

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

**2000 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** San Benito

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Jan Carey

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** 3 sources

- 1)     **source :**           NASA-Ames Research  
       **date:**           8 Sept 1999  
       **scale:**          1 :130,000  
       **film type:**      CIR  
       **coverage gaps:** photos covered the NW part of the county only
  
- 2)     **source :**           USDA Farm Service Agency  
       **date:**           2001  
       **scale:**          various  
       **film type:**      color slides  
       **coverage gaps:** limited coverage of ag areas only
  
- 3)     **source :**           SPOT satellite images  
       **date:**           2000  
       **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:* none  
*county:* none  
*others:* none

➤ *personal contacts:*

Michele Satterlee and Jeanine Leyva  
USDA / FSA San Benito and Santa Clara Counties  
2337 Technology Parkway, Suite A, Hollister, CA 95023  
831-637-4360

They were both very helpful and accommodating.

➤ *websites*

<http://www.sanbenito.com/>  
<http://www.sbccc.org/>

**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: 9 changes. The conversion of agricultural designated land is primarily to housing. Anzar High School was built on approximately 20 acres in the Chittenden quad region.

➤ L, G, X → D: 2 changes. Approximately 20 acres of L designated land was converted to housing in the Hollister area. There are also additional industrial and office buildings built in the San Felipe quad area.

➤ P, S, U → L, G: 6 changes. These conversions are due to plots taken out of irrigated agriculture into dryland crops or pasture.

➤ P, S, U → X: 7 changes. These conversions are primarily due to the construction of ranchettes, with the largest site in the Tres Pinos quad area (~120 acres).

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U: 11 changes. Land is being returned to irrigated agriculture. The largest single plot was an approximately 100-acre plot in the Hollister quad area. 5 changes to "U" designated plots are due to additional vineyards.

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

L → G: 12 changes. The "L" designation for this county states that the land must be cultivated as dry cropland (for example: wheat, barley, oats, safflower, and grain hay). The plots that are converted to "G" designation must be dryland pasture or fallow for 4 updates. This is by far the most significant change in the county. A total of approximately 2400 acres of "L" land was converted to "G".

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

- 1) There will be more "L" designated land going to "G" in the next update, primarily along Panoche Road.
- 2) Look for lots more vines, especially in the central and southern county.
- 3) Look for more development in the northern and central county particularly in the Hollister area. There is also Los Altos and Hacienda homes at Rancho Larios off of Rock Road in the San Juan Batista quad area.

**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.*

There are quads for this county that need road development updates. For some changes, such as Hwy. 156, I used the Spot image for polygons and road updates.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 5/30/01

quad and SPOT image printing, number of days: 2 days

photo interpretation, number of days: 7 days

ground truthing dates: 6/18 to 6/21/01

# days for map compilation and clean up: 6 days

\* **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](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)