



**QC REPORT ON LIDAR DATA**  
**PRODUCED BY SHARPER SHAPE, INC., FOR**  
**PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY**

**PROJECT AREA:** WAVE 3

**DATE OF LAS DELIVERY REPORT:** July, 2020

**Introduction**

Sharper Shape, Inc., (Sharper Shape) is under contract to Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) to produce an array of remotely sensed data and products, including Light Detection and Ranging (lidar) data, for approximately 800 electric power distribution corridors in wildfire threat areas in California designated Tier 2 and Tier 3. GeoWing Mapping, Inc., (GeoWing) is a subcontractor for Sharper Shape to conduct quality control (QC) for Sharper Shape deliverables. For this project, QC will consist of independent accuracy assessments of the absolute accuracy of the lidar data (LAS v.1.4) to ensure compliance with PG&E standards and with Positional Accuracy Standards for Digital Geospatial Data as published by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) in 2014.

**Project Data Organization**

Sharper Shape lidar acquisition and processing domains were designed as areas (polygons) enclosing electric power distribution corridors, termed "circuit areas." PG&E's service area spans Northern and Central California and lidar data acquisition and processing were conducted in Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Zone 10 North (WGS84). Processing was also conducted in California State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS) Zones 1 through 5 (NAD83-Epoch 2011). PG&E conducted field operations to develop control survey points necessary for the lidar processing. PG&E also provided coordinates of surveyed points to GeoWing for the QC processing. For delivery, Sharper Shape used California SPCS zones as the organizing structure. For instance, all circuit area polygons and associated lidar data sets and ground control/checkpoints that fell within SPCS Zone 3, were assembled into a delivery package entitled Wide Area Verification Extension (WAVE) area #3, or WAVE3. There are 5 WAVE delivery packages. For this QC report, see Figure 1. (line drawing of California SPCS zone 3 and Zone 3 circuit areas.)

Sharper Shape used PG&E-provided ground survey points to control and process the lidar data and to conduct an internal review of absolute and relative vertical accuracy using ground survey points that were not used in the processing of the lidar data. Sharper Shape's Zone 3 WAVE data processing and results are documented in a report submitted to PG&E entitled "WAVE Zone 3" and serves as a reference to this QC report.



## **Absolute Vertical Accuracy**

Vertical accuracy reporting is designed to meet guidelines established by ASPRS. The statistical model compares the elevations (Z-values) of known ground check points to the Z-values of lidar points at the same X and Y coordinate-values to determine absolute vertical accuracy. For this assessment of vertical accuracy, the statistical analysis uses check points that were established in open areas within which the lidar system had high probability that the sensor will measure the ground surface and could be evaluated at the 95% confidence level.

ASPRS specifies a minimum of 20 test points to adequately assess vertical accuracy. GeoWing has chosen to test 30 check points in non-vegetated areas (NVA). As part of the independent accuracy assessment, a comparison of survey control vertical values versus their corresponding lidar surfaces was conducted (in US Survey Feet) using the respective measurement tools of two different approaches. Table 1 presents side-by-side comparisons of Sharper Shape and GeoWing QC results (see highlighted columns). Column headers "DZm-s" and DZm-g represent the difference in meters between the lidar surface and the surveyed point at the same X-Y location for Sharper Shape ("s") and for the average of GeoWing's 2 independent processes ("g"). Sharper Shape values (DZm-s) were excerpted from a tabulation of check points provided by Sharper Shape. "DZf1" and "DZf2" present the results of GeoWing's measurements of the difference (in feet) between the lidar surface and the surveyed point at the corresponding X-Y location for process #1 and for process #2. GeoWing's test results were converted from US Survey feet to meters to facilitate direct comparison with Sharper Shape's results in meters within the framework of ASPRS parameters.

