

March 12, 2009

Mr. Peter Orszag  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office of the President  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC. 20503

Dear Mr. Orszag:

As the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) begins implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Public Law 111-5, the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS) respectfully urges several steps to assure the efficient and cost effective expenditure of funds, the maximum job creation possible, and the investment of tax dollars to achieve strategic national priorities.

MAPPS is the national association of private sector firms engaged in the geospatial profession. MAPPS is the only national association exclusively comprised of private firms in the remote sensing, spatial data and geographic information systems field in the United States. Current MAPPS memberships span the entire spectrum of the geospatial community, including Member Firms engaged in satellite and airborne remote sensing, surveying, photogrammetry, aerial photography, LIDAR, hydrography, bathymetry, charting, aerial and satellite image processing, GPS, and GIS data collection and conversion services. MAPPS also includes Associate Member Firms, which are companies that provide hardware, software, products and services to the geospatial profession in the United States and other firms from around the world.

**First and foremost, we urge that funding be released for contracts as expeditiously as possible to take advantage of the fast-approaching leaf-off flying season that is critical to the acquisition of the aerial photography needed for many of the ARRA programs. If this spring's season is missed, billions of dollars in projects will be delayed, and tens of thousands of jobs will not be filled, for more than a year. This will cause a "boomerang" effect to economic recovery that our Nation cannot afford.**

There are numerous contract programs currently in place, which were subject to full and open competition and meet the criteria for a competitive procedure as provided in 10 U.S.C. 2304 and 41 U.S.C. 253, that can be immediately tasked to accomplish this work and save or create jobs.

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In particular, there are indefinite delivery – indefinite quantity, qualifications based selection contracts in several agencies that can immediately be used to acquire the geospatial services, data and technologies needed to implement ARRA. These include the US Geological Survey's Geospatial Products and Services Contracts (GPSC), the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Global Geospatial Intelligence contracts (GGI), the NOAA Shoreline Mapping, Hydrographic Services, Coastal Geospatial Services Contracts (CGSC), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Center of Expertise for Photogrammetric Mapping (TCX) contracts. These contracts include more than 150 prime and sub contractors, and tens of thousands of employees. Many of these contracts are available government-wide, and to state and local government as well. We strongly support raising the existing delegated procurement authority on any of these contracts, where required, in order to facilitate placing orders and getting Americans back to work as quickly as possible.

MAPPS strongly supports the recommendations made by the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) with regard to implementation of ARRA. We believe OMB should fully utilize geospatial technology to effectively implement and manage ARRA through a strategy and requirements that apply across the various programs funded through the Act, including but not limited to The National Map, health IT, broadband deployment, wildland fire/emergency response, alternative energy grid, global climate change, transportation and infrastructure, the 2010 Census, housing, watershed protection, charting and hydrographic surveying, water resources, navigation, military construction, boundaries and borders, and schools.

We recommend that OMB issue clear, enforceable guidance to agencies working on ARRA activities to ensure that geospatial investments are made in a strategic and coordinated manner, consistent with the standards-based development of the OMB-created national Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). We also believe that transparency and accountability be key features of the legislation's implementation and that reporting of expenditures be included in Geospatial Lines of Business, [recovery.gov](http://recovery.gov), and [usaspending.gov](http://usaspending.gov) in a geospatially-enabled manner to manage and track economic recovery investments.

We further recommend Federal grant and contract guidance language requiring reporting and documentation of geospatial data and that geospatial activities be recognized as the vibrant, commercial activity that it is and that the private sector be utilized for this work to the maximum extent possible.

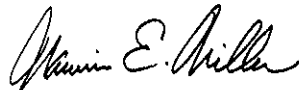
Geospatial activities have a significant multiplier effect, leveraging additional investment and job creation. Aerial photography is 5 – 10% of typical mapping costs. Mapping costs are 5 – 15 % of engineering costs. Engineering costs are 6 – 8% of the construction costs. And construction costs are 90% of project costs. Thus, every dollar invested in aerial photography has a multiplier of **9074**. In data from an actual project, \$6,000 invested in an aerial photo mission for road construction resulted in a \$49 million total construction (surveying, mapping, engineering and construction) activity.

A recent (January 2009) survey of our members shows over 50 percent of respondents indicated there would be no growth in their current workforce and 30 percent said there would be a decline. This comes despite the U.S. Department of Labor targeting the geospatial community as one of the high growth sectors in the U.S. economy. That same poll found fewer than 30 percent of our member firms are operating at their maximum capacity.

There is a critical need to utilize the capable and qualified private U.S. geospatial community as a foundation for a great many ARRA programs and activities. Such investment will not only save and create jobs among our member firms, but leverage and produce jobs in other sectors of the economy as well.

We look forward to working with you on implementation of ARRA and would be happy to assist you with the inclusion of these recommendations as part of that task. Please contact John Palatiello, MAPPS Executive Director, to discuss our recommendations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marvin E. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marvin" and last name "Miller" being the most prominent parts.

Marvin E. Miller, PLS, PPS, CP  
President