Agricultural and California Economy

CALAFCO University
Agriculture and Open Space

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Why is protecting California Farmland Important?

- **Diverse/temperate Mediterranean climate**
- **Relatively predictable rainfall patterns**
- **Rich alluvial soils**
- **High mountains to east (capturing snow)**
- **Water storage/delivery systems**
- **Proximity to Asian Markets**
- **Historically solid infrastructure: research/education, transportation, energy, water projects ($9.3 Billion Bond)**

California Farm Income

- **76,000 Farms and Ranches produced $31 Billion of Farm Income in 2006**
  - **Fruits and Nuts - $10 Billion**
  - **Livestock and Poultry - $7 Billion**
  - **Vegetables and Melons - $6 Billion**
  - **Greenhouse and Floriculture - $4 Billion**
  - **Field Crops - $3 Billion**

California Farm Income 2006

- **Top Ten Agricultural Products**
  - **Milk and Cream - $4.5 Billion**
  - **Grapes - $3 Billion**
  - **Nursery and Greenhouse - $2.8 Billion**
  - **Almonds - $2 Billion**
  - **Cattle - $1.7 Billion**
  - **Lettuce - $1.6 Billion**
  - **Strawberries – $1.2 Billion**
  - **Tomatoes - $1.1 Billion**
  - **Flowers - $1.0 Billion**
  - **Hay - $1.0 Billion**

California dominates U.S. Specialty Crops Production

- **Almonds, Walnuts and Pistachios: 100%**
- **Figs, Dates, Olives, Kiwi, Raisins, Pomegranates: 100%**
- **Plums/Prunes: 97%**
- **Processing Tomatoes: 95%**
- **Apricots: 95%**
- **Avocadoes: 91%**
- **Grapes: 87%**
- **Strawberries: 60%**
- **Peaches: 46%**
- **Vegetables: Very high percentage**

California Exports

- **Exports reached $9.8 Billion in 2006**
- **Fifth Largest Supplier of Food and Agriculture Worldwide**
- **24% of Ag Production Sold Overseas**
- **150 Countries**
- **Top Three Account for 60% of Exp. Sales**
  - **Europe - $2 Billion**
  - **Canada - $1.9 Billion**
  - **Japan – $1.0 Billion**
- **Almonds, Wine, Rice, Lettuce and Strawberries**

Threats to California Agriculture

- **Loss of irreplaceable, high quality farmland to development**
- **Inadequate and unreliable year to year water supply**
- **Inadequate and unreliable labor availability**
- **Increasing costs of transportation**

