

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

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Clara

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2016
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 2016 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2014 maps) City of Morgan Hill
Personal Contacts None.
Websites Used for Reference Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com South Bay Polo, http://southbaypolo.com/# Wikipedia Mount Umunhum, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Umunhum Verde vineyards, http://verdevineyards.com/ Jacobs Farm organic, https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Documents/MartialCottleGuideMap.pdf
GIS Data Used for Reference None.

2014-2016 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	39 changes
<p>Most changes from Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land were less than 10 acres for various reasons including: homes, freeways, and larger estate properties with secondary structures. In the southern part of Gilroy, a Pepsi product distributor called UNFI built a large building converting almost 30 acres. Near the intersection of Center and Masten Avenues, the South Bay Polo facility converted 11 acres and was determined to be recreational and not agricultural.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	347 changes
<p>There were numerous changes to Urban Land from Nonirrigated Land and Other Land. The vast majority were due to homes, frequently on the periphery of the cities and in the areas near Morgan Hill and San Martin, where large estate properties with tennis courts, pools, and manicured lawns are the norm. Many of the homes in the Morgan Hill/San Martin area may not have been new construction, but when structure density was counted, these areas easily qualified for Urban Land. Significant examples include the San Pedro Ponds recharge basin in Morgan Hill (48 acres), which looks like a natural area, but in fact has an underlying Urban qualifying use. In San Jose, the Almaden Ranch Marketplace at Cherry Avenue and Almaden Expressway has a Bass Pro Shops and City Sports Club, and converted 34 acres. It should be noted that many of these changes to Urban were offset by the improvements to Urban linework and the removal of Urban Land.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	54 changes
<p>This change was primarily due to Irrigated Farmland going fallow for 4 years and field checked if possible. The largest of this type was 45 acres near Maple and Seymour Avenues in San Martin. There were also 8 changes that were due to non-irrigated grains, which qualifies for Farmland of Local Importance. The largest change to non-irrigated grains was 45 acres along Tennant Avenue just east of Highway 101.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	63 changes
<p>The conversion from Irrigated Farmland to Other Land was due to riparian areas, farmsteads, homesteads and land going fallow for 4 years, but too small for a Grazing Land polygon. The two largest changes were 80 and 45 acres each for the riparian areas of Jones creek south of Gilroy. The areas surrounding Coyote, Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy is where farmsteads and homesteads were most prevalent.</p>	

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	62 changes
<p>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland were primarily due to new row crops and grape vines, and only two changes were larger than 20 acres. The largest was 40 acres at Martial Cottle Park in San Jose where Jacobs Farm Organic is growing a variety of crops. In nearby Sunnyvale, 10 acres of irrigated crops were field checked on what appears to be Peterson Middle School property.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)	
<p>The boundaries between Water, Urban, and Other Land along the San Francisco Bay shoreline were vastly improved this update. Additionally, several lakes and reservoirs were also improved. Some water bodies were delineated with 2016 imagery as it appeared to be near full capacity. This includes Coyote Lake and Stevens Creek Reservoir. If the lake or reservoir was not at full capacity, such as Calero Reservoir and Anderson Lake going through a seismic retrofit, then 2010 imagery (a high water mark year) was utilized to determine the Water boundary.</p>	
Areas of Concern for Future Updates	
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 update, and reasons.)	
<p>Chesbro and Uvas Reservoirs water boundaries were not improved this update, but probably should be next update.</p>	
<p>Definitions:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

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 2016 update.

Image interpretation, start date: 3/26/2018
Image interpretation, number of days: 36
Ground truth dates: 8/13/2018 to 8/14/2018
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 10

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