

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

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Contra Costa

FIELD MAPPER(S): Rain Ananael

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research
date: 9-07-03
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR
coverage gaps: None
additional imagery: None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2002 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2004 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities:
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

➤ *websites:* <http://www.newhomesmag.com/builders/index.asp>
<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/>
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/RMDZ/ContraCosta/>
<http://www.ci.antioch.ca.us/CityGov/CommDev/CIPupdate.htm>
<http://www.brentwoodpress.com/html/leadstories/commercial.html>
http://www.ci.brentwood.ca.us/citycouncil/pastagenda/packet_2002/ccap20021008/ccap20021008_24.cfm
<http://www.deltawetlands.com>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* Federal and State Refuges, Water Resources Land Use Data, SSURGO soil data

2002-2004 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 15 changes in this category. The majority of these changes occurred in Brentwood and Antioch around the existing urban areas. Brentwood growth included the addition of several, large shopping centers near Lone Tree Well Rd between Empire Boulevard and Walnut Boulevard. Most of the growth occurred west of Sellers Avenue. Businesses added include Home Depot, Kohls, Linens 'n Things, Target, Michaels, Wendy's, Petsmart, Wells Fargo, Mervin's, Coldwell Banker, Subway, Pier 1 Imports, Dress Barn, Payless and Lane Bryant, to name a few. In addition, new homes and apartments were built including Amber Park by Mission Peak Homes. Near San Jose Road, a shopping center was developed with a Ross and a Raleys, as well as the addition of the Montelena Homes along Fairfield Avenue. The Garin Landing Retail Space was built with 53,000 square feet of retail space. New businesses include a Starbucks, Krage Auto Parts, Quiznos, Tae Kwon Do, Spa Prima, and many more.

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

There were 55 changes in this category. The majority of these changes were conversions from grazing land to urban land as small additions around the periphery of the existing urban centers of Brentwood, Antioch, Richmond, and Walnut Creek, San Ramon, Woodward Island and the Diablo area. The largest change in this category was the conversion of approximately 1,750 acres of grazing land in the development of the Gale Ranch project and surrounding developments. Other notable development projects in this area are the Wendt Ranch project that added 150 acres of urban during this update cycle. The Los Trampas area gained several hundred acres of housing around the periphery of existing urban. Antioch gained several hundred acres of new housing in the developments.

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

There were 11 changes in this category. The majority of these changes resulted from land fallowed for three or more update cycles. Two 100-acre changes occurred in the Brentwood area. A 150-acre conversion occurred on Woodward Island where irrigated agriculture has gone out of production.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 10 changes in this category. The majority of these changes represent the addition of ranchettes and low density housing around Brentwood and Antioch.

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

There were 4 changes in this category. One of the most prominent changes occurred with the addition of a 50-acre nursery in the Danville area in the San Ramon Valley, off Highway 680 and north of the San Ramon Golf Course. Another prominent change occurred in the Woodward Island area where a 200-acre area, part of the Veale Tract management area, was moved into agriculture because the area is being used for irrigated farmland. A small vineyard in the Vine Hill area was added.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2004.*

Delineation of rural residential areas in the eastern half of the county using detailed imagery will result in shifts from Farmland of Local Importance and Grazing to Other Land. Changes may total more than 2,000 acres. Most of these rural residential areas were already in place, but delineation was not possible using older imagery types.

There were 4 changes that occurred between irrigated pasture and irrigated agriculture. These changes ultimately represent a shift between agricultural uses rather than a land conversion. There were 4 changes from non-irrigated grain to grazing or other land in the Brentwood area, where the land had been fallowed for four cycles.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2006? Why?*

The majority of the land conversion in this county is moving toward urbanization and rural residential. These areas need careful mapping, as there are many upcoming projects and sites that are currently under construction. The areas surrounding Danville, San Ramon, Brentwood, Richmond and Antioch are growing rapidly. The islands in the eastern portion of the county need to be watched for agricultural land use changes and wetland conversion.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 10/18/2004

photo interpretation, number of days: 10

ground truthing dates: 12/21/2004- 12/24/2004

days for map compilation and clean up: 5

* **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