

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

2002 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Barbara

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: Air Photo USA
date: September 2002
scale: 2 foot resolution
film type: true color
coverage gaps: none
additional imagery: Landsat 2002 IR

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities: Lompoc
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

Joe Karl w/ Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's office
(Jkarl@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

Mark Bright w/ Santa Barbara County Planning, GIS (Mark@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

➤ *websites:*

Santa Barbara County: <http://www.countyofsb.org/index.asp>

California nursery index: <http://www.findnurseries.com/US/CA/nurseries/index.shtml>

California Cut Flower Commission: <http://www.cffc.org/growers/growers.html>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* Soil Survey-CA673 (south coastal part of county); SWIS waste facility file; 2003 Santa Barbara County Agricultural file-sba_ag

2000-2002 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.*

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

There were 10 conversions of irrigated farmland to urban land this update. The majority of these conversions took place around the periphery of cities and mostly involved the addition of small areas of residential housing. Notable examples included new apartments and a baseball diamond that were added to the western fringe of the City of Guadalupe. A small area of new homes (~15 acres) was also added to the northern urban fringe of the City of Santa Maria. Further, the “Homes at Ballard Canyon” (~10 acres) was a new development on the eastern fringe of Buellton. Finally, the “Maravilla” senior living community (~20 acres) was a prominent new addition in the Goleta area, alongside Highway 101.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

There were 23 conversions from local, grazing, or other land to urban land this update. These conversions were scattered throughout the county and included homes, apartments, industrial buildings, schools, and sports fields. One notable conversion was an area of new homes and a school (~40 acres) on the northern urban fringe of the City of Santa Maria. Next, the “Purissima Highlands” development was the source of approximately 35 acres of urbanization just to the north of the City of Lompoc. New homes were also in evidence in the form of the “Foxen Estates” development in Los Alamos (~10 acres). In Buellton, urbanization was seen on the western urban fringe where the new Oak Valley Elementary School and new homes in the “Sycamore Ranch” development (~15 acres) were added. Lastly, the “Willow Springs” apartments were a new addition in the Goleta area (~15 acres).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

There were 49 instances of the conversion of irrigated farmland to local or grazing land this update. These conversions were primarily due to fields that had been fallow for three or more updates cycles. In general these fields were not very large and were scattered pretty evenly throughout the county. One exception was a large field on the New Cuyama quad (~450 acres) that had been fallow for three updates and had a “for sale” sign posted. Other somewhat sizeable conversions occurred on the Cuyama (~80 acres) and Foxen Canyon quads (~230 acres). Finally, a few dry-farmed areas were identified on the Zaca Creek, Los Olivos, and Figueroa Mtn quads; along with a bit of irrigated pasture on poor soils on the Los Olivos quad (~140 acres).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 44 conversions of irrigated farmland to other land this update. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were due to a variety of factors. One major cause of conversion was due to small plots of irrigated farmland (<40 acres) having been fallow for three updates. Another cause of conversion was due to improved imagery that allowed for the identification of ranchettes and farmsteads throughout the county. Expansion of aggregate mining areas was another conversion factor.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

There were 87 instances of the conversion of local, grazing, or other land to irrigated farmland this update. These additions of irrigated agriculture and irrigated pasture were

generally small new plots less than 40 acres in size or expansions of existing fields and were scattered throughout the county. The quads exhibiting the most additions of irrigated agriculture were the Los Olivos (14), Santa Maria (9), Sisquoc (8), Twitchell Dam (7), and Los Alamos (6) quads. Crop types added this update run the gambit from row and field crops to vineyards, orchards, and irrigated pasture.

Irrigated wine grapes and peppers, along with irrigated pasture, were added on the Los Olivos quad. The Santa Maria quad showed mostly additions of row crops (fruit, vegetable, or ornamental crops). Meanwhile, the Sisquoc and Los Alamos quads showed a mixture of row and field crops, along with a few wine grapes. Finally, the Twitchell Dam quad exhibited mainly vineyard plantings.

Notable additions were seen in the Cuyama Valley nearby old Cuyama where a few additions of irrigated agriculture added up to approximately 1,000 acres, mostly carrots from Wm. Bolthouse farms. Sixty acres of new orchards were also added on the Tajiguas quad. Lastly, irrigated pasture was added on the Santa Ynez and White Ledge Peak quads.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2002.*

Nurseries in pots: A few nurseries on the Goleta quad were shifted from the P and S mapping category to the U category due to having been identified during the field check as growing their stock in pots, not in-ground.

Dry Farmed areas: South of the City of Lompoc there are some dry farmed areas that have been confirmed by the Ag Commissioner's office—don't let the photos fool you!

Boundary adjustments: There were a lot of boundary adjustments made due to improved imagery. The improved resolution of the AirPhotoUSA imagery (2 foot resolution) and its orthorectification for hilly terrain contributed to the need to clean up linework.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?*

Nurseries in the Carpinteria area may warrant some careful field checking to determine if they are in-ground, in-pot, or hydroponic operations.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 10/6/03

photo interpretation, number of days: 12

ground truthing dates: 11/3/03-11/7/03

days for map compilation and clean up: 12

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp