

February 23, 2009

Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
Hilary Perkins, GISP, President
1460 Renaissance Drive, Suite 305 Park Ridge, IL 60068
via email: wnelson@urisa.org

Dear Hilary:

I would like to thank the URISA Board of Directors for their comments and input regarding the ASPRS Procurement Guidelines document. The drafting committee has carefully considered these comments and suggestions, as well as those submitted by other groups. We have paraphrased key comments from the different responders and have prepared a single response with a detailed explanation of our conclusions as well as specific proposed action items. That response is attached and will be posted on the committee's web page and forwarded on to the ASPRS Board for their consideration.

In summary, the committee has proposed the following specific revisions and actions to address issues that were raised:

- 1) Add an additional section (or sections) to provide guidance on the specific technical implementation of procuring professional photogrammetric mapping services.
- 2) Finalize a glossary
- 3) Expand the existing section discussing products and technical services to further explain the role / value of mapping products.
- 4) Coordinate with your "participating firms" group to facilitate development of a companion guidelines document for the procurement of geospatial mapping products.
- 5) Develop an additional attachment of detailed justifications for the QBS process to address key concerns that were raised.

The committee wants to emphasize that while the Guidelines *recommend* QBS methods be used for the procurement of professional services, the intent was not to state or in any way imply that QBS procurement should be *required* for all professional mapping services. Nowhere does the document suggest expanding the Brooks Act and this is not the intent.

In fact, the Guidelines specifically state that Brooks Act procurement is not required for all mapping services and guidance is provided for an alternative approach. Language to this affect is included in bullets 5, 6, 14 and 17 of the Executive Summary and related sections of the full text. Further, the Guidelines in no way encourage licensing of all survey tasks. The Guidelines adopt the NCEES Model Rules approach to distinguish between surveying and non-surveying tasks, and include a detailed matrix breakdown clarifying this distinction.

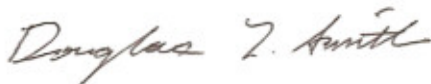
The intent of the Guidelines is to state that: 1) Qualifications based selection processes are *recommended* (not necessarily required) for procurement of professional services; 2) The NCEES Model Law/Model Rules and State Law should be used to distinguish between survey and non-survey tasks when determining whether or not FAR or State QBS procurement requirements apply; 3) QBS is not always required by law and QBS laws do not apply to all mapping services; and 4) If cost based methods are to be used by an organization, ASPRS *recommends* that cost be considered secondary to qualifications according the alternative process outlined in the document.

It is important to us that the Guidelines be well understood. Therefore, if your organization does not feel the document clearly represents these viewpoints, we hope that you will identify any specific language in the Guidelines that you believe is confusing or misleading. In addition we would also be interested in learning what specific parts of the Guidelines, if any, you believe do not fairly represent the NCEES Model Rules interpretation of surveying.

The committee plans to make the changes summarized above and submit a final document to the ASPRS Board for their consideration at their meeting March 13 in Baltimore. In the absence of any specific recommendation with regards to language on QBS or licensing, no substantial changes to those parts of the document are as of yet proposed. Any further written comment or recommendations for specific revisions or suggestions for further work that are received prior to March 3 will be forwarded on to the Board for their consideration. If anyone from your organization wishes to meet with me in Baltimore during the ASPRS Conference to discuss this effort, please let me know and I will schedule time to do that.

The Guidelines committee is committed to considering all viewpoints on this difficult subject and very much appreciates your input. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to provide further comment.

Sincerely,



Douglas L. Smith
Procurement Guidelines Committee Chair
Professional Practice Division Director