Policy & Procedures Committee   **April 29, 2015**

Discussion Item #1 Content of Staff Reports

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

At the last Policies and Procedures Committee meeting on February 25th, 2015, there was much discussion centered on the details in our staff reports and how mapping graphics and other such resources are utilized. While lots of content issues were discussed, the focus of this report is mapping and graphics. It's clear the current zoning map is lacking in area details for facilities like schools, parks and other landmarks.

For example, here is a version of the map from Accela showing a focus on a location downtown:

Downtown Screenshot

200 ft   © 2004-2014, Accela Inc. All Rights Reserved.
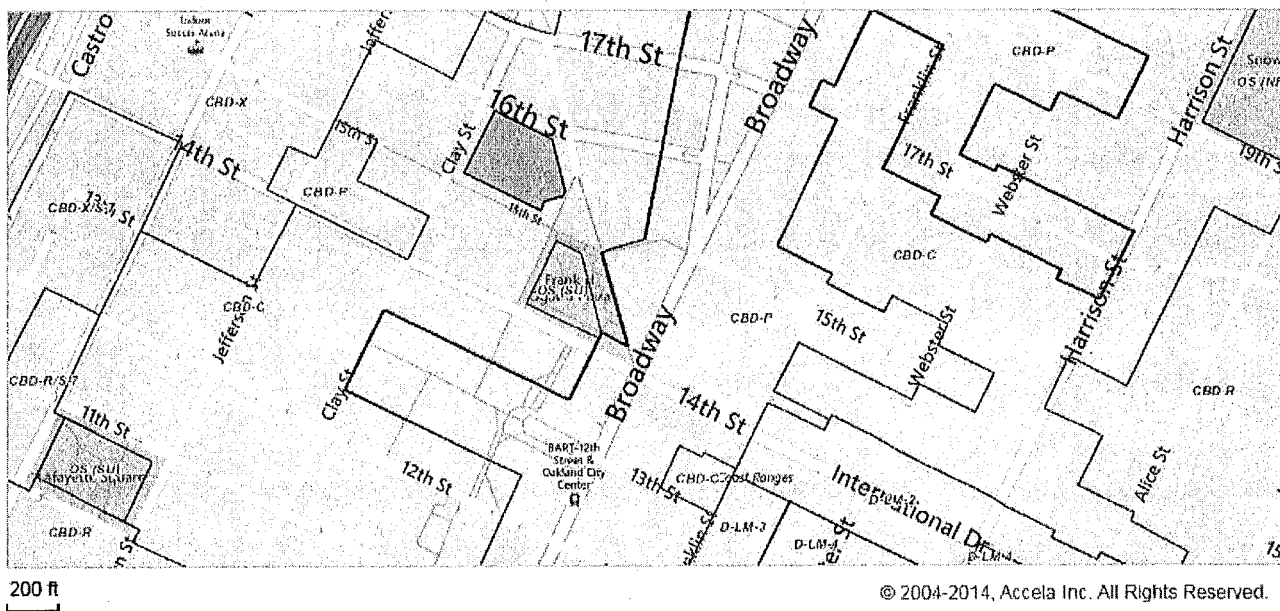
The map does provide more detail but it is not easily scalable. Landmarks are labeled however. Frank H. Ogawa Plaza is both visually represented in green and is labeled which helps the reader; although in reality it would be printed in black and white. The limitations likely comes from a limitation in the software as the map isn't really intended to be printed but viewed on computer screens.
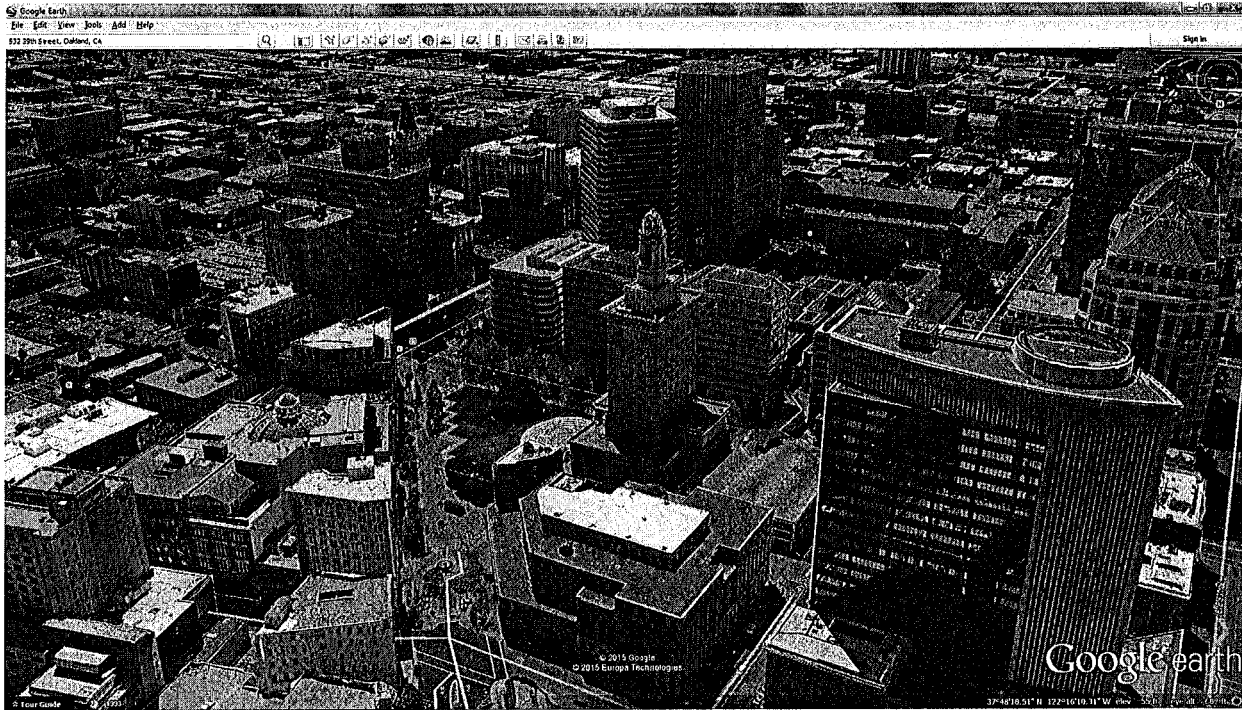
Aerial

