

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Benito

FIELD MAPPER(S): Larelle Burkham-Greydanus

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA

date: summer 2005

scale: 2 meter resolution

film type: true color mosaic

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery:

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:* none available

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** 8 changes

All changes in this category were 10 acres or less and occurred largely around the city of Hollister and San Juan Bautista. Additional changes include completion of roads and existing small subdivisions.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land** 4 changes

The largest two changes in this category were for the completion of subdivisions in San Juan Bautista and Hollister. Both changes were for 40 acres or less.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land** 32 changes

This was the most active category in the 2004 update. The largest single change was southeast of Gilroy, off of Highway 25 (Chittenden quad) where 550 acres of irrigated farmland was found fallow 3 or more update cycles. This area was being used to grow non-irrigated grains and as dryland pasture. The second noteworthy change was ~ 90 acres in the San Felipe area where non-irrigated grains were found growing 3 or more update cycles.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land** 29 changes

The majority of the changes were 25 acres or less of irrigated farmland having been found fallow 3 or more update cycles and rural residential homes being present. The most notable changes were the delineation of rural residential homes at the “Ashford Highland Estates” near Hollister for ~75 acres.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland** 9 changes

The largest changes in this category were ~150 acres of new irrigated field crops and ~90 acres of new vines in the Paicines area. The third largest notable change was ~70 acres of irrigated row crops north of San Juan Bautista. All other additions of irrigated farmland were under 30 acres and spread throughout the county.

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

Prime Farmland to Unique- This conversion occurred as a result of an enlarged nursery near Dunneville (~40 acres) and the delineation of a new nursery with potted plants just north of San Juan Bautista (~10 acres).

Grazing Land to Local Farmland- Conversions of grazing to Local occurred after dry grains were delineated primarily in Santa Clara Valley for ~ 370 acres, Becker Valley for ~200 acres, Hernandez Valley (~130 ac), and Priest Valley for ~120 acres.

Local Farmland to Grazing- Changes in this category occurred after dry grains had been found fallow for four update cycles. The largest changes occurred in the southern portion of the county including ~1780 acres in Pinalto Canyon, ~300 acres total in the Paicines area, ~80 acres north of San Juan Bautista, and ~50 acres near Tres Pinos.

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

Continue to monitor the southern portion of the county for new vines and non-irrigated grains.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 8/10/06

photo interpretation, number of days: 10 days

ground truthing dates: 8/28/06 to 8/30/06

days for map compilation and clean up: 5