

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

**2010 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Sonoma

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Amy Klug /Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)
Acquisition date	Summer 2009 & 2010
Data description	1 meter resolution, true color mosaic
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	Google Maps

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:**

*The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2010 mapping.*

<b>Local Review Comments</b> (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2008 maps)
City of Santa Rosa.
<b>Personal Contacts</b>
Cathy Spence-Wells, North Fork Associates.
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b>
City of Healdsburg wastewater treatment facility. <a href="http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/index.aspx?page=295">http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/index.aspx?page=295</a>
Alexander Valley Resort. <a href="http://www.alexandervalleyresort.com/avr_update.html">http://www.alexandervalleyresort.com/avr_update.html</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b>
None.

**2008-2010 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.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	8 changes
There is very little activity this update for conversions from Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land. There are only eight changes and the largest is approximately 5 acres. Included are new and existing homes built adjacent to existing Urban Land.	

<b>Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land</b>	<b>90 changes</b>
A very common conversion throughout the county. The largest change is 55 acres and all the rest are less than 30 acres. The vast majority are related to new or existing housing, schools, and school yards. Increased structural density was responsible for approximately 150 acres of the conversion. This may be due to new homes and buildings increasing the density or due to improved detection of the existing density. Approximately 140 acres of density increases were in the Sea Ranch area.	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
<b>Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses</b>	<b>89 changes</b>
This type of change has a large total but only two of the changes are greater than 100 acres. The largest is almost 300 acres of irrigated pasture just south of Rohnert Park that has been fallow for three or more update cycles. Additional information from North Fork Associates helped determine the current land use at this location. The other large change is another irrigated pasture gone fallow in the Lakeville area south of Petaluma. This area is approximately 200 acres just off of Old Adobe Road. Irrigated pastures going fallow seemed to be more prominent compared to vines or row crops going fallow, at least in terms of acreage.	
<b>Irrigated Farmland to Other Land</b>	<b>49 changes</b>
This change is primarily due to Irrigated Farmland that has gone fallow for three or more update cycles, and is too small for another land use category. These areas went to adjacent Other Land. Farmsteads, irrigation ponds and large homes adjacent to Other land are also extremely common causes for this change, but usually not very large in size. Only four of the forty nine total changes are ten acres or more.	
<b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b>	
<b>Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland</b>	<b>215 changes</b>
The conversion to Irrigated Farmland appears large, especially in terms of the number of total changes. Actually, only 4 changes are over 50 acres and 196 of the changes are less than 20 acres. Nearly all of the changes are due to new or additions to existing vineyards. There is the occasional addition to an irrigated orchard, but just a few and barely worth mentioning. The changes were in locations throughout the county.	
<b>Unusual Changes</b> (Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2010 update.)	
There were 16 changes where Urban Land was converted to another land use, but only 3 of them were greater than ten acres. Most of the changes were due to grape vines planted, or a lack of structures due to removal or abandonment.	
The most significant is 140 acres of Urban Land changed to Other Land in the southwest part of the city of Santa Rosa near Ludwig Avenue and Wright Road. This was the former location of the Santa Rosa Naval Auxiliary Air Station, later called the Santa Rosa Air Center. Portions of the runways were redeveloped years in the past, but portions of the runways also still remained, along with hangers and bunkers. Over the last 8 years, this	

area was tracked for a lack of infrastructure, especially after the hangers and other buildings were torn down. It was determined that redevelopment of this area could take a long time, therefore, the open areas that lack paved runway surfaces were reclassified to Other Land.

### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2012 update, and reasons.)

The Cotati Valley near Santa Rosa, Cotati, Sebastopol, and Windsor has a variety of land uses and therefore could have many types of land use changes. This only implies careful attention is needed in these areas.

#### 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 2010 update.*

Image interpretation, start date	1/11/2012
Image interpretation, number of days	12
Ground truth dates	2/22 to 2/24 2012
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	12

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