

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Barbara

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: NASA-Ames
date: September 25, 2001
scale: 1 :130,000
film type: CIR Transparency
coverage gaps: Vandenberg AFB area including most of Lompoc Valley

SATELLITE DATA:

source: SPOT Image Corp.
date: 2000
type: Black and White
coverage gaps: none

WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities: Santa Maria Community Development Department
county: Santa Barbara County Planning and Development
others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

➤ *websites:* <http://www.sbcountywines.com>

1998-2000 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ P, S, U → D

Santa Barbara County only has 17 conversions from irrigated farmland to urban land. The vast majority of these changes are boundary adjustments to the urban areas. There are three notable changes though. The Cherry Blossom Ranch homes (15 acres) and Montalagre Homes (110 acres) were built in the city of Santa Maria. East of Santa Maria along the river, 55 adjacent acres were added to the existing Santa Maria Landfill.

West of Santa Maria, 80 acres were added to an existing water treatment plant.

➤ L, G, X → D

The Local Farmland, Grazing and Other Land categories were urbanized in 39 locations. The major changes include the River Oaks Housing Division (55 acres) in Santa Maria and 20 acres of new homes in Santa Ynez. Industrial buildings added 45 acres in Santa Maria and 70 acres on the Surf quad. Clusters of military buildings on Vandenberg Air force Base contributed 145 and 65 acre changes. Minor adjustments to urban boundaries also contributed to the total number of changes.

➤ P, S, U → L, G

Prime, Statewide, and Unique Farmland was changed to Local or Grazing Land 32 times, primarily as fields went fallow for three update cycles. The changes are moderate to small, with a few exceptions. The New Cuyama quad has two major changes, one is 70 acres and the other is a sizeable 340 acres. The other significant changes include 80 acres on the Santa Maria quad, 60 acres on Santa Ynez, 35 acres on Tajiguas, and 40 acres on the Goleta quad.

➤ P, S, U → X

There are only 10 changes from Prime, Statewide and Unique to the Other land category. Although the total number of changes is small, five of the changes have considerable acreage. On the Guadalupe quad, 30 acres were identified as an unpaved regional composting facility. Near Santa Maria, the boundary of a landing strip along the river was improved (50 acres), and on the Sisquoc quad, a gravel pit was found (45 acres). The other two remaining changes involve fallow fields that do not fit the criteria for Grazing land or Farmland of Local Importance. Approximately 35 acres on the Santa Ynez quad and 125 acres of orchard on the Goleta quad have gone fallow.

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U

This update produced 156 changes from Local farmland, Grazing and Other land to Prime, Statewide, and Unique farmland. The large frequency and acreages involved clearly imply that this is the most significant type of change. The easiest way to describe the changes is by crop type, broken down simply into grape vines, row crops, and irrigated pasture. Grape vines are a very popular crop in Santa Barbara County, ranked second in dollar value according to the 2000 county crop report. The following list consists of names of the USGS quad where the change occurred and the approximate acreage of the new vines. Sisquoc (40 acres), Foxen Canyon (75, 110, & 185 acres), Los Alamos (40 acres), Zaca Creek (70, 85, 320, & 410 acres), Figueroa Mountain (125 acres), Solvang (185 acres), and Santa Ynez (80 acres). The row crops consist of fruit/vegetable/ornamental crops in the Santa Maria Valley and nearby coastal valleys, as well as crops in the Cuyama Valley. The row crop list is organized like the vines list. Guadalupe (75, 100, 115, & 125 acres), Santa Maria (50, 50, 310, & 490 acres), Twitchell Dam (55, 60, & 215 acres), Sisquoc (55 & 470 acres), Foxen Canyon (110 acres), Los Alamos (40, 120, & 440 acres), Zaca Creek (55 acres), Santa Rosa Hills (55 & 90 acres), San Marcos Pass (30 acre orchard), Santa Barbara (35 acre citrus orchard), New Cuyama (35, 170, 320, & 360 acres), Cuyama Peak (40, 120, & 300 acres). Some of these row crop changes could be

grape vines that cannot be easily identified on the aerial photo. Lastly, irrigated pasture also made significant contributions to the total acreage change because the horse breeding business is very prominent in the Santa Ynez Valley. There are 65 acres on the Foxen Canyon quad, 115 acres on Los Alamos, 60 acres on Zaca Creek, 40 & 45 acres on Santa Rosa Hills.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

There is a change from Urban land to Prime farmland on the Guadalupe quad where new irrigated row crops were planted (7 acres).

Boundary adjustments- There are a lot boundary adjustments because the photos and SPOT images covered the entire county. This created an opportunity to correct and adjust any boundaries that could not be checked in the past (particularly Santa Maria urban fringe and complex linework, low density housing of the Santa Ynez Valley).

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

Attention should be carefully directed towards the new grape vines being planted in eastern Santa Maria, Santa Rita, Santa Ynez, Los Alamos Valleys as well as Foxen Canyon and the Purisima Hills. Some of the orchards along the southern side of the Santa Ynez Mountains seem to be going out of production, and yet some of the orchards are making small additions to existing acreage.

OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS: *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

photo interpretation, start date: March 18, 2002

photo interpretation, number of days: 10

ground truthing dates: April 1-4, 2002

days for map compilation and clean up: 7

* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp