



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

SEP 17 2012

Deputy Chief of Engineers

Mr. Nick Mastrodicasa
SDMI
Alaska Department of Transportation
4451 Aircraft Drive, Suite H
Anchorage, AK 99502

Dear Mr. Mastrodicasa,

Dr. Joseph Fontanella was my representative at the June 28 Alaska Federal Mapping Roundtable in Washington, DC, co-hosted by Department of Interior (DOI) and representatives from the State of Alaska. This meeting focused on the critical need for Alaskan maps, because unlike the other 49 states, most of the Alaska has never been mapped to National Mapping Accuracy Standards. Alaska's "Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative" (SDMI) is addressing this gap by obtaining high quality topographic data, especially digital elevation data, in order to produce a modern statewide digital base map. Alaska and its federal partners have provided the funding so far to complete the collection of elevation data and imagery for approximately one third of the state's required to complete this effort.

The Corps fully endorses the SDMI in its mission to map Alaska and recognizes that providing modern, accurate maps for Alaska should be a high priority not only for the State but for the Nation. Accurate Alaska topographic data is required for a number of purposes, especially for the safety of air navigation. We commend SDMI for ensuring in that the data collected will reside in the public domain, so that it can be used by other agencies and by the public. This enterprise approach provides important geospatial foundation data, information that is collected once and sharable with all.

Although the Corps does not have funding to commit to this project, we may be able to offer technical expertise support. To this end, I have asked Dr. Fontanella, Director, Army Geospatial Center and the Army Geospatial Information Officer, to continue to serve as my representative to the proposed Alaska Mapping Executive Committee. We look forward to collaborating with you in support of this mapping initiative.

Sincerely,

Todd R. Semonite
Major General, US Army
Deputy Chief of Engineers

*OUR CORPS
OF ENGINEERS LOOKS
FORWARD TO SUPPORTING
THIS IMPORTANT
INITIATIVE !!*

