

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Madera

FIELD MAPPER(S): Larelle Burkham-Greydanus

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA

date: summer 2005

scale: 2 meter resolution

film type: true color mosaic

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery:

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2004 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2006 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none available

cities:

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

none

➤ *websites:*

New homes in Chowchilla:

http://www.newhomesmag.com/home_finder/details.asp?homeid=1359

<http://www.richmondamerican.com/Shop+and+Buy/Community+Map+and+Directions.htm?mr=Bay%20Area%20and%20Central%20Valley&cm=1089>

Pheasant Run Homes

<http://www.loopnet.com/xNet/MainSite/Listing/Profile/ProfileSE.aspx?LID=13190947&linkcode=1070&sourcecode=1lww2t006a00001>

Eastman Lake Recreation Area

<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-co/lakes/eastman.html#>

<http://www.reserveusa.com/jsp/commonpage.jsp?goto=/nrrs/ca/codo/newindex.html>

<http://www.reserveusa.com/jsp/commonpage.jsp?goto=/nrrs/ca/chow/newindex.html>

for delineation of campgrounds from native vegetation

Hensley Lake

http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-co/lakes/Hensley/Park_Guide.pdf

<http://www.reserveusa.com/jsp/commonpage.jsp?goto=/nrrs/ca/hidv/newpksites.html>

for delineation of campgrounds from native vegetation

➤ *GIS data referenced:* none

2004-2006 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.*

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land:** 9 changes

The most noteworthy change from Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land occurred as a result of the enlargement of the City of Madera Wastewater Treatment Plant for ~300 acres. Other large additions of urban resulted with the delineation of Madera South High School (~60 ac.) and Villa Palminito Homes (~30 ac.) near Madera.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 15 changes

The largest number of conversions to Urban Land occurred in this category. The city of Chowchilla had the largest addition of urbanization delineated for the Pheasant Run Golf and Greenhills Estate Community (~300 ac.). The city of Madera also had the addition of the Nishimoto Elementary and Lincoln Desmota Middle Schools (~40 ac.).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 23 changes

This category of change primarily involved farmland, including irrigated pasture, that had been fallow for three or more update cycles leaving the irrigated farmland category. The most significant changes occurred in several areas around Fairmead for a total of ~ 450 acres and northeast of Chowchilla for ~130 acres.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 55 changes

The largest number of changes occurred with this category. The delineation of farmsteads and ranchettes accounted for most of the conversions of this type with most conversions encompassing 20 acres or less. Although some of the ranchettes were new, many of these conversions were attributable to improved imagery that allowed for the delineation of these land use types.

The addition or enlargement of dairies (~15 to 50 ac.) in the western portion of the county accounted for some of the other large changes in this category.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 21 changes

New additions of farmland were made in the west, southwest, and central portions of the county. Large changes of ~ 660 acres were delineated for alfalfa and vines just west of Road 15. The addition of new vines, pistachio, and almond orchards accounted for some of the other additions to irrigated farmland just west of Madera (~200 ac) and Madera Ranchos area (150 ac. total).

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2006.*

G, L to X: Many areas of ranchettes, farmsteads, and campgrounds were delineated throughout the county; many of which were identified by using improved imagery.

L to G: A number of dry grain areas had not been cropped for at least four update cycles. This land will be converted to Grazing in the 2006 data. This occurred primarily in the central and southeast part of the county.

Shifts among irrigated uses: Approximately 70 acres that had formally been used for potted plant nurseries was converted to crops grown in the ground. This land will shift from Unique Farmland to Prime Farmland and/or Farmland of Statewide Importance based on the host soil unit.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2008? Why?*
none

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

photo interpretation, start date: 9/18/06
photo interpretation, number of days: 4
ground truthing dates: 10/16 to 10/18/06
days for map compilation and clean up:5

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp