

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

**2000 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Los Angeles

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Kerri Kisko

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

*source:* I K Curtis Services, Inc.  
*date:* mostly 11-00, but some as old as 4-00  
*scale:* approximately 1:36,000  
*film type:* true color 9X9 prints  
*coverage gaps:* gaps covering the extreme northeast and northwest areas

**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 Palmdale  
*county:*  
*others:*

➤ *personal contacts:*

Los Angeles County Department of the Agricultural Commissioner / Weights and Measures- Antelope Valley Office (661)-723-4485

➤ *websites:*

New Homebuyer's Guide: [www.hbg.com](http://www.hbg.com)  
Palmdale Cam: [www.palmdalecam.com](http://www.palmdalecam.com)  
Welcome to Valencia: [www.valencia.com](http://www.valencia.com)  
Los Angeles County: [www.co.la.ca.us](http://www.co.la.ca.us)

**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: There are very few changes of agricultural land to developed land this update. One notable change is approximately 120 acres of agricultural land that was converted into the Bridgeport housing community on the Newhall Quad.

➤ L, G, X → D: The majority of the changes this update is marginal land being converted

into urban land. While changes occurred throughout the county, the two main areas of urban growth are the Santa Clarita Valley and the Lancaster/ Palmdale area. In the Santa Clarita Valley the large areas of growth are new housing in the City of Castaic, the Valencia Commerce Center on the Val Verde Quad, new homes in the Stevenson Ranch area and next to the Valencia Country Club on the Newhall Quad, and the Robinson Ranch Golf Course and Fair Oaks Ranch housing community on the Mint Canyon Quad. Lancaster and Palmdale continue to grow, mostly on the western side. On the Lancaster West Quad two large warehouses, for Rite Aid and Michael's, were added as well as numerous housing tracts. The Ritter Ridge Quad had the largest change with the addition of the approximately 450-acre Rancho Vista golf community.

➤ P, S, U → L, G: The few changes of agricultural land to grazing land occurred in the northern part of the county. These lands were fallow for three or more updates and reverted to native vegetation suitable for grazing. The two largest tracts of land to change were approximately 560 acres on the Neenach School Quad and approximately 160 acres on the Lancaster East Quad.

➤ P, S, U → X: There are only a few instances of agricultural lands changing to "other" lands this update. The two main areas are the northern desert and Malibu. Most of these changes were fallow areas that were less than 40 acres and, therefore, couldn't be placed into the grazing category. The one exception is the occurrence of ranchettes on the Lovejoy Buttes Quad.

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U: Marginal lands were converted to irrigated agriculture throughout the county, however the majority of the changes occurred in the northern desert. The La Liebre Ranch, Little Buttes, Rosamond, Del Sur, Lancaster West, and Palmdale Quads all had changes of 100 acres or more. The two largest changes, approximately 900 acres on the Lancaster East Quad and approximately 650 acres on the Alpine Butte Quad, occurred to the east of the City of Lancaster. The Agriculture Commissioner's office reports an increase in plantings to carrots and potatoes over the last few years in this area.

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

D→P: Two small areas of agricultural land were discovered in the San Fernando Valley. A preserved orange orchard was found on the Canoga Park Quad and a sod farm on the Van Nuys Quad.

D→X, G: Numerous small adjustments were made that removed land from development. For the most part these lands were removed due to urban boundary adjustments.

G→X: Some grazing land was changed to "other" land due to the isolation of parcels that were less than 40 acres and a couple instances of ranchettes.

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

Watch out for more development in the Santa Clarita Valley. This update the

majority of new development was in this area and it looks as if this growing trend is going to continue for a while. Also pay close attention to the shifting agriculture in the northern desert near Lancaster/ Palmdale. Some lands are going fallow while others are being plowed and irrigated for new agriculture.

**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.*

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

*photo interpretation, start date:* 12/13/00  
*photo interpretation, number of days:* 8  
*ground truthing dates:* 1/3/01-1/6/01  
*# days for map compilation and clean up:* 4

\* **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)