

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

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Clara

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: NASA-Ames
date: September 12, 1999
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR transparency
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: Mtn. View, Cupertino, Los Gatos
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

➤ *websites:*

A very helpful website for verifying development or discerning the boundaries of that development is the San Jose Planning Division website at: <http://www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/planning/sjplan/datazone.htm>. It details development plans for the next 5 years for the San Jose area.

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

In Santa Clara County there were 35 conversions of ag land to urban land this update. Most of these conversions took place in the Gilroy and Chittenden quads and involved either new golf facilities or new homes. On the Gilroy quad, a golf course was expanded, a new (golf) driving range was added, a new "Windmill Self Storage" lot was built, and lots of new homes were added. A CHP truck scale/inspection facility along the

highway was another notable conversion of ag land. On the Chittenden quad, almost 400 acres of evaporation-percolation ponds were added to the Gilroy/Morgan Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant operated by the South County Regional Wastewater Authority. These ponds were not new but had simply not been recognized in previous updates as they look very similar to agricultural fields. Thankfully, our new USGS basemaps have the area outlined as “sewage disposal ponds” which alerted me to their presence. Also on the Chittenden quad, the new Eagle Ridge Golf Course Community was a major addition as well as many new homes. There was also a flurry of new construction taking place in the southern part of Moffett Field in the Mountain View quad with construction of new Lockheed-Martin buildings and a new light rail line. The Milpitas quad also showed a fair amount of urbanization of ag land in the form of two massive office developments for Cisco Systems near Agnews State Hospital. Finally, the East San Jose quad showed a large conversion of farmland to new housing tracts as well as the Tom Matsomoto Elementary School in the Evergreen Hills area of San Jose and it looks as if much more development will occur in that area in the future.

➤ L, G, X → D

The urbanization of local, grazing, and other land was the biggest category of conversion in Santa Clara County this update with 40 changes taking place. The Gilroy quad had the most conversions of this type with 10 taking place. These changes involved the construction of many new homes and industrial buildings as well as the expansion of area golf courses. The South Valley Airport was added to the urban land category in the Gilroy area. The Milpitas quad also showed significant urbanization of local, grazing, and other land in the form of the new Jubilee Christian Center and new office complexes along Highway 237. The Cupertino quad showed development in the form of a sizeable retirement development called “The Forum” on the former site of St. Joseph’s Seminary and the “Oak Valley” development below Maryknoll Seminary. The San Jose East quad showed a large development of former grazing land in the Silver Creek area which included the Bel Aire Homes development and the Silver Creek tracts. In the Santa Teresa Hills quad, the Cinnabar Hills Golf Course was added near the Calero Reservoir while in the Morgan Hill quad the Coyote Creek Golf Club was expanded. To further add to the influx and expansion of golf courses in Santa Clara County, the CordeValle Golf Course was added in the Mt. Madonna quad with a vineyard community being developed presently.

➤ P, S, U → L, G

Only 6 changes of ag land to local or grazing land occurred in Santa Clara County during this update. Most of those took place in the San Jose East quad where several plots of fallow farmland were converted to grazing land in the foothill area. There was evidence that vines had formerly enjoyed more popularity in the area but had been abandoned and allowed to waste away or had been uprooted.

➤ P, S, U → X

16 changes were made from ag land to other land. Half of these changes took place in the Gilroy area. About half the changes were due to farmland being fallow for three or more updates, with the remainder of conversions being due to the presence of

low-density housing.

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U

Agriculture didn't get much of a boost in this update. There was only one conversion of farmland of local importance to prime farmland in this update due to some linework changes.

Note: The only farmland that was truly added in this update came from the urban land (not local, grazing, or other) category and included an orchard hidden next to a cemetery in the Palo Alto quad and the Bay Area Research and Extension Center grounds on the San Jose West quad.

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

D→X In the Mountain View quad, two new areas of "other land" were created in the Shoreline at Mountain View area in the form of the Mountain View Tidal Marsh and the Stevens Creek Tidal Marsh.

L→X I found an area in the Cupertino quad which had been designated as farmland of local importance which was actually part of the Fremont Older Open Space Preserve.

D→P In the San Jose West quad, the grounds of the Bay Area Research and Extension Center was added to the ag category due to all of the crops being cultivated on the site.

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

The Gilroy area is problematic due to the highly-mixed land use that occurs in the area. In the Gilroy quad, there is low-density housing, ag land, industrial land, and new tracts of homes all in fairly close proximity to each other. The east edge of the San Jose area (Evergreen Hills and Silver Creek areas) along with the Morgan Hill and Gilroy areas are the "hot spots" for growth in coming years.

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.*

Due to development, names of roads have changed in many of the quads. This makes the field checking process that much harder and time consuming! For example, Highway 85 is missing on the Santa Teresa Hills quad and Highway 101 is missing on the Morgan Hill quad. An updated road layer on the quads would be very helpful in increasing the efficiency of the field-checking process.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 10/2/00

photo interpretation, number of days: 7

ground truthing dates: 10/18-10/20

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