



# **New Perspectives on California Farmland Blueprint Learning Network**



**American Farmland Trust**

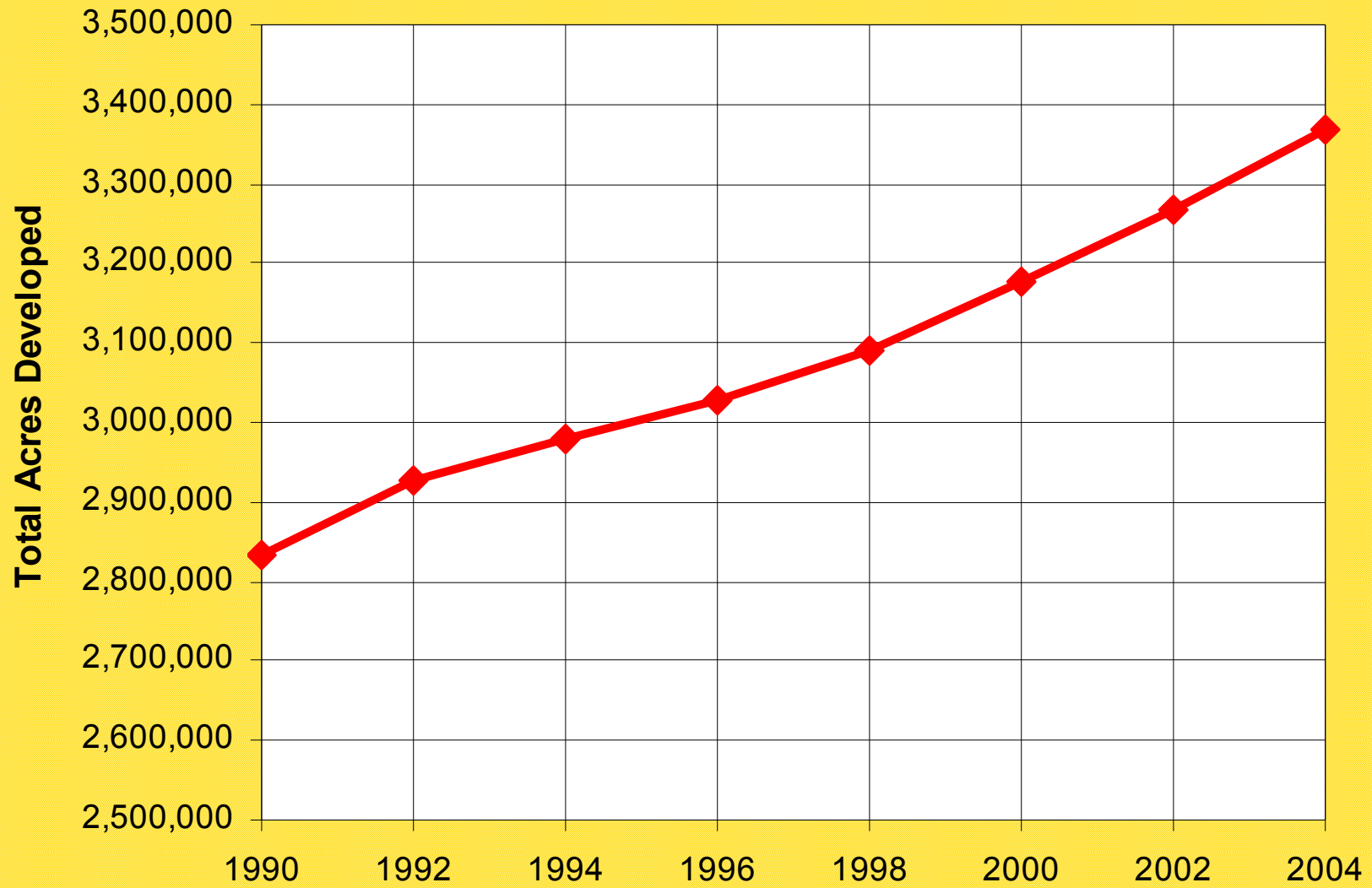
**Mike Darnell  
California Policy Director**



