

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Monterey

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP), USDA

date: summer 2005

scale: 2 meter resolution

film type: true color mosaic

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery: NAIP from 2006 was used where it was available (approximately one third of the county).

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: City of Salinas, Community Planning and Development

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

County of Monterey: www.co.monterey.ca.us

Creekbridge Homes: www.creekbridgehomes.com

Esalen: www.esalen.org

Fort Hunter Liggett: www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/fort-hunter-liggett.htm

King City: www.kingcity.com

Monterey County Office of Education: www.monterey.k12.ca.us

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

California Integrated Waste Management Board: SWIS landfill/waste facility reference file (swis.dgn)

Municipal boundary layer for the State of California (MUBCAXXX_albers.shp)

Street layer for the County of Monterey (GDT_mnt.mdb\ Street)

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:** 11 conversions

The majority of the urban changes occurred in cities along the Highway 101 corridor in Salinas Valley. In the City of Salinas the Monte Bella housing community (~25 acres) was added and the new Boronda Meadows Elementary School (~10 acres) was noted in the nearby Community of Boronda. The new Foxy Foods processing plant (~10 acres) was added in the City of Gonzales. In the City of Soledad, the Jack Francioni Elementary School (~10 acres) was noted. In the City of Greenfield, the Walnut Place Apartments and some new homes (~10 acres total) were added as well as some new homes (~15 acres) along Cherry Avenue. Also, the Seville housing community (~60 acres) and the St. Charles Place housing community, an apartment complex, and a shopping center (~50 acres total) were added in the City of Greenfield. In King City, the new Arboleda housing community and apartment complex (~25 acres total) and an area of new homes along Amherst Drive (~5 acres) were added.

➤ **Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 73 conversions

Urban change was concentrated in the hills of the northern portion of the county in the communities of Prunedale, Aromas, Corral De Tierra, San Benancio, and Carmel Valley. These changes were mainly due to increased density of homes in areas that had previously been mapped as Other Land. Most of these conversions were fairly small (10-20 acres), however a few were as large as 70 acres.

Throughout the rest of the county, urban change was scattered. An area of new homes (~15 acres) was added along Castlerock Road in Corral De Tierra. The Johnson Canyon Sanitary Landfill was expanded by approximately 55 acres on the Gonzales quad. Finally, the Esalen Institute (~25 acres) was noted along Highway 1 near Big Sur due to improved digital imagery of the area.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Grazing Land:** 114 conversions

The majority (99) of these changes were due to Irrigated Farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes primarily occurred in the Salinas, Pajaro, Hames, and Carmel valleys. A few of the changes occurred along the northern coast near Moss Landing and in the Cholame Valley near Parkfield. Most of the changes were between 10 to 30 acres. Larger conversions of 100 acres or larger occurred on the Espinosa Canyon (~120 acres), Marina (~165 acres), Moss Landing (~170 acres), Mount Johnson (~205 acres), San Ardo (~115 acres), San Lucas (~145 acres), and Williams Hill (~375 acres) quads.

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. These changes primarily occurred in the hills to either side of the Salinas Valley. Most of these changes were greater than 50 acres. The largest changes occurred on the Espinosa Canyon (~215 acres) and Natrass Valley (~385 acres) quads.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 74 conversions

Low density housing (ranchettes) and agricultural staging areas (gravel lots with equipment storage) accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes primarily occurred in the Salinas Valley and were less than 30 acres each. Other changes were due to the identification of agricultural ponds, rural commercial, compost facilities, and a dairy.

➤ **Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 55 conversions

The majority of the Irrigated Farmland was added in the Salinas Valley. Most of the changes were 10-30 acres in size and consisted of row crops, vineyards, and orchards. Two changes of note were an area of row crops (~95 acres) on the Espinosa Canyon quad and another area of row crops (~195 acres) on the San Lucas quad.

➤ **Grazing Land to Other Land:** 123 conversions

Low density housing (ranchettes) accounted for the majority of the changes to Other Land. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily less than 30 acres each. Large changes greater than 50 acres occurred on the Bryson (1), Spreckels (5), and Thompson Canyon (1) quads. Other changes were due to rural commercial, small water bodies scattered throughout the foothills, mining facilities, and equestrian facilities. One change of note is the delineation of an area of oil rigs (~1,500 acres) on the Wunpost quad for mapping consistency.

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

Conversions from Urban Land: There were six conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to Other Land and Grazing Land due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries. Urban Land was converted to irrigated pasture at the King City Sanitary Sewage Treatment Plant/ Wastewater Treatment Facility for consistency with other counties where wastewater is sprinkled onto pasture.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were four conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to the identification of potted plant nurseries. Potted plant nurseries are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes may result in Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance being converted to Unique Farmland.

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

Watch for more areas of increased housing density in the northern hills near Prunedale, Corral De Tierra, and Carmel Valley.

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

photo interpretation, start date: April 30, 2007

photo interpretation, number of days: 12

ground truthing dates: June 12-15, 2007

days for map compilation and clean up: 7

* **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