



# The Texas Geographic Information Office (TxGIO)

The Texas Geographic Information Office (TxGIO), formerly known as the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS), is the state's clearinghouse and referral center for statewide geographic data, including digital orthoimagery, digital elevation data, historical aerial photography, land parcels, address points, and emergency management data. Housed within the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), TxGIO produces the TWDB's cartographic maps and works collaboratively with all levels of Texas government agencies to acquire, maintain, and distribute comprehensive geographic data to the public and private sectors. TxGIO's mission is to empower the geospatial community by providing data access, services, partnerships, and engagement. As the state's leader for geographic information, data, and GIS technology, TxGIO provides the highest level of geographic data services to the people of Texas and acts as a model for other states and a collaborator nationwide.

TxGIO consists of the following activity areas:

## **Texas Geographic Information Officer (GIO)**

A mandate in 2011 gave the TxGIO Deputy Executive Administrator the title of Geographic Information Officer. The most important function of the GIO is to build and maintain relationships with public agencies, institutes of higher education, and private sector and trade associations. Additionally, the role of the GIO is to encourage cooperation between stakeholders to maximize the value of Geographic Information System (GIS) data and services. The GIO accomplishes these charges by bringing the GIS community together to create connections, find common needs, and build support for continued innovation to promote the use and adoption of geographic information systems.

## **Texas Strategic Mapping Program (StratMap)**

TxGIO coordinates statewide cost-share projects to produce large-scale, standardized digital base map information that includes aerial imagery, elevation (LiDAR), hydrography, land parcels, and address points. The program produces standardized geographic data for use by state agencies and the public. These datasets are developed and maintained according to national and international standards for geographic content.

The Texas StratMap Program promotes shared data, cost-share opportunities, and produces all data for use in the public domain. Common uses of the data include: hydrologic modeling, vegetation analysis, transportation routing, emergency management and communications, land use planning and management, environmental assessment and monitoring, human and animal health disease analysis, crime analysis, homeland security evaluations, economic development assessment and planning, and business applications.

## **StratMap Contracts**

Through partnership with the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR), StratMap/DIR contracts provide the state with a set of pre-qualified commercial providers who supply digital geographic data, services, and software. The contracts are available to state agencies and any other government entity in Texas and outside of Texas. The StratMap contracting mechanism has streamlined traditional state purchasing with master contracts that provide customers with quality products and services at competitive pricing.

## **Research and Distribution Center**

TxGIO provides direct access to an extensive map and aerial photo archive and assists agencies and the public with current digital data available from TxGIO. Frequently requested data includes: digital elevation data, historical and current aerial photographs, national wetlands inventory maps, county soil surveys, geologic atlases, census maps, and a variety of TWDB water publications. The Research and Distribution Center assists the public in locating data or information provided through TxGIO and other agencies for work or research.

## **Geographic Infrastructure and Technology**

The Geographic Infrastructure and Technology Division of TxGIO provides data services, customer support, and applications that make more than 2,000 digital mapping datasets available to the public. This division organizes and disseminates digital data products acquired by StratMap and other public agencies through network access, web services, and web-accessible mapping tools—and specializes in creating and managing GIS infrastructure and solutions for the TWDB.

## Design, Innovation, and Marketing

The TxGIO Design, Innovation and Marketing Department is a multi-disciplinary team focused on evaluating, progressing, and promoting new and existing TxGIO ideas and initiatives. The department provides user experience/user interface design services and user engagement experiences for TxGIO developed applications, products, and events. Additionally, the team promotes TxGIO data, programs, and GIO activities to the Texas GIS community at large and organizes the Texas GIS Forum, an annual education and networking conference for the state drawing 300-500 attendees and sponsors from public and private sectors. Cartographic work to produce, guide, and maintain map products for the TWDB, TxGIO, and the public is led by this group.

For more information, contact the  
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