

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Napa

FIELD MAPPER(S): Md. Murshidul Hoque

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)

date: Summer 2005

scale: 2 meter resolution

film type: true color mosaic

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: County of Napa, Office of Conservation, Development & Planning

others:

➤ *personal contacts:* Randy Davis, Director of American Canyon Community Services Department (707) 648-7275

➤ *websites:*

City of American Canyon, Community Services: http://www.ci.american-canyon.ca.us/Departments/Community_Services/section_index.htm

➤ *GIS data referenced:* Napa County Vineyard and Orchard shapefile

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 conversions of Irrigated Farmland to the Urban Land category this update were all due to the first time availability of high resolution digital imagery. These were not new land uses but the high resolution imagery provided the ability to delineate them. The largest examples included: on the St. Helena quad, some water control ponds were delineated (~10 acres); and on the Napa quad, an area of existing homes (~20 acres) and

a winery (10 acres) were delineated.

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

There were 14 conversions in this category. New homes, schools, and industrial buildings as well as a golf course expansion and the delineation of existing homes in mountainous areas were the primary causes of these conversions.

The most notable conversion occurred in American Canyon where approximately 90 acres of new homes were added, including portions of the “Vintage Ranch” and “Vineyard Place” home developments, along with the new “Canyon Oaks Elementary School” (~15 acres). Meanwhile, new warehouse/industrial buildings were added near the Napa Airport (~10 acres) and in American Canyon where a large, new building (~10 acres) was added off Commerce Blvd. Further, recreational land uses were increased as the Chardonnay Golf Club off Jameson Canyon Road was expanded by approximately 40 acres. Finally, the use of high resolution imagery allowed for the delineation of small pockets of existing homes in mountainous areas of the county. The most substantial addition occurred in the Berryessa Highlands area where approximately 40 acres of existing homes were added.

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

The 26 conversions of Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land were primarily due to Irrigated Farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. These conversions occurred throughout the county with most encompassing less than 30 acres. The largest conversion from the Irrigated Farmland category was approximately 120 acres of land converted to Grazing Land on the Yountville quad.

A further cause for this type of change was the use of high resolution imagery to better delineate vineyards, especially in the mountainous areas of the county. The imagery featured improved terrain correction which prompted us to more accurately delineate Irrigated Farmland in mountainous areas of the county. This type of conversion accounted for the majority of the loss of Irrigated Farmland that occurring this update in Napa County.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:**

There were 17 conversions from Irrigated Farmland to Other Land. These conversions were generally small (<20 acres) and occurred throughout the county. Most of the conversions involved the delineation of existing rural ranchettes, farmsteads, and small farm ponds due to the use of high resolution imagery. On the Cuttings Wharf quad there was a change of 45 acres along Duhig Road that included some buildings and small farm ponds.

The improved, terrain-corrected imagery allowed for better delineation of vineyards, especially in the mountainous areas of the county. This type of conversion accounted for the majority of the loss of Irrigated Farmland occurring this update in Napa County.

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

In this category there were 18 additions of Irrigated Farmland. The vast majority of these changes were small additions of new irrigated vineyard plantings. Most of the additions were less than 20 acres in size. The largest addition of Irrigated Farmland this update was approximately 130 acres of new irrigated vineyards added in the hills to the south of the Napa State Hospital.

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

Nonirrigated vineyards to Irrigated Farmland: There were multiple conversions (12) during this update of nonirrigated vineyards to irrigated vineyards due to the verification of irrigation status during the field check of Napa County. The largest change of approximately 90 acres was observed on the St. Helena quad. All the other conversions were less than 40 acres in size. These changes may result in Unique Farmland being converted to Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

Grazing Land to Other Land: A large area has been restored to tidal wetlands just west of American Canyon along the Napa River. This was a conversion of approximately 700 acres of Grazing Land to Other Land.

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

Any areas mapped as nonirrigated vineyards (nT) 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: 11/30/07

photo interpretation, number of days: 8

ground truthing dates: 01/29/07-01/30/07 and 03/12/07-03/13/07

days for map compilation and clean up: 11

* **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