

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Diego

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGERY:

source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA

date: 2005

resolution: 2 meter

color type: true color

coverage gaps: none

source: Air Photo USA

date: January 2006

scale: 1 foot resolution

film type: true color

coverage gaps: eastern 1/3 of 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*

cities: City of Encinitas

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

➤ *websites:* Arrowood Golf Course

<http://jcgolf.com/courses-arrowood.php>

San Diego Parks and Recreation – Chollas Lake Park

<http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/pdf/chollaslakemap.pdf>

San Diego County GIS data

<http://www.sangis.org/>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* San Diego County GIS data downloaded from website above.

Ag_Commodity_06 – 2006 agricultural commodity production sites

San Diego County Roads – road data used as spatial reference

Vegetation – regional vegetation

Zoning_UN – Zoning for San Diego County Unincorporated Areas

2004-2006 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**

The conversion of Irrigated Farmland to Urban land was very limited this update. The total number of changes is only forty and almost every change had new homes, some having support infrastructure such as parks or schools. Only four of the changes were over fifty acres, but one in particular was much larger than the rest. The Arrowood golf course and adjacent new homes in San Luis Rey converted almost 250 acres. The next largest change was almost 100 acres of new homes near the Palomar Airport and south of Palomar Airport Road. An interesting change was the identification of a water reclamation plant on Highland Valley Road in Rancho Bernardo. The plant was mapped as a nursery and in the photo, it actually resembled one. When the thirty three acre site was field checked, a sign at the entrance confirmed the proper land use.

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

This was a really big change. Just over three hundred total changes this update indicate how commonplace this became. They were not all exceedingly large changes either, only nine of them were larger than one hundred acres. While there weren't large individual changes, there was some consistency in the new land use, homes. Apartments and condominiums also contributed to new urban land. Several large areas of new homes and some commercial business buildings were mapped in the San Marcos area (240, 140, & 130 acres). These large changes were in the vicinity of Rancho Santa Fe Road and San Elijo Road. The largest change was over 275 acres of new homes in Chula Vista straddling Olympic Parkway between Highway 125 (under construction) and Lower Otay Reservoir.

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

There were a significant number of changes from Irrigated farmland to Local. Irrigated farmland that goes fallow for three or more updates qualifies for Farmland of Local Importance in San Diego County. The total number of changes was 170, but almost all of them were less than 50 acres each. Only ten of the changes were more than 50 acres and five of those exceeded one hundred acres. The largest change was 300 acres east of Del Mar, next to Highway 56. In the air photo, this area appeared to be in the preparation

stages for urban development. Another large change was almost two hundred acres on the Otay Mesa south of Brown Airfield. This particular locality had several fields of Irrigated farmland go fallow and has several others noted as going fallow. Other common changes include small areas on the edge of an orchard with new homes. These were areas of low density housing too small to delineate separately so the nonfarmed part was moved to next most appropriate adjacent polygon (typically Farmland of Local Importance).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

The conversion of Irrigated farmland to Other land has a modest total of 82, but the source of these changes is unique. As previously noted, Irrigated farmland that has gone fallow for three or more updates would qualify for Local. Many areas that had gone fallow for that third update also had nice large houses, and many times a pool or tennis court too. This was predominately occurring in the Fallbrook and Bonsall area and the Interstate 15 corridor, where the avocado orchards are the main agricultural activity. The incursion of low density housing within the orchards is quite obvious now. The largest was over 250 acres in Valley Center, north of Escondido. Although the vast majority of the changes were less than 20 acres each, scores of orchards have evidence of more new homes in progress. Consequently, this type of change may continue to have unusually high numbers for updates to come.

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

This change was most common in the Fallbrook and Bonsall area. Most of the 134 total changes were additions to existing orchards. Not surprisingly, almost all of the changes were less than fifty acres. Only two changes were larger than fifty acres, such as the ~80 acre orchard in Jacumba in the eastern part of the county. Unfortunately the orchard was not accessible during the field check, so photo sources were relied on. The largest change was 150 acres of Grazing land that was field checked in the Cameron Corners/Campo area, right along highway 94. A large irrigated pasture was being sub irrigated with ditches and channels. The presence of cows on the pasture also helped confirm the land use.

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

There were a few small adjustments to the Urban Land boundary, where it went to another land use. Two of these changes in particular are interesting. In Encinitas, eleven acres mixed with lettuce and a small orchard was field checked where Santa Fe Drive terminates at San Elijo Avenue and the railroad tracks. The other notable change occurred at a mining operation just south of San Vicente Reservoir. Fifty acres that evidently had a large amount of equipment and infrastructure in the past had been marked by prior analysts for the lack of those features. This was the third update where the equipment was gone, and on top of that, an active open pit has been dug and filled with water. This was ample reason to change the Urban Land to Other Land.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2008? Why?*

The Fallbrook and Bonsall area needs very careful checking due to the complex mixture of orchards and low density housing.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 3/3/2008

photo interpretation, number of days: 22

ground truthing dates: 4/21/2008 – 4/25/2008

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