

**California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

**2000 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Alameda

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

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

*source:* NASA-Ames  
*date:* September 14, 1999  
*scale:* 1:130,000  
*film type:* CIR transparency  
*coverage gaps:* none

**WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

*cities:* City of Livermore Planning Division  
*county:* Alameda County Fairgrounds  
*others:* Douglas Herring & Associates

➤ *personal contacts:* Alameda County Fairgrounds [info@alcofairgrounds.com](mailto:info@alcofairgrounds.com)  
Lawrence Livermore National Lab [llnlweb@llnl.gov](mailto:llnlweb@llnl.gov)

➤ *websites:* [www.llnl.gov](http://www.llnl.gov)

**1998-2000 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ P, S, U → D Nine total changes of this type. Most of these changes involved small acreage plots. The most significant one was the conversion of farmland on the Alameda County Fairgrounds. I contacted the fairgrounds via e-mail and they verified the lack of farmland, but I double-checked for myself and found a parking lot with shade trees.

➤ G, X → D This was the most common land use change in the county. Most of these changes occurred on the Livermore quad. The city has plans to develop the foothills in the northern area, so this type of change is sure to continue there. Open spaces within the city are being filled with new home developments, as well as the available areas south of the city. There were two new home additions on the Milpitas quad that seem likely to

expand in the future. A very interesting change involved the completion of the Chabot Observatory on the ridgeline of the Oakland hills.

➤ P, S, U → G

Five total here. This kind of change happened to be very significant as well, mostly because of the plots of land involved. There is a large (~350 acres) plot of land in the middle of the city of Livermore, adjacent to the vast gravel pits, which was brought to my attention because PG&E wants to place a power line tower there. Doug Herring was the initial contact regarding this plot of land, which wasn't flagged as fallow. Mr. Herring indicated that the land was in a poor state of being. After inspecting airphotos from 97, 95, and even 94, I felt that a change to grazing land was justified without going through the usual three-cycle process. Another change that should be noted was on the Newark quad. On the southeast corner of the quad a plot of land consisting of unique and prime farmland was changed to grazing after being fallow three cycles. Upon field checking the site, I noticed construction was just beginning there, so a change to D is likely to occur on a portion of the land next update. The actual conversion of farmland to urban land appears to be lost in this situation.

➤ P, S, U → X

There were only two small changes of this type, one on La Costa Valley and another on Niles.

➤ G, X → P, S, U

This was a very prominent change on the Livermore and Altamont quads. Ten total changes, five on each quad. The expansion and addition of new vineyards in the southern areas will probably continue in the future.

➤ G → X

Only four changes of this type. Most were minor, but one on the Altamont quad was different from the rest. A strip of land surrounding the Lawrence Livermore Lab on the western and northern edges was labeled as G. The City of Livermore Planning Division suggesting changing it to X. Upon field checking the site, I noted that the land was like a security buffer zone, fenced off from the street. I e-mailed the lab regarding any possible expansion onto the land and they indicated that the is set aside for future developments. So I made the change anyways.

➤ D → P, S, U

Only one small change on the Newark quad.

➤ D → G, X

There were three of these changes, one on Livermore, one on Dublin, and another on the Newark quad where a golf course was closed down years ago and allowed to go back to its natural state.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

The unusual category changes were previously discussed regarding the large plot of land near the gravel pits in Livermore and the land surrounding the Laboratory.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

Areas that need careful checking in 2002 are primarily the foothills north of Livermore where the ground is currently being graded for new homes or business development. New vineyards are likely to appear south of Livermore too. One particular site to note is the land on the Newark quad that was changed from P and U to G and is also preparing for construction.

**OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS:** *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

While I was driving around the Livermore area I was forced to realize that the street names on the quad were different from the names on the AAA maps. Clearly the city is changing and rearranging its layout, making it difficult to navigate at times.

**LABOR ESTIMATE:** *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

*photo interpretation, start date: September 1, 2000*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 7*

*ground truthing dates: September 13-14, 2000*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 7 (excluding digitizing)*

\* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*

[www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)