

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

2002 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

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:

county:

others: Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission

➤ *personal contacts:* phone call to California Youth Authority, Camp Ben Lomond

➤ *websites:* <http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>
<http://www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

<http://gis.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/internet/planninginformation/viewer.htm>

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 Cruz 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**

There are four changes from irrigated farmland to urban land. All four of the changes are less than 40 acres. One particular change involved a groundwater recharge pond that was being constructed for the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency.

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

This type of change dominated the final acreage statistics. It was the result of the linework revisions resulting from the first use of digital imagery. The overwhelming majority of boundary adjustments made to urban land were larger than the pre-existing urban boundary. This occurred primarily north of the urban areas that stretch along the coastline, including Santa Cruz, Soquel, and Aptos.

In terms of actual land use change, Local, grazing or other land was urbanized in twelve instances. Most were additional homes adjacent to existing urban land and only two were slightly larger than 50 acres. Four of the changes are on the Felton quad and three are on the Laurel quad, grouping most of these changes in that area.

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

The eight changes of irrigated farmland to local or grazing went fallow for three or more updates. Four of these changes are on the Watsonville East quad, thus concentrating them there. Otherwise, the changes varied in size with the largest being 55 acres, also on the Watsonville East quad.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There are 32 total changes from irrigated farmland to other land and all except one were fallow for three or more updates. Four changes occurred on the Loma Prieta, Santa Cruz, and Watsonville East quads, while a high count of 14 changes were on the Watsonville West quad. Each change was less than 40 acres. These increases in Other Land were more than offset by losses to Other Land resulting from revision of the Urban line in the county.

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

Local, grazing or other land was changed to irrigated farmland 15 times. The changes occurred throughout the county with no particular concentration of changes. The majority of these changes were less than 20 acres with the exception of 28 and 47 acre changes on the Watsonville East quad. Notable changes include the Burrell School Vineyards and Silver Mountain Vineyards, both were 12 acres each and both were on the Laurel quad.

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

In addition to the linework revisions associate with the digital update, there were five unusual changes involving urban land. Building density in three locations was lower than the threshold for urban land, so urban land was reclassified to other land. In two instances, urban land was reclassified to irrigated farmland where row crops and a nursery were found, both on the Laurel quad.

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

The coastal agricultural areas west of the city of Santa Cruz and near Davenport are going fallow and some portions may go out of production in the next update. Otherwise, most of the agricultural activity occurs around the Watsonville area.

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

photo interpretation, start date: March 10, 2003

photo interpretation, number of days: 4

ground truthing dates: March 17-18, 2003

days for map compilation and clean up: 3

* **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