

STEWART
ENGINEERING

ENGINEERS SURVEYORS PLANNERS
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January 15, 2013

Ted Torbutt, Director of Marketing
CAD Masters, Inc.
1111 Civic Dr., Suite 130
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Re: CAD Standards Manager

Dear Ted:

As a follow-up to our recent discussions, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the CAD Masters team for providing excellent software support for my AutoCAD Civil 3D software, and for providing the Standards Manager software program to enhance my experience of the Autodesk products. As the proprietor of a one-man business in the field of Civil Engineering and Land Surveying located in an isolated part of Northern Maine, I probably am not what you would think of as a typical user for Standards Manager; however, I can honestly say that this program has proven to be the single most valuable tool in my successful transition to AutoCAD Civil 3D as the centerpiece of my surveying, design and drafting software.

I have progressed over the years from manual drafting to a variety of CAD, COGO, and design software products, but in January 2006 I plunged into the Autodesk Civil 3D platform, and have struggled mightily to develop a workflow and drawing standard that would provide the finished product that was up to my own standards. Without any formal CAD Training, I found the prospect of developing a cohesive standard way of setting up drawing styles to be completely overwhelming. Early in the first year, I discovered CAD Masters Standards Manager through a recommendation from a friend at Brown and Caldwell. I purchased the program, along with a subscription to NCS, and received the pre-configured standard layers. This was the single most valuable step I took in converting my office to Autodesk.

The Standards Manager Layer Create function has proven invaluable in my day to day drafting, but some other important tools in my workflow include the symbols and title block libraries, the project folder template, and the text, dimension, and multileader styles interface. Since I began using Civil 3D in January, 2006, I have used a total of 8 different versions of the product. With this steady progression of versions, each with new templates and added features, the task of keeping all of the styles straight has proven to be a formidable challenge. Standards Manager has served as the one constant in this sea of change. In a small shop like mine, there isn't much time to be devoted to non-billable pursuits like template management, so the idea of a central database concept is very appealing. If you perfect the look of a certain label, it's nice to know that you can find it again, perhaps two years and two versions of Civil 3D later. Many of my projects span multiple disciplines, and involve phases that stop and start over the years. The fruits of my labors in discovering the best way to do things can be stored in one central repository, the Standards Database, and it becomes much easier to pick up an old project a few years later and bring it up to my current standards.

Civil 3D is an amazingly powerful program, and successfully implementing the software permits a small firm like mine to compete with much larger engineering firms in terms of project deliverables. CAD Masters Standards Manager software provides the organizational tools for a small design firm to successfully produce drawing packages on a par with companies that employ full time CAD managers - at a fraction of the cost.

Once again, I thank you for your past support, and I look forward to the continued use of your products in the future.

Sincerely,

STEWART ENGINEERING, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian D. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Brian D. Stewart, P.E., P.L.S.