

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

**2002 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Sutter

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Rain Ananael

**IMAGERY:**

source: NASA-Ames Research  
date: September 7, 2001  
scale: 1:130,000  
film type: CIR  
coverage gap : none  
additional imagery: SPOT 2000 satellite images, Landsat 7 ETS

**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:* none

cities:

county:

other:

➤ *personal contacts:* Local Farmers

➤ *websites:* <http://www.co.sutter.ca.us>  
<http://www.sacbee.com>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* 1999 Department of Water Resources land use survey/ DFG refuge data layer/ FWS refuge data layer, DRG's

**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:** 17 changes:

Most of the changes in this category reflect the expansion of existing urban areas around the periphery. Two notable changes are the addition of an Applebee's and Home Depot development project and the other a mini storage on the Sutter Quadrangle (39121B6). There were several developments that went in but were relatively small. There were no changes from irrigated pasture to urban land and all 17 changes reflected irrigated agriculture to urban.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 6 changes:

Three of those changes reflect the change from grazing land to urban. One of these changes is a significant development project built by California Homes on the Olivehurst Quadrangle (39121A5) in the central eastern part of the county. The other two changes from grazing to urban reflect the more typical spread of urban on the periphery of existing urban areas where there are still relict parcels of grazing land. The other change reflects continued development along a riparian area, where other land, (dense ranchettes) on the Yuba City Quadrangle (39121B5), have become dense enough to move into the urban classification.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 7 changes:

These changes reflect long fallow farmland (three or more update cycles) that has been incorporated into adjacent grazing areas.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 122 changes:

This change accounted for most of the modifications made in the county. These changes ranged from larger development projects bordering urban areas to smaller subdivisions in rural and agricultural areas to small farmsteads and ranchettes in rural areas. These changes occurred in virtually every part of the county with the majority occurring on the Gridley, Sutter and Gilisizer Slough quadrangles on the northeastern edge of the county. These changes were typically small (10-25 acres) and predominantly a result of small pockets of new housing or increased density of housing on farmsteads or small subdivisions. Other changes in this category reflect agricultural processing facilities or confined livestock operations as well as following farmland tracked for three or more updates. Ten of these changes affected irrigated pasture as opposed to irrigated cropland. *As a result of improved imagery and analysis many changes in this category reflect improvements in boundary drawing and detection of existing structures, rather than land use conversion between 2000 and 2002.* These changes resulted in well over a thousand acres of land-use conversion.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 11 changes:

These changes reflect new agriculture in Sutter County and 5 of the 6 are changes from grazing land to irrigated agriculture while the other is a result of a boundary adjustment. The new agriculture includes rice and vineyards.

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

➤ **Grazing to Other Land:** 25 changes:

There were many changes of this kind due to low-density development. There were also smaller ranchettes and farmsteads, which were put into the other land category because they reflect a rural residential land use. *As a result of improved imagery and analysis many changes in this category reflect improvements in boundary drawing and detection of existing structures, rather than land use conversion between 2000 and 2002.*

➤ **Urban to Other Land:** 6 changes:

These changes represent very little acreage and are the result of improvements in imagery and analysis, which has led to refined boundary delineation.

➤ **Urban to Irrigated Agriculture:** 1 change:

There were a number of relatively small changes to correct for lands prematurely put into an urban land use.

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

- Irrigated pasture needs careful attention because they are challenging to detect.
- After speaking with farmers in the area while ground-truthing, many areas that appeared to be dry grain are invariably irrigated before planting dry grains or represent dry grains rotated with irrigated crops.
- Areas surrounding existing urban land will likely show significant growth. Many Other Land polygons may also be ready to go into an urban land use next update. (Many of these areas were borderline during this update)
- Keep an eye on the Sutter/ Placer County line where farmers are putting in recreational ponds for fishing. Pleasant Grove and Lincoln have established two huge recreational fishing areas on agricultural land.

**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:* June 1, 2003

*photo interpretation, number of days:* 28

*ground truthing dates:* 07/19/03-07/20/03, 08/04/03

*# days for map compilation and clean up:* 8

\* **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](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)