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Agreement Number: G10AC00175

Project Title: Enhancement of the Mississippi GIS Strategic Plan for Underserved Communities

Report: Interim

Organization: Geosystems Research Institute, Mississippi State University, 2 Research Blvd, Starkville, MS 39759 <http://www.gri.msstate.edu>

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Project Narrative:

The project is currently ahead of schedule and is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2010. A sub-contract was let to Fairview Industries to assist in acquiring information from local government agencies regarding the use of geospatial technologies as well as databases in their possession. Fairview Industries hired and trained technical assistants to assist in the data inventory and to populate the RAMONA GIS inventory database. This project is coordinated with the larger state-wide effort in the development of the Mississippi GIS Strategic Plan for 2010.

A survey instrument was designed and developed to query local governments on GIS database holdings. The survey was delivered through the Internet, with telephone calls to address incomplete or vague responses to the Internet survey. Personal visits to several of the counties were made to gather in-depth information about local GIS activities.

The local government survey focused initially on parcel database development. This theme was selected based on discussions with state agencies regarding GIS database priorities. The Mississippi Department of Revenue conducted a brief survey in 2008 to determine how county governments were compiling and managing parcel maps. The survey provided a list of contacts for the subcontractor as well as a summary of on-going GIS activities in the tax assessor's offices in Mississippi's 82 counties.

Counties utilizing geospatial technologies (other than for parcel mapping) were identified and contacted for interviews during September 2010. State agencies will also be interviewed during September regarding GIS databases in their respective agencies that can be used at the local government level.

Next Steps:

Surveys with local governments will be completed during the Fall of 2010. As information on GIS database holdings is acquired the RAMONA GIS database will be updated. Local governments will be surveyed for the other NSDI elements beyond parcel mapping.

Resources from Mississippi State University and the Mississippi Automated Resource Information System were made available to Fairview Industries at the onset of the project and have been utilized at various steps during the first six months of this grant and will review findings presented by the subcontractor over the next several months.

Revised Timeline:

The project is proceeding along with the timeline addressed in this project's proposal. At this time it is anticipated that the project will be completed ahead of schedule.