



OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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RICK AUERBACH
ASSESSOR

March 7, 2006

MP-1

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**CONSIDERATION OF ASSESSOR'S ELECTRONIC PARCEL MAP THAT IS PART
OF THE COUNTY'S GIS READY DIGITAL GRAPHICS SYSTEM AND MARKETING
PROGRAM
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

Joint Recommendation with the Assessor and the Department of Public Works:

1. Approve, for the cost of duplication, the distribution of the Assessor's electronic parcel map, which consists of parcel boundaries and the Assessor's Identification Numbers (AIN), that is maintained in an electronic format and is the primary layer of the County's Geographic Information System (GIS).
2. Direct the Department of Public Works and request the Assessor to renegotiate marketing and reciprocity Agreements for the electronic parcel map with the cities of Alhambra, Burbank, Long Beach, Los Angeles and Torrance which contributed data to the Assessor's electronic parcel map.
3. Direct the Department of Public Works and request the Assessor to renegotiate the nonexclusive Licensing and Marketing Agreements with the County's six Marketing Partners in conjunction with the suspension of the marketing of the Assessor's electronic parcel map.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On October 3, 2005, the State Attorney General (AG) issued an opinion stating that parcel boundary maps maintained in electronic format by a government entity are subject to public inspection and copying under provisions of the Public Records Act and therefore must be provided for the cost of duplication in accordance with the parameters set forth in the California Public Records Act. Although an AG's opinion is not legally binding, it is an opinion which a court will grant significant deference and thus, we must consider it with respect. Therefore, the recent AG's opinion prompted our departments to reevaluate its marketing of the Assessor's electronic parcel map.

We concluded that it would be in the best interest of the County and the public to suspend our marketing of the Assessor's electronic parcel map and to begin providing it for the cost of duplication. In addition to the fact that the recent AG opinion may prompt a successful demand for the Assessor's electronic parcel map under the Public Records Act, our decision also derives from the fact that over the years, the marketing program has been diluted by the County's legitimate desire to make the Assessor's electronic parcel map available to some public interest groups. In addition, this type of case-by-case evaluation resulted in additional work for the departments and decreased the level of profitability of the marketing program. Therefore, although revenue may be lost to the County if we suspend the marketing of the Assessor's electronic parcel map, by making it available to everyone, we likely will lessen the time the departments need to devote to issues raised by its marketing and distribution. Furthermore, the release of the Assessor's electronic parcel map for the cost of duplication will ensure that all persons will have equal access to the information.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Providing the Assessor's electronic parcel map for the cost of duplication to the public, conforms with the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Discontinuation of the County's marketing program for the sale of the Assessor's electronic parcel map will have a minimal negative fiscal impact on the County's budget, however, Public Works and the Assessor expect to lose a combined annual revenue of approximately \$200,000, offset by estimated administrative costs of \$26,000.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In 1994, the Assessor's Office undertook a process to convert the Department of Public Works digital Cadastral Land Base into a GIS System, of which the primary layer created is the Assessor's electronic parcel map.

