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2010 Annual Report

Imagery

Through a partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) acquired 9,000 square miles of new color aerial imagery covering all of Kern County.

The new imagery coincides with the 2010 Decennial Census to provide users a visual snapshot to correlate with the tabular data provided by the Census. The imagery is available from the County of Kern as a layer on the Online Mapping System or as a standalone ArcGIS image service. In the future, users will also be able to directly download the imagery from the USGS website.

Aerial imagery can be used in numerous ways:

- Environmental documents for future projects;
- Identifying population and employment data;
- Historical research;
- Draping imagery of 3-D terrain models to provide perspective;
- Save staff time required to make site visits;
- Code enforcement;
- Map backgrounds



Coordination

The County of Kern and Kern COG have jointly created an ArcGIS Image Server instance freely available over the Internet. The Image Server reduces the set up time of new countywide imagery datasets from four weeks to three days and allows the same imagery to be displayed multiple ways without multiple copies of the original images.

The ArcGIS Image Server creates services that can be connected to and used by a variety of software such as the ArcGIS family, AutoCAD, many open source GIS software systems, and even by Internet browsers. Only 2000, 2010, and the Kern County Seismic Hazard Atlas are available as services but additional years will be added at time and funding permit.

Challenges

During 2010, the GIS community saw multiple vacancies occur in GIS positions throughout our region. While some of these, such as the County GIS Coordinator position, are being filled, others have been cut entirely due to budget constraints. Until funding increases, we will likely see a decrease in nonessential data and mapping products.

As of December 2010, multiple agencies in the Kern region are using ArcGIS Image? Server for data storage. Because the Image? Server can replicate data between different physical locations, it may be possible to use that feature as a better method of data sharing than phone calls and email. Kern GEONET will continue investigating Image Server's potential for improved cross-jurisdictional data sharing.