

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

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Ventura

FIELD MAPPER(S): Rain Ananael

IMAGERY:

source: Airphoto USA
date: December, 2004
scale: 2 foot resolution
film type: True color
coverage gaps: none
additional imagery: NAIP, Digital Orthoquads

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: City of Camarillo, Brandon Minster, Planning Technician; City of Simi Valley, Al Boughey, Director Department of Environmental Services
county: County of Ventura, Kay Clark, GIS Manager
others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

➤ *websites:*

<http://www.newhomesdirectory.com/VenturaCounty.asp>
<http://www.lyonhomes.com/homes/southern-california-county-homes.php?area=60>
http://www.tollbrothers.com/homesearch/servlet/HomeSearch?app=community_description&comm_num=599,
<http://www.ci.camarillo.ca.us/>
<http://www.ci.simi-valley.ca.us/>
<http://www.ci.ojai.ca.us/>
<http://www.fillmoreca.com/>, <http://www.ci.santa-paula.ca.us/>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* State and Federal Refuge Lands, DWR land use surveys, and drainage and evaporation ponds.

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 25 changes in this category. Many of these changes occurred in and around existing urban centers including Simi Valley, Oxnard, and Camarillo. The vast majority of these changes are new homes such as Mission Homes by Pardee on the Newbury Park quad and The Meadows and Mulberry Place by Pardee Homes in Camarillo. Oxnard had several new developments this update including the Victoria Estates, Cielo and Villa Madera, and the Tierra Vista Apartment Homes. The Saticoy area added the Archstone and Vanoni Ranch Homes as well as the Bonaventure Apartments.

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

There were 42 changes in this category. Most of these changes occurred in and around Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Moorpark, and Oxnard. These changes largely represent new homes and developments of 50-100 acres. One of the largest conversions was the addition of the Country Club Estates and Golf Course at Moorpark. This 27 hole professional golf course and estate development represents some 400 acres with more homes likely planned in the next several years. Other changes include the Sinoloa Golf Course, Rancho Madera and Wood Ranch homes as well as the Lakeside Luxury Homes at Lake Sherwood in the Thousand Oaks area. On the Newbury Park quad, the Dos Vientos Ranch homes, Mission Oaks, and La Entrada were built. On the Simi Valley East quad, the Enclave, Hidden Valley Apartments, The Crest and Enchantada were also built.

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

There were 9 changes in this category. The majority of these changes occurred in the Moorpark area and the Matalija quad. These changes are largely the result of land fallowed for three or more update cycles and small boundary adjustments based on improved imagery or small-scale shifts in land use.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 17 changes in this category. These changes consisted primarily of low-density housing and farmland that has been fallow for three or more updates. In a few cases narrow stream and riparian corridors were removed from farmland classifications based on data from Ventura County.

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

There were 82 changes in this category. These changes occurred throughout the county as small additions of agriculture, usually orchards. The most significant gains in agriculture occurred in Simi Valley East as part of the Mahan Ranch Orchard. In addition, 50-100 acre additions of orchards (mostly citrus and avocado) occurred in the Moorpark, Piru, Filmore, and Camarillo quads as well as row crops and nurseries in the lowland areas of Oxnard and Ventura.

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

There were several instances of irrigated agriculture being shifted in land use toward 10-20 acre nurseries with potted palms. These changes occurred in the Oxnard,

Piru and Moorpark quads. This shift in agricultural use may reflect an economic trend in the county. There were two small changes, of less than 3 acres each, from urban land to irrigated agriculture which are the result of a boundary adjustment and the addition of a small orchard.

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

Watch the non-irrigated grain for fallowing and continue to watch the Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Simi Valley, and Moorpark areas for increases in urbanization as a result of new homes and gated communities. There are many small-scale nurseries popping up throughout the county, so these areas need to be identified and added as they occur.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 2/15/05
photo interpretation, number of days: 14
ground truthing dates: 4/15/05-4/18/05
days for map compilation and clean up: 16

* **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