

California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Sonoma

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGERY:**

source: NASA-Ames Research Center  
date: July 21, 2004  
scale: 1:130,000  
film type: CIR Transparencies  
coverage gaps: Gualala & Annapolis areas

additional imagery: National Agriculture Imagery Program  
date: 2004  
resolution: 2 meter  
color type: true color  
coverage gaps: Gualala area

**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*  
cities: Santa Rosa  
county:  
others:

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:* Army Corp of Engineers - <http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/lakesonoma/>  
Lake Sonoma information

<http://www.californiacoastline.org/> California Coastal Records Project  
Used in photo coverage gaps near Gualala.

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

California Spatial Information Library  
<http://gis.ca.gov>  
Public and Conservation Trust Lands (2005)

**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**

This type of change is rare during this update. There are five total changes and the largest is only thirty acres near Healdsburg. The rest of them are less than fifteen acres. New homes and the occasional new industrial building or office building were responsible.

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

Only nine changes from Local, Grazing and Other land to Urban land. These changes are also small in acreage (under 15 acres each) and consist of new homes and office buildings. One notable change includes the Horicon School in Annapolis near the far northwest portion of the county. Notable due to the lack of development occurring there.

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

This is the most common type of change with ninety occurrences. The irrigated farmland was fallow for three update cycles and was concentrated around Sebastopol and west of Santa Rosa. The largest was just over 100 acres in the Carneros area. There were several that were over 50 acres each, spread throughout the county, and the rest were smaller than 50 acres.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

Fifteen changes to Other land. A majority of the changes were due to irrigated farmland going fallow for three update cycles, but a few also had farmsteads on the land. Two of the changes also had riparian areas that belonged in Other land. The largest is over one hundred acres located in the Dry Creek valley with riparian areas.

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

Land was brought back into Irrigated Farmland sixty times. The vast majority of the changes were new wine grapes, but a few other types occurred. A large change occurred near Annapolis where seventy five acres of wine grapes were planted. In the southern part of the county near the bay, a dry grain field was converted into an irrigated pasture. That change was almost ninety acres and the remaining changes were all under fifty acres.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2004.*

There were three unusual changes. The first two are similar because they both converted Urban land that was abandoned or prematurely overmapped. One of the changes is 50 acres near the Mission and State Historic Park. The other is over fifteen acres near the coast. The third unusual change is a constructed underground wine cave or cellar that changed about ten acres of Irrigated farmland to Urban land. The unusual aspect of this change was that the mound of earth was covered by green grass and could easily be interpreted as irrigated pasture or agriculture. This was located in the Healdsburg area near the Dry Creek valley.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2006? Why?*

The area to the west of Santa Rosa is not necessarily a problem area, but it does have a lot of different land uses and farmland is going out of production and coming in.

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

*photo interpretation, start date:* February 15, 2006

*photo interpretation, number of days:* 26

*ground truthing dates:* April 11 – 13, 2006

*# days for map compilation and clean up:* 6

\* **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)