



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Office of the Director
Reston, Virginia 20192

In Reply Refer To:
Mail Stop 511
GS12001003

AUG 10 2012

The Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative
c/o Alaska Department of Transportation
Attn: Nick Mastrodicasa
4451 Aircraft Drive, Suite H
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Mastrodicasa:

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) enthusiastically supports the goals of the Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI) to modernize and improve Alaska mapping data. We understand the urgency required to modernize and enhance mapping in Alaska to meet the many needs identified by governmental agencies and the public.

The USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) has been a significant contributor to the acquisition of modern elevation data in Alaska that meet the needs identified by the SDMI. The USGS has also strongly supported the acquisition of very high resolution enhanced elevation data over areas of significant scientific and resource management interest. We plan to continue support of these critical elevation acquisitions in the future, in addition to offering the USGS Geospatial Product and Services Contract as a primary acquisition mechanism for others interested in acquiring elevation data.

The USGS is launching an exciting new initiative, the USGS Alaska Mapping Initiative, to produce updated statewide digital topographic maps at 1:24,000-scale. Over 12,000 new maps are planned for the coming years using the elevation and imagery data being collected as part of our partnership with the SDMI. The Initiative will require a significant investment of resources by the USGS and our partners to develop, acquire, improve, and assemble the other primary layers required for topographic map production, including hydrography, geographic names, boundaries, transportation, and man-made features. The Alaska Mapping Initiative demonstrates our direct support of the goal of the SMDI to remap Alaska using modern techniques to place valuable map products in the hands of all Alaskans.

Mr. Nick Mastrodicasa

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Please accept this letter with our encouragement to continue the outstanding work you have performed in coordinating across multiple Federal and State agencies to make our joint mapping goals a reality. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to raise awareness for the effort, and to getting the job completed. The objectives are challenging, but the rewards to the Nation will be great. Should you have questions, please contact Mr. Kevin Gallagher, USGS Associate Director, Core Science Systems, 703-648-5747 or kgallagher@usgs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia McNutt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Marcia McNutt
Director