GeoWing's random sampling of 30 check points produced an RMSEz of 8.92-cm (compared to Sharper Shape's RMSEz of 8.77-cm for the same 30 checkpoints). In Sharper Shape's processing of WAVE 3, 676 check points were tested against the lidar surfaces at the locations of those test points. A similar computation on the entire suite of 676 check points yields an RMSEz of 9.42-cm for WAVE 3. See Table 2 for the relevant summary of ASPRS' Positional Accuracy Standards for Digital Geospatial Data as it pertains to this project.

GeoWing's independent measurement and reporting of error, i.e, RMSE values, were determined to validate Sharper Shape's measurement and reporting of error on the WAVE-3 dataset. Differences between the measured error were not statistically significant and both sets of measurement were found to be within the target accuracy.

Sharper Shape Results		GeoWing Mapping Results				
		Average		Set 1		Set 2
Checkpoint ID	DZm-s	DZm-g	DZf1	DZm1	DZf2	DZm2
Alm_GCP6006	-0.104	-0.096	-0.311	-0.09479	-0.318	-0.09693
Ccc_GCP128	0.033	0.037	0.116	0.035357	0.124	0.037795
Ccc_GCP136	-0.002	0.011	0.0353	0.010759	0.034	0.010363
Ccc_GCP300	-0.088	-0.092	-0.292	-0.089	-0.312	-0.0951
Clv_GCP5005	-0.172	-0.177	-0.581	-0.17709	-0.583	-0.1777
Clv_GCP5029	-0.044	-0.042	-0.142	-0.04328	-0.135	-0.04115
Mar_GCP2010	0.014	0.037	0.121	0.036881	0.119	0.036271
Mar_GCP2021	-0.052	-0.048	-0.17	-0.05182	-0.148	-0.04511
Mdr_GCP2001	-0.150	-0.151	-0.507	-0.15453	-0.481	-0.14661
Mdr_GCP2008	-0.019	-0.064	-0.2344	-0.07145	-0.1844	-0.05621
Scl_GCP452	0.021	0.017	0.056	0.017069	0.056	0.017069
Scl_GCP455	-0.027	0.031	0.09	0.027432	0.111	0.033833
Scl_GCP462	-0.145	-0.137	-0.446	-0.13594	-0.452	-0.13777
Scz_GCP417	-0.144	-0.158	-0.498	-0.15179	-0.541	-0.1649
Scz_GCP439	-0.119	-0.095	-0.32	-0.09754	-0.306	-0.09327
Smt_GCP492	-0.023	0.008	0.026	0.007925	0.028	0.008534
Smt_GCP507	0.113	0.143	0.471	0.143561	0.467	0.142342
Tlm_GCP5000	0.024	0.038	0.123	0.03749	0.125	0.0381
Tlm_GCP5027	0.034	0.042	0.148	0.04511	0.129	0.039319
Tlm_GCP5019	0.004	-0.024	-0.083	-0.0253	-0.075	-0.02286
Yof_4030GCP	-0.089	-0.091	-0.303	-0.09235	-0.296	-0.09022
Yof_4501_CK	-0.135	-0.141	-0.477	-0.14539	-0.449	-0.13686
Yof_4524GCP	-0.008	-0.059	-0.186	-0.05669	-0.203	-0.06187
Yof_4604CK	-0.019	-0.006	-0.02	-0.0061	-0.021	-0.0064
Yof_CK1050	-0.057	-0.094	-0.31	-0.09449	-0.31	-0.09449
Yof_CK1053	-0.112	-0.059	-0.195	-0.05944	-0.189	-0.05761
Yof_CK6102	0.069	0.034	0.127	0.03871	0.095	0.028956
Clv_GCP5012	-0.042	-0.059	-0.1913	-0.05831	-0.196	-0.05974
Yof_GCP156	-0.108	-0.125	-0.394	-0.12009	-0.427	-0.13015
Yof_GCP6105	0.116	0.069	0.295	0.089916	0.157	0.047854
<b>Sharper Shape RMSEz = 0.088 meters, 8.77 cm</b>						
<b>GeoWing RMSEz = 0.089 meters, 8.92 cm (DZm-g computed mean of 2 GeoWing tests)</b>						