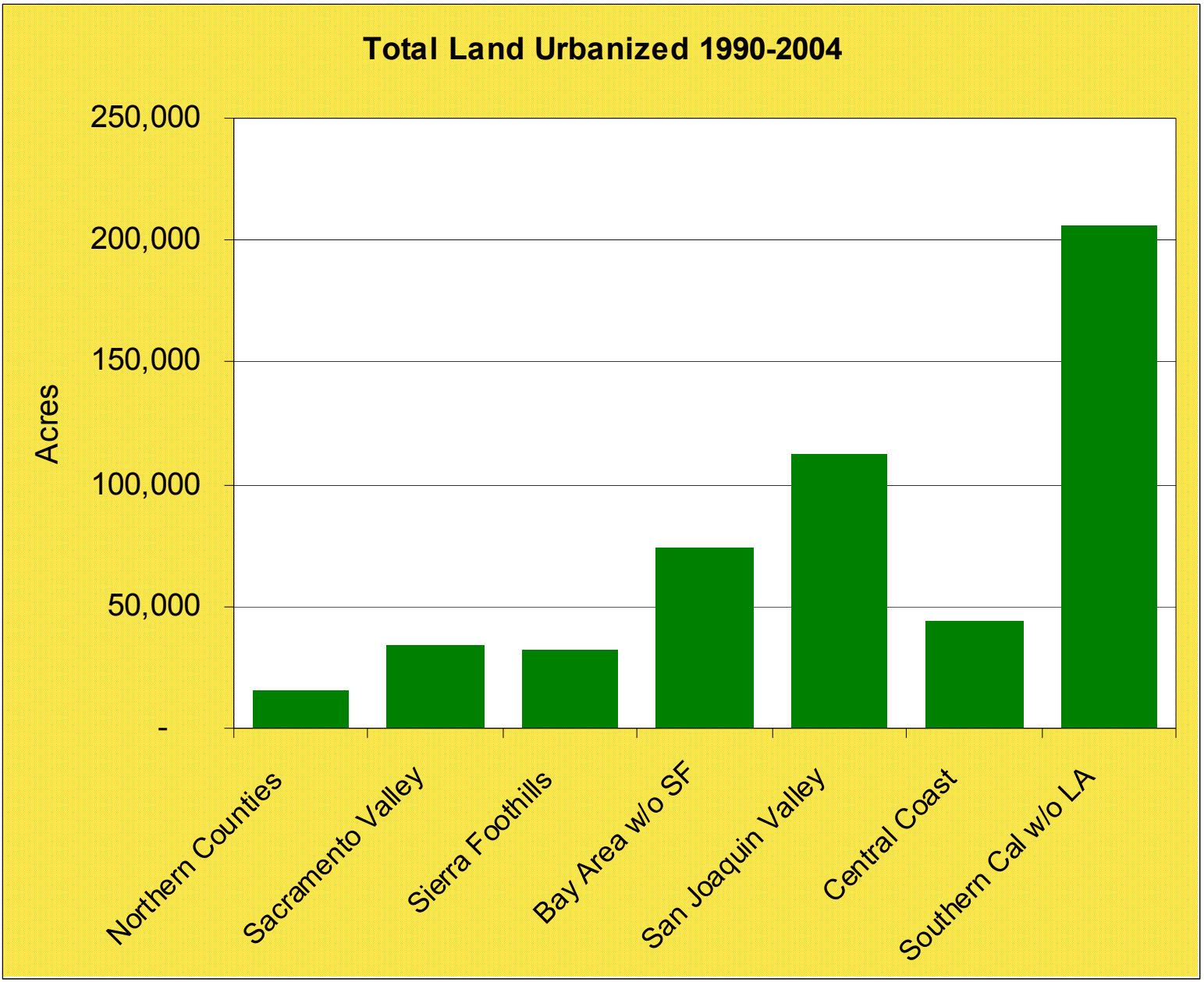
## **New Perspectives on California Farmland**

- ✓ **High Quality of Farmland Being Developed**
- ✓ **Inefficiency of Development**
- ✓ **Rural Ranchettes**