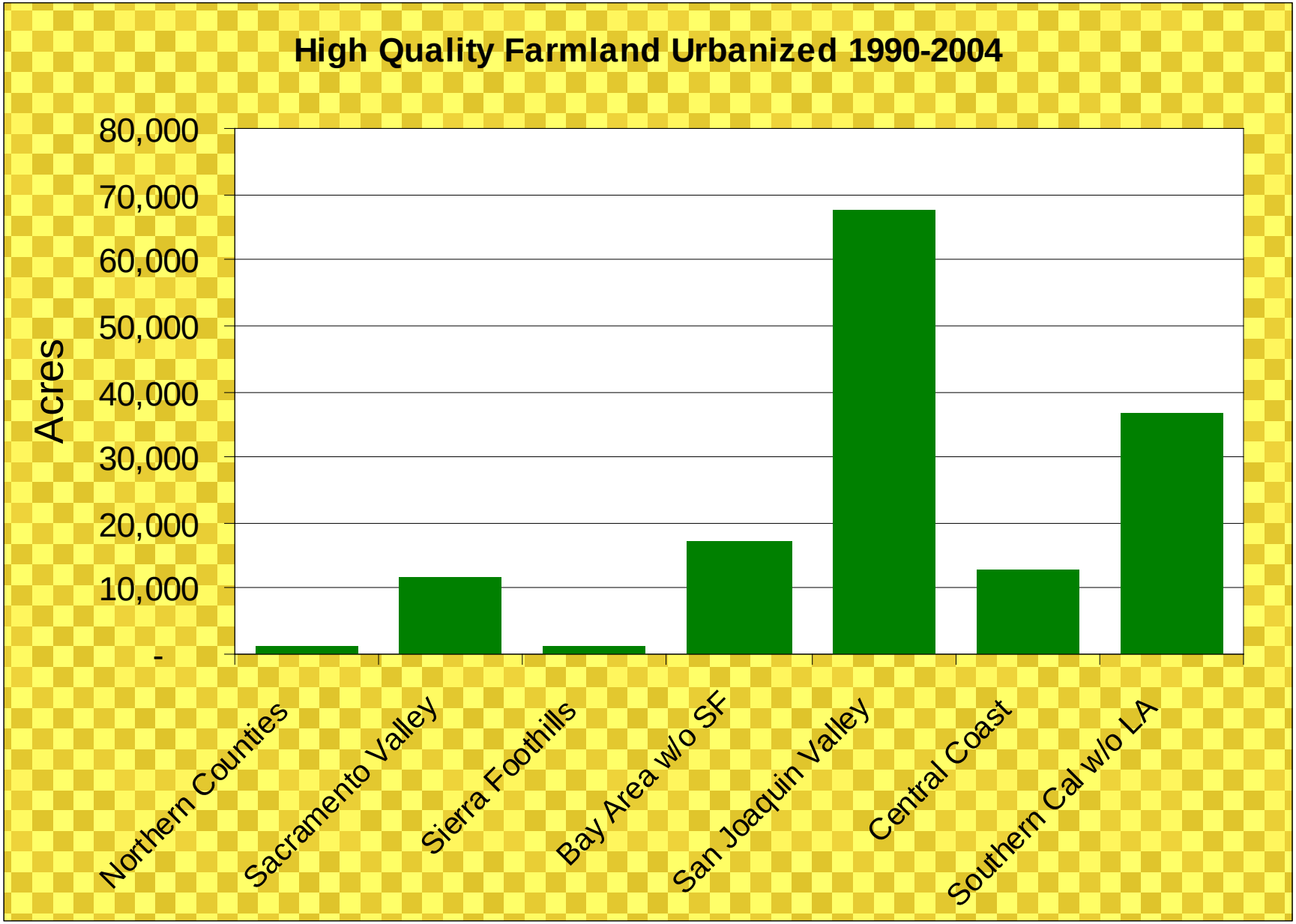
American Farmland Trust
New Report

