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Cal EMA Invests \$4.7 Million To Strengthen California’s Cyber Security and Geographic Information Systems

Funds will help implement Statewide Digital Mapping, Cyber Security Strategy

SACRAMENTO – To upgrade the State’s technology systems and improve public safety, the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) today announced it will award approximately \$4.7 million to the Office of the State Chief Information Officer (OCIO). The funds will go toward developing a statewide digital mapping program, also known as geographic information systems (GIS) and cyber security projects.

The money comes from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) FY 2009 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). Cal EMA is responsible for allocating funding to state and local public safety agencies to enhance their emergency management and homeland security capabilities.

“Protecting our State from the ever-changing threats in the cyber world is one of Cal EMA’s top priorities,” said California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen. “These funds will certainly advance our mission and ability to deter, prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from any incident of terrorism, as well as other natural or other man-made disasters. With the leadership of State Chief Information Officer Teri Takai we are working together to protect California with a variety of innovative and far-reaching projects.”

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has made public safety his number one priority. The Governor’s emphasis on this is shown by his unprecedented and successful efforts to champion Proposition 1B, which includes \$1 billion for transit safety and security. Along with Federal Homeland Security grants, it has provided California with vital security funds to protect residents and the State’s critical infrastructure.

“Whether it is rogue individuals, criminal organizations, or nation-states, we have seen the damage that can be done by cyber attacks”, said Bettenhausen. “Planning and thinking ahead can make a difference when facing these threats or when disaster strikes.”

The SHSGP grant includes \$2,337,000 for the Office of Information Security, a division of the OCIO, to conduct a statewide cybersecurity risk assessment and implementation of a standard framework that will move the state toward a more consolidated approach to security throughout various agencies. By using common standards, equipment and risk management across the state, agencies will be able to better protect against cyber threats.

“California must do everything possible to stay ahead of the threats that face us every day, whether they are computer attacks or natural disasters,” said State Chief Information Officer Teri Takai. “These grants are

critical to advancing our goals of better protecting state networks and having more robust, accurate data systems that will allow emergency workers to respond and help those in danger. We are grateful for the tremendous support given by the Department of Homeland Security and Cal EMA.”

Cal EMA also awarded \$1,353,000 for the Office of Information Security to pursue the Secureca.gov Domain Name System (DNS) Project which includes upgrading technology associated with managing the state’s web and communication addressing. The upgrade increases security to prevent the hacking and compromise of the state IT infrastructure.

The grant also includes \$1 million for the development an enterprise information technology infrastructure to deliver address geocoding services. The effort will provide CalEMA and supporting agencies with a single comprehensive service for mapping critical infrastructure and key resources by assigning addresses to a map location. Secondly, this service will map locations required for incident response like command centers, shelters, vulnerable populations and gathering locations.

For further information regarding the grants and about the California Emergency Management Agency, please visit our website, www.calema.ca.gov.

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