### Cumulative Urbanization of California Farmland



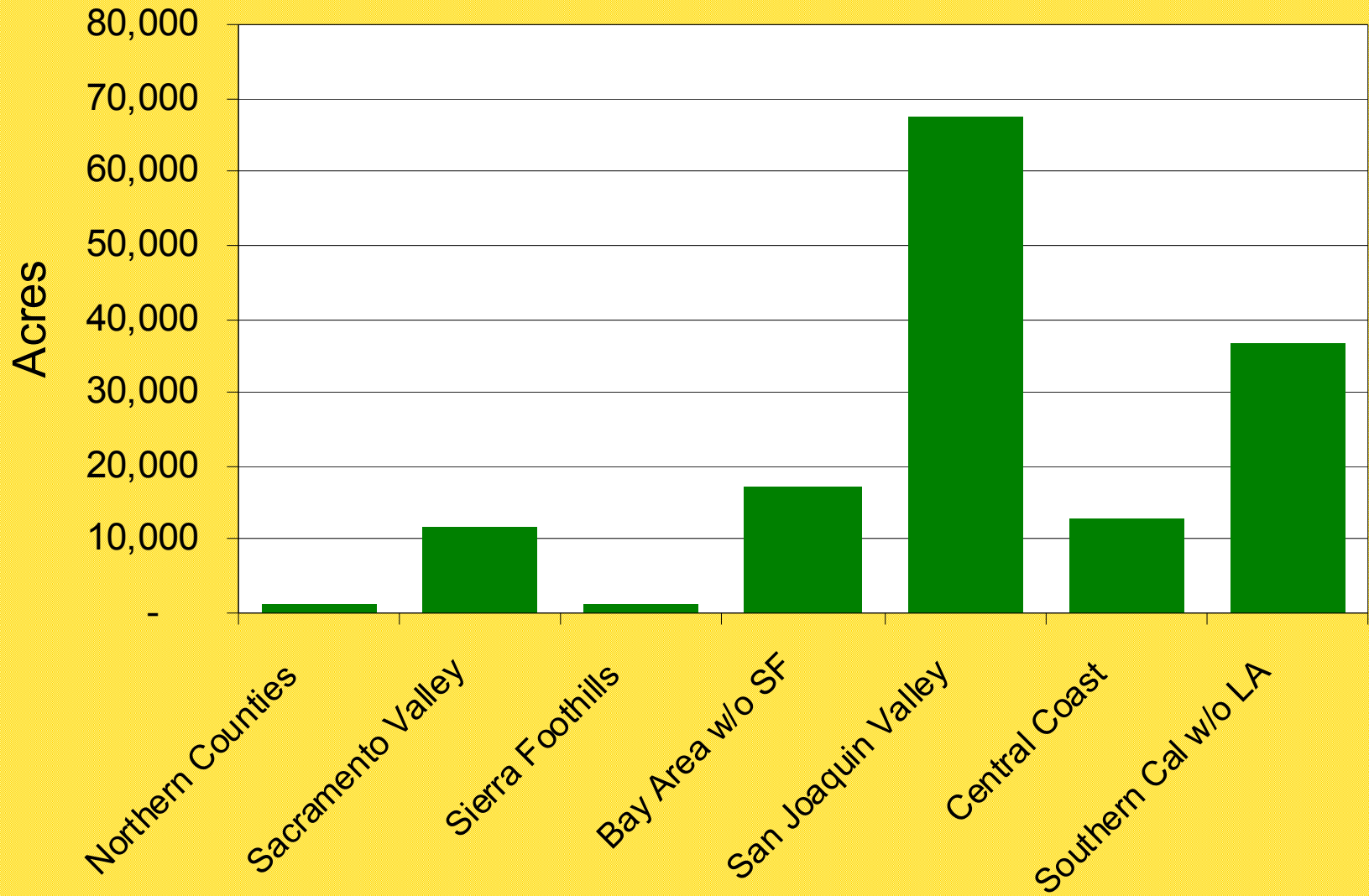
**Total Land Urbanized 1990-2004**



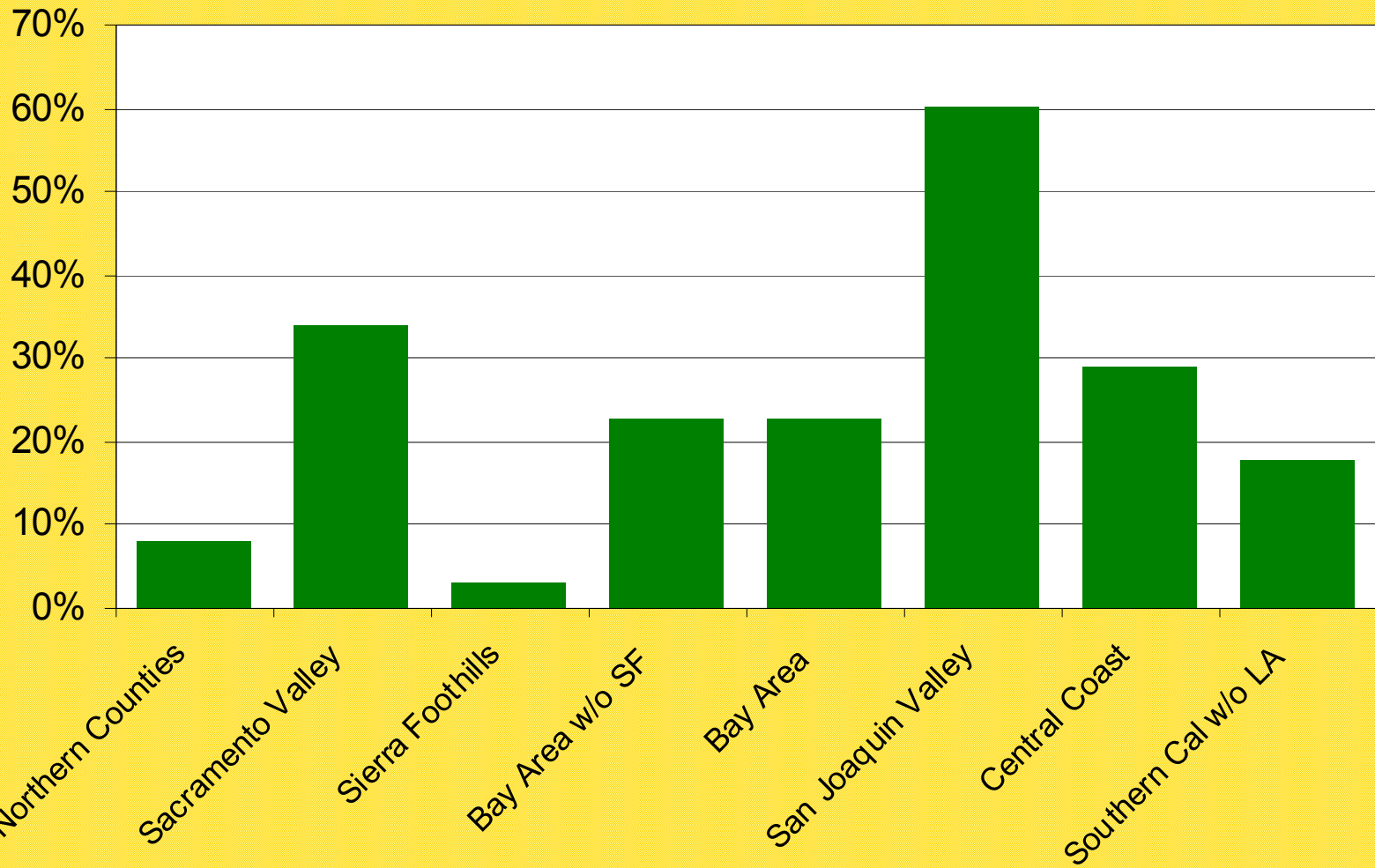
An aerial photograph showing a residential development. On the right side, several houses with dark roofs are visible, arranged in a row. A paved road curves around the houses. On the left side, there is a large, dense area of green trees, representing a wooded area. The text "Quality of Land Being Developed" is overlaid in white, bold font across the center of the image.

