

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

2002 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Diego

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: Air Photo USA
date: May 2003
scale: 2 foot resolution
film type: true color
coverage gaps: none
additional imagery: Landsat TM data (2002)

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: Encinitas, San Marcos, Carlsbad
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

San Diego Association of Governments: <http://www.sandag.org/>
San Diego County: <http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/>
San Diego County Water Authority: <http://www.sdcwa.org>
Paul Ecke Poinsettias: <http://www.pauleckepoinsettias.com>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* Soil Survey-CA638; SWIS waste facility file; Cedar/Paradise fire boundary-cedar_paradise_fire.dgn;

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 were 16 conversions of irrigated farmland to urban land this update. These

conversions took place in and around the periphery of cities and communities and primarily involved the addition of residential housing. The largest conversion of irrigated farmland occurred in the Encinitas area adjacent to Paul Ecke's poinsettia greenhouses where the "Encinitas Ranch" housing development was added (~100 acres). Another addition of new homes on former irrigated farmland occurred just north of Oceanside nearby Camp Pendleton where approximately 40 acres of new homes were added. Approximately 40 acres of homes were also added nearby Valley Center and the Casino Pauma (~15 acres) was added on the Boucher Hill quad. Further conversion of irrigated farmland was seen on the eastern edge of Vista where new homes (~20 acres) were added as well as in the Del Mar area, nearby El Camino Real, where approximately 40 acres of new homes were in evidence. Finally, the Otay Mesa experienced some conversion of irrigated farmland in the form of new industrial buildings (~30 acres).

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

The conversion of Local, Grazing, or Other Land to Urban Land was a large source of change this update with 163 conversions taking place. Again, the vast majority of these conversions were due to small or moderate additions of new residential housing throughout the county. However, there were some larger, notable additions.

First, new golf courses and homes for golf course communities were evident. In the San Luis Rey Heights area, a new golf course and associated homes were added (~300 acres). A new golf course was also added in the Valley Center area (~70 acres) and to the southwest, towards Escondido, another new golf course and adjacent homes were seen (~150 acres). Meanwhile, in the Borrego Springs area, a golf course was built out with homes to follow for the conversion of approximately 150 acres. Further, in the Rancho Santa Fe area, another large, new golf course community was added (~600 acres). Finally, to the west of upper Otay Lake, another instance of the build-out of a golf course and some adjacent homes accounted for the conversion of approximately 170 acres.

Second, there were also many instances of the conversion of local, grazing, or other land to urban land this update that were simply due to new homes and buildings, without being associated with or adjacent to a golf course. One of these notable conversions occurred just to the west of Rancho Bernardo where a large, new development of homes, along with a smaller area of homes to the north, was added (~320 acres). Further, two additions of new homes to the west of Lower Otay Lake and south of Telegraph Canyon road accounted for the conversion of approximately 250 acres. Just to the southwest of the last developments, again south of Telegraph Canyon road, another two, large areas of new homes were added, totaling approximately 650 acres.

Lastly, smaller, but still significant, additions of new homes, schools, buildings, and casinos were also seen throughout the county. Some examples of casinos added this update include the new Harrah's Rincon Casino, San Pasqual's Valley View Casino, and the Golden Acorn Casino near Live Oak Springs. Moderate additions of new homes were added this update in the Ponto (~50 acres) and Hillsdale (~65 acres) areas. The rest of the additions of new homes were smaller than 50 acres and scattered throughout the county. To the north of Mira Mesa, a complex of buildings, parking lots, and sports fields also accounted for the conversion of approximately 60 acres. Finally, in the Otay Mesa area, the new San Ysidro High School was added (~50 acres) on the western edge of the mesa area, along with a large, new warehouse, paved parking area, and truck/container storage

yards (~130 acres) to the east on the mesa.

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

There were 11 instances of the conversion of irrigated farmland to farmland of local importance while there were no conversions to grazing land this update. This is due to the farmland of local importance definition for San Diego County. All of these conversions were due to fields of irrigated farmland that had been fallow for three or more update cycles. These fallow farmland areas were spread pretty evenly throughout the county, the most significant being an approximately 90-acre plot north of Ramona and an approximately 150-acre plot in the Tijuana River estuary.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 23 conversions of irrigated farmland to other land this update. The majority of these were due to the identification of ranchettes or farmsteads and were spread pretty evenly throughout the county. The only other conversions made were due to the identification of an unpaved equipment storage yard and a feedlot-which is not covered by the farmland of local importance definition.

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

There were 48 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to irrigated farmland this update. Most of these additions were small expansions of existing fields with about two-thirds of the additions occurring in the northwestern portion of the county. Many of these additions were in the form of trees, such as avocados, which are a common crop in the Fallbrook area. Significant additions include approximately 75 acres of new trees added in the Morro Hill area, approximately 50 acres of new trees added in the Pala Mountain area, and some field crops were an addition to the east of Rancho Santa Fe (~150 acres). Other additions of irrigated farmland were small and scattered throughout the county. Lastly, another significant area of conversion was due to the identification of nurseries and expansion of existing nurseries throughout the county.

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

Nurseries in pots: A few nurseries were shifted from S to U due to having been identified during the field check as growing their stock in pots, not in-ground. Also, a county comment correctly identified some greenhouses growing stock in containers that had previously been classified as urban.

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

Nurseries throughout the county need to be checked to verify if they are in pots or in-ground.

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks. photo interpretation, start date: 3/1/04*

photo interpretation, number of days: 13
ground truthing dates: 3/22/04-3/25/04
days for map compilation and clean up: 12

* **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