

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

**2006 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Orange

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Joel Bonilla

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* Air Photo USA  
*date :* 2006  
*scale:* 1 foot resolution  
*film type:* none  
*coverage gaps:* true color mosaic

**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:*

*cities:* Tustin, Irvine, Costa Mesa  
*county:*  
*others:*

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

Santa Ana Unified School District, Construction  
<http://www.sausd.k12.ca.us/departments/construction/school.asp?projectid=36>

Marine Corps Air Station Tustin

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine\\_Corps\\_Air\\_Station\\_Tustin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_Corps_Air_Station_Tustin)

**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:** 7 Changes

The majority of these conversions occurred in the City of Irvine. The most notable change included the expansion of Woodbury Lane Homes (~300 acres) in northern Irvine.

Two further additions of new homes and some sports fields in Irvine accounted for the conversion of another approximately 60 acres of former Irrigated Farmland. Other conversions included more new homes and the Segerstrom High School (~60 acres) in the City of Santa Ana and the new Kaiser Permanente medical complex (~50 acres) in Irvine.

➤ **Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land: 32 Changes**

The majority of this type of change was due to the addition of new homes or the expansion of pre-existing housing developments. The most notable change was the approximately 400-acre expansion of Ladera Ranch community homes just north of San Juan Capistrano. Approximately 250 acres of new homes were also added in northern San Clemente. In northeastern Newport Beach, approximately 100 acres of new homes were also in evidence. Further, another addition of new homes (~200 acres) was seen in northern Yorba Linda. Meanwhile, on the southern fringe of Irvine in the Newport Coast area, more new homes were added totaling approximately 130 acres. Finally, other changes included new commercial buildings (~130 acres) in eastern Irvine.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Grazing Land: 19 Changes**

The vast majority of these conversions are due to the fallowing of farmland. Farmland is removed from the Irrigated Farmland category after having been idle for three or more mapping cycles. These conversions occurred throughout the county and were on parcels of land ranging from approximately 10 to 50 acres. The largest conversion was the fallowing of an approximately 150-acre parcel in the Lake Forest area. A further loss of Irrigated Farmland occurred to the northeast of Irvine off State Hwy 133 where an approximately 140-acre conversion was made.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land: 6 Changes**

This category is also represented by irrigated farmland left idle for three or more update cycles, however conversion to Grazing Land was not appropriate in these instances. These changes included approximately 100 acres of fallow farmland in four plots in the Irvine and former El Toro Station areas. The most notable conversion of this type occurred on the former Marine Corps Air Station Tustin where approximately 400 acres of irrigated farmland was moved to the Other Land category since the adjacent former farmland parcels were already mapped as Other Land and the area was not suited to grazing. These fields had formerly been leased to farmers for commercial crop production but had been fallow for three update cycles and we received a comment to that effect from the City of Tustin.

➤ **Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland: 2 Changes**

These changes were a result of newly Irrigated Farmland on formerly idle land. The most significant new additions of new Irrigated Farmland occurred in the Seal Beach (~40 acres) and Rancho Santa Margarita (~40 acres) areas.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes or any other special circumstances in 2006.*

Urban Land to Nursery: 2 Changes (Huntington Beach area; ~60 acres)

These types of conversions do not necessarily represent a new development, but

could be due simply to improved digital imagery.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2008? Why?*

Mappers should pay extra attention in the Irvine area. There seems to be a trend of new development as many of the current housing communities are expanding and attracting commercial development.

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

*photo interpretation, start date: 12/18/2006*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 9 days*

*ground truthing dates: 01/04/2007-01/06/2007*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 2 days*

\* **Note: Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique 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)