**Quality of Land Being Developed**

### High Quality Farmland Urbanized 1990-2004

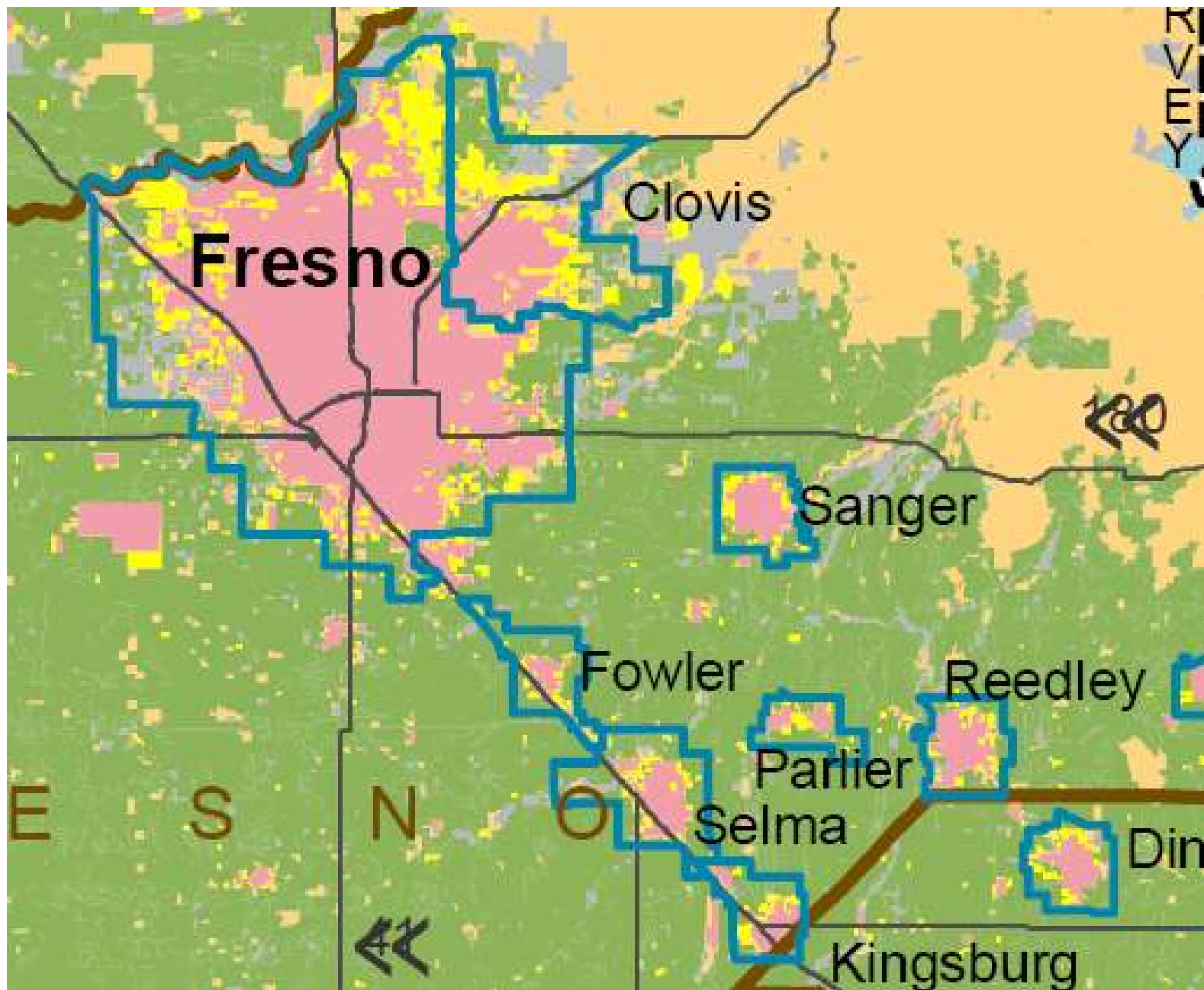


## High Quality Farmland As Proportion of All Land Developed in Region 1990-2004



Ten Worst Counties		
Percentage of Development on High Quality Farmland 1990-2004		
1	Stanislaus	83%
2	Kings	78%
3	San Joaquin	76%
4	Imperial	74%
5	Merced	63%
6	Tulare	63%
7	Fresno	58%
8	Sutter	57%
9	San Benito	50%
10	Yolo	50%

