

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

2002 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY:Monterey

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center

date: August 8-11, 2003

scale: 1:130,000

film type: CIR Transparencies

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery: Airphoto USA True Color (Monterey 2002, Soledad 2003)

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities: Greenfield

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

➤ *websites:* <http://www.flyaboveall.com/ppsur10.htm>

<http://www.liggett.army.mil>

<http://www.ncga.org/>

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

2000-2002 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.*

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

There are 18 total changes from irrigated farmland to urban and built-up land. Most of the changes are distributed throughout the county, but some concentration occurred

near Salinas and Soledad. The area around Salinas has 5 changes, involving homes, commercial buildings or parks. The largest change near Salinas is 38 acres and the smallest is 26 acres. In Soledad, there are two changes with new homes (104 acres and 25 acres). There are two more changes in Soledad with commercial buildings (8 & 3 acres).

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

This type of change occurred 69 times. Most of the activity occurred on the following USGS 1:24,000 quads:

Prunedale has 10 changes, and the largest is 135 acres of increased housing density. The Marina quad has 7 changes and the largest is 43 acres of infill development. Monterey has 10 changes, and the largest added 33 acres of new homes. Seaside has 12 changes with a large 138-acre increase in housing density. Spreckels has 6 changes and the largest is 40 acres of new homes.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

There were a mere 16 changes of Irrigated farmland going to Grazing land because it remained idle for three or more update cycles. Four of these changes are significant in size. On the Monterey quad, 134 acres of irrigated farmland went fallow along the Carmel River. The Jolon and Bradley quads in the southern part of the county each have a change of 150 acres. The largest change (approximately 490 acres) occurred on the San Lucas quad, also in the southern part of the county, where areas adjacent to the Salinas River were removed from irrigated categories as a result of changes to the river course. Although the river's course changed a number of years ago, the fields impacted were treated as fallow and monitored for three updates in the event that reclamation might have taken place.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

This change occurred 39 times. These changes are primarily because many fields that have gone idle for three or more update cycles are smaller than 40 acres, thus are too small to qualify as Grazing land. There were a few farmsteads that were also identified, but only contributed to changes of 8, 10, 12, 13, & 15 acres each. On the Espinosa Canyon quad, two irrigation ponds with earthen berms were changed to other land (14 & 16 acres).

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

This type of change happened 133 times, occurring in many parts of the county. Most of the activity occurred on the following USGS 1:24,000 quads:

Prunedale has 23 changes with the largest being 156 acres of row crops. Chualar has 5 changes and the largest was 32 acres, also of row crops. Gonzales has 4 changes, with the largest being 47 acres. On the Carmel Valley quad, 4 changes, including the Galante Vineyards conversion of 33 acres. The Palo Escrito Peak quad has 8 changes; three of

those are new orchards and the largest orchard addition is 44 acres. Soledad has 7 changes and the largest is 66 acres of row crops. There is plenty of activity on the Paraiso Springs quad as well. It has 7 changes and the largest added 50 acres of row crops. Pinalito Canyon only has 2 changes but one of these changes is 483 acres of new grape vines. Espinosa Canyon - 4 changes - the largest is 153 acres of row crops. San Ardo has 8 changes, including a 320-acre addition of row crops. Lastly, the Williams Hill quad had new grape vines added, with the largest addition being 104 acres.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2002.*

A number of boundary improvements affected the urban line, so a small number of acres will convert from urban to various adjacent categories.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?*

The Prunedale area has a lot of different land use and complex linework, and should get special attention. Down in the southern part of the county, the Lockwood area has irrigated forage crops that at times look poor or non-irrigated. That area also has new vines being planted. Also down in the southern part, there is a very large area being prepared for grape vines between the Hames Valley and the town of Bradley.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 2/18/04

photo interpretation, number of days: 20

ground truthing dates: 4/6-8/04

days for map compilation and clean up: 4

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp