

## Using Ortho and Oblique Aerial Imagery for Court Cases

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May 29, 2008



## Topics

- Background on using imagery to support court cases
- County Counsel Support – *Nick Franchino*
- DA Support – *Jason Levine*

## Background

- Ortho and oblique imagery can be used for the following:
  - Accident re-creation
  - Code enforcement support
  - Crime scene documentation
  - Reference for court presentations
- We will walk through some examples from our experience

## Accident Re-creation

- Imagery can be used to augment this process
- Firms use elevation data and imagery regularly
- Some firms specialize in this
  - They have called and e-mailed asking for access to the LAR-IAC data

## Code Enforcement Support

- We've helped with all sorts of issues and it's getting easier because of the currency of the imagery (hopefully getting refreshed every two years)
- Some examples include:
  - Oak tree removal without a permit (\$245 for oak tree inspection fee)
  - Illegal structures and/or uses
  - Squatters

## Illegal Use



## Crime Scene Documentation

- Document where a gun was located or where a suspect fled
- Height and other measurement tools can be used to show actual measurements of the scene
- Overall it can help save person-hours for crime-scene assessment and research

## Sample (not from real case)



## Reference for Court Presentations

- Background information that Graphics units will take and make into large posters or other displays
- Mostly done by DA Graphics staff; but could be done by our group or other GIS groups

## Example – Metrolink Derailment

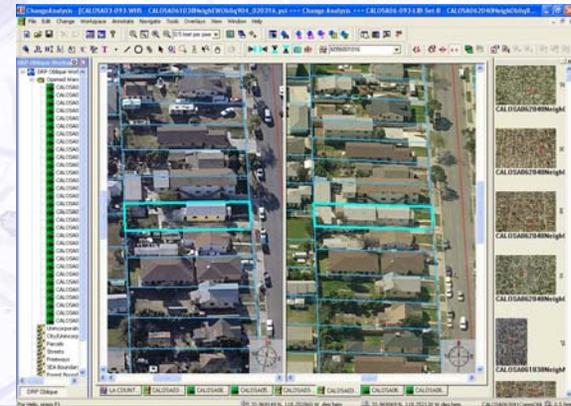
- This case was in the LA Times yesterday (5/27/08 – California section)
- A graphic was needed by the DA to show the area (they used LAR-IAC ortho imagery)
- The DA (Graphics Unit) was going to take it and mark it up for their full size [poster](#)

## County Counsel Support

- We assist County Counsel when they assist our department or another department on a case
- This specific example was about a defendant building illegal buildings (without the proper permits)
- DRP and DPW were those going after this illegal builder

## What the Imagery Showed

On the left is 2002 and on the right is 2006



## DA Support

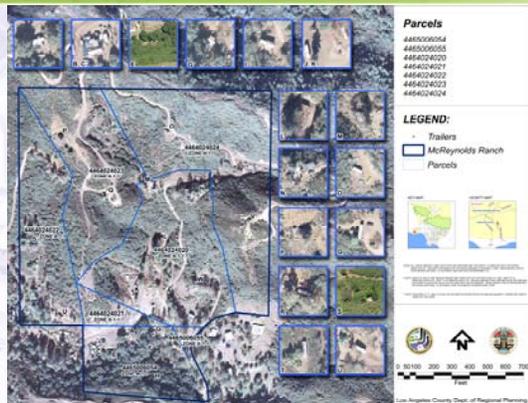
- **Zoning and Land Use Violation Case**
  - Several illegal trailers on defendant's property
  - Aerial imagery (from LAR-IAC) was used to create a map of defendant's property
  - Date of violations coincided with the date of collection for ortho and oblique imagery, May of 2006 (also coincidental)

## DA Support Cont...



- **Most of the trailers were visible in the ortho imagery; those that were not could be located in the oblique imagery**

## DA Support Cont...



Final Map

## DA Support – Final Words

- **Cases don't always go to trial**
- **Evidence gathered through aerial imagery usually helps build a case**
- **Accuracy of imagery and dates does come into question sometimes too**
  - use of supporting materials (dates/accuracy reports)
  - licensed surveyor may be necessary
- **Compelling evidence not only saves time (person-hours) but leads sides to settle**

## Final Note – About DA and County Counsel

- Neither department is a part of LAR-IAC or LAR-IAC2
- Still compelling reasons to assist them
  - They assist us/defend us in court
  - Reduction in settlement “pay outs” helps all of our bottom lines
  - Giving them reasons to join the LAR-IAC (showing them why they need to be a part of this group)

## Questions / Comments ?

Thank you for your participation!

