

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

**2006 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Sonoma

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

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP), USDA

*date:* summer 2006

*scale:* 2 meter resolution

*film type:* true color mosaic

*coverage gaps:* none

*additional imagery:* 2005 NAIP imagery (1 meter); Landsat 7 infrared imagery from summer 2005, 15-meter resolution

**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:* Santa Rosa

*county:*

*others:*

➤ *websites:*

Tolay Creek Restoration Project:

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/sfbe/pdfs/TCannualfinal2002.pdf>

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

Public and Conservation Trust Lands layer

**2004-2006 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quad or city) 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: 2 conversions**

The only notable conversions of Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land occurred in the town of Windsor where two additions of new homes (~75 acres), including the "Vintage Greens" development, were added.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land: 58 conversions**

New home construction and the addition of existing homes due to increased density or the use of higher-resolution imagery (1 meter) were the primary causes of the conversion of Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land.

The addition of existing homes due to increased density or the use of higher-resolution imagery where imagery had been periodically lacking in the past was a significant cause of conversion. It accounted for 28 of the conversions that took place and approximately 700 acres of urbanization. Additions of existing homes due to improved imagery or infill development at Sea Ranch, alone, accounted for approximately 350 acres of Urban Land. Another large addition of existing homes that may have increased in density was added nearby Carmet (~150 acres).

On the other hand, construction of new homes, along with retail or industrial buildings, and schools was another primary cause for the urbanization of Local, Grazing or Other Land. In Santa Rosa, eight additions of new homes and apartments such as the "Summit" home development (~25 acres) and "Boulders at Fountaingrove" (~10 acres) apartments accounted for approximately 90 acres of urbanization. A significant amount of new development was also in evidence in Petaluma where three additions of new homes totaling approximately 70 acres, including the "Southgate" development (~30 acres), were added. The new "Kenilworth Junior High School" (~20 acres) was a further addition in Petaluma.

Meanwhile, smaller cities and towns throughout Sonoma County experienced lesser amounts of conversion of Local, Grazing, or Other Land. In Cloverdale, approximately 30 acres of new homes in two additions were a source of conversion. In the City of Cotati, a retail development (~15 acres) off Hellman Lane near Highway 101 and the Sonoma County Golf Park (~15 acres) were added. Nearby the Sonoma County Airport, approximately 10 acres of new commercial or industrial buildings were added such as the "La Tortilla Factory" and "SCS Engineers" buildings as well as the nearby "Vineyard Green" apartments (~15 acres). Finally, a small addition of new homes was made in the Bodega Bay area (~10 acres) and a retail development called "Cornerstone Place" (~10 acres) was added along Highway 121 near the Schellville Airport.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land: 108 conversions**

Conversion of Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land was primarily due to Irrigated Farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. These conversions occurred throughout the county with most being less than 20 acres in size. Large conversions of 50 acres or more occurred on the Jimtown (1), Camp Meeker (1), Sebastopol (3), Sonoma (1), and Sears Point (1) quads.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land: 32 conversions**

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland to Other Land occurred throughout the county and were, generally, less than 30 acres. These conversions were primarily due to the use of higher resolution imagery (1 meter) that allowed these land uses to be captured. The most common land uses delineated were farmsteads, ranchettes, farm ponds, heavily vegetated riparian areas, and aggregate mines.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland: 18 conversions**

The majority of the Irrigated Farmland added this update were very small plots and

consisted of new vineyards or orchards. The only large addition of Irrigated Farmland this update occurred on the Two Rock quad off Bloomfield Road where a new vineyard planting (~140 acres) was added.

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

Water: There was a conversion to Water on the Sears Point quad due to the restoration of Tolay Creek and its lagoons.

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

*photo interpretation, start date: 11/26/07*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 14*

*ground truthing dates: 1/22/08-1/25/08*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 6*

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