

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

**2010 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Santa Cruz

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)
Acquisition date	Summer 2009 & 2010
Data description	1 meter resolution, true color mosaic
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	Google Maps

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:**

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

<b>Local Review Comments</b> (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2008 maps)
None.
<b>Personal Contacts</b>
None.
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b>
Mount Madonna Conference and Retreat Center: <a href="http://www.mountmadonna.org/index.html">http://www.mountmadonna.org/index.html</a>
Watsonville Wastewater Treatment facility: <a href="http://www.watsonvilleutilities.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=27&amp;Itemid=176">http://www.watsonvilleutilities.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=27&amp;Itemid=176</a>
Vine Hill Winery: <a href="http://vinehillwinery.com/">http://vinehillwinery.com/</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b>
None.

**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.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	15 changes
There isn't much activity in this type of change. The largest is only 13 acres where the	

Watsonville wastewater treatment facility built a Water Resource Center. This is located west of the city along the Pajaro River. The remaining changes are very small and consist of homes, apartments and sometimes commercial buildings.

<b>Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land</b>	<b>91 changes</b>
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This type of change has a large quantity, but the acreages involved are very modest in comparison. The vast majority of the changes are due to homes, many pre-existing that were difficult to map previously due to the available imagery and type of terrain. While most changes were less than 20 acres, the largest change was 68 acres of homes along Freedom Boulevard that was dense enough for the Urban definition. That scenario also occurred in other parts of the county. A notable change includes the Mount Madonna Center on Summit Road. There are various buildings for the conference and retreat center, creating 24 acres of Urban.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland  
aside from urbanization**

<b>Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses</b>	<b>32 changes</b>
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This change was due to Irrigated farmland going fallow for three or more updates. The largest is 125 acres located at what is called College Lake. The lake appears to only fill with water in the winter and in the past, farmed in the summer. The area is along Paulsen Road near Green Valley Road. The second largest change is only 50 acres and the rest are all less than 30 acres each.

<b>Irrigated Farmland to Other Land</b>	<b>90 changes</b>
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There was a large number of these changes, but the acreages involved were modest. Only two of the changes are greater than 20 acres and the vast majority are less than 10 acres each. Many times, a small area has gone fallow for three or more updates, but is too small to qualify as Grazing Land, therefore these areas are reclassified as Other Land. Farmsteads, riparian areas and low density housing also made up a large portion of the changes.

**Conversions to Irrigated Farmland**

<b>Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland</b>	<b>20 changes</b>
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A small total and small acreages characterize this type of change, where only one is larger than 10 acres. New grape vines, orchards and row crops are the most common types of new agriculture being mapped. Just east of Scotts Valley, the Vine Hill Winery was field checked, and mapped with assistance from the company website.

**Unusual Changes**

*(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2010 update.)*

Conversion from Urban Land to anything else is unusual, and the acreages for such changes were very small this update. Some of the changes were marked as lacking structures for three updates, and several changes as small as one acre were made to improve the Urban boundary.

**Areas of Concern for Future Updates**

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

There is some agricultural land that is fallow for two or more updates west of Watsonville. In particular, a large nursery is possibly being converted to agriculture in the ground. In the hills and mountains around Corralitos, some orchards are going fallow and may go out of production next update.

**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	12/14/2011
Image interpretation, number of days	9
Ground truth dates	1/30- 1/31/ 2012
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	4

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