

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

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Madera

FIELD MAPPER(S): Jan Carey

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research
date: August 8 and 11, 2003
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR
coverage gap : none
additional imagery: USGS Landsat 7 ETM+

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:* none

cities:

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:* None

➤ *websites:* <http://www.madera-county.com/>

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:** 7 changes.

Changes in this category are relatively minor. The only changes of note are located on the boundaries of the City of Madera. These are small housing additions, ten acres for a new school, and a driving range (Madera 36120h1, Gregg 36119 h8, and Lanes Bridge 36119h7 quads).

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 27 changes.

The largest proportion of Urban Land additions is included in this category. The changes are primarily boundary changes due to density increases within existing development as well as small additions to the perimeters of existing development. New urban land of note includes the large Chuckansi Casino with parking (~60 acres) and 40 acres of new homes at "The Lakes at Pheasant Run" development (O'neal 37119b6 and Berenda 37120a2 quads).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 19 changes.

Changes in this category represent farmland that has been taken out of production due to remaining idle for three or more updates cycles. These changes are in the foothills and the central to southern parts of the county, usually adjacent to developed areas. For example, over 100 acres was removed west of Chowchilla (Berenda quad).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 58 changes.

Conversions to Other Land primarily due to land left idle for three update cycles and then included in the “Vacant” or “Natural Vegetation” designations, as well as new confined livestock operations. In addition, digital orthoquads were used to distinguish low-density housing and rural commercial areas in the northern forested areas parts of the county as well as adjacent to City of Madera. Changes of note include 400 acres of idle farmland south of Chowchilla and 100 acres of additional confined livestock (Berenda and Bonita Ranch 36120h2 quads).

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 40 changes.

New irrigated farmland was added primarily in the central and southern portion of the county. Included are ~735 acres of orchards and vineyards north of the City of Madera (Kismet 37120a1 quad). Approximately 1200 acres of irrigated farmland was added to the southwestern part of the county (Poso Farm 36120h4, NE Firebaugh 36120h3 quads). An additional ~265 acres was added to the southern county (Fresno North 36119g7 quad).

➤ **Non-irrigated and/or Grazing to Other Land:** 37 changes

These changes are predominantly additions of rural residential and rural commercial land. The northern part of the mapped area of the county has these changes in the Bass Lake and Ahwahnee areas (Fish Camp 37119d6, Ahwahnee 37119c6, and Bass Lake 37119c5 quads).

➤ **Unusual:** 32 changes.

Unusual changes for this update cycle included areas where, due to newer digital imagery, urban and rural residential and rural commercial densities were further delineated. Therefore, some acreage has been moved out the Urban and Built-up category in the northern forested area of the county as well as adjacent to City of Madera.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 8-19-04

photo interpretation, number of days: 20 days

ground truthing dates: 10-4-04 through 10-7-04

days for map compilation and clean up: 14 days

* **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