August 25, 2006

RE: Florida Department of Emergency Management Statewide LiDAR Acquisition

To Whom It May Concern:

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) has initiated an effort that will ultimately result in the update of the Regional Hurricane Evacuation Studies (RHES) for the State. This process will require updates to the coastal surge modeling tools (SLOSH) with more current and accurate elevation data, i.e. LiDAR. FDEM, with the assistance of Jones Edmunds, will catalog all existing LiDAR data and related products (i.e. bathymetry and/or orthophotography known collectively as “data” henceforth). We are also interested in learning about any plans you may have to collect data in the near future. We are searching for any data that your agency currently maintains that could prove useful to this project. The data will be assessed against minimum technical specifications established by the FDEM in an effort to identify areas of the State requiring new data collection. The minimum technical specifications are to determine compatibility with the baseline specifications needed to create a statewide LiDAR coverage.

The FDEM is interested in acquiring existing metadata or documentation about any LiDAR data products you currently maintain in your inventory or your near future data collection efforts. If you have any data sets of unknown quality or lineage, please include these in your summary as well. Please note that we are not currently requesting the actual LiDAR data products, only a geographic footprint of the data along with metadata and/or other supporting documentation. If you have any data that may be applicable to this effort please contact David Lyons of Jones Edmunds at 352-377-5821 or via email at dlyons@jonesedmunds.com.

Jurisdictions that don’t currently possess LiDAR data products will be flown by the FDEM to the extent of the Category 5 Hurricane Surge Zone. Areas not within this surge zone for a given jurisdiction could be potentially captured if alternate funding sources are available. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being created for this purpose and can be provided on request.

The FDEM has a very aggressive schedule in place for this project and we are requesting that your response to this request occur no later than September 29, 2006.

Please feel free to share this invitation with other organizations or agencies that may have data beneficial to this effort. A web site (under construction) describing this project and its status can be viewed here: http://www.floridadisaster.org/gis/

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Boyce
Information & Plans Chief – FDEM

David Lyons
Project Manager – Jones Edmunds