

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

**2002 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:**Santa Clara

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGERY:**

source: NASA-Ames Research Center  
date: September 7, 2001  
scale: 1:130,000  
film type: CIR Transparencies  
coverage gaps: none  
additional imagery: 2000 SPOT satellite imagery

**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: Gilroy, Mountain View, Sunnyvale  
county:  
others: Santa Clara County Cattlemen's Assoc., California Energy Commission

➤ *personal contacts:*

➤ *websites:* [www.cordevalle.com](http://www.cordevalle.com)  
[www.obriengroup.com/~obrien/cordevalle/index.htm](http://www.obriengroup.com/~obrien/cordevalle/index.htm) (Cordevalle Vineyard Estates)

➤ *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.*

**Note:** This is the first digital update for Santa Clara County. Using improved digital resources, more accurate boundaries were drawn throughout the county. Therefore, adjustments were made in all categories throughout the county. The changes listed below are only representative of the total number of actual changes.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

Irrigated farmland was converted to urban land 24 times in this update. Most of the changes were new homes, moderate in size and located in various parts of the county. Five changes occurred on the Milpitas quadrangle, six on San Jose East, and four on the Mount Madonna quad. One notable change to urban land was the Bonfante Gardens Amusement Park near Gilroy.

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

There were 22 changes from local, grazing or other land to urban land. Most of this activity is on the Cupertino (4), San Jose East (6), Morgan Hill (3), and Mount Madonna (5) quadrangles. A county motorcycle park was identified on the Morgan Hill quad and the Golf Club at Boulder Ridge was mapped on the Santa Teresa Hills quad.

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

There are only 9 changes from irrigated farmland to local or grazing land. The irrigated farmland was fallow for three or more update cycles. On the Morgan Hill quadrangle, 260 acres were changed to grazing land, as well as 80 acres on the Chittenden quad.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

Irrigated farmland was changed to other land 12 times. Most of these were small plots of farmland going fallow for three or more update cycles (too small to qualify for grazing land). Five of the changes occurred on the Milpitas quadrangle.

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

The non-irrigated categories had 21 changes to irrigated farmland. In the hills west of the urban areas of San Jose, small vineyards are being planted. Farther south in the county, the changes involve vines, irrigated pasture and field crops, especially in the Gilroy / Morgan Hill area. The Cupertino quadrangle has 9 of these changes, and 8 of those were new vines. The Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Mount Madonna quadrangles all have three changes each. A notable change was the identification of the Clos La Chance Winery (~105 acres) on the Mount Madonna quad, near the Cordevalle Golf Course.

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

**Urban Land to Irrigated Farmland**

Urban land was changed to irrigated farmland 6 times. Some of these were vines that were difficult to see or recently planted, many times as landscaping for high income homes. The changes are located in various parts of the county but mostly in foothill areas.

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

The areas around Gilroy and Morgan Hill are full of activity. Many fields are going fallow and large golf courses and large estate homes seem to be more common there.

The western hills and Santa Cruz Mountains have small plots of vines and a few wineries. This trend will likely continue with some vineyards too small to map.

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

*photo interpretation, start date:* November 14, 2002

*photo interpretation, number of days:* 15

*ground truthing dates:* December 9-10, 2002

*# days for map compilation and clean up:* 2

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