200 ft

Aerials as well can be helpful from time to time. This is again from our Accela software with most of the GIS layers turned off.

The above is an example of an aerial from a commercial source (in this case, Google Earth).
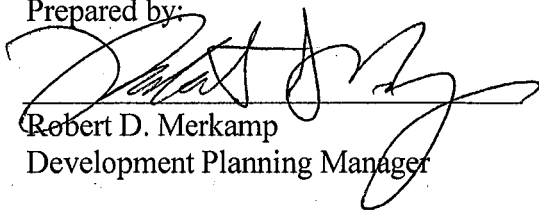

This is more versatile than the city viewer for outright images although as a commercial product the City has no control over the source of the data or it's accuracy. This might lead to concerns about placing it in reports as the attorneys would like not want the City or the Commission to rely on this data. It may be useful occasionally to provide greater insight into an area (such as the downtonw area above) but this can probably be overdone.
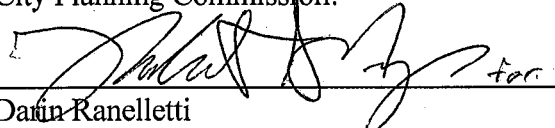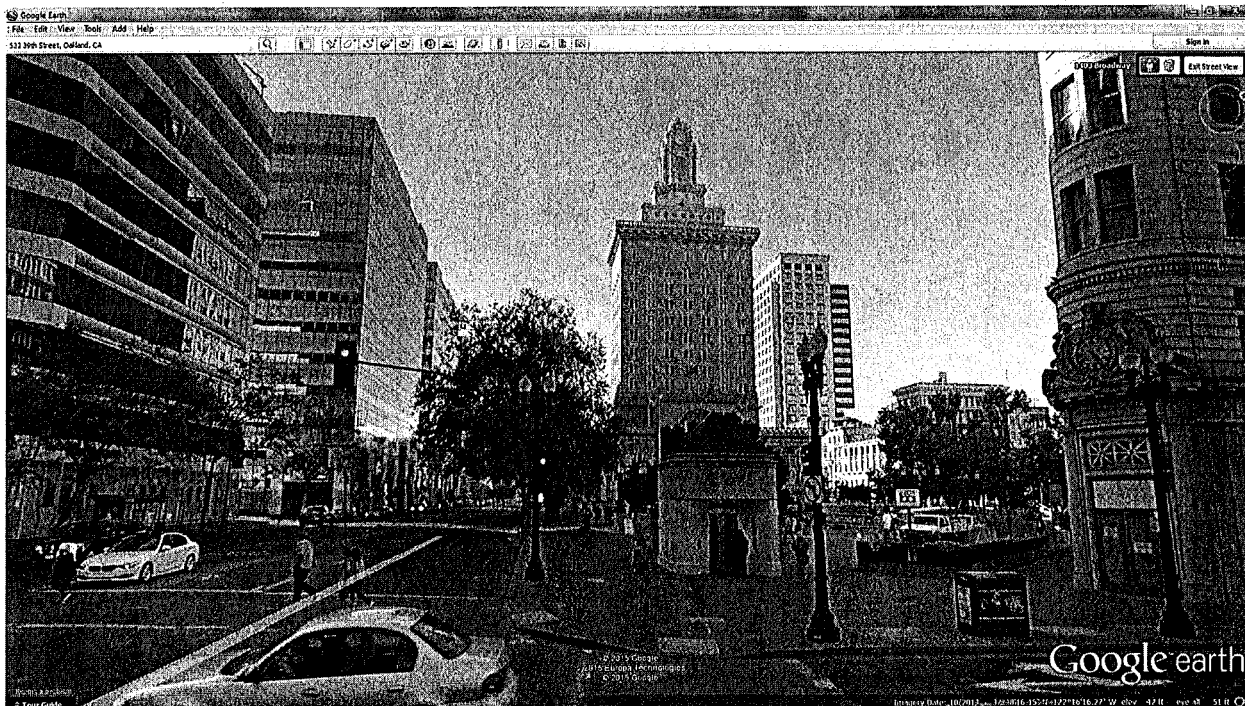
Photographs may also be useful from time to time, particularly to identify critical yet small site or building features. For this we likely wouldn't rely on commercial sources (the photos on Google taken in Oakland range from at least 2007-14 of varying quality and clarity) but would be taken by staff and/or the applicant. Again, this is likely overkill on many projects but may help on a case by case basis. The staff would like to solicit input from the Committee on this.

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