

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)

date: summer 2006

scale: 2 meter resolution

film type: true color mosaic

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery: NAIP 2005 (1 meter resolution) for Santa Cruz County.

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2004 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2006 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none

cities:

county:

others:

2004-2006 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quad or city) 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:** 5 conversions

The majority of these changes occurred in or adjacent to the City of Watsonville. The largest changes took place in the City of Watsonville where a total of approximately 30 acres were delineated for new homes and approximately 10 acres was added for sport fields at Pajaro Valley High School.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 14 conversions

The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the use of higher resolution (1 meter) imagery to delineate existing homes throughout the county, some areas had lacked detailed imagery in the past. On the Laurel quad, this new imagery allowed ~70 acres to be added. On the Watsonville West quad, approximately 60 acres was delineated

for existing homes.

On the other hand, the expansion of a home development contributed to this type of conversion. The largest was near the City of Santa Cruz where ~30 acres was delineated for the expansion of the new Woods Cove Estates.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 39 conversions

All the changes that occurred in this category were due to plots of Irrigated Farmland having been fallow for 3 or more updates. A total of ~1,100 acres went from Irrigated Farmland to Grazing Land countywide. The largest change happened on the Davenport quad with a total of ~530 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Laurel and Watsonville West quads with ~190 and 130 acres, respectively, going out of production.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 13 conversions

Some of these changes this update were due to the use of higher resolution (1 meter) imagery to delineate areas of low-density housing throughout the county. The largest of these changes happened on the Watsonville West quad, totalling ~60 acres.

Other changes of this type were due to Irrigated Farmland having been fallow for 3 or more update cycles, typically in units too small to be mapped as Grazing Lands. The largest change happened on the Santa Cruz quad with a total of ~30 acres.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 11 conversions

The most notable addition of Irrigated Farmland this update occurred on the Watsonville West quad where a total of ~40 acres was added. This was followed by the Santa Cruz and Laurel quads where ~30 and 20 acres, respectively, went into production.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2006.*

Nonirrigated Grain to Grazing or Other Land: 9 conversions

The majority of these changes were due to a combination of plots of nonirrigated grain having been fallow for 4 or more updates and due to the use of higher resolution (1 meter) imagery throughout the county. The largest change was on the Laurel quad for a total of ~40 acres.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2008?*
Why? none

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

photo interpretation, start date:1/4/2008

photo interpretation, number of days: ~6

ground truthing dates: 2/13/2008 to 2/15/2008

days for map compilation and clean up: 4

* **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