

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

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Napa

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center

date: August 11, 2003

scale: 1:130,000

film type: CIR Transparencies

coverage gaps: 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: Napa County Farm Bureau

➤ *personal contacts:* Sandy Elles w/ Napa County Farm Bureau

➤ *websites:*

Napa Sanitation District: <http://www.napasanitiationdistrict.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:** 11 changes

Changes in this category were very small, with all but two totaling 10 acres or less. Many of these changes were simply due to the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

The most notable conversion of irrigated farmland to urban land this update occurred in the extreme northern portion of the City of Napa, along Highway 29, where the "Capriana" home development accounted for the conversion of approximately 20 acres of irrigated farmland. Another conversion this update consisted of some buildings associated with a winery nearby the Silverado Country Club (~10 acres).

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 23 changes

Again, many of the conversions taking place in this category were small (a few acres), due to the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries or simply due to the addition of one or two new buildings.

Some of the more notable conversions included:

American Canyon/Napa Junction

This area of Napa County experienced the greatest increase in urbanization. New homes (~75 acres) were evident along Eucalyptus Road surrounding Gadwell Park. Nearby, off American Canyon Road, another approximately 40 acres of new homes were added. New industrial facilities were seen off Green Island Road where buildings for Kolkka and Central Valley Distribution were added (~20 acres) along with another new warehouse, nearby (~10 acres). Also notable was an approximately 50-acre expansion of the Chardonnay Golf Club along Jameson Canyon Road.

Napa

Not a lot of urbanization was seen in the City of Napa. New homes (~10 acres) were added off Big Ranch Road. Further urbanization was seen to the south where an addition of new softball fields and parking was made at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Park (~20 acres).

Other

In the Carneros winegrowing region, the new "Carneros Inn" (~10 acres) was a notable addition to the area.

Finally, due to increased density of homes in the area, the Lake Berryessa Estates (~150 acres) along Putah Creek was added.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 23 changes

All of the 23 conversions of irrigated farmland to Local or Grazing Land were due to the land having been fallow for three update cycles. About half of these conversions were 10 acres or less.

Larger conversions out of irrigated farmland include a 77-acre conversion that occurred on the Aetna Springs quad in Big Basin. Northwest of Calistoga, three small plots of irrigated farmland totaling approximately 30 acres were taken out of the irrigated farmland category. Meanwhile, in the Angwin area, a 30-acre field of irrigated farmland was removed adjacent to the Angwin Airport. In the Redwood Canyon area, a couple more fallow fields were the cause of further conversion (~40 acres). Nearby Vichy Springs, two conversions accounted for another 35 acres coming out of irrigated farmland. Finally, two plots in the Carneros wine-growing region and one plot nearby the Soscol Water Recycling Facility totaled approximately 75 acres of conversion out of irrigated farmland.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 48 changes

These conversions were generally small and occurred throughout the county. Many of these conversions were due to the identification of residences and agricultural storage buildings associated with farmsteads. This was primarily due to the use of more detailed imagery than had been previously available. Similarly, the identification of small areas of ranchettes throughout the county accounted for some of the change that took place. The

identification of a small waterbody and some adjacent ranchettes off Big Ranch Road in the City of Napa caused approximately 30 acres of change. Also, there were two, small additions of ranchettes (~20 acres) off Hagen Road.

Small drainwater evaporation or treatment ponds associated with agriculture but too small (<10 acres) to be mapped by themselves were also “merged” with adjacent Other Land rather than leaving them mapped as Irrigated Farmland. The delineation of more distinct agricultural boundaries, especially at the agricultural periphery, also accounted for some of the conversion from Irrigated Farmland to Other Land. Finally, there were a few instances of small plots of farmland (<40 acres) that had been fallow for three updates cycles that were converted to Other Land.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 139 changes

This was the biggest category of change this update. The vast majority of these changes were small additions of new vineyard plantings to existing vineyards.

Notable additions in the Pope Valley included the addition of new vineyards at the Juliana Vineyard (~90 acres) with another approximately 30-acre addition of new vineyards nearby and a further addition of new vineyards nearby the town of Pope Valley (~90 acres).

In the Napa Valley, an addition of new vineyards (~80 acres) was made near the Napa State Hospital and more new vineyards (~30-acres) were added along the Silverado Trail near Yountville.

A further notable conversion was an addition of new irrigated farmland (~45 acres), likely vineyards, added in the hills to the northwest of Calistoga.

The remaining conversions to irrigated farmland were primarily less than 20 acres and were scattered throughout the wine-growing areas of the county.

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

There were multiple conversions (17) this update of nonirrigated vineyards to irrigated vineyards due to the verification of irrigation status during the field check of Napa County. In many cases, drip irrigation was seen. New vineyard plantings to replace older vineyards were the cause of this change in irrigation status, in many cases. This category change will likely result in Unique Farmland (the Important Farmland category assigned to all nonirrigated, high-value crops) being converted to Prime Farmland since most of the underlying soils in Napa Valley are of high quality.

Another unusual change that occurred this update involved the identification of ponds on the Cuttings Wharf quad as being oxidation ponds for the Soscol Water Recycling Facility, part of the Napa Sanitation District. This identification was gleaned with the help of the Napa Sanitation District website. These ponds had formerly been classified as Other Land due to the idea that they were former salt evaporator ponds, similar to ponds nearby. This may well have been the case in the past and the Napa Sanitation District has enlisted the ponds to serve a different purpose or they may have constructed their ponds on the site of the former salt evaporator ponds. This reevaluation of the ponds' use caused a shift of approximately 360 acres of Other Land to Urban Land since waste treatment ponds are considered an urban land use.

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

Any areas mapped as nonirrigated vines (nT) on the land use file should be field checked each update to verify that their irrigation status has not changed due to the planting of new vineyards.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 12/2/04

photo interpretation, number of days: 7

ground truthing dates: 12/21/04-12/23/04

days for map compilation and clean up: 4

* **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