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COVER PHOTO: A portion of the San Diego harbor is shown as depicted on the standard line map and on the new SPOT image map. The line map was revised in 1975 while the SPOT image map was recorded in 1986. Both are USGS products printed back-to-back at 1:24,000 scale, and titled "Point Loma (32117-F2-SI-024)." Note the differences in the waterfront facilities. SPOT Image data copyright © 1986 CNES.

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ASPRS has adopted the following definition: Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing are "the art, science and technology of obtaining reliable information about physical objects and the environment, through the process of recording, measuring and interpreting imagery and digital representations of energy patterns derived from noncontact sensor systems." Conventional photogrammetry includes the compilation of topographic maps and surveys, complete with contour lines, based on measurements and information obtained from aerial and space photographs with optical analog instruments and/or analytic instruments/computations. Similar topographic principles of precision measurement are applied in close-range photogrammetry, to map (measure) objects that are difficult to study in others ways, such as the shape of an astronomic radio reflector subject to environmental deformations, for synoptically recording measurable deformations in engineering models, for the medical study (in situ) of live specimens, etc.

Remote Sensing uses imagery acquired with a sensor other than (or in addition to) a conventional camera, such as by electronic scanning, or using electromagnetic radiations outside the normal visual range of the film and camera — microwave, radar, thermal infrared, and ultraviolet, as well as multispectral. Special techniques are applied to process and interpret remote-sensing imagery for the purpose of producing conventional maps, thematic maps, resource maps, digital data files for GIS, surveys, etc., in the fields of agriculture, archaeology, forestry, geography, environmental

sciences, geology, and others.

Geographic information systems are the computer hardware/software used to input, store/retrieve, manipulate/analyze, display, and plot/print spatially referenced digital data (e.g. digitized maps, remote sensor, tabular data, etc.). Thus a GIS is comprised of three essential subcomponents: computer hardware, computer software, and various types of digital data.

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