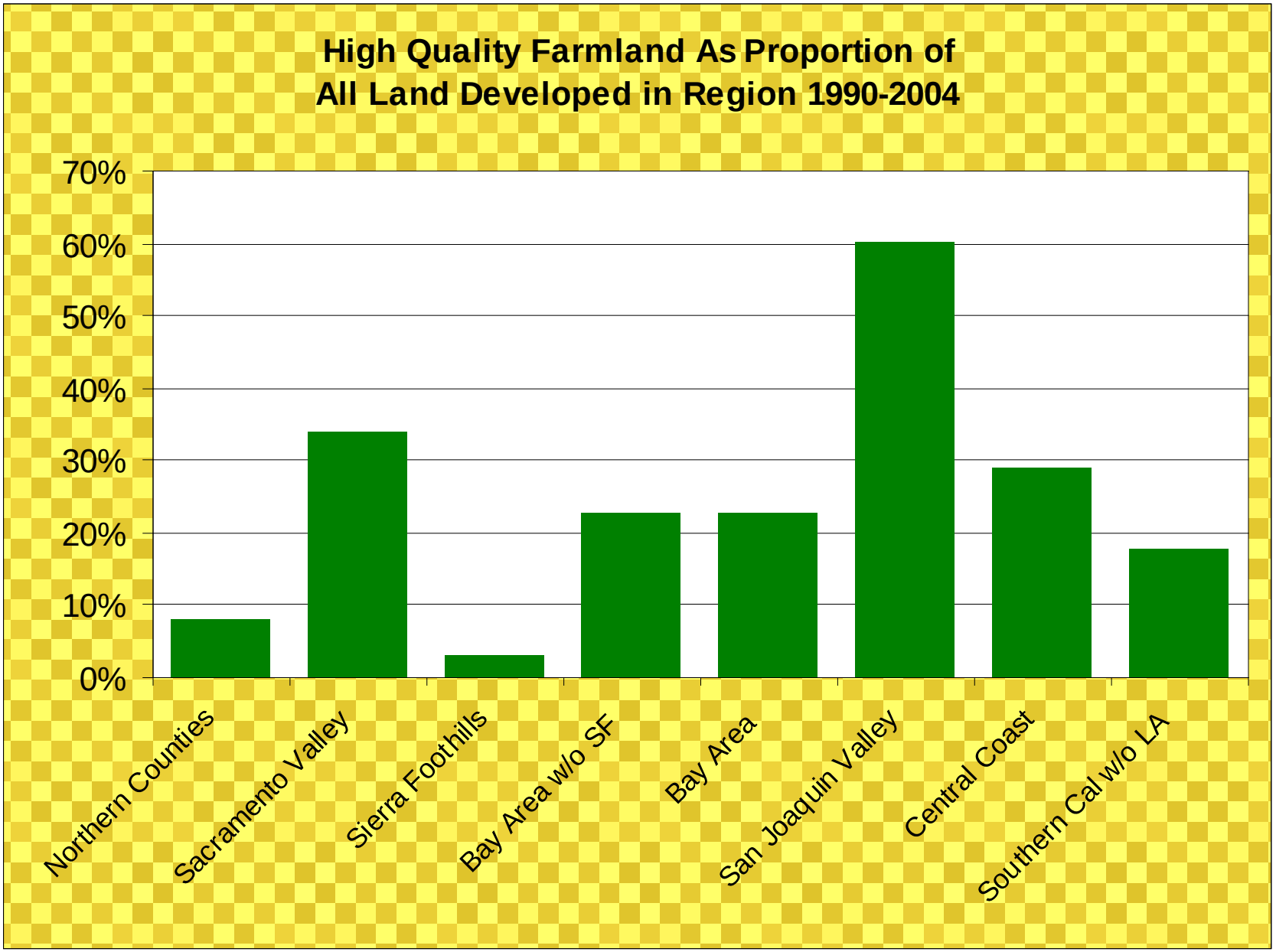
Paving Paradise:
New Perspectives on California Farmland Conversion

