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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

CECIL AND IDA GREEN  
INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS AND PLANETARY PHYSICS  
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY  
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0225

Tel: (858) 534-7109  
email: dsandwell@ucsd.edu

Prof. Paul Wessel  
Dept. of Geology & Geophysics  
SOEST, Univ. of Hawaii  
1680 East-West Rd.  
Honolulu, HI 96822

August 10, 2015

Dear Paul,

I would be happy to chair a GMT Steering Committee tasked with overseeing the transition and broadening of the scientific programming support. The GMT suite of graphics and processing programs has become an essential tool for a wide array of earth scientists. The most important aspects of GMT are that it is community driven software with open source code that is fully integrated with other essential tools such as MB\_System, GMTSAR, and MATLAB. Moreover it is used for making figures for a large fraction of the earth science publications. The GMT team needs to continue to enlist competent and enthusiastic scientific programmers to provide a stable system for at least another decade. With guidance from the GMT developers we will assemble a small group of interested scientists from solid earth, ocean, climate and atmospheric scientists to meet annually and discuss a transition strategy and also provide some guidance on future plans, funding, and integration with other tools such as Python, GDAL, and Google Earth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Sandwell".

David T. Sandwell  
Professor of Geophysics