

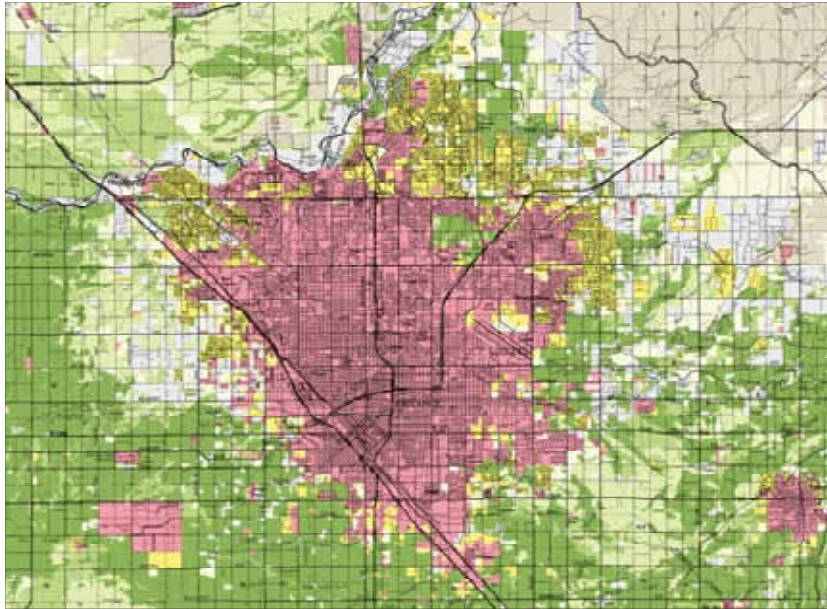
# CAN WE PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL LAND?

## The Challenge

Valley farmland is rapidly being lost to development

*Fresno County is projected to lose an additional 135,600 acres of agricultural land by 2040, representing \$3.9 billion in lost production value.*

Source: American Farmland Trust, 2005



### URBANIZATION AND FARMLAND LOSS.

More than 115,000 acres of farmland were urbanized in the Fresno metro area from 1990 to 2004, as low-density development and rural ranchettes spread outward, fragmenting the agricultural landscape. Over a similar timeframe (1992–2002), Fresno County lost over 700 farms.

Source: CA Dept. of Conservation, 2007; USDA Agricultural Census 1997, 2002.



**A THREAT TO PRODUCTIVITY.** Each acre of land taken out of agricultural use diminishes production capacity—and the long-term economic base of the region. Current trends in the San Joaquin Valley lead to the loss of **\$814 million per year** in production value.

Source: American Farmland Trust, 2005

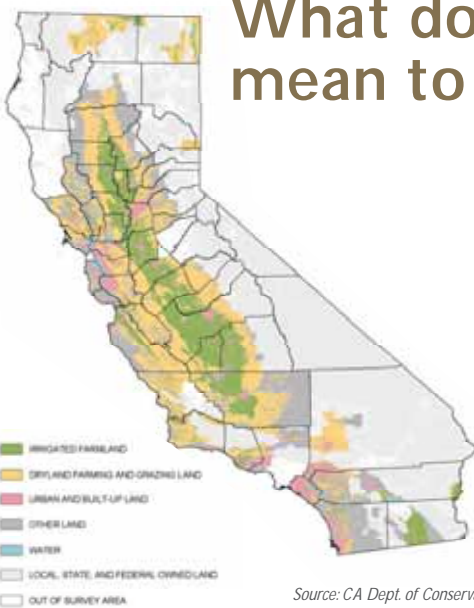
- Development prior to 1984
- Development from 1984–2004
- High quality farmland
- Other land

Source: CA Dept. of Conservation, 2007

## What does agriculture mean to Fresno?

*Fresno County lost 49,000 acres of high-quality farmland from 1990 to 2004.*

Source: CA Dept. of Conservation, 2007



**THE ECONOMIC ENGINE.** The San Joaquin Valley is incredibly productive, accounting for **55%** of California's total agricultural sales. Fresno County is the foremost producer in the nation, growing **\$4.8 billion** worth of produce in 2006.

Source: Fresno County Dept. of Agriculture, 2007



Source: Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)



Source: SAGE

**A HOME TO SMALL FARMS.** Fresno County has the most small farms in California. In 2002, 80% of Fresno County farms—nearly 5,000 farms—were classified as small (family-operated and grossing less than \$250,000, according to the USDA). Forty percent of these were minority-owned. Small farms are threatened by land loss and large-scale agriculture.

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture, 2002

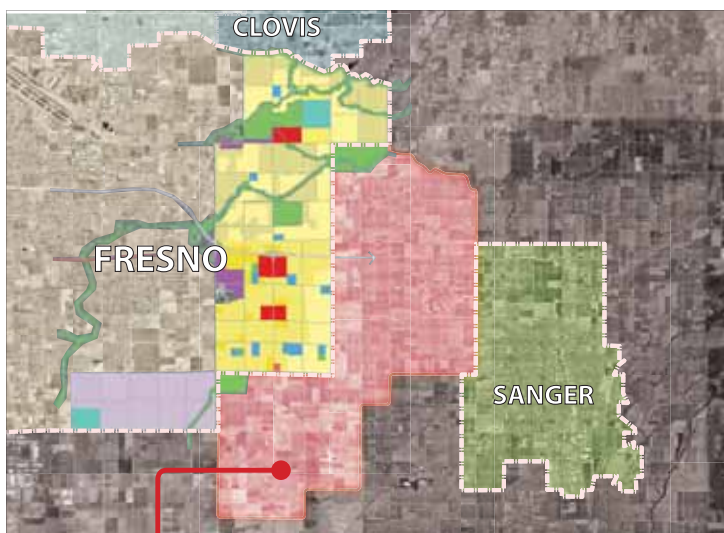


Source: www.localharvest.org

**The San Joaquin Valley is the nation's leading agricultural region**

## How can SEGA help?

Compact development eases pressure on surrounding agricultural land



Additional Land Required to Accommodate Alternative 2 or 3 Households with Alternative 1 Densities (shown in red)

### GROWING SMARTER CAN SAVE 9,300 ACRES OF FARMLAND.

The densities at which we develop affect how much land we consume. With the development pattern and lower densities of Alternative 1, **9,300 additional acres of land** would be needed to accommodate the same population that Alternative 2 or 3 hold within the SEGA planning area.

### SAVING FARMLAND PRESERVES ECONOMIC VALUE.

Each dollar of agricultural production infuses \$3.50 per year into the local economy. Doing the math, the 9,300 additional acres of development in Alternative 1 has significant value:

<i>Land beyond SEGA that would be developed in Alternative 1:</i>	<b>9,300 acres</b>
<i>Value of one acre in the local economy:</i>	<b>\$13,200</b>
<b>Annual economic value lost with Alternative 1:</b>	<b>\$122,760,000</b>

