



PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT POLICY FOR THE USE OF PLANET LABS, INC. AERIAL IMAGERY

Approved Permits for Cannabis Cultivation

The Planning and Building Department staff will use aerial imagery to verify that cannabis cultivation sites operate within the approved site plan and conditions of approval. In addition to verification of the cultivation area, aerial imagery evaluates other infrastructure that supports cannabis cultivation. This includes, but is not limited to, buildings, greenhouses, grading, access roads, and tree removal. Using aerial imagery, evaluation of these sites can compare historical and current site conditions, documenting changes to property characteristics as they occur over periods of time. Screen capture of these images will be printed and used to communicate that a site is in compliance or where corrections are required.

Building Permits

Both building inspectors and permit specialists use aerial imagery in support of the issuance of building permits over the counter. Aerial imagery provides the ability to compare a site plan submitted by the customer with current site conditions that are reflected by aerial imagery. This reduces the need for building inspectors to visit a site to ensure site plan accuracy which allows a greater number of permits to be issued over the counter.

Customer Service

Department staff utilize aerial imagery in discussions with customers at the counter. With frequent inquiries about property characteristics, department staff can answer many questions using aerial imagery details. These inquiries often occur when real estate transactions are proposed. While there are many layers to our geographic information system (GIS), questions frequently surround the issues of coastal jurisdictions, flood zones, county and city boundaries, zoning, among others. The orthorectified images available through Planet Labs, Inc. allows the department staff to provide information to the public with a greater degree of accuracy.

Code Enforcement

Department staff utilize aerial imagery to evaluate potential code violations and to identify illegal cannabis cultivation. The imagery is used to identify unpermitted cannabis cultivation and associated violations including grading, timberland conversion, Streamside Management Area encroachment, and construction of illegal structures. The imagery is primarily used to identify illegal cannabis cultivations but can also be used to evaluate violations of various types after complaints are received.

Public Geographic Information Systems

In accordance with the Planet Labs, Inc. agreement, aerial imagery is not available to the public outside of the Planning and Building Department.