



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavski, Chairman
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From: Jon W. Fullinwider
Chief Information Officer

Subject: **LOS ANGELES REGIONAL IMAGERY ACQUISITION CONSORTIUM
(LAR-IAC) PROJECT COMPLETION**

Please accept this letter summarizing the completion of the LAR-IAC Project. The LAR-IAC is multi-jurisdictional purchasing arrangement that enabled the County and participating local governments to benefit from combined economies of scale to efficiently and cost-effectively acquire high definition aerial imagery at a significant direct dollar savings.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LAR-IAC established a countywide high resolution aerial imagery acquisition program that successfully provided current and affordable imagery to ten County departments, 32 cities, and six other agencies. Four imagery products were acquired and distributed in January/February 2007 which included high resolution (four-inch) orthogonal imagery, (six-inch) oblique imagery, digital terrain datasets, and two foot elevation contours with independent quality assurance/control.

A striking example of the benefits of the project was demonstrated during the Catalina Island Fire, where newly released LAR-IAC data supported the County's response to this emergency and assisted in protecting the lives and public property.

The project was completed on-time and within budget at a cost of \$5.8 million. To date, funding of over \$6.2 million has been received through existing and new LAR-IAC member contributions. In total, the LAR-IAC consortium has realized an estimated \$5.7 million in direct savings. These cost savings resulted from the economies of scale

associated with the multi-jurisdictional purchase and the ability to fly and capture images over one large contiguous area, compared to the cost of each participant obtaining similar products individually.

Due to the value and product quality, additional revenues are being generated from new participant contributions and will be used to defray the cost of refreshing image data, which is planned for Winter 2007/2008.

Board support was critical in the success of the LAR-IAC. The Information Technology Fund (ITF) and the Quality and Productivity Commission provided bridge funding in the amount of \$1.5 million. While these funds were never used, they did provide the necessary support to allow the project to move forward while funding was being collected from the participating agencies.

CONCLUSION

The LAR-IAC is an outstanding model of regional cooperation that has enabled participating governments to benefit from the combined economies of scale to efficiently and cost-effectively acquire and provide high quality imagery-based services. It has expanded aerial imagery access to governments that had not previously utilized this type of geographic information to improve their delivery of public services. Additionally, the knowledge transferred among participants and alignment of effort has increased through consortium program meetings, workshops, and user groups that have led to the improved use of aerial imagery products.

The ultimate beneficiaries of the LAR-IAC Program are the public, who benefit from lower total cost of government, better application of resources, and more efficient government operations.

JWF:MG:pa

c: County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
Chair, Information System Commission
Director, Regional Planning Department
Director, Department of Public Works