

Web Soil Survey

Search

Map Unit Legend

Alameda Area, California (CA609)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
113aw	Diablo clay, 9 to 15 percent slopes	96.2	0.0%
116aw	Gaviota-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 50 percent slopes	9.2	0.0%
118	Capay clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	70.6	0.0%
119	Capay clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	28.1	0.0%
120aw	Los Osos silty clay loam, 9 to 30 percent slopes	31.4	0.0%
122aw	Los Osos-Millsholm complex, 9 to 30 percent slopes	88.4	0.0%
123aw	Los Osos-Millsholm complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes	266.3	0.1%
129aw	Millsholm silt loam, 50 to 75 percent slopes	423.0	0.1%
140aw	Rincon clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, MLRA 14	50.8	0.0%
146aw	Urban land	4.5	0.0%
163	Gonzaga-Franciscan complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes	36.5	0.0%
165	Gonzaga-Honker-Franciscan complex, 50 to 75 percent slopes	41.4	0.0%
223	Reiff loam, 0 to 2	1.8	0.0%

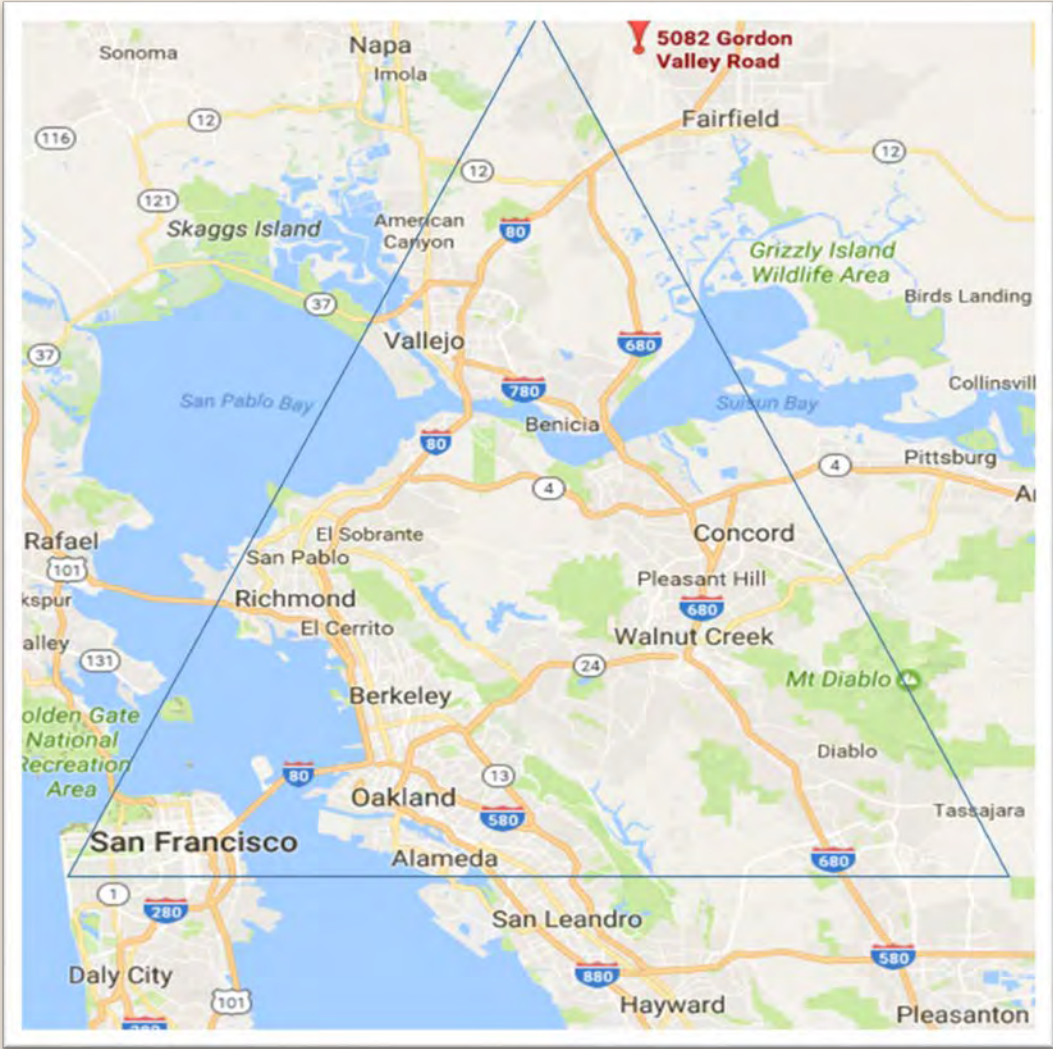
Soil Map

Scale: (not to scale)

<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>

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Shooting Star CSA's Area of Influence





How Far Can My Farm Be From Markets?

- How many miles away is your field from market?
- How long does it take you to make the drive?
- How many times per week are you delivering to market?
- When are you planning to make the drive?



Hidden Costs

Example: I have a market 100 miles away

$$\begin{aligned} & \# \text{ of miles per trip } \times \text{ cost of gas per mile} \\ & \quad + \\ & \# \text{ of miles per trip } \times \text{ cost of maintenance per mile} \\ & \quad + \\ & \# \text{ of hours per trip } \times \text{ cost per hour of driver} \\ & \quad \times \\ & \quad \# \text{ of trips per year} \\ & \quad + \\ & \quad \text{annual cost of auto insurance} \\ & \quad + \\ & \quad \text{annual cost of delivery truck/van} \\ & \hline & = \text{Cost of Transportation} \end{aligned}$$

Example: I have a market 100 miles away

Inputs:

Gas = \$41/trip

Maintenance = \$50/trip

Labor = \$85/trip

Total operating cost per trip =
\$176

