to one of our meetings or conferences, we hope that through these efforts we can help our members stay better informed on matters regarding their GITA Chapter. The following are some highlights of both recent and upcoming activity:

- ✚ **CA/NV Chapter 2005 Conference** - This past November, the California/Nevada Fall 2005 Chapter Conference was held at the Las Vegas Valley Water District. The conference was a great success and a welcome return to a popular Chapter event. The full-day Conference included several excellent presentations and demonstrations by experts in industry, research, and the utilities. In addition to networking and meeting opportunities, the Conference offered great food, lots of cool door prizes, and a beautiful setting. Many thanks to our sponsors, [ESRI](#), [Autodesk](#), and [Graphic Imaging Services, Inc.](#), and to the fine folks at LVVWD for allowing us the use of their great facilities.

- ✚ **Chapter Normalization** - In April of last year, after some years of Board-level inactivity, the California Chapter began a normalization process with GITA International in Colorado. The result has been the creation and establishment of new Chapter by-laws, an interim Board, financial and member records reconciliation and other communication amendments, and the organizing and resumption of our CA/NV Chapter Conference. As the Chapter continues to build and firmly establish themselves among the family of GITA regional associations, our gratitude extends to our friends at GITA International for their guidance and support.

- ✚ **Chapter Volunteers Wanted** - At the local level, the Chapter is always looking for folks who can volunteer a little extra time or otherwise contribute to our volunteer organization. If you would like to consider serving on the Chapter Board, either as a Member-at-Large or as an Officer, please let us know. To nominate yourself or someone else for an officer position, please first review the requirements of the position you are interested in at GITA's training & support website (www.gita.org). Follow the Chapter Resources link to "officer training and support". Members-at-large positions don't require specific training and serve as advisors or assistants in one area or another to assist the Chapter (administration, finance, technology, marketing, events planning, etc.). Please keep in mind that both positions are, in essence, "volunteer" - yet will require some commitment of time and resources. The personal rewards in serving, of course, can also be substantial. For either position, simply send an e-mail by April 10, 2006 to the e-mail address at the top of this page and include your contact information, the position or area of interest, and if for an officer position, a brief biography of your background.

- ✚ **Chapter Conference Planning** - Your CA/NV Chapter held conference events biannually in years past, typically alternating between southern and northern California. We'd like to resume that fine tradition and hold at least one and perhaps two Chapter conferences each year alternating between California and Nevada. We've actually already started the popular and informative Chapter Conferences up again with our great event a few months ago in Las Vegas. We are looking forward to the planning of our future conferences and would like to ask for your help or suggestions. Do you work at or know of a facility available that can host a small conference or meeting of 50 or so dedicated GIS professionals? We've had some wonderful events at places like universities, municipal water and sanitation districts, city government facilities, and public works/utilities offices. We try to include a site visit, tour, or at least a presentation by the host organization if possible. If you have a contact or suggestion as to a suitable location for one of our future meetings, please pass the information on so we can initiate communication and planning. Also please write in if you have a particular topic of interest you wish covered, you have an interesting presentation you would like to share with us, or if you are a vendor and would like to exhibit your products or services at an upcoming event. Let us know!

- ✚ **GITA Annual Conference 2006** - GITA International is holding their 29th Annual Conference April 23-26 at the Tampa Convention Center in Florida. This year's conference theme is *"No Barriers. Connected. Responsive. Prepared."* For those CA/NV Chapter members attending this huge annual gathering of GITA folks from around the world, please consider joining us for a Chapter get-together on Tuesday, April 25th, at 2:00pm in the afternoon in Room 7 of the Conference Center. Also, take advantage of the many opportunities to see what other GITA Chapters are doing and perhaps look into some of the many intriguing initiatives and developments GITA International is undertaking. In any case – we look forward to seeing you on the "opposite coast" in April and we'll be sure to include a recap of GITA 29 highlights for all Chapter members in our next update.

- ✚ **Chapter Communications** - As the Chapter grows and becomes more functional and member-service oriented a primary goal is to continue expanding our communication channels and outreach. Two enhancements you'll notice along these lines in coming months will be the publication of a colorful Chapter Newsletter (distributed electronically but suitable for printing), and an enriched Chapter website. In both cases the Chapter could use a bit of volunteer time and expertise. Perhaps you or someone you know can help with web page upgrading and maintenance, can contribute small printing jobs or is a wizard at publishing software. No free time? That's ok - we also are looking for content for both the website and the newsletter. Heard a good GIS/AM/FM story? Send it in! Just finished a great project? Tell us about it! Got a cool picture, map, aerial image, or other graphic (especially screen shots of your applications, etc.)? Share it with the rest of us! These Chapter media outlets will be designed and created with our members interests in mind – so have a say in it and send us your interesting anecdotes, observations, and success stories!

- ✚ **California and Nevada State Conferences also in April** – It appears April 2006 is going to be the month of GIS conferences for our members. Both the state of Nevada and state of California are holding their annual GIS Conferences during the month of April as well. In California, there is the 12th Annual California GIS Conference April 6-9 in Santa Barbara. For additional information or to register, go to www.calgis.org. In Nevada, the state Conference will be held April 19-21 in Las Vegas. For more information or to register, surf on over to www.ngis.org.

***...and for those going to
the 29th Annual GITA Conference in Florida:
"We'll see you there!"***