



May 5, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Esri, as the global market leader in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), applying the “The Science of Where” through our software products and research, recognize the critical value of a common reference frame, realized through physical monuments of known geodetic location. Without access to the reference frame through the stations which define it, “The Science of Where” would be greatly compromised. Being based in California, Esri, is keenly aware of the especially challenging geophysical environment in our home state that elevates the importance of having a properly maintained and supported reference system network for geospatial data to be referenced to. Unfortunately, the model that has evolved in California, through the leveraging of infrastructure primarily installed to support deep earth science, is at high risk and has no sustainable funding resources at the State level.

In December of 2017, the California GIS Council approved and adopted a document prepared by the Council’s Geodetic Control Work Group (GCWG) entitled “Maintaining California’s Geodetic Control System Strategic Assessment, Version 1.0.” Esri hereby endorses this document and its recommendations that California implement a plan to sustain this critical infrastructure.

“The Science of Where” is not only critical to surveying, mapping, and GIS, but as a geospatially driven society, our lives revolve around positions. Emergency response, travel, commerce, utilities, autonomous vehicles, unmanned aerial systems, precision agriculture, sea level rise analysis, and countless other applications depend on access to a common reference frame through geodetic infrastructure. It literally is a matter of life and death.

The tenuous nature of the geodetic infrastructure in California is cause for alarm and the situation needs to be addressed as soon as it possibly can be. California has a legitimate public policy interest in ensuring that accurate geospatial data is available and accessible for public health and safety, economic development, public works construction and maintenance, research, and commerce. The risk of the failure of this system, due to the inactions of the State of California, is far too great and must be given the highest priority for remediation. The recommendations of the GCWG document are a sound start and are fully supported and endorsed by Esri.

Sincerely,

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