

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Luis Obispo

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA

date: summer 2006

scale: 2 meter resolution

film type: true color mosaic

coverage gaps: small portions of the county

additional imagery: National Agricultural Imagery Program, summer 2005, 1 meter resolution, true color mosaic

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:

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

Bureau of Reclamation, Santa Maria Project

(www.usbr.gov/dataweb/html/santamaria.html)

Plains Exploration and Production Company (www.pxp.com)

SLO County (www.slocounty.ca.gov)

Trilogy, By Shea Homes (www.trilogylife.com/main)

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

Municipal boundary layer for the State of California (cities_07_Albrs.shp)

Street layer for the County of San Luis Obispo (GDT_slo.mdb\ Street)

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: 5 conversions**

This update the majority of the conversions were due to commercial uses. In the City of Arroyo Grande, a paved parking lot (~10 acres) was added and in the community of Nipomo new homes (~10 acres) were in evidence. The River Oaks Hot Springs Spa, including the lake and lawn areas (~15 acres total), was noted in the City of Paso Robles. In the City of San Luis Obispo, the Dioptrics headquarters building (~10 acres) was added and the Castoro Cellars Winery (~10 acres) was noted in the community of San Miguel.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land: 75 conversions**

The conversion of Local, Grazing, or Other Land to Urban Land consisted primarily of new single-family housing developments. New retail outlets, commercial buildings, and schools, occurred to a lesser extent. Notable changes include:

San Simeon/Cambria/Baywood Park

The Ragged Point Inn and Resort in San Simeon (~10 acres) was recently expanded and became large enough to map as Urban Land. In Cambria, the new location of Cambria Grammar School (~10 acres) was added. Two areas of new homes were added in Baywood Park (~10 acres each).

Paso Robles/Templeton/Atascadero

Multiple additions of homes occurred in the City of Paso Robles. Approximately 250 acres of new homes were added, including the River View Estates and Traditions developments. The new La Quinta hotel (~ 5 acres) was also added along Highway 46.

In the community of Templeton, three new housing developments (~ 40 acres total) were added, as well as new commercial buildings (~35, 10, and 10 acres).

In the City of Atascadero, new housing occurred along the urban fringe. Approximately 175 acres of new single-family homes were added, including the Colony at Apple Valley development.

San Luis Obispo/Nipomo

In the City of San Luis Obispo, two new housing developments (~30 and 10 acres) were added as well as an area of commercial buildings (~20 acres). Also, a new Costco (~15 acres) was added along Los Osos Valley Road.

The Woodlands by Trilogy golf course community (~230 acres) was added in the community of Nipomo. The Knollwood (~65 acres) and Morro Vista Estates (~ 20 acres) housing developments were also additions. Dorothea Lange Elementary School (~10 acres) was also noted.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land: 101 conversions**

The majority of these changes were due to Irrigated Farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were scattered throughout the agricultural areas of the county. Most of the changes were between 10 to 30 acres. Larger conversions of 100 acres or larger were noted near Paso Robles and in the Cuyama Valley. These large conversions occurred on the Paso Robles (~185 and 100 acres) and Cuyama (~155 acres) quads.

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is part of the Farmland of Local Importance category. These changes primarily occurred in the foothills in the northern part of the county. Most of the changes were between 10 to 50 acres. The largest conversions occurred on the Cholame (~205 acres), Paso Robles (~110 acres), and Templeton (~120 acres) quads.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land: 17 conversions**

Low-density housing (ranchettes) accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 10-30 acres in size. Other changes were due to rural commercial.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland: 128 conversions**

The majority of the Irrigated Farmland was added in the foothills near Paso Robles and in the Nipomo Valley. Most of the changes were between 10-30 acres in size and consisted of vineyards, orchards, row crops, nurseries, field crops, and irrigated pasture. Some changes of note include a vineyard (~120 acres) on the Creston quad, a vineyard (~160 acres) on the Paso Robles quad, two orchards (~ 185 and 145 acres) on the Twitchell Dam quad, and an area of field crops (~100 acres) on the Wilson Corner quad.

➤ **Local, Grazing to Other Land: 321 conversions**

Low-density housing (ranchettes) accounted for the majority of the changes to Other Land. These conversions were primarily due to improved digital imagery and are not due to new construction. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily less than 50 acres each. Large changes greater than 100 acres occurred on the Arroyo Grande (5), Atascadero (2), Creston (2), Estrella (2), Lime Mountain (1), Oceano (8), Paso Robles (2), Shedd Canyon (3), and Templeton (2) quads. Other changes were due to rural commercial, mining facilities, and small agricultural ponds.

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

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 14 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to other categories primarily due to the identification of areas that were vacant for three or more updates. One change of note was an area of crops (~20 acres) on the San Luis Obispo quad.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 6 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to the identification of potted plant nurseries and nonirrigated orchards. Potted plant nurseries and nonirrigated orchards are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes may result in Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance being converted to Unique Farmland.

Water Conversions: There were 3 conversions involving Water. A new boat ramp and parking lot was installed at Lake Nacimiento resulting in a conversion from

Water to Urban Land. Two areas of nonirrigated grain were identified in the upper reaches of the Twitchell Reservoir and this resulted in a conversion of Water to Farmland of Local Importance.

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

New vineyards continue to be planted in the foothills. Watch for the conversion of nonirrigated orchards to vineyards.

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

photo interpretation, start date: May 22, 2008

photo interpretation, number of days: 13

ground truthing dates: June 16-19, 2008

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