

California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

**2006 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Los Angeles

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* Air Photo USA

*date:* 2006

*scale:*

*film type:* true color

*coverage gaps:* none

*additional imagery:* National Agriculture Imagery Program

*date:* 2005

*resolution:* 2 meter

*color type:* true color

*coverage gaps:* none

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2004 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2006 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

*cities:*

*county:*

*others:*

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:* none

➤ *GIS data referenced:* none

**2004-2006 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**

The conversion of irrigated farmland to Urban Land was surprisingly very rare. There were five of these changes and three of them were less than ten acres. The other two were over twenty acres. One of the larger changes was an expansion of Central Park in Saugus with soccer fields.

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

This was clearly the predominant type of change found this update. The total number of changes far exceeds any other type, (183). The vast majority of these were conversions from Other Land.

Although urban additions were occurring throughout the county, such as the almost two hundred acres of new homes in the western part of Calabasas, there were some areas that were much busier than others. The Santa Clarita Valley had plenty of new urban growth, as well as the Antelope Valley cities of Lancaster and Palmdale.

*Santa Clarita Valley:* Near Stevenson Ranch, new homes were added along with a high school and an elementary school. The schools together added almost one hundred acres. Up in Saugus, over 100 acres of new industrial buildings were built off of Copper Hill Road closer to Interstate 5. Several homes were built in the area close to the intersection of Copper Hill and McBean parkway. Another industrial addition occurred in the heart of the Santa Clarita area off of Soledad Canyon road where several large buildings added up to almost 120 acres. In that same general area, but closer to Highway 14, new homes and freeway ramps impacted over 260 acres. There are many other smaller changes in the Santa Clarita Valley, but the last to be mentioned added 115 acres of new homes off of Plum Canyon road.

*Antelope Valley* was also an active area: Palmdale added new homes in several parts. The northeast area of the city has several sites where new homes were built. The largest was almost 70 acres. South of Avenue S and towards the east of Palmdale, new homes, commercial centers and a water park were built. Another large addition of new homes was found on Avenue S west of Highway 14 where 240 acres were added and the photo indicated that more will be built in the future. The Quartz Hill area has new housing that contributed over 200 acres. In Lancaster, most of the new development occurred west of Highway 14 near the State Prison. Several new housing additions had significant acreage. One of the changes is 125 acres, and six other changes range from fifty to one hundred acres.

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

This change occurred thirty two times and most of these were in the Antelope Valley area. Although the total number of changes is not very large, several of the individual acreages were large. Near the border of Edwards Air Force Base, 150 acres had gone fallow three update cycles. Near Lancaster and Palmdale, two changes affected 100 and 140 acres each. The most activity was around Neenach and Fairmont. One change in that area was over 560 acres and another was more than 210 acres. There were three other changes over 100 acres as well. All of these sites were field checked to verify the status of the agriculture. Of all the field check sites for areas appearing fallow three updates in the photos, only one field was found to have irrigated agriculture at present. A

few changes occurred outside of the Antelope Valley: three fields on land around Los Angeles Pierce College were found fallow for a third update cycle and changed to Grazing Land. Watch for new developments in that area.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

This change contributed only twelve total and most of them were around ten acres or less. One in particular was an alfalfa field that went fallow three updates and then had dairy buildings and cow pens.

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

This change is also a small contributor. There are twenty-six total changes and most were small. I found the Chavez vineyard in the Lake Los Angeles area that added almost 20 acres. The two largest were 120 acres and over 500 acres of center pivot alfalfa in the Palmdale area just southeast of the Lockheed Martin Skunkworks.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2006.*

It's unusual to change Urban land to something else, but it happened eight times this update. The majority were because the land was abandoned of the Urban uses or the land was prematurely mapped as Urban in the past and after three updates, removed from Urban to the surrounding land use. One in particular is ninety acres and another is seventy acres. The rest are smaller than thirty acres. The quality imagery used in the last couple of updates has led to this occurrence. This type of change should not happen in the future. One change was slightly different from the rest. Fourteen acres of nursery was field checked in the Northridge area of the San Fernando Valley.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2008? Why?*

The status of dry grains in the Neenach and Fairmont areas is difficult to determine. Field checks are very important in those areas, but also the most challenging. The road maps show roads, but many times it was private property or simply didn't exist.

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

*photo interpretation, start date:* December 4, 2006

*photo interpretation, number of days:* 15

*ground truthing dates:* January 8 – 10, 2007

*# 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)