California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Sonoma

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Air Photo USA – Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	April 2007
Data description	True Color (1 foot resolution)
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:
The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2008 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps)
City of Santa Rosa City of Healdsburg
Personal Contacts
None.
Websites Used for Reference
Sonoma State University Green Music Center http://gmc.sonoma.edu/index.shtml Google Maps Street-view http://maps.google.com/maps/ Bing.com Maps Birdseye-view http://www.bing.com/maps/
GIS Data Used for Reference
None.

2006-2008 CHANGE SUMMARY:
Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. See definitions at bottom of table.

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	6 changes
This change has a mere total of six. The largest change is only nine acres. Two of the changes were for athletic fields. This is obviously a very small portion of the conversions in Sonoma County this update.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	46 changes
This type of change seems well spread throughout the county and mainly small is size. The largest is only 47 acres of homes in the southwest part of Cotati. Other examples include paved lots, soccer fields, and a water treatment plant under construction on highway 116 south of Petaluma (17 acres). Near the Sonoma State University area, the Green Music Center (6 acres) was field checked and the web site mentioned above helped identify buildings and plans. Buildings that existed in the 2007 photo were mapped. Expect small additions for parking lots or future buildings.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland **aside from urbanization**	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	128 changes
There was a dominant reason for this change, when fields go fallow for three or more update cycles. This was all over the county and varied from the largest of 325 acres near Stage Gulch Rd, Highway 116, near Petaluma on inaccessible private property. The photo evidence was very convincing for the fallow status. There also were 3 changes of irrigated pastures going fallow and field checked. All three irrigated pastures were just over 100 acres while the remaining total changes are all less than 100 acres in size. There are two changes over 50 acres to dry grains. One of the dry grain additions is northeast of Rohnert Park and the other is near the intersection of Stage Gulch Road and Lakeville Road (Highway 116).	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	60 changes
This change was mainly due to low density housing, farmsteads and land going fallow for three or more updates. The low density housing becomes easier to map as imagery improves and the use of Google street-view provided additional support. All of the changes were less than 50 acres and only 5 of them are over 20 acres. The land going fallow was too small to stand alone as a separate land use. These areas were adjacent to existing Other Land, and therefore were changed to that land use.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	159 changes
The change to Irrigated Farmland was very common, but all of the changes were less than 100 acres. The largest change was 84 acres in the hills east of Sonoma State University. Nearly every change was for new grape vines, with a couple changes for nurseries or some row crops.	
Unusual Changes (Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)	
Anything changing from Urban is unusual and there are some instances of that change this update. None were greater than 30 acres. A couple areas were tracked for three updates	

as prematurely mapped as Urban or abandoned and changed to Grazing and Other Land. There were a few areas of the Russian River riparian zone next to cities that were changed from Urban to Other Land. Lastly, there were even some grape vines that were adjacent to existing Irrigated Farmland and changed. This type of change is largely due to the improved imagery.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2010 update, and reasons.)

The general area west and north of Santa Rosa, around Sebastopol and Rohnert Park has a very complicated land use pattern. This area has agriculture tracked as fallow and other areas that may add agriculture in the future. There are also areas of non-irrigated agriculture and low density housing. No real concerns, just a challenging area to check for land use changes.

Definitions:

Irrigated Farmland includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

Nonirrigated land uses include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.

Other Land includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the FMMP web site.

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2008 update.

Image interpretation, start date	11/2/2009
Image interpretation, number of days	15
Ground truth dates	12/28-29/2009
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	6

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx