

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, G



BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

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January 24, 2005

Sent by Mail and Faxed

[Redacted address lines]

RE: USGS Quadrangle Maps

Dear Mr. [Redacted Name]

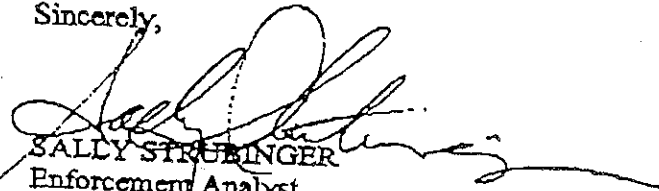
This letter is being sent in response to your request that the Board's Enforcement Unit address your concerns about the use of USGS Quadrangle Maps for topographic mapping in subdivision processing. Because of the technical nature of your questions, I forwarded your letter and supporting documentation to our staff Land Surveyor Consultant, Howard Brunner, for his review and comment.

Mr. Brunner reviewed your letter and advised me that your concerns are appropriate. Mr. Brunner advised that USGS Quadrangle maps should not be broken down to create sub contours from the contours on the maps. These maps are not accurate enough to be broken down. There is insufficient detail and accuracy to enable the maps to work at the smaller scale.

Mr. Brunner said that the local jurisdictions can allow these maps to be used but they can only be used "as is" and for the purposes for which they were created. Local developers, engineers, and/or surveyors should not be allowed to interpret or misinterpret the data on these maps for any other use.

I hope this information assists you in resolving this situation. If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at (916) 263-2251 or by e-mail at Sally_Strubinger@dca.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


SALLY STRUBINGER
Enforcement Analyst
Enforcement Unit