- ✓ Quality of the Farmland Developed
- ✓ Efficiency of Development
- ✓ Rural Ranchettes

Highest Quality of Farmland being Developed

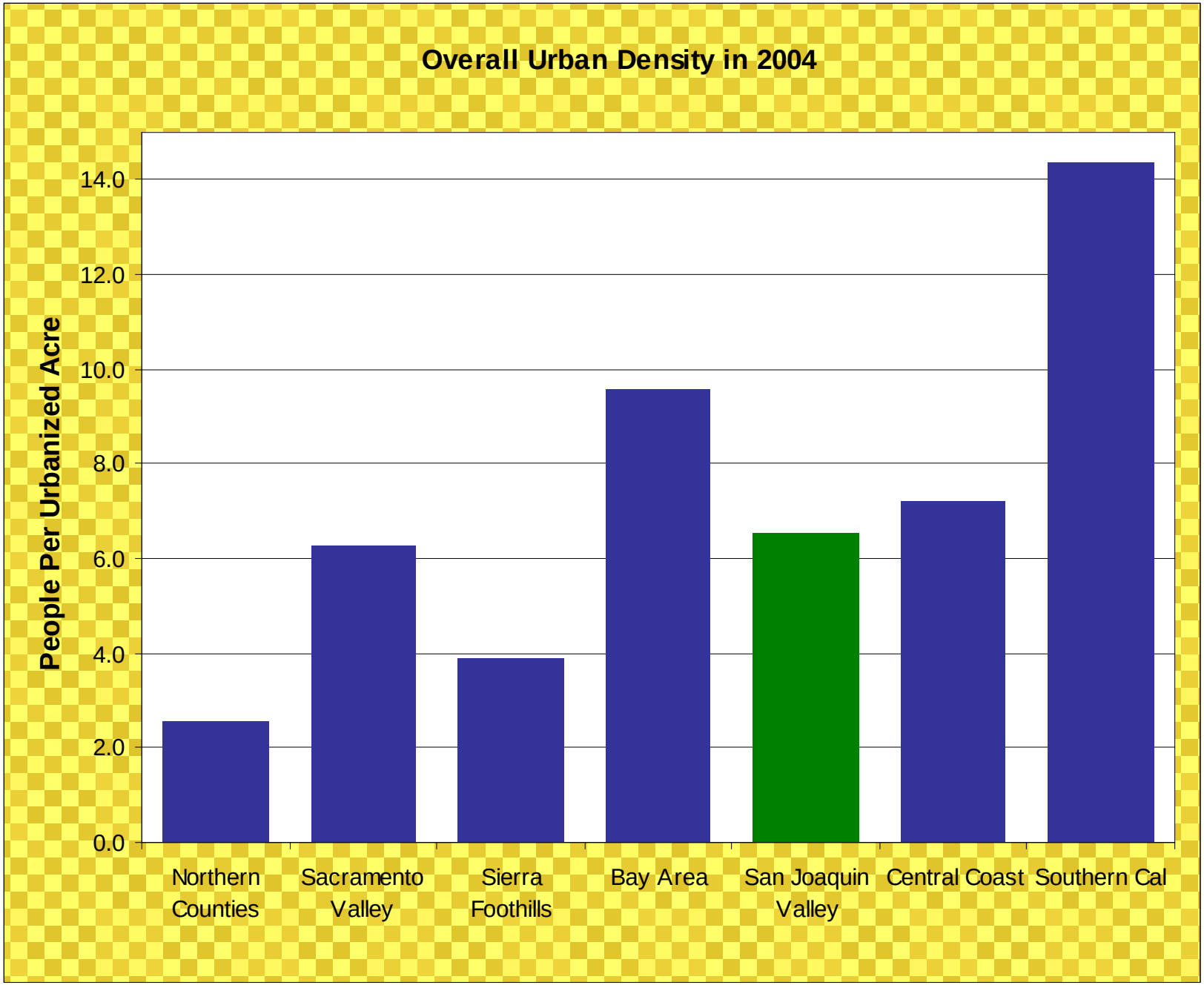
- **61% of all development between 1990 and 2004 was on high quality farmland**
- **Only 39% of all land is the Central Valley is high quality**
- **Direct development to less productive farmland**
- **Most cities in Valley are in the middle of high quality farmland**


