

Open Data Consortium project
STATUS REPORT
November 1, 2003

PURPOSE: To derive a data distribution policy document that can serve as a model, and de-facto standard, for local governments. This model policy will help to regularize the legal and commercial conditions controlling data distribution, thus enabling easier access to public geographic information.

PROCESS: Model data distribution policy has been derived through a series of consensus-building telephone conference sessions, comprised of people representing the full range of constituencies, who have committed to working together until a large consensus is achieved. 24 work group sessions met bi-weekly to discuss and resolve the following data distribution issues:

- √ ownership of data, copyright, licensing
- √ public accessibility, equity, security, privacy, liability
- √ funding public geodata, data sales and other methods
- √ distribution methods, data update, metadata maintenance

MILESTONES:

- 1 In-person workshop held (35 attendees)
- 24 Teleconference sessions held
- 67 people have participated in teleconference sessions, totaling **267** person-sessions
- 186 Positive responses to participate
- 494 Potential participant's contact information placed in database, and being updated with current eMail address and snail mail addresses
- 6 Magazine articles (GIS Monitor, Geospatial Solutions, Jan 2003; URISA News, Jan/Feb 2003; and DirectionMagazine.com, Aug 14, 2002)
- 17 Presentations to professional associations and conferences
- 5 Private sponsors committed (Digital Map Products, DirectionsMagazine and GIS-Bid.com, **ESRI**, MetropolisNewMedia, SafeSoftware).
- 65% Budget funding received from USGS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completed Model Data Distribution Policy document with internal review. approval
- Prepared research report: "10 Ways to Support GIS Without Selling Data"
- ODC website operating at **www.OpenDataConsortium.org** (thanks to Malcolm Adkins, of Kyalami). On-line, participants-only discussion capability completed (thanks to Roger Kunkel, of California Resource Agency CERES).
 - √ 53 documents published on the public ODC website
 - √ 12 links to related sites on the public ODC website
 - √ 35 documents published on the "participants-only" ODC website
 - √ 8 on-line interactive discussion eForums initiated
- Summary of 24 work group teleconference sessions distributed.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Promoting use and understanding of the model policy document.

- Soliciting support for Phase II activities:
 - 1) Publicize and Promote the model policy
 - 2) Review and Upgrade the policy, as necessary
 - 3) Develop Accounting Procedure recommendations
 - 4) Assist the Adoption of the model policy in local government

ASSISTANCE NEEDED (Please let me know what you can offer to **help this project**):

- Research (and researchers) needed in the following areas:
 - Description of internal accounting procedures and practices used by local government to identify revenues accrued from the use of GIS applications
 - Review local government budgeting and financing policies for enterprisewide service departments, such as GIS services
 - Literature search on similar efforts
 - Review **actual revenues** received by local governments from the sale of geographic data; **compare** the amount with the **actual cost** of maintaining geographic data and a geodata support group
 - Examples of value accrued to a public agency from using digital geographic information; how was that value realized.
 - Legal review of state public records laws, their implementation, and intellectual property rights of local governments
 - Review any related efforts of other professional organizations (AAG, National Mapping Sciences Committee, National Research Council, etc.)
- Suggest people from **private data distribution companies** who should be invited to help sponsor the project.
- Suggest local government **professional associations** concerned with data integration who should be invited to participate.
- Suggest **local government** people who should be invited to participate. They could represent both agencies with a well-defined **data sales** policy, or agencies with a well-defined "**free data**" policy (both should have some experience conducting that policy).
- Due to budget constraints, this initial project will be considered a "pilot."
Help us find additional funding, from grants, contracts, or sponsorships. Suggest opportunities for funding.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT **www.OpenDataConsortium.org**

Thank you

Bruce Joffe
 ODC project organizer
 c/o GIS Consultants
 1615 Broadway, Suite 415
 Oakland, CA 94612
 510-238-9771
 Bruce@OpenDataConsortium.org
 GIS.Consultants@joffes.com