

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

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Clara

FIELD MAPPER(S): Farl Grundy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2012
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: None
Additional imagery used: None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2012 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2010 maps)
City of Gilroy
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
County of Santa Clara: http://sccgov.org/ City of San Jose: http://sanjoseca.gov/ City of Gilroy: http://cityofgilroy.org/ Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Santa Clara County Base Map

2010-2012 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	6 changes
<p>There were only six conversion from irrigated farmland to urban land this update, most of which were under five acres in size. Of notable significance were the changes in the Morgan Hill quad which accounted for approximately 15 acres of new homes in the “Alicante” and “Mission Ranch” developments. Also noteworthy was the addition of approximately 15 acres of new homes in the City of Mountain View.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	22 changes
<p>The majority of these changes were primarily due to the new construction of homes and commercial structures. In the Milpitas quad approximately 50 acres of new urban land use was added, including a new Target and associated retail buildings, a water treatment structure, and a new apartment complex. Approximately 40 acres of change occurred in the San Jose East quad with the addition of new paved parking, Kurte Park, new homes in San Jose, and new solar at Evergreen Valley College. The City of Morgan Hill added approximately 30 acres of new homes in the “Milano” and “Sherimar Ranch” developments. The Gilroy quad had a scattering of approximately 20 acres of new homes, while the City of San Jose added approximately 10 acres of new custom homes.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	32 changes
<p>Conversions were a result of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Most conversions were less than 20 acres in size and the Gilroy and Morgan Hill quads experienced the most significant totals. The Gilroy quad had an approximate total of 190 acres of change and the Morgan Hill quad had approximately 140 acres of change from irrigated farmland to non-irrigated land use.</p> <p>Another reason for conversions in this category was due to the identification on non-irrigated grains. These totals accounted for approximately 140 acres of change in the Morgan Hill quad, 110 acres in the Gilroy quad, 110 in the Santa Teresa Hills quad, and approximately 63 acres in the San Jose East quad.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	3 changes
<p>Of the three conversion this update, only one was over 10 acres in size. This conversion occurred in the City of Gilroy and was approximately 60 acres. This parcel of irrigated farmland has been fallow for three or more update cycles. Currently the parcel is slated to become a business park/retail center and major roadways through the parcel are already in place.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	6 changes
<p>Five of the six conversions this update, approximately 50 acres, occurred in the Gilroy quad and included the addition of new vines, row crops, and nurseries. The last of these changes took place in the Mount Madonna quad and accounted for approximately 15 acres for a new nursery.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012	

update.)

Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing land: There were 19 conversion from non-irrigated grain to Grazing Land this update. These conversions were the result of non-irrigated grain having been fallow for four or more update cycles. Approximately 153 acres of change occurred in the Gilroy Hot Springs quad, approximately 110 acres in the Lick Observatory quad, approximately 90 acres in the Gilroy quad, approximately 70 acres in the San Felipe quad, and approximately 60 acres of changes occurring in the Mount Stakes quad.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2014 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 2012 update.

Image interpretation, start date: June 4, 2014

Image interpretation, number of days: 7

Ground truth dates: July 7, 2014

Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 5

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>