

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

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Benito

FIELD MAPPER(S): Jan Carey

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research
date: August 3, 2003
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR
coverage gap : none
additional imagery: USGS Landsat 7 ETM+

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2002 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2004 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none

➤ *personal contacts:* None

➤ *websites:* <http://www.san-benito.ca.us>

2002-2004 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:** 6 changes.

Changes in this category were areas less than 10 acres each. There was a five acre housing addition in the city of San Juan Bautista (San Juan Bautista quad, 36121g5). There were small additions to two new industrial parks, Citation Business Park and Air Park Business Center, near the Hollister Airport (San Felipe quad, 36121h4).

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 7 changes.

Changes in these categories were also relatively small. There was a 20 acre addition to the Los Larios Housing Development (San Juan Bautista quad) and 2 changes in southwest Hollister totaling approximately 30 acres (Tres Pinos, 36121g3).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 5 changes.

The farmland transferred to the Grazing Land category is due to land left fallow for three or four update cycles and is located throughout the county.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 15 changes.

The most notable change in the category is the approximately 20 acres addition of new ranchettes north of Hollister (San Felipe quad, 36121h4). Most changes consist of additions to rural residential and riparian areas along with vacant lots and an ag processing area. Changes to other land occur primarily in the northern part of the county (San Felipe, Hollister 36121f4, and Three Sisters 36121h3 quads).

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 14 changes.

Additions north of Hollister include various irrigated crops and the El Moderno Wholesale nursery (San Felipe quad). New irrigated agriculture south of Hollister includes field crops and new Leal winery and vineyard (Tres Pinos quad). Ag additions in the southern portion of the county include vineyard expansions totaling approximately 200 acres and a small irrigated pasture addition (Mt. Harlan 36121f4, Paicines 36121f3, Cherry Peak 36121f2, and Panoche quads).

➤ **Non-irrigated and/or Grazing to Other Land:** 2 changes.

These small changes are due to rural residential changes and the addition of riparian areas and roads (Chittenden 36121h5 and Three Sisters quads).

Unusual:

➤ **Local to Grazing Land:** 10 changes.

Following a trend documented in our last update report, areas of formerly non-irrigated crops that have been idled four or more updates are being reclassified to Grazing Land. The most notable changes are located in east and southeast San Benito County and total approximately 4000 acres (Mercy Hot Springs 36210f7, Llanada 36121e8, and Panoche 36121e7 quads).

➤ **Grazing to Local:** 1 change.

There was an addition of 35 acres of dry drain farming in the southern part of the county (Cherry Peak quad).

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?* Continue to monitor the area designated as boron affected (see the comments from 2002 update).

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

photo interpretation, start date: June 30, 2004

photo interpretation, number of days: 15

ground truthing dates: June 27 to 29, 2004

days for map compilation and clean up: 7

* **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