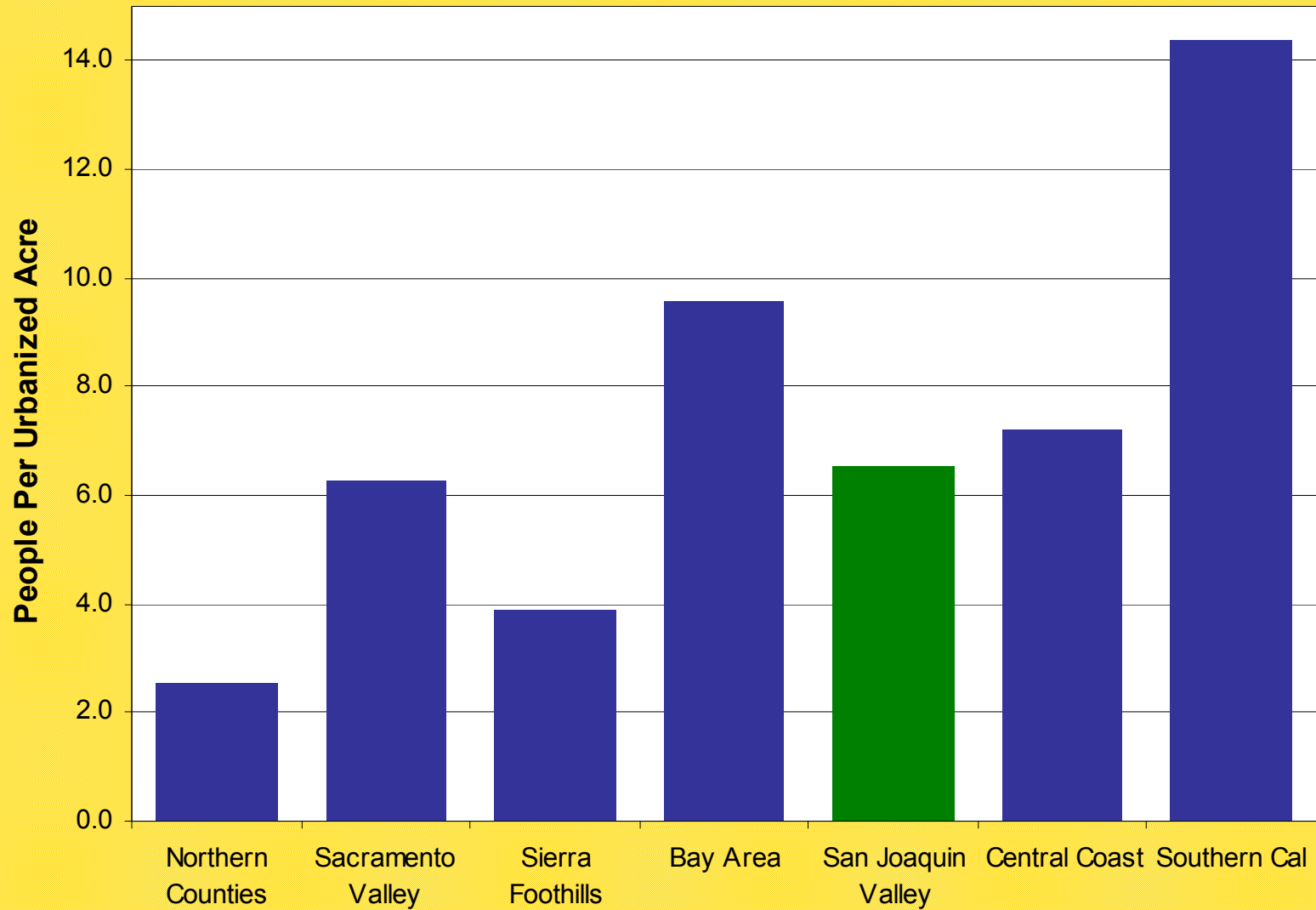




An aerial photograph showing a residential development. The houses are arranged in a somewhat irregular pattern, with a large, dense wooded area on the left side. A road curves through the upper right portion of the image. The text "Inefficiency of Development" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Inefficiency of Development**

