

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

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Amador

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source	NASA
date:	September 8, 1999
scale:	1:130,000
film type:	CIR transparencies (9x9)
coverage gaps:	Eastern portion of survey area

WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities:

county:

others: none as of November 29, 2000

➤ *personal contacts:*

➤ *websites:*

1998-2000 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.*

➤ P, S, U → D

There was only one instance of a conversion of ag land to urban land in Amador county this update. This occurred on the lone quad where a small amount of new homes were built on the southern urban fringe of the lone city limits.

➤ L, G, X → D

There were 19 instances of the urbanization of local, grazing, or "other" land this update with most of this urbanization taking place on the Jackson or Amador City quads.

The Jackson quad led the way in this category of change with 9 conversions taking place. Notable development in Jackson included the new Sutter Amador Hospital and a Raley's shopping center. Some new homes were also in evidence on the urban fringe of

Jackson and a Walmart (not new) was noted on the western fringe. Nearby development included a county administrative center and the new Sunset View Cemetery on the outskirts of Jackson.

The Amador City quad came in second with 5 conversions of this type. Notable development included the new "Pokerville Market," a new True Value Hardware store, a new feed store, a gas station and hotel, and a few new homes.

Other notable changes were the Terra Cal Tile Co. facility out in the countryside on the Carbondale quad, the Reed Minerals plant on the Irish Hill quad, and a new parking lot and dental clinic for the Jackson Indian Rancheria on the Pine Grove quad.

➤ P, S, U → L, G

Only 5 conversions of ag land to local or grazing land occurred in Amador County during this update. Three of these changes occurred on the Fiddletown quad where all of the parcels (all fairly small) had been fallow for 3 or more updates. The other 2 changes occurred on the lone quad where a 25-acre parcel had been fallow for 4 updates and a large, 80-acre parcel near Lake Amador had been fallow for 3 updates.

➤ P, S, U → X

Only 1 conversion of ag land to "other" land occurred this update with the creation of a small waterbody (<40 acres) in the Shenandoah Valley area on the Fiddletown quad.

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U

Agriculture made some significant gains in Amador County this update with 22 conversions of "marginal" lands to ag land. However, most of these conversions were localized to the Shenandoah Valley area of Amador County and increases in ag land were not seen countywide. Of the 22 conversions noted, 15 conversions were on the Fiddletown quad alone which encompasses the northern part of the Shenandoah Valley area, seemingly the "Napa Valley of the Gold Country." Most of the conversions were in the form of grazing land being planted with new vineyards such as the Villa Toscano Vineyards with 75 acres of new wine grapes and the Dobra-Zemlja Winery with 40 acres of new wine grapes. Also, the Amador Flower Farm was a new addition to the area. The Amador City quad, which encompasses the southern part of the Shenandoah Valley, accounted for 4 more conversions of this type. These conversions were also attributable to new vineyards such as the addition of 70 acres of wine grapes to the Wilderotter Vineyards and the addition of two large, seemingly interconnected plantings of grapes just outside the town of Plymouth that accounted for approximately 130 acres.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

An area which seemed to be an abandoned claypit on the Irish Hill quad was shifted from "D" to "X." Also, a large hill alongside of Highway 49 with not much more than a couple of antenna towers on it was shifted from "D" to "X."

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

Polygons in the Shenandoah Valley area (Fiddletown and Amador City quads)

continue to need refinement of polygon shape and category based on soil unit lines.

OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS: *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

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

<i>photo interpretation, start date:</i>	November 8, 2000
<i>photo interpretation, number of days:</i>	3.5
<i>ground truthing dates:</i>	November 16 th and 17 th
<i># days for map compilation and clean up:</i>	3

* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp