

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

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Monterey

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center

date: September 28, 2001

scale: 1 : 130,000

film type: CIR Transparencies

coverage gaps: Extreme southwest portion of the county, covered by 2000 SPOT data.

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: Gonzales, Soledad Community Development

county:

others: Monterey County Farm Bureau

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

County of Monterey: www.co.monterey.ca.us

Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau: www.gomonterey.org

Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association: www.montereywines.org

Solid Waste Information System: www.ciwmb.ca.gov/swis

➤ *digital data referenced:*

Monterey digital soil survey: CA053 Monterey Co

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 were 48 conversions of agricultural land to urban land this update, with the majority of these changes occurring in the Salinas Valley. In the northern part of the valley urbanization was primarily in the form of new homes. In the City of Salinas, some new

developments include a new school (≈ 20 acres), the Boronda Adobe History Center (≈ 10 acres), and the Paraiso Estates/Gabilan Views housing development (≈ 50 acres). In the City of Gonzales, the Canyon Creek housing development (≈ 15 acres) was added. The San Vicente Townhomes (≈ 25 acres) and another area of new homes (≈ 30 acres) were added in the City of Soledad.

The southern part of the Salinas Valley also experienced urbanization. In the City of Greenfield, an area of new homes (≈ 65 acres), the Green Oaks housing development (≈ 20 acres), and Ventana High School (≈ 40 acres) were added. Further south, in King City, the East Ranch Business Park (≈ 75 acres) and the Delicato Monterra wine processing facility (≈ 10 acres) were added and the King City Sewage Treatment Plant was expanded by approximately 40 acres. Two areas of new homes (≈ 30 and 15 acres) were also noted in King City.

Throughout the rest of the county urbanization was scarce. In Moss Landing an area of new homes (≈ 20 acres) was noted. In the town of Pajaro two small areas of new homes (≈ 5 acres each) were added. Also an area of new homes (≈ 15 acres) was noted in the Las Lomas community.

➤ G, X \rightarrow D

There were 148 conversions of grazing or other land to urban land this update. The majority (88) of these changes were boundary adjustments made to the urban line. The remaining changes occurred throughout the county, primarily near the coast and in the hills. Some of the new housing developments include Andreas Estates (≈ 25 acres) near the Las Lomas community; Grayeagle Estates (≈ 35 acres) and Los Altos apartments (≈ 25 acres) in Prunedale; San Juan Estates (≈ 35 acres) northeast of Salinas; two areas of new housing (≈ 40 and 25 acres) on the California State University Monterey Bay campus; River Cross at Creekbridge (≈ 35 acres) and Foothill Estates (≈ 50 acres) in Salinas; Monterra Ranch (≈ 20 acres) in Monterey; Pasadera golf course community (≈ 445 acres) east of Monterey near Laguna Seca; and the Hidden Hills community (≈ 120 acres) south of Laguna Seca. Numerous ranchette areas were upgraded to urban on the Prunedale quad due to increased housing density.

Commercial developments also occurred throughout the county. Some of these developments include the Comfort Inn and other businesses (≈ 15 acres) in Marina, the Twin Creeks Golf Course (≈ 45 acres) in Salinas, the Pebble Beach Company landfill (≈ 25 acres) and expansion of the Spyglass Hill Golf Course (≈ 150 acres) in Pebble Beach, the infill of the Laguna Seca Raceway (≈ 135 acres) near Monterey, and a new golf course (≈ 130 acres) south of Carmel Valley.

➤ P, S, U \rightarrow G

There were 22 conversions of prime, statewide, or unique farmland to grazing land this update. The majority (15) of these changes were due to agricultural boundary adjustments. The remaining changes were due to agricultural lands being fallow for three or more update cycles. These conversions occurred throughout the county, however large changes of 50 acres or more were noted on the San Juan Bautista (1), Cosio Knob (1), and Williams Hill (1) quads.

➤ P, S, U → X

There were 74 conversions of agricultural land to other land this update. The majority of these changes were due to agricultural boundary adjustments. Some of the changes were due to agricultural land being fallow for three or more update cycles in parcels less than 40 acres. Other changes were areas of low-density housing, freeway intersections, and agricultural staging areas (areas with agricultural buildings, equipment, and gravel lots) that were fairly small (≈ 35 acres or less) and scattered throughout the county.

➤ G, X → P, S, U

There were 165 conversions of grazing land or other land to agricultural land this update. These changes occurred throughout the county. The majority of the changes were in the form of vineyards. Some of the larger additions of grape vines include a parcel of approximately 350 acres on the Gonzales quad, three areas (≈ 420 , 420, and 410 acres) on the Greenfield and Pinalito Canyon quads, a parcel of approximately 400 acres on the Espinosa Canyon quad, two areas (≈ 635 and 1260 acres) on the San Ardo quad, a parcel of approximately 380 acres on the Williams Hill quad, and an area of approximately 1150 acres on the Hames Valley quad. Other changes of note include an orchard (≈ 230 acres) on the Soledad quad, a parcel of approximately 400 acres of irrigated pasture on the Natrass Valley quad, an area of approximately 320 acres of irrigated pasture on the Espinosa Canyon quad, a parcel of approximately 230 acres of field crops on the San Ardo quad, and an area of approximately 845 acres of alfalfa on the Williams Hill quad.

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

D→P, S, U: Urban land was converted to prime, statewide, or unique farmland primarily due to boundary adjustments. One change of note was a nursery (≈ 10 acres) on the Watsonville East quad.

D→G, X: Urban land was converted to grazing land or other land primarily due to boundary adjustments. One change of note involves approximately 1,200 acres of the San Ardo Oil Field (Hames Valley and Wunpost quads) that was downgraded to other land due to the low-density of the oil rigs and the presence of native vegetation.

G↔X: There were 15 conversions between grazing land and other land scattered throughout the county. These changes were primarily due to boundary adjustments and the addition of ranchettes. Two changes of note were a large area (≈ 130 acres) of ranchettes on the Thompson Canyon quad and approximately 300 acres of oil rigs added to the San Ardo Oil Field on the Wunpost quad.

P, S, U→U, S, P: Agriculture was shifted between prime, statewide, and unique farmland primarily due to boundary adjustments and isolated polygons of 10 acres or less. Three changes were due to new nurseries (≈ 30 acres or less) on the Watsonville East, Prunedale, and San Lucas quads. Also a large polygon (≈ 900 acres) of farmland of

statewide importance was mapped as prime farmland on the San Ardo quad.

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

The Monterey Peninsula and the Prunedale area north of Salinas are expanding rapidly. Watch for more housing developments and increased housing density.

Agriculture in the county is expanding into the hillsides. Look for more agriculture (particularly grape vines) on either side of the Salinas Valley and in the Hames Valley.

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: April 2, 2002

photo interpretation, number of days: 6

ground truthing dates: April 15-19, 2002

days for map compilation and clean up: 19

* **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