Trips = 45

Annual van operating costs = \$7,920

Van cost = \$3,800

Auto insurance = \$1,200

Example (cont.): I have a market 100 miles away

# of miles per trip X cost of gas per mile	(200 miles) X (\$3.50/17 MPG)
+	+
# of miles per trip X cost of maintenance per mile	(200 miles) X (\$0.25/17 MPG)
+	+
# of hours per trip X cost per hour of driver	(5 hours) X (\$16.50/hour)
X	X
# of trips per year	(45 trips)
+	+
annual cost of auto insurance	(\$1,200)
+	+
annual cost of delivery truck/van	(\$3,800)
<hr/>	<hr/>
= Cost of Transportation	= \$12,290

What's Next?



Time to knock on doors!



Don't worry about that shotgun!



Keep markets in mind!



Get to know irrigation district managers

You Have Found Your Valley!

Example

You have been searching for a couple of weeks and you found a region that is close to a market, is a part of an irrigation district, and it looks like there are a few empty plots in the area. What do you do?



You Have Found Your Valley!

STEP 1



Knock on doors, introduce yourself, be clear of your intentions but do not make any promises. Ask to conduct soil and water analysis, it will show that you are serious about what you do. Ask about the history of the land and when it was last farmed.

STEP 2



Research. Ask neighbors about the property and its owners—there is usually plenty of gossip to go around.

STEP 3



Prepare a lease agreement (Farmlink can help with this). Anything worth being said should be in writing!

STEP 4



Start farming!!!

Examples of Irrigation Districts

South San Joaquin Irrigation District



Solano Irrigation District



Imperial Irrigation



Irrigation district employees know the land, what is being used, what is fallow, and who owns the land.

Conclusion/Takeaways

- **Markets decide everything, so pay attention to them.**
- **Utilize the web soil survey website**
 - <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>
- **Knock on doors and get face to face time with landowners!**
- **Calculate your transportation costs!**
- **Irrigation districts employees are a great resource. They have high level knowledge of the land you are assessing.**

Questions?

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