

CALIFORNIA ASSESSORS' ASSOCIATION

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September 4, 2007

California Cadastral Mapping Association
Randy Worley, CCMA President
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301-4617

RE: Cadastral Mapping Professional Certification

Dear Randy:

As you know, the CCMA certification program was submitted to this committee in May of 2007 for consideration of moving it forward to the Executive Committee and ultimate approval by the CAA. The committee decided it would be best to request all 58 Assessors to review and comment on the program. The survey was actually concluded at the Assessors Only Meeting at the NCAA PlumpJack conference. About 50 assessors were present.

After much discussion, the assessors by a show of hands unanimously displayed their support and endorsement of the concept of professional certification or designation of California professional mappers and cadastral drafters in assessor's offices. They recognized the efforts made in producing the draft CCMA certification program, but were not ready to endorse this particular program.

There were some concerns associated with the structure of the program itself. Generally, designation and certification program are built around successful completion of standardized coursework and testing. Usually you see some sort of demonstration of ability at the end of the prerequisites by both testing and prescribed exercise. The I.A.A.O. certification program was suggested as a model to look into, although the fact that mapping practices in various jurisdictions may or may not use computerized drafting, CADD, or electronic GIS. This has created perhaps two areas of expertise which need more analysis and consolidation by the CCMA certification program.

Another suggestion involved the updating or rewriting of Assessors Handbook number 215, Assessment Map Standards, which has not been updated since 1992. In conjunction with a project to update the manual and standards, courses and tests might be developed for the certification program.

As a side note, reclassifications of mapping and drafting series classifications and titles have occurred and are in progress in various assessors' offices around the state giving further testimony to the importance of a certification program.

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The Education Committee stands ready to work with the CCMA in accomplishing this common goal.

Sincerely,

Tim Holcomb
El Dorado County Assessor
Chair CAA Education Committee