

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

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Contra Costa

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center
date: September 14, 1999
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR Transparencies
coverage gaps: none

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: Martinez and Orinda
county: County Department of Agriculture
others: Contra Costa Water District

➤ *personal contacts:*

David Forkel, Delta Wetlands Project (dforkel@deltawetlands.com)
(510)-693-9977
Curt Schmutte, Department of Water Resources (schmutte@water.ca.gov)
Mick Klasson, Contra Costa Water District (mklasson@ccwater.com)
(925)-513-2082

➤ *websites:*

California Home Page (www.ca.gov)
Contra Costa General Plan (<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu>) – document 1792
California Waste Facilities, Sites, and Operations Database
(www.ciwmb.ca.gov/SWIS)
Delta Wetlands Project (www.deltawetlands.com)
East Bay Parks (www.ebparks.org)
California Ecological Restoration Projects Inventory
(<http://endeavor.des.ucdavis.edu/CERPI>)
National Wildlife Refuge System (<http://refuges.fws.gov>)

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 were 16 conversions of agricultural land to urban land. Most of these changes (12) occurred on the Brentwood Quad. Ag land was converted mostly to housing in Brentwood. Numerous small developments were added as well as the approximately 500-acre Summerset golf community. Besides all the new housing, a new school (Loma Vista Elementary), a new shopping center, and the new Brentwood Aquatic Center were also added. The other four changes consisted of a new housing development (Meadowcreek Village) on the Antioch South Quad, a new school (Diablo Vista Middle School) on the Diablo Quad, new houses on the Clifton Court Forebay Quad, and a new sewage pumping station on the Jersey Island Quad.

➤ L, G, X → D

There were 37 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to urban land. Again most of these changes were new housing developments. The largest of these new developments were the Gale Ridge community (approx. 700 acres) on the Diablo Quad, the Brookfield golf community (approx. 160 acres) on the Antioch South Quad, the Crystyl Ranch community (approx. 160 acres) on the Clayton Quad, and the Boulder Ridge golf community (approx. 130 acres) on the Brentwood Quad. There was one golf course that was added without being part of a housing community, the Roddy Ranch Golf Course (approx. 450 acres) on the Antioch South Quad.

A few commercial developments were also added. Two of these were actually expansions of landfills; the Acme Landfill on the Vine Hill Quad and the Keller Canyon Landfill on the Clayton Quad. On the Richmond Quad the Pinole Pt. Business Park, a new strip mall, and some new warehouses were added and a cemetery was expanded. A new parking lot and BART station were also added on the Honker Bay Quad.

➤ P, S, U → L, G

There were 13 conversions of agricultural land to local or grazing land. About half of these changes involved ag land reverting to native vegetation. The largest of these changes occurred on the Jersey Island Quad where approximately 180 acres reverted to native vegetation. Smaller changes occurred on the Brentwood and Woodward Island Quads. The other half of the changes consisted mostly of ag land being converted to pasture. On the Brentwood Quad, three of these changes occurred, with two of them being over 100 acres. One change occurred on the Clifton Court Forebay Quad (it was split into L and G due to the capability classifications of the underlying soils) and one change occurred on the Tassajara Quad. The other two changes were a conversion of ag land to dry grain farming and a boundary adjustment.

➤ P, S, U → X

There were only four conversions of agricultural land to other land. All of these changes were on the Brentwood Quad. Three consisted of ag land being converted to ranchettes (low density rural housing). These areas were all less than 30 acres each. The other change was the addition of a water ski lake.

➤ L, G → X

There were only three conversions of local or grazing land to other land. On the Briones Valley Quad, approximately 250 acres of low-density housing was added. This consisted of mainly large homes on 5-10 acre lots. On the Oakland East Quad, an area of grazing land was redesignated as open space by the City of Orinda and an area of grazing land was found to be less than 40 acres.

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

D → G, X : There were eight conversions of urban land to grazing or other land. Six of the changes were boundary adjustments on the Vine Hill, Richmond, and Diablo Quads. The other two changes were areas that were prematurely mapped as urban and upon inspection were in reality native vegetation. These changes occurred on the Richmond and Honker Bay Quads.

D → S : On the Jersey Island Quad an area mapped as part of the DuPont chemical facility is actually being used as a vineyard.

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

The Delta: Jersey Island and Bradford Islands have large areas that are going fallow, but have limited access. Bethel Island has a large area that is designated to become a natural habitat mitigation area. Webb Tract and Holland Tract have been going fallow for a long time, but, due to the fact that they are scheduled to become a reservoir island and habitat island under the Delta Wetlands Project, they have not been taken out of the ag land categories.

Urban growth: The hotspots for urban growth are the Brentwood/ Antioch area and the San Ramon area in the Dougherty Valley region.

Boundary adjustments: There were quite a few areas where the polygon lines on the quads and the aerial photos didn't match up. Only the most significant changes were made on this update. The smaller changes can probably best be made during the digitizing phase.

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.*

photo interpretation, start date: October 23, 2000

photo interpretation, number of days: 11

ground truthing dates: November 14-16

days for map compilation and clean up: 6

COMMENTS:

Contra Costa is really growing, especially in the eastern part of the county.

* **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