### Overall Urban Density in 2004



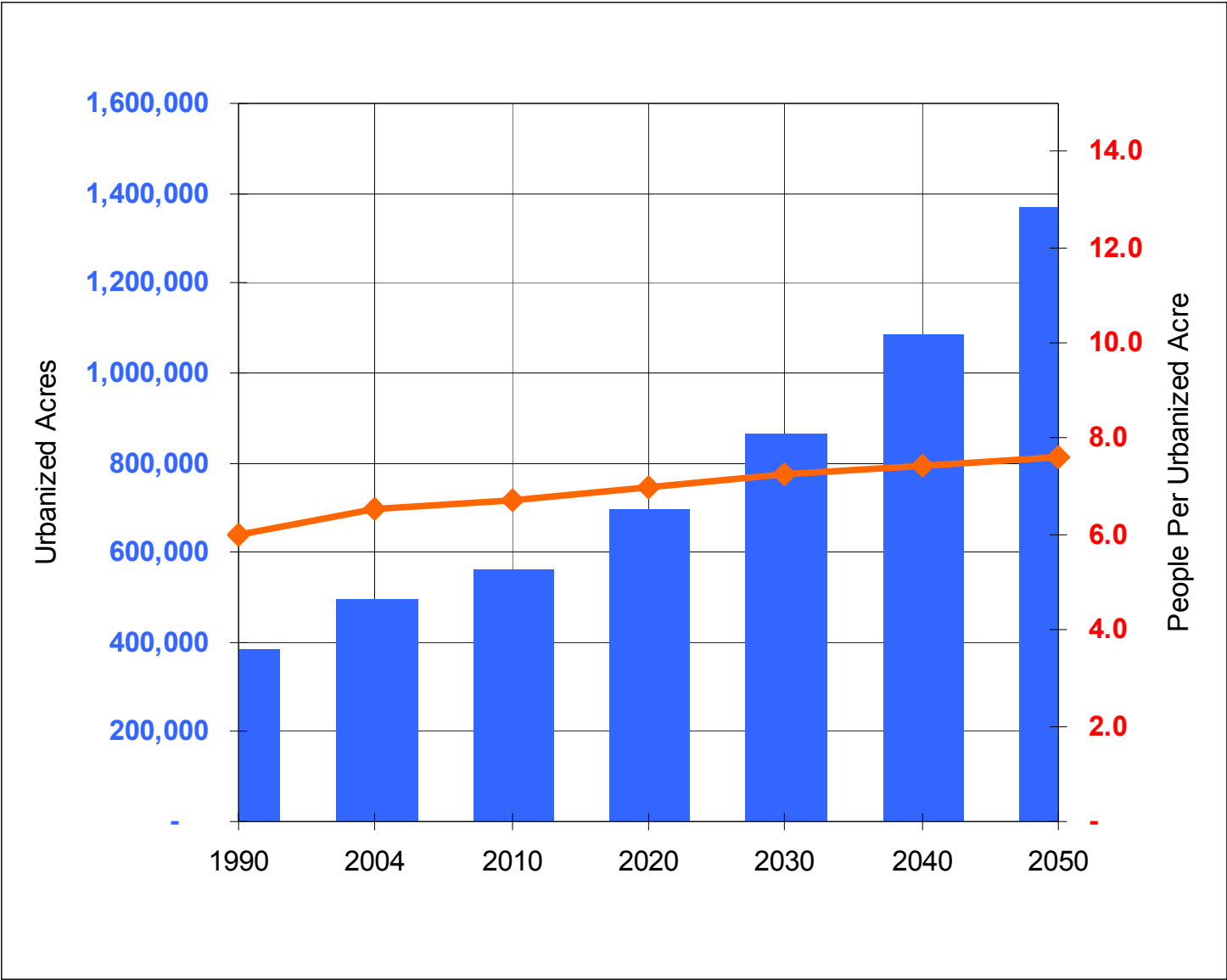
## Development Efficiency By Region

	Per Per Urban Acre	
	1990-2004	In 2004
Sacramento Valley	12.3	6.3
Southern California*	11.0	8.0
Bay Area*	10.3	7.8
