

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Mateo

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) San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures Peninsula Open Space Trust
Personal Contacts None
Websites Used for Reference Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com You Tube: Iacopi Farms: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCBNwHWNtnk Searsville Lake Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Searsville_Dam
GIS Data Used for Reference Peninsula Open Space Trust comment data

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	6 changes
<p>There were only six changes and all of them were 3 acres or less. Most were existing homes adjacent to Urban Land, but one change was for an athletic field previously mismapped in front of Pescadero Middle/High School.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	135 changes
<p>This type of change was very large in terms of acreage and the total number, yet most changes were due to preexisting homes. They were concentrated in the areas that include Mountain Home Road of Woodside and Hidden Valley and Westridge near Portola Valley, which were previously mapped as Other Land. When the large size of the estate homes, swimming pools, tennis courts, guest homes, detached garages, horse stables, ponds, manicured lawns and gardens are taken into consideration, these areas easily qualify for Urban Land. The largest change was almost 400 acres of Other Land to Urban Land in the Mountain Home Road area. Only four of the total changes exceeded 100 acres and the vast majority were less than 10 acres each.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	11 changes
<p>This change was primarily due to irrigated farmland going fallow for three or more update cycles. Only three of the total changes were greater than 10 acres. The largest was 26 acres located east of Montara, on fields that may have belonged to a wholesale florist. A site visit indicated the land was used for nonirrigated pastures now.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	17 changes
<p>The changes from irrigated farmland to Other Land were primarily due to fallow conditions for three or more updates, and affected total acreage was modest. The largest change was only 10 acres where land previously associated with a nursery lacked structures or plants, only a paved surface has remained.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	17 changes
<p>The conversion to irrigated farmland was also modest in total and acreage. A particularly notable conversion involves almost 100 acres of high value nonirrigated beans that are grown on the Half Moon Bay Airport property, between the runway and taxiways. A YouTube video of the farming provided plenty of background to properly map the crop. In this case, it will end up in Unique Farmland due to the high value but lack of irrigation.</p>	

Most of the land was previously mapped as Urban Land, especially between runways and taxiways.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)

The boundary of the San Francisco Bay shoreline, associated sloughs, and artificial lakes was not very accurate for many updates. In Foster City, improvements were made to Seal Slough and Central Lake. In Redwood Shores, boundary adjustments were made to Belmont Slough and Redwood Shores Lagoon. Other improvements include Westpoint Harbor, completed in 2014, and the Blu Harbor and Bair Island Marina along Redwood Creek in Redwood City. Additional improvements were applied to Greco Island, Bair Island, and Ravenswood Slough.

Searsville Lake, located just south of the Stanford linear accelerator, has been changed from Water to Other land. The lake is filling in with sediment, 90% of the water capacity has been lost, and there are no plans to dredge it. The future of the Searsville dam is also currently under consideration.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 update, and reasons.)

The irrigation status of the beans on the Half Moon Bay airport property should be monitored.

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: 11/1/2017
Image interpretation, number of days: 20
Ground truth dates:12/7/2017 and 12/8/2017
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 5

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