**Table 1. Sharper Shape and GeoWing Mapping Vertical Accuracy Testing**

Vertical Accuracy Class (cm)	Absolute Accuracy		
	RMSEz NVA (cm)	NVA at 95% Confidence Level (cm)	VVA at 95th Percentile (cm)
1	1	2	N/A this test
2.5	2.5	4.9	N/A this test
5	5	9.8	N/A this test
<u>10</u>	10	19.6	N/A this test
15	15	29.4	N/A this test

**Table 2. from ASPRS Positional Accuracy Standards for Digital Geospatial Data (2014)**

- RMSEz NVA = 8.77-cm – Meets ASPRS Vertical Accuracy Class (10cm)
- NVA at 95% Confidence = 17.2-cm - Meets ASPRS Vertical Accuracy Class (19.6-cm)
- Overall - ASPRS Vertical Accuracy Class Met = 10cm

**Absolute Horizontal Accuracy**

Current ASPRS standards define absolute horizontal accuracy of aerial lidar data as a function of flying altitude, GNSS positional error, and INS angular error. Utilizing those 3 values and the formula shown on Page A7 (ASPRS, 2014), Sharper Shape developed an approximate horizontal RMSEr for the project using acquisition system configuration parameters and published it in the “WAVE Zone 3” report. In addition, PG&E set selected control points and check points on visible features within the point cloud which were able to be distinguished when viewing intensity returns. These included painted stripes, stop bars, and other features visible in the intensity component of the lidar data.

GeoWing’s contract with Sharper Shape does not include an extensive assessment of absolute horizontal accuracy. However, due to the importance of horizontal (X-Y) location to the precise positioning of an elevation value (Z) to its corresponding location on a lidar surface, and to ensure the veracity of any vertical accuracy testing performed, GeoWing determined that a random spot check of Sharper Shape’s procedure and results of horizontal accuracy testing should be undertaken.

As presented in its “WAVE Zone 3” Report, Sharper Shape used intensity values of lidar data, much like GeoWing would use rectified aerial photography, to measure horizontal differences between surveyed paint stripe images, etc., and their surveyed X-Y coordinates. GeoWing reviewed one example of a horizontal test at check point Yof\_GCP247 in circuit area FROGTOWN\_1702 and lidar tile SS\_6522000\_2178000.laz. GeoWing’s testing methodology, also using the intensity image of the lidar data, obtained a difference measurement of less than 0.1-meter, which supports Sharper Shape’s published measurement of 0.05-meter for that point and intensity image. GeoWing concurs with the testing methodology and concurs with the published results of Sharper Shape’s horizontal accuracy testing.

**Certification**

I, Alan M. Mikuni, PE, being duly registered as a Professional Engineer in and by the State of California (Professional Land Surveyors Act Section 8731), hereby certify that commonly accepted standard practices and methodologies were employed by Sharper Shape for its accuracy assessment, and that the accuracy statistics shown in the Accuracy Section of the "WAVE Zone 3" Report have been checked by me using two independent processes, and were found to meet the "Positional Accuracy Standards for Digital Geospatial Data", as specified by ASPRS, 2014.

This data set was tested to meet ASPRS Positional Accuracy Standards for Digital Geospatial Data (2014) for a 10 (cm) RMSEz Vertical Accuracy Class. Actual NVA accuracy testing conducted by Sharper Shape resulted in RMSEz = 8.77-cm, or 17.2-cm at 95% confidence level.

GeoWing conducted NVA accuracy testing on the same 30 check points resulting in RMSEz = 8.92-cm, or 17.5-cm at 95% confidence level.

Respectfully, submitted,



Alan M. Mikuni, PE  
July 17, 2020

