

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Clara

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
date: summer 2005
scale: 2 meter resolution
film type: true color mosaic
coverage gaps: none
additional imagery: 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: City of Morgan Hill, Planning Division
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

City of Gilroy: www.ci.gilroy.ca.us
City of Morgan Hill: www.morgan-hill.ca.gov
Santa Clara County: www.sccgov.org
Santa Clara County Office of Education: www.sccoe.k12.ca.us
Z-Best Composting Facility: <http://z-best.com/Z-Best/index.html>

➤ *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 Santa Clara (GDT_scl.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:** 14 conversions

The majority of the urban changes occurred in the Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill. In the City of Gilroy, the Pacheco Pass Plaza shopping center was expanded (including the new Wal-Mart Supercenter) by approximately 40 acres, the Village Green senior living community was added (~ 25 acres), an expansion of the water treatment plant (~ 40 acres) was noted, and an agricultural packing facility was added along Highway 25 (~ 10 acres).

In the City of Morgan Hill, new housing communities include Madrone Crossing, a portion of Coyote Creek Estates, and San Pedro Villas (~ 10 acres each). Ann Sobrato High School (~ 60 acres) was added along Burnett Avenue. Also, the new Morgan Hill Aquatic Center and Sports Complex (~ 40 acres) was noted along Condit Road.

In other parts of the county, an area of new businesses (~ 10 acres) was added in the Town of Los Gatos. Finally, in the City of San Jose, an area of new businesses (~ 10 acres) was noted and an area including a natural gas power plant along with some businesses (~30 acres total) was a further addition.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 38 conversions

Urban conversion was concentrated in the Cities of San Jose, Gilroy, and Morgan Hill. In the City of San Jose the majority of the new urban change occurred on the eastern edge of the city. New homes were added along Aborn Road (~ 50 acres). Along Murillo Avenue two new places of worship were noted: Sikh Gurdwara (~ 10 acres) and a Christian church (~ 10 acres). New homes, apartments, and buildings (~25 acres total) were noted along Clayton Road. Other changes in the City of San Jose include a paved power station near Highway 237 (~ 35 acres) and the Vistas at Heritage housing community (~ 35 acres) along Curtner Avenue.

In the City of Gilroy, the Gilroy Crossing shopping center was expanded by approximately 25 acres. New homes (~ 20 acres) were noted along Miller Road in the southern part of the city. Also, the Country Oaks Estates (~ 15 acres) were added. Two housing developments were added in the City of Morgan Hill: Coyote Estates (~ 20 acres) and the other part of Coyote Creek Estates (~ 15 acres).

Throughout the rest of the county urban change was scattered. The Shannon Valley Ranch Estates (~ 15 acres) was added in the Town of Los Gatos. Multiple housing areas, primarily due to increased density, were noted in the western foothills of the county. These housing areas were approximately 10-15 acres each.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 96 conversions

The majority (78) of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles and primarily occurred in the Santa Clara Valley. A few changes occurred near the northern part of the City of San Jose. Most of the changes were between 10 to 40 acres. Large conversions of 50 acres or more occurred on the Gilroy (5), Milpitas (1), Morgan Hill (6), Mt. Madonna (1), San Felipe (2), and Santa Teresa Hills (1) quads.

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain (18), which is considered Farmland of Local Importance in this county. The nonirrigated grain occurred primarily in the Santa Clara Valley. Most of these changes were less than 40 acres; however, one large change of approximately 85 acres was noted on the Santa Teresa Hills

quad.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 89 conversions

Low-density housing (ranchettes) accounted for the majority (75) of the changes. These changes occurred primarily in the Santa Clara Valley and were less than 40 acres. On the Gilroy quad there were seven changes larger than 50 acres. Other changes were due to rural commercial, agricultural staging areas (gravel lots with equipment storage), and a dairy. One change of note is the expansion of the Z-Best Composting Facility by approximately 50 acres along Highway 25.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 19 conversions

The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the Santa Clara Valley. Most of the changes were less than 30 acres and consisted of vineyards, orchards, row crops, irrigated pasture, and in-ground nurseries. The only change of note was an area of row crops (~ 55 acres) on the Chittenden quad.

➤ **Local or Grazing to Other Land:** 103 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 Calaveras Reservoir (1), Cupertino (2), Gilroy (1), Loma Prieta (1), and Mt. Madonna (1) quads. Other changes were due to the identification of small water bodies in the eastern foothills, rural commercial, mining activities, and a dairy. One change of note is the addition of the Coyote Parkway Lakes wetland area (~160 acres) along Highway 101.

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

Urban Land to Irrigated Farmland: There were four conversions of Urban Land to Irrigated Farmland. These changes were primarily due to the more detailed aerial imagery available this update. The changes consisted of two vineyards (~ 10 and 25 acres), a row crop area (~ 20 acres), and an orchard (~ 10 acres).

Conversions between Grazing Land and Local: This update there were 22 conversions between Grazing Land and Farmland of Local Importance. The majority (14) of these changes were due to new areas of nonirrigated grain in the Santa Clara Valley. The other changes were due to nonirrigated grain being fallow for four update cycles throughout the county.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 20 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 and Farmland of Statewide Importance being converted to Unique Farmland.

Other Land to Local: This update there were five conversions of Other Land to

Farmland of Local Importance. These changes were due to new areas of nonirrigated grain in the foothills on either side of the Santa Clara Valley.

Conversions between Water and Other Land: These small conversions were due to boundary adjustments of the Stevens Creek Reservoir due to improved aerial imagery.

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

In the Santa Clara Valley watch for more potted plant nurseries and a continued increase in low-density housing.

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

photo interpretation, start date: March 6, 2007

photo interpretation, number of days: 7

ground truthing dates: March 27-30, 2007

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