



David J. Denniston

GIS Manager

Areas of Expertise

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Modeling, Mapping, Animation, Data Analysis
ESRI Applications, AutoCAD and AutoCAD MAP, FoxPro, SQL, 3-D Imaging
Internet Resources, Developing Technologies

Years of Experience

With URS: 8 Years
With Other Firms: 6 Years

Education

DMA and MM/Music
Composition/1990/University of Cincinnati
AB/Music/University of California, Berkeley/1980

Overview

Dr. David Denniston, GIS Manager for the Santa Barbara Office, has been with URS corporation for over 15 years, beginning in 1990 as a word processing supervisor, and then working successively as a data analyst, GIS analyst, and GIS group manager; in the latter role he founded the GIS group in the Santa Barbara office in 2001, growing the group one person at its inception to a robust, multidisciplinary group of 12 people as it is today. Dr. Denniston's project experience is diverse, and ranges from early experience managing chemistry and lithology data on a large superfund site in Los Angeles County to more recent experience managing large and complex GIS projects that intersect with many scientific disciplines. Some of his current projects include building a complete GIS of the storm drain network for urbanized, unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara county, compiling data from numerous sources, some dating back to the 1920s; overseeing the migration of data from early ArcINFO formats to ArcSDE and Oracle, at Vandenberg Air Force Base; managing the complex multijurisdictional Ellwood-Devereux project and, in so doing, reconciling dozens of different data sources and building a unified GIS database; and precisely locating remnants of abandoned subsurface oil facilities, using historical aerial photographs, in an area of extensive modern residential and commercial development. Dr. Denniston also has expertise in 3D modeling and animation, and has created specialty visualizations of terrain, contaminant plumes, and visual resources for a number of clients.

Project Specific Experience

GIS project management experience includes:

- Managed a project to develop a complete Storm Drain GIS network for the unincorporated, urbanized region of Santa Barbara County. The project was completed successfully under budget.
- Managed the GIS database development for the complex Ellwood-Devereux project, in which data was collected, digitized, rectified, and mapped for areas in the City of Goleta, UCSB, and Santa Barbara County jurisdictions
- Managed complete GIS and chemistry databases for a large federal Superfund site in Los Angeles county, involving extensive data import, maintenance, analysis, and map production

GIS project experience includes:

- Aerial photo interpretation and precise location of historical oil wells and sumps in the Santa Maria Valley for remediation of potentially contaminated sites now extensively overbuilt by residential and commercial development
- Infrastructure mapping for power plant siting studies
- Production of air quality, biology, demographic, and other maps for Applications for Certification (AFCs) for new power plants



- Data analysis and mapping of infrastructure (electrical, gas, rail, water availability, land use) for various power siting studies; included modeling to determine areas of highest suitability
- Data analysis and mapping of species habitats and occurrences for a wetland restoration plan
- Soil contaminant modeling, data analysis and interpretation, and plume visualization for a former chemical storage facility in Long Beach, California
- Soil contaminant modeling, data analysis and interpretation, 3-D visualization (slices, stills and animations) for two former manufactured gas plants in southern California. One of these included pre- and post-remediation modeling and comparison.
- Study of a floater plume underneath a working oil refinery in Kentucky. Tasks included creation of several animations of the plume, with a realistic 3-D model of the site and surrounding topography.
- Preparation of animations showing change in groundwater contamination over a six-year period in four stacked water-bearing zones underneath a former disposal pit and adjacent residential areas in north Florida

Specialized Training

1977-1980/Course work in Geology, Geography, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics

Chronology

1998 to present: URS Corporation
1993-1998: Dames & Moore

Contact Information

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