

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007

Dear OSGeo Board,

This letter expresses the intent of a group of individuals (listed below) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA to form a local chapter of OSGeo. After attending the most recent FOSS4G conference in Lausanne, Switzerland, several of us suggested that a local chapter would be the proper vehicle to commence many open source software projects that have been inhibited until now because of intellectual property concerns. Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) wants to offer a class devoted to open source geospatial software and would like to publicize its advantages. The University of New Mexico (UNM) is a user and developer of open source geospatial tools, and would like to encourage their use. The City of Albuquerque collects geodetic control and would like to give its citizens the information and tools to use it properly. The engineering and mapping firm, Bohannon-Huston, Inc. (BHI), would like to create open source tools to replace commercial photogrammetry software and needs the help of experts in the academic community to create it and a diverse group of testers to improve its quality and usefulness. For all these goals to be achieved, communication between academic, government, and private organizations needs to be promoted on a neutral ground, that of OSGeo. For example, experts around the world, such as professors of photogrammetry in Canada and Turkey, have stated that they are willing to lend their help to photogrammetry software development if the resulting products are open source.

#### Core Members

Ballard, Amy – chair of the Geographic Information Technologies (GIT) program at CNM

Benedict, Karl – Senior Research Scientist and IT Manager at the Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC) at UNM

Nipper, John – software developer at BHI

Stauber, Zack – photogrammetrist at BHI and part-time instructor at CNM

Wilkie, R. Cliff – Geodetic Surveyor for the City of Albuquerque

#### Critical Mass

With three attendees to the FOSS4G 2006 conference from a city of about a half million people, we believe that Albuquerque was relatively overrepresented, and that this represents a significant interest from our state in open source. Because we have members from academic, government, and private organizations, we think we have a good core to begin seeking other members in our respective sectors.

#### Scope

We would like the chapter to be called the “New Mexico, USA Chapter” and we will draw our members mainly from the state of New Mexico. Our primary chapter language will be English, but many official documents in New Mexico are also published in Spanish, and translation of some software into Spanish once it is released is a possibility.

#### Mission

We will provide a web server which will feature open source geospatial software being developed by our members and serve as a nexus of communication between any developers and experts or organizations willing to help write or test software. We will also actively inform organizations in New Mexico that express an interest in open source geospatial software about OSGeo. Our server will list contact information for local chapter members, provide discussion boards on the subject of open source geospatial software, and host several software projects which will allow visitors to download source code, binaries, user manuals, algorithms, and so on.

## Objectives

At first, the core members intend to write open source software and tools for use in three areas: photogrammetry, geodetic control, and metadata creation. We also will provide a download site for miscellaneous open source geospatial utilities written by core and any non-members. These include anything from Excel spreadsheets containing useful formulas to ArcView 3.2 extensions to AutoCAD LISP routines.

## Official Representative

Zack Stauber

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## Legal Form

Our chapter is presently informal, but we would like advice from OSGeo on the best form to take to safeguard the legal open source status of what we develop. The web server we intend to use is leased by Karl Benedict personally so no other organizations are involved which may make claims of intellectual property on hosted subject matter. We do intend to solicit financial sponsorship from BHI and other organizations that could benefit from tools we develop and would like OSGeo's advice on how to do that and still safeguard anything the money pays for.

If the board votes in favor of making us official, we look forward to becoming a local OSGeo chapter at your earliest convenience.

-Sincerely, Amy Ballard, Karl Benedict, John Nipper, Zack Stauber, and Cliff Wilkie