

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

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Luis Obispo

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: NASA-Ames
date: 9/25/01
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR Transparency
coverage gaps: none

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & 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 or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities: City of Atascadero, City of San Luis Obispo
county:
others: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

➤ *personal contacts:* n/a

➤ *websites:* S.L.O. County GIS data: <http://landarch.larc.calpoly.edu:16080/slocounty/index.htm>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* San Luis Obispo digital soil surveys: slo_cp and slo_pra

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 very few conversions of farmland to urban land this update. There were a few, scattered examples of this kind of urbanization seen in the Atascadero, Templeton, Grover City, and Arroyo Grande areas. To begin with, some of the new "The Lakes" development (~25 acres) was added just north of the City of Atascadero. Grading and building was still ongoing and this development will join itself with the urban fringe of Atascadero upon completion. Notable urbanization of farmland was also seen in the Grover City area where approximately 30 acres of new homes and buildings were in evidence along with new sports fields and homes (~20 acres) in nearby Arroyo Grande.

Finally, approximately 15 acres of new homes were in evidence west of the Community of Templeton.

➤ L, LP, G, X → D

There were 35 instances of the urbanization of local, local potential, grazing, or “other” land this update, countywide. Most of these conversions were seen in the form of new homes.

One example of a large area of new homes was in evidence on the northern urban fringe of Paso Robles, north and south of Highway 46. To the north, 60 acres of new homes were added in the Cuesta Villas, River Oaks, and The Vineyards, etc. developments. Adjacent to this was the Cuesta College North County Campus (~10 acres). To the south of Highway 46, two areas of new homes (~130 acres) were also noted.

The Community of Templeton was the next area to show evidence of new homes built on local, local potential, grazing, or other lands. Forty acres of new homes and buildings were added to the northern urban fringe of Templeton. Furthermore, 80 acres of new homes, including the Suncrest development, were built to the west of Templeton.

Meanwhile, 55 acres of new homes were seen just above the northern urban fringe of Atascadero. Also, a new shopping center on the extreme northern urban fringe of Atascadero, along Highway 101, accounted for the conversion of 20 acres of land. Likewise along Highway 101 just south of Atascadero, a small golf course area with some homes adjacent to the Santa Barbara Rd offramp was the cause for the urbanization of 25 acres of land.

Some urbanization was even seen in the smaller, quaint towns of Morro Bay and Cuesta-by-the-Sea. In Morro Bay, there were new homes and some sports fields (~25 acres) while 17 acres of new homes were added in Cuesta-by-the-Sea.

San Luis Obispo showed some growth this update as 40 acres of new homes were added on the extreme southeastern fringe of the city near Orcutt Road. Urbanization was also seen to the west along Broad Street in the form of commercial and industrial buildings (~60 acres).

Along the coast, new construction of homes and buildings was also apparent just north of Shell Beach where 35 acres of new urbanization (mostly homes) was noted.

The City of Arroyo Grande experienced significant urbanization this update. On its northeastern urban fringe, 20 acres of new homes were noted. Also, along its northern urban fringe, 90 acres of new homes were seen in two adjacent developments.

On the Oceano quad, to the west of Nipomo, significant urbanization was also evident. Forty-five acres of new homes were added to the Black Lake Golf Resort just west of Nipomo. A new mini-storage lot was also noted nearby (~15 acres). Also, the large, new developments of the Cypress Ridge Golf Course Community and Bayview Estates Golf Course Communities (~320 acres) were added just to the east of the Oceano Dunes SVRA.

Finally, approximately 200 acres of land was urbanized in the Community of Nipomo due to new homes, sports fields, buildings, and in-fill construction in formerly low-density urban areas.

➤ P, S, U → L, LP, G

There were 28 conversions of farmland to local, local potential, or grazing land this update with the majority of these due to farmland having been fallow for three updates. The farmland taken out of production on P or S soils went into the Farmland of Local Potential category that, in San Luis Obispo County, encompasses “all lands having the potential for farmland, which have Prime or Statewide characteristics and are not cultivated.” On the other hand, farmland taken out of production on U soils generally went into the Grazing Land category. These conversions were pretty spread out throughout the county with three conversions taking place on each of the Cholame, Adelaida, Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, Oceano, and Nipomo quads. A couple of conversions of farmland were also made on the Cholame and Templeton quads to reflect dryland cropping of the areas.

➤ P, S, U → X

There were only a few instances where farmland was converted to other land this update, with many of the conversions stemming from simple boundary adjustments to agricultural fields or low-density urban areas (ranchettes).

A different type of conversion of farmland to other land was made on the Paso Robles quad where an area of ranchettes was newly identified on the northern urban fringe of the City of Paso Robles. Another conversion was made in San Luis Obispo where a small parcel of farmland along Hwy 101 was converted to other land after being fallow for three updates.

➤ L, LP, G, X → P, S, U

There were a whopping 120 conversions of local, local potential, grazing, or other land to farmland in San Luis Obispo County this update! The majority of the farmland was in the form of wine grapes, although some fruit crops such as strawberries and orchards made a showing. A small amount of irrigated pasture was also identified.

Over half of the farmland added (~70 changes) was located in northern San Luis Obispo County. Most of this farmland was clustered around the Paso Robles area on the Paso Robles(16), Estrella(23), Templeton(14), and Creston(16) quads and was mainly seen as wine grapes. A few areas of wine grapes on the Paso Robles quad alone totaled over 1,500 acres! Meanwhile, on the Estrella quad, over 2,000 acres of vines associated with vineyards such as Meeker Vineyards, Castoro Cellars Winery, Twin Fawns Vineyard, etc. were identified. On the Templeton quad, over 400 acres of vines were added, more than half associated with AJB vineyards and the Live Oak Ranch. Finally, on the Creston quad, approximately 1,400 acres of vines were identified.

Another notable addition of wine grapes was on the Adelaida quad where 190 acres were added in association with the Tablas Creek Vineyards. Also, the Shedd Canyon quad saw almost 700 acres of vines added, including a 500-acre plot associated with the Camatta Hills Vineyard.

Many of these newly identified vineyard plantings are fairly recent additions as plantings of wine grapes have exploded throughout the state in recent years. However, some of the additions may have been missed in the previous update due to a lack of photo coverage and the mountainous terrain.

Finally, the agriculture added in the southern part of San Luis Obispo County was a little more varied than in the northern part of the county and was split between vineyard

plantings, row crops, and orchards. A large area of wine grapes (~250 acres) associated with Courtside Cellars and other vintners was identified on the Arroyo Grande quad, just south of San Luis Obispo. However, a couple of large strawberry fields (>300 acres), along with a citrus orchard, were identified in the Nipomo area.

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

P,S,U<->P,S,U Numerous soil boundary adjustments were made throughout the county with the help of the digital soil survey.

W→P A few small areas of Ag or irrigated pasture were mapped in seemingly dry “branches” of Twitchell Reservoir along the reaches of the Huasna River and Alamo Creek.

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

The mountainous areas in the north of the county, especially in the Paso Robles area, need to be checked very carefully each update for new vineyard plantings as these new plantings can be difficult to spot on the photos.

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>	5/13/02
<i>photo interpretation, number of days:</i>	5
<i>ground truthing dates:</i>	5/28-6/01
<i># days for map compilation and clean up:</i>	9

* **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