

California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

**2004 FIELD REPORT**

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGERY:**

source: NASA-Ames Research Center

date: August 8-11, 2003

scale: 1:130,000

film type: CIR Transparencies

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery: National Agriculture Imagery Program

date: 2004

resolution: 2 meter

color type: true color

**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:* Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission

➤ *personal contacts:*

➤ *websites:* City of Watsonville - <http://www.ci.watsonville.ca.us/>

Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner - <http://www.agdept.com/>

Santa Cruz Sentinel -

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2004/November/10/local/stories/03local.htm>

Pajaro Valley Unified School District –

[http://www.pvUSD.net/Departments/Business\\_Services/Construction/New\\_High\\_School/new\\_high\\_school.html](http://www.pvUSD.net/Departments/Business_Services/Construction/New_High_School/new_high_school.html)

Central California Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists -

<http://ccc.adventist.org/campmtg/>

➤ GIS data referenced:

<http://gis.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/internet/planninginformation/viewer.htm>

**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 are four instances where irrigated farmland changed to urban land. The largest is approximately 65 acres in Watsonville where the Vista Montara Apartments and Martin John Franich School were built. Also in the Watsonville area, 50 acres of irrigated farmland was field checked and new homes were found. The new Pajaro Valley High School was under construction during the field check and only 20 acres of the existing buildings were changed to urban land. The fourth change occurred in Aptos where the Polo Grounds County Park was identified with soccer fields, baseball diamonds, a parking lot and dog run. This changed approximately 25 acres.

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

There were nine instances of non-irrigated categories changing to urban land. In Santa Cruz, along Graham Hill Road, Woodcove homes affected 10 acres. Only some of the homes were built and more were under way. Up in Scotts Valley, the Glenwood Estates changed 15 acres to urban land. The Loma Prieta Middle School was 20 acres on the Summit Highway near Highway 17. In Soquel, the Seventh day Adventist Central California Conference Center was identified with a field check. The center changed 45 acres to urban land. Some of this acreage consisted of maintained lawn areas with RV hook-ups of water and electric. After I saw the picture on the website listed above of the center during a conference, I decided urban land was the appropriate category. In the Watsonville area, new homes were built on Errington Road in the southwest area of the city. These homes changed 15 acres. Just north of those homes, commercial buildings with parking lots combined with the interchange of Highway 152 and 1 created a conversion to urban land of 25 acres. Just north of Watsonville, the Pinto Lake Park was changed to urban because of paved access roads, parking lots, picnic tables and maintained lawn areas. The park modifications were approximately 18 acres.

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

There are 10 changes of Irrigated farmland to Grazing Land because the fields were fallow for three update cycles. Five instances occurred in the Watsonville area with the largest changing 60 acres, another changing 30 acres with the remaining three changing 15 acres each. In the Santa Cruz area, there were two small changes and an irrigated pasture that was 20 acres that had gone fallow. The Davenport area has two changes, 80 and 15 acres each.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

This type of change is more common than Irrigated farmland going to Grazing land because of both the land uses surrounding the farmland and the small acreages typically involved. These changes were the result of land being fallow for three update cycles and in some instances becoming woody/marshy/riparian. Around Watsonville, three fields went idle and appeared to now be naturalizing areas covering 45, 40 and 25 acres. Another nine changes occurred around Watsonville ranging in size from 7 to 25 acres. Near Davenport, three areas consisting of 30, 25, and 15 acres had become idle. The remaining changes were small and located in the mountains above Santa Cruz and Soquel.

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

There were 24 changes of this type. Surprisingly, most of these changes were less than ten acres each. This is due to the fact that these changes consist of additions to existing irrigated farmland. Some vines were found, typically in the mountains, and of course row crops like lettuce or strawberries were found near the coast and Watsonville area.

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

None

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

Large amounts of land appear to be going idle in the Davenport area. Although some irrigated land was changed to Grazing or Other land this update (fallow three updates), much more was flagged as fallow for two update cycles and will be reclassified during the 2006 update if the situation remains the same. The acreages could be significant. This area is probably associated with the Coast Dairies conservation project.

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

*photo interpretation, start date:* April 28, 2005

*photo interpretation, number of days:* 21

*ground truthing dates:* July 14-15, 2005

*# days for map compilation and clean up:* 3

\* **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)