

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

**2006 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Solano

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Michael Kisko

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)

*date:* summer 2005

*scale:* 2 meter resolution

*film type:* true color mosaic

*coverage gaps:* none

*additional imagery:* Landsat 7 infrared imagery from summer 2005, 30 meter resolution

**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:*

The Trust for Public Land, Liberty Island

[http://www.tpl.org/tier3\\_cd.cfm?content\\_item\\_id=1045&folder\\_id=266](http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=1045&folder_id=266)

Jepson Prairie Reserve

<http://www.vernalpools.org/jan2000/8mawdsley.pdf>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* Federal and State public lands data layers (public conservation lands, joint venture, and DFG lands)

**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: 7 changes**

The two most significant conversions in this category of change were due to the

construction of new sports fields in conjunction with parks. First, the “Al Patch Park” with baseball fields was a new addition in Vacaville (~50 acres) adjacent to the California Medical Facility. Next, the “Hall Memorial Park” in Dixon was expanded with the addition of new baseball and other sports fields (~10 acres).

The remaining five conversions were attributable to the use of improved, high-resolution imagery this update rather than new land use conversion. These changes involved the identification of a couple of estates with manicured lawn areas in the middle of farmland (~20 acres), a portion of a cemetery (~10 acres), some water treatment ponds in the Fairfield area (~40 acres), and part of a landfill (~80 acres).

#### ➤ **Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land: 43 changes**

Conversions in this category were primarily due to the construction of new homes and buildings in the Fairfield, Vacaville, Vallejo, Suisun City, Benicia, and Dixon areas.

In Fairfield, new home construction accounted for the conversion of approximately 100 acres of grazing or other land. Examples included approximately 60 acres of new homes in three additions in the vicinity of Solano Community College, an addition of new homes off Red Top Road (~20 acres), and the “Whitney Park” development (~15 acres) in eastern Fairfield. Two large new buildings with associated parking (~15 acres) were also added in Fairfield, off Walters Road.

In Vacaville, approximately 140 acres of new homes were added this update. In northern Vacaville, three additions of new homes or condominiums accounted for the conversion of approximately 70 acres of grazing or other land. Further, three additions of new homes (~45 acres) were made off Vine Street with another two additions (~20 acres) off California Drive. One last, notable conversion in Vacaville was a new, paved parking area for the Genentech facility (~40 acres).

Meanwhile, new homes were also seen to a lesser extent in the Vallejo (~10 acres), Suisun City (~10 acres), Benicia (~35 acres), and Dixon (~10 acres) areas.

The remaining conversions in this category were primarily due to the identification of areas of homes or other urban uses in heavily vegetated, mountainous or remote areas through the use of the improved, high-resolution imagery. This accounted for the conversion of approximately 160 acres of grazing or other land.

#### ➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Grazing Land: 46 changes**

This category of change included farmland that had been fallow for three or more update cycles or farmland that had been tracked for multiple update cycles and had been found to be growing nonirrigated crops, such as nonirrigated grains, leaving the irrigated farmland category. Because there is no Farmland of Local Importance in Solano County, areas found to be in nonirrigated crop production with ***no irrigated crop production as part of the rotational cycle*** are mapped as grazing land.

These conversions of fallow farmland or nonirrigated cropland occurred throughout the county and were generally less than 50 acres in size. However, single conversions of 100 acres or more were seen on the Fairfield North (180 acres), Cordelia (109 acres), Dixon (158 acres), Elmira (146 and 110 acres), and Dozier (156 acres) quads.

#### ➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land: 58 changes**

The delineation of ranchettes and farmsteads accounted for most of the conversions of this type with most conversions encompassing 20 acres or less. These types of land use conversions were made throughout the county with many of the changes

attributable to improved, high-resolution imagery that allowed for the delineation of these land use types.

➤ **Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland: 21 changes**

This category of change involves the addition of new irrigated agriculture in the county, such as vineyards, as well as the addition of irrigated pasture, and a few changes involving the identification of nurseries with stock being grown in containers. First, new vineyards (~10 acres) were added in the Fairfield area along Green Valley Road along with more vineyards (~16 acres) added along Morse Lane on the Allendale quad. On the other hand, significant additions of irrigated pasture were made on the Allendale (~80 acres), Dozier (~50 acres), and Liberty Island (~100 acres) quads. The additions of irrigated pasture on the Allendale quad were primarily due to the use of improved, high-resolution imagery and were likely not new land uses. Finally, three additions of nurseries with stock being grown in containers were made on the Monticello Dam (~16 acres) and Allendale (~50 acres) quads.

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

Quite a bit of acreage was shifted from irrigated cropland to irrigated pasture, primarily on the Dozier and Liberty Island quads, due to improved, high-resolution imagery and field checks of these areas. In most cases, it didn't affect the category of farmland on our maps since most of these areas were mapped as Prime Farmland and stay Prime Farmland whether they are mapped as irrigated cropland or irrigated pasture.

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

Close attention should be paid to what is going on with Liberty Island as far as the level of inundation as it has been purchased by the Trust for Public Land; parts of it may be kept inundated as fish habitat according to their website and may need to be shifted to the water category on our map.

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

*photo interpretation, start date: 7/20/06*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 7*

*ground truthing dates: 10/30/06-10/31/06, 11/01/06, and 11/03/06*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 5*

- **Note: Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland

*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)