

**California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Clara

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	April 2007
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 foot resolution
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	n/a

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2008 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps)
City of Morgan Hill
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Kirigin Cellars: http://www.kirigincellars.com/
GIS Data Used for Reference
GIS comments from City of Morgan Hill

2006-2008 CHANGE SUMMARY:

Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. [See definitions](#) at bottom of table.

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	10 changes
The most significant conversions of irrigated farmland to Urban Land were due to the construction of new homes, commercial buildings, and sports fields. <ul style="list-style-type: none">City of Morgan Hill: Three additions of new homes were made along Monterey Street (~15 acres), Peet Road (~10 acres), and Cochrane Road (~15 acres) as well as the Ranch at Alicante home development (~15 acres) in Morgan Hill. Also, a new shopping center along Cochrane Road containing a Target, Circuit City, and Staples was added (~40 acres).	

- City of San Jose: Townhomes (~10 acres) were added along McKay Drive.
- City of Milpitas: A portion of the Terra Serena home development nearby Abel Street was the cause of the conversion of approximately 15 acres of irrigated farmland.

The addition of sports fields were a final cause of the conversion of irrigated farmland to Urban Land. The new Gilroy Sports Park baseball fields (~15 acres) were added and sports fields used for soccer and cricket at Kirigin Cellars on the Mt. Madonna quad were identified (~10 acres).

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	19 changes
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New homes, townhomes, and apartments in Gilroy, San Jose, Morgan Hill, and Milpitas were the primary cause of this type of conversion.

- City of Gilroy: Three additions of new homes totaling approximately 20 acres were in evidence. Further, the San Ysidro Shopping Center (~10 acres) and the Santa Clara Valley Health Center (~10 acres) were added.
- San Jose: New homes (~40 acres) were an addition in the southern San Jose area, alongside Highway 101. New townhomes or apartments were added in two other locations (~20 acres).
- City of Morgan Hill: Three additions of new homes were made totaling approximately 30 acres.
- City of Milpitas: The remaining portion of the Terra Serena home development (~15 acres) and a new Toyota dealership (~15 acres) were notable examples of the urbanization of nonirrigated land.
- Los Gatos: A cluster of large, new homes (~10 acres) was added nearby Shannon Road.

The Coyote Valley RV Resort (~10 acres) was an addition along Monterey Road nearby the Coyote Creek Golf Club.

Finally, increased density of homes in existing housing areas and improved imagery (1 foot resolution) were also the cause of some of the conversion to Urban Land (~60 acres on the Santa Teresa Hills and Gilroy quads).

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization
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Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	58 changes
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There were two primary reasons for the conversion of irrigated farmland:

First, the majority of these changes were due simply to irrigated crop or pasture land being fallow for three or more update cycles. There were 50 of these types of conversions. Instances of these changes that were greater than 50 acres occurred on the San Jose East (1 change), Santa Teresa Hills (1 change), Morgan Hills (2 changes), Mt. Madonna (2 changes), Gilroy (2 changes), and Chittenden (1 change) quads.

Second, areas of irrigated farmland were identified that are no longer being irrigated but, instead, are being used for the cultivation of nonirrigated grain crops. These areas had not been irrigated for multiple update cycles. There were eight of these conversions and they were confined to the San Jose East, Santa Teresa Hills, and Morgan Hill quads.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	17 changes
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These conversions were primarily due to the use of improved, high-resolution imagery that allowed for the delineation of existing areas of ranchettes, farmsteads, and rural commercial land uses throughout the county.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	9 changes
<p>The majority of the conversions to irrigated farmland occurred in the Morgan Hill and Gilroy areas. These conversions were all 20 acres or less and were primarily due to the use of improved imagery that allowed for the delineation of existing areas of crops, even in areas formerly classified on our maps as Urban Land. Only a few of the conversions were due to the planting of new irrigated crops.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)	
<p><u>Conversions from Urban Land:</u> A number of conversions were made from Urban Land to Grazing Land, Other Land, and even irrigated farmland due to improved digital imagery and comments received from the City of Morgan Hill.</p> <p><u>Conversions between irrigated farmland categories:</u> The identification of a few small orchards that were no longer being irrigated but trees were still present and a Christmas tree farm brought about a potential for conversion from Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance to Unique Farmland.</p>	
Areas of Concern for Future Updates	
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2010 update, and reasons.)	
None	
<p>Definitions:</p> <p>Irrigated Farmland includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.</p> <p>Nonirrigated land uses include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.</p> <p>Other Land includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.</p> <p>Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.</p> <p>For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the FMMP web site.</p>	

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2008 update.

Image interpretation, start date	September 29, 2008
Image interpretation, number of days	10
Ground truth dates	October 28-31, 2008
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	4

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>