

## Assignment #1

URPL 969 – Applied GIS Workshop: Rethinking New Orleans After Hurricane Katrina  
Spring 2006

### **Review of Hurricane Katrina Response/Recovery GIS Application**

Prepare a paper that reviews a GIS application related to response or recovery efforts associated with Hurricane Katrina and discuss how the application influenced decision-making and benefited society.

Teams of two to three students will be assigned a government agency and/or specific GIS application that had a role in addressing the impacts of Hurricane Katrina. You will research the agency and contact staff to discuss the response/recovery GIS application. The report should include sections that hit the following topics: background/context, nature of the application/functionality/analysis, application impacts/benefits to society, and future directions/needs/changes to the application.

Here are some questions you may want to ask:

- How was GIS used by your agency to address the impacts of Hurricane Katrina? Is there a GIS application that had a strong influence on decision-making? Describe why that GIS application was undertaken.
- Describe the GIS analysis that was conducted as part of the application.
- Describe how the results of the analysis were presented to decision-makers and/or the public.
- Describe how the application resulted in the dissemination of critical information.
- Describe the nature of the societal benefit that resulted from the GIS application. What were the efficiency, effectiveness, and/or equity benefits?
- Did everything go as planned during the development/deployment of the application? What adjustments needed to be made during the process? What are the lessons learned?
- Did the perceptions that supervisors and/or elected officials had of GIS use within the agency change as a result of the application?
- Are any changes planned to the application? How could it be improved?

Format: The paper should be double-spaced with 12pt text and should not exceed 10 pages. You are encouraged to use maps or graphics to help convey your message.

Notes:

- I am available to discuss ideas and potential contacts.
- Some contacts may be busy and/or sensitive about discussing their GIS application. Contact me if you have trouble contacting key staff so we can develop a “Plan B.” Don’t wait until the last minute!
- Papers will be placed online through the course website (after a post-grading edit) as a resource for those interested in using GIS for hurricane recovery/rebuilding.

**Report Due: Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> during class.**