

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

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Mateo

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Air Photo USA – Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	April 2007
Data description	True Color
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	None

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)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Peninsula Open Space Trust – Cowell Ranch http://www.openspacetrust.org/lands/accompl_cowell.html
GIS Data Used for Reference
None

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	0 changes
There were no changes from Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land, but there were a few boundary adjustments between the two land uses. These will show up as a small amount of acreage in the conversion table.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	15 changes
This change is very small. All of them are less than fifty acres, and four of the changes are due to freeway interchanges or simply finding freeways adjacent to Urban Land. Two parking lots were found and small amounts of buildings were also right next Urban Land.	

In the Redwood City area, an electrical substation near the San Francisco Bay expanded by approximately 5 acres.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	11 changes
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This change is due to Irrigated Farmland going fallow for three or more update cycles. Three of the changes are slightly larger than fifty acres. The remaining changes are less than twenty acres. These occurred mostly around and south of Half Moon Bay.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	22 changes
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These changes were also due to land going fallow for three or more update cycles, but too small to go to Grazing land. The two largest are in the Pescadero area and each is slightly over twenty acres. Both areas went fallow and looked like riparian areas, justifying the change to Other Land.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	12 changes
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There are a few instances of new Irrigated Farmland this update. Alfalfa (35 acres) was field checked south of Half Moon Bay near Highway One and Verde Road. Two new fields of wine grapes were also verified with a site visit near La Honda, on Alpine Road.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)

The most significant and frequent change this update was reclassification of idle dry grain growing areas from Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land. Analysts have been flagging these areas as going fallow for an extended period; 2008 was the fourth fallow cycle. There were over 40 total changes of this type and they account for over 2,500 acres. Another observation that did not result in a map revision was delineation of a Christmas tree farm found on what had been a dry grain area. This will have no impact on the conversion table as both land uses qualify as Farmland of Local Importance.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2010 update, and reasons.)

None

Definitions:

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.

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.

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.

Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the [FMMP web site](#).

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2008 update.

Image interpretation, start date	11/12/2008
Image interpretation, number of days	10
Ground truth dates	12/22/2008 – 12/23/2008
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>