High Quality Farmland Urbanized 1990-2004
Acres
80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
-
Northern Counties
Sacramento Valley
Sierra Foothills
Bay Area w/o SF
San Joaquin Valley
Central Coast
Southern Cal w/o LA


High Quality Farmland As Proportion of
All Land Developed in Region 1990-2004
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Northern Counties
Sacramento Valley
Sierra Foothills
Bay Area w/o SF
Bay Area
San Joaquin Valley
Central Coast
Southern Cal w/o LA

Efficiency of Development

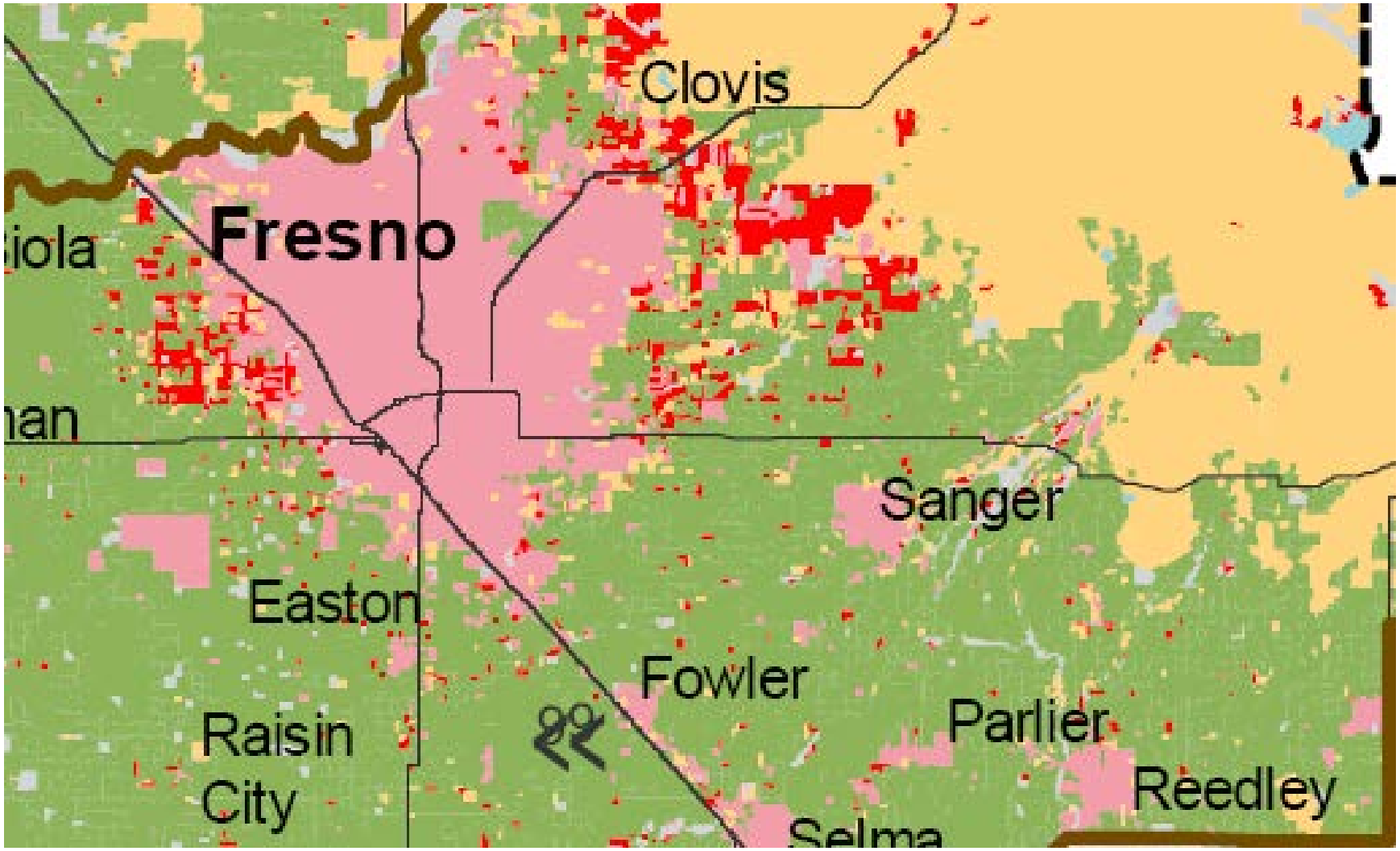
- **Currently paving over an acre of land in the Valley for every 8 new residents**
- **If we were develop more efficiently, we can save over 500,000 acres of high quality farmland by 2050.**
- **Good news is that demographic trends are showing that people want smaller yards and low maintenance homes**.
- **APA says that we may have built enough single family, detached homes**


Overall Urban Density in 2004
People Per Urbanized Acre
14.0
12.0
10.0
8.0
6.0
4.0
2.0
0.0
Northern Counties
Sacramento Valley
Sierra Foothills
Bay Area
San Joaquin Valley
Central Coast
Southern Cal

Overall Urban Density in Top Ten Grossing Agricultural Counties			
		Gross Production 2005 (Millions)	People Per Urban Acre 2004
1	Fresno	$4,640	6.9
2	Tulare	$4,361	6.1
3	Kern	$3,457	6.9
4	Monterey	$3,273	6.8
5	Merced	$2,388	5.7
6	Stanislaus	$1,978	7.5
7	San Joaquin	$1,743	7.1
8	San Diego	$1,531	8.3
9	Kings	$1,407	4.1
10	Imperial	$1,286	5.0
State Total/Average*		$38,362	7.2

Rural Ranchette Development

- The biggest threat to farmland is rural ranchette development
- Four counties have good data on 1.5 to 10 acre ranchettes, these parcels comprise about 25% of all the land devoted to non-farm developed areas.
- What is wasteful is that these are housing only two percent of the population of these counties.


Clovis
Fresno
iola
han
Sanger
Easton
Fowler
Raisin
City
Parlier
Reedley
Selma

Microsoft Excel - New Perspective on California Farmland Conversion 8-10-07

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A New Perspective on California Farmland Conversion

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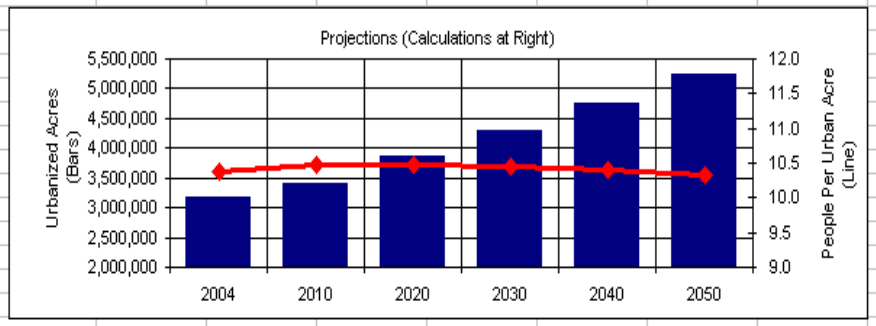
California Statewide Summary

