

**California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

2010 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Clara

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date	Summer 2009
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps	none
Additional imagery used	none

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2010 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2008 maps)
City of Santa Clara
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
County of Santa Clara: http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/scc Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Santa Clara County Base Map Santa Clara County Digital Soil Surveys

2008-2010 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	3 changes
There were only three conversions of irrigated farmland to urban land this update. In the City of San Jose, approximately 15 acres of new homes were added in the Murillo neighborhood. In the City of Gilroy, the new McCarthy Shopping Center (~10 acres) was added along with an area of buildings (~10 acres).	

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	17 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to new construction of homes, buildings, schools and parks. In the City of San Jose, the Brocade Communications facility (~20 acres) was added along with Fowler Creek Park (~15 acres). The Madrone Plaza townhomes (~10 acres) were added in the City of Morgan Hill. In the City of Gilroy, Christopher High School (~50 acres) was added and the Las Animas Elementary School (~10 acres) was completed. A new paved campground (~10 acres) was also added at Coyote Lake County Park.</p> <p>Further changes were due to the increased density of homes in existing housing areas resulting in changes from Other Land to Urban and Built-up Land. Approximately 15 acres were added on the Castle Rock Ridge quad and approximately 35 acres were added on the Gilroy quad.</p>	
<p align="center">Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	82 changes
<p>The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of these changes were less than 40 acres and were scattered throughout the county. Larger conversions occurred on the Chittenden quad (~80 and 60 acres).</p> <p>Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. These changes primarily occurred on the Morgan Hill and Chittenden quads. Most of these changes were less than 40 acres. One larger conversion occurred on the Morgan Hill (~80 acres) quad.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	11 changes
<p>Low-density housing (ranchettes) and farmsteads accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 10-30 acres in size.</p>	
<p align="center">Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	10 changes
<p>The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the western foothills and the Santa Clara Valley. Most of the changes were 10-25 acres in size and consisted of orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and chili peppers.</p>	
<p align="center">Unusual Changes (Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2010 update.)</p>	
<p><u>Nonirrigated Land Uses to Other Land:</u> There were 32 conversions to Other Land. These changes were due to low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial, and mining facilities. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 30 acres or less in size.</p> <p><u>Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land:</u> There were 42 conversions to Grazing Land. These changes were due to nonirrigated grain having been fallow for four or more update cycles. Most of these changes were less than 50 acres and were scattered throughout the county. Larger conversions occurred on the Gilroy (~170 and 190 acres),</p>	

Lick Observatory (~105 acres) and Morgan Hill (~135 acres) quads.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland Categories: There were three conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to potted plant nurseries having been changed to irrigated farmland and the identification of one potted plant nursery. Potted plant nurseries are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.

Further conversions from Prime Farmland to Unique Farmland were due to the incorporation of updated digital soil survey data (SSURGO) into the 2010 Important Farmland data. This reflects modifications made to soil mapping by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as opposed to land use conversions.

Conversions from Urban and Built-up Land: There were seven conversions from Urban Land. Approximately 110 acres of Urban Land was converted to Other Land and Grazing Land due to lack of sufficient infrastructure. These areas were monitored for three update cycles to ensure they were not being used for an urban purpose.

Further conversions to irrigated farmland, nonirrigated land uses, and Other Land were due to digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2012 update, and reasons.)

None.

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 2010 update.

Image interpretation, start date	July 21, 2010
Image interpretation, number of days	8
Ground truth dates	October 27-29, 2010

Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	5
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Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>