

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

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Sonoma

FIELD MAPPER(S): Jan Carey

PHOTOGRAPHY: 2 sources

- 1) **source :** NASA-Ames Research
 date: 7 Sept 2001
 scale: 1:130,000
 film type: CIR
 coverage gaps : western part of county is not covered.

- 2) **source :** SPOT satellite images
 date: 2000
 coverage gaps: NW corner (use 1993 SPOT)

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 Rosa, Rohnert Park.
 county: Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management.
 others: none.

- *personal contacts:* Jean Woods, DWR, Central District, 227-7638
 (she was very helpful with irrigation questions)

➤ *websites:*

www.sonomacounty.com/html
www.wines.com/sonoma.html
www.socool.com/socool/tnt_wine.html

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.*

Note: *This is the first digital update for Sonoma County. Using improved digital resources, more accurate boundaries were drawn.** Therefore many adjustments were made in all categories throughout the county. The changes listed below are only representative of the total number of actual adjustments. I listed changes notable for their size and quantity, as well as new additions to each category.*

****Scanned and registered USDA Soil Survey maps are available for part of this county.**

➤ **P, S, U → D: 25 changes**

 There are some conversions to this category that show notable growth. In the Windsor vicinity, there are sizeable additions to the large commercial area and Skyline Business Center near the Sonoma County Airport, along with expansion near The Windsor Club golf resort area, parking additions and a nearby large winery and ag processing facility (28-14, Healdsburg quad). There are a number of small changes in this category throughout the county, many are the result of more accurate data and imagery.

➤ L, G, X → D: 28 changes.

The most significant urban conversions occur in this category. Near Healdsburg there are new housing developments such as Parkland Brambles and Estates (~80 ac.)(27-14, Jimtown quad), as well as commercial additions. Facilities such as the Wikiup Golf course (~135 ac) and the Shiloh Regional Park as well as housing were added to the Mark West area (28-15, Mark West Springs quad). The Sears Point Raceway has expanded its developed area (31-17, Sears Point quad). The most significant urban growth occurs adjacent to Santa Rosa (29-15, Santa Rosa quad). Among the extensive housing additions are large housing projects near Fountain Grove Parkway and the Skyhawk development along with other housing developments throughout that area. Combined, the new urban conversions in this area alone are more than 400 acres. There was an increase of density in part of the Canon Manor subdivision (30-15, Cotati quad) and the Oakmont development (29-16, Kenwood quad). As with the first category above, there are changes throughout the county, some from boundary adjustment due to more accurate data.

➤ P, S, U → L, G: 8 changes.

These changes are for land left idle for three or more update cycles located throughout the county on 6 quads (28-15, 29-13, 29-16, 30-13, 30-14, 30-16).

➤ P, S, U → X: 5 changes.

These were small changes including ranchette additions, ag and storage structures, and boundary adjustments located on 4 quads throughout county (27-14, 28-13, 28-14, 30-15).

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U: 152 changes.

This is by far the most significant category of change for this update. Vineyards were added throughout the county. When vineyard additions are combined with modified boundary delineations around existing vineyards, the changes in this category accounted for thousands of acres of farmland added and/or upgraded.

Some examples of the large vineyard additions are:

- The hills east of the Alexander Valley (27-14, Jimtown and 26-13, Asti) with several large multiple vineyard complexes totaling over 1000 acres.
- 3 large multiple vineyard complexes with a total of ~650 acres in the hills north of the Sonoma area and a large upgrade south of Sonoma (30-17 Sonoma quad).
- 3 multiple vineyard groups on the Santa Rosa quad (29-15) totaling ~300 acres.
- There are also notable additions in Knights Valley (27-15, Mount St. Helena) and Dry Creek Valley (27-13, Geyserville quad).

By far, the majority of the vineyard additions and conversions were to Unique Farmland due their high value irrigated crop and the soils on which they are located (they are mainly located in hilly areas that typically have the lesser quality soils). The conversions from Farmland of Local Importance are mainly due additions of the irrigated vineyards to Prime and Statewide designated soils, primarily in the valleys and lowland areas throughout the county.

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

➤ W → D: redraw Warm Springs Dam.

➤ D → X: (2 changes) decrease of housing density (Sebastopol, 29-14 and Santa Rosa, 29-15).

➤ D → S, L: no D, boundary adjustment.

➤ G → X: (3 changes) small polygon after ag change (<40 ac.), ag related buildings.

➤ G, L → X: (3 changes) ranchettes, ag related building.

➤ G → L: new irrigated pasture.

➤ W → X: area on bay, not flooded since '95 (~100 ac.) (31-18, Cuttings Wharf quad).

➤ U → P: upgrade of category due to irrigated agriculture on prime soil (Tolay Valley on 31-26, Petaluma River quad).

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

Vines, vines, and more vines. This trend is expected to continue, judging by the land preparation I observed throughout the county. Expect more housing to go in adjacent to existing homes, mainly in the Santa Rosa area.

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.*
none

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

photo interpretation, start date: 1-30-02

photo interpretation, number of days: 24 days

ground truthing dates: 3-12-02 to 3-14-02

days for map compilation and clean up: 20 days

* **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