All Regions (See Individual Regions for Counties Included)

Summary

Total Land Urbanized 1990-2004	538,273
Quality of Land Urbanized	
Percentage of New Urbanized Land That Was High Quality Farmland	28%
Compare to Percentage of State That Was High Quality Farmland in 2000	39%
Efficiency of Development	
People Per New Urbanized Acre 1990-2004 ("Current Efficiency")	11.2
People Per Urbanized Acre in 2004	9.8
Projected Population in 2050 (DOF)	57,947,516
Projected Urbanization of Farmland 2004-2050 at Current Efficiency	2,074,567
As Percentage of Existing Urban Land	62%



Details - See map of statewide farmland at far right

	Acres Converted to Urban							
	1990-1992	1992-1994	1994-1996	1996-1998	1998-2000	2000-2002	2002-2004	1990-2004
High Quality Farmland ("HQF" - FMMP)	23,178	13,428	16,437	20,132	22,524	26,716	29,483	151,898
Prime Farmland	14,656	9,779	11,915	15,651	16,290	19,518	20,126	107,935
Farmland of Statewide Importance	6,541	2,648	3,336	3,254	3,568	5,537	6,657	31,541
Unique Farmland	1,981	1,001	1,186	1,227	2,666	1,661	2,700	12,422
Farmland of Local Importance	12,305	6,004	4,808	6,299	13,837	12,800	17,728	73,781
Important Farmland Subtotal	35,463	19,432	21,245	26,431	36,361	39,516	47,211	225,659
Grazing Land	14,512	10,959	12,462	13,138	16,389	14,745	18,657	100,862
Agricultural Land Subtotal	49,975	30,391	33,707	39,569	52,750	54,261	65,868	326,521
Urban and Built-Up Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Land	45,534	19,975	18,238	24,365	32,753	36,633	33,899	211,397
Water Area	96	-70	51	255	66	1	-64	335
Total Area Converted to Urban	95,625	50,296	51,996	64,189	85,569	90,895	99,703	538,273

	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004
Total Urbanized Land (FMMP)	2,827,372	2,922,997	2,973,293	3,025,289	3,089,478	3,175,047	3,265,942	3,365,645
Population (Census)								
Total	28,625,315	29,810,103	30,304,930	30,818,195	31,764,429	32,639,205	33,763,316	34,628,185
Urban	26,971,863	28,114,244	28,618,905	29,151,120	30,104,178	30,990,585	32,105,985	32,975,221
Pct of Population That Is Urban	94%	94%	94%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
People Per Urbanized Acre ("PPA")	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.8	9.8

Major Findings | All Non-Urban Land by Region | Regional-All County Comparison | Graphs | StatewideTop 10 Ag Counties | Northern Counties | Bay Ar

Ready

Start | Inbox - Microsoft Outlook | Major Findings 8-19-07 - ... | Microsoft Excel - New ... | 1:54 PM

AFT Farmland Policy Priorities

- Direct Development Away from High Quality Farmland
- Increase Efficiency of Urban Development
- Reduce Impacts of Ranchettes
- Encourage Counties and Cities to adopt Agricultural Protection Policy

Model LAFCO Agricultural Protection Policy

- AFT would like to work with a small group of LAFCO representatives who can help AFT create a model LAFCO Agricultural Protection Policy
- AFT is dedicated to helping you create a more consistent LAFCO policy to protect high quality agricultural land

Positive Outlook on California Agriculture

- **High Quality Farmland Available**
- **Financially Solvent Growers**
- **Demand for California Grown Food will continue to grow**
  - **Strong Global Economy**
  - **Weak U.S. Dollar**
  - **China increased demand for food**
- **California Agricultural Industry responds quickly to supply and demand**

American Farmland Trust Contact Information

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- **Check out the new report:**

Paving Paradise: New Perspectives on California Farmland Conversion