San Joaquin Valley	8.1	6.5
Central Coast	7.6	7.2
Sierra Foothills	5.2	4.0
Northern Counties	2.6	2.6
Statewide	9.4	7.2

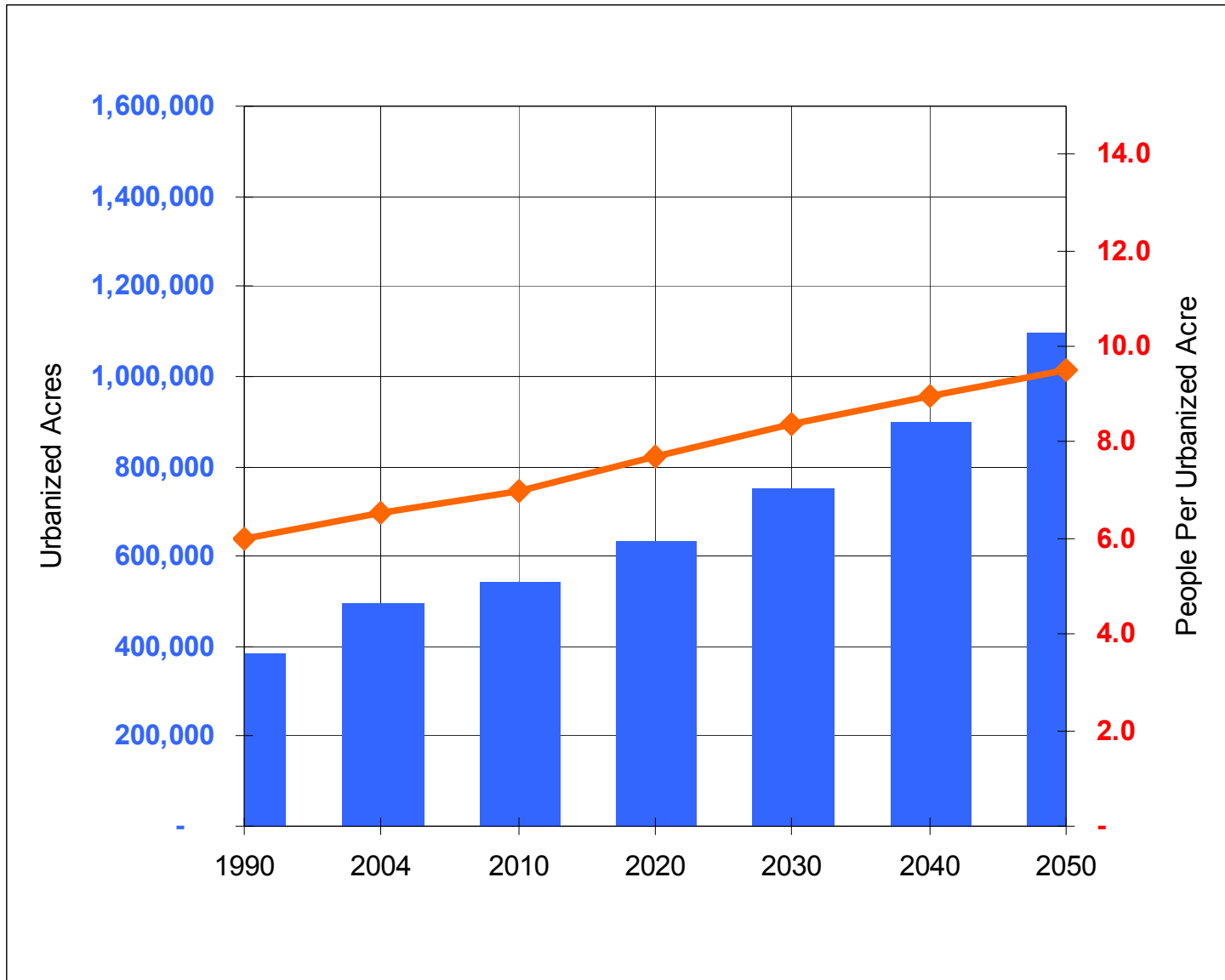
\* Figures are with and without Los Angeles and San Francisco Counties

