

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

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) Santa Cruz LAFCO
Personal Contacts
Websites Used for Reference Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference FRAP California City Boundary Layer (2016)

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	1 change
The only significant conversion from irrigated farmland to Urban Land occurred in Watsonville where a new FedEx Ground facility (15 acres) was in evidence.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	3 changes
There were three conversions of nonirrigated land to Urban Land, all of them involving sports fields or facilities associated with schools. First, a soccer field was added at Aptos High School. Next, tennis courts and a small baseball diamond was added at Monte Vista Christian School. All of these changes combined to convert approximately 5 acres of nonirrigated land to Urban Land.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	12 changes
Conversions from irrigated farmland to nonirrigated uses were primarily due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. These conversions were generally smaller than 20 acres. However, there were two conversions to the west of Watsonville that were both approximately 30 acres. Further, the Watsonville West quad exhibited the most change of this type with six conversions.	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	4 changes
Conversions from irrigated farmland to Other Land were primarily due to the delineation of low density housing, an equipment storage yard, and a disturbed area, possibly used for off-road recreation. These conversions were all for less than 20 acres, each.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	5 changes
New irrigated farmland was added in the form of row crops such as strawberries and artichokes. Additions of irrigated farmland were each less than 20 acres. The two, largest conversions to irrigated farmland were each approximately 15 acres and involved an addition of artichokes to the south of Davenport and strawberries in the community of Freedom, nearby Watsonville.	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)	
<u>Conversion to Grazing Land:</u> Arana Gulch Park in Santa Cruz was shifted from Other Land to Grazing Land. A comment alerted us to the fact that grazing was now occurring	

there and research using Google Maps confirmed livestock fencing and had pictures of cattle grazing in the park.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 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 2016 update.

Image interpretation, start date: May 7, 2018

Image interpretation, number of days: 6

Ground truth dates: June 11-12, 2018

Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 1

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