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

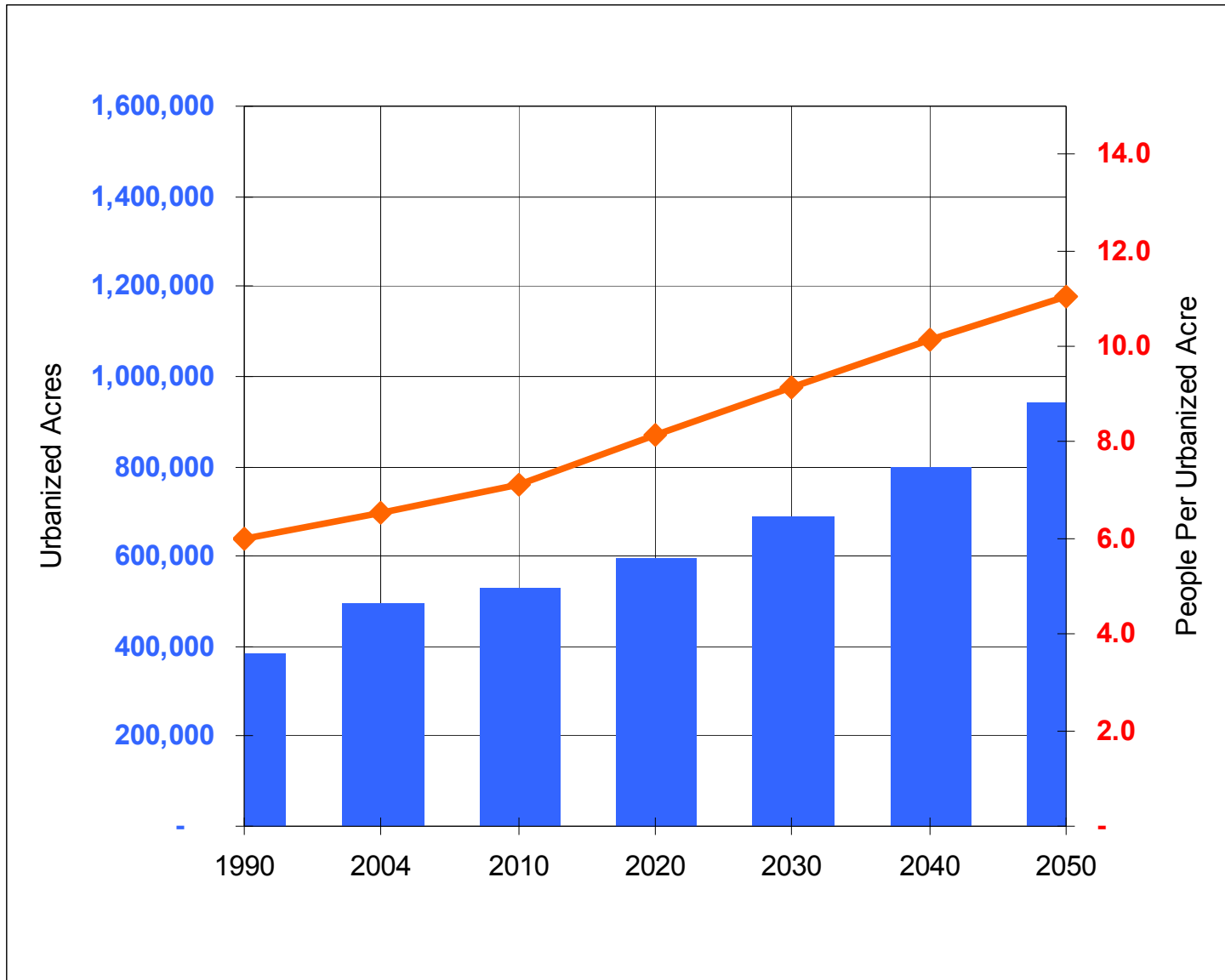
# San Joaquin Valley Trend at Current Efficiency (8.2 PPA)



# San Joaquin Valley Trend at 12 People Per Urban Acre



# San Joaquin Valley Trend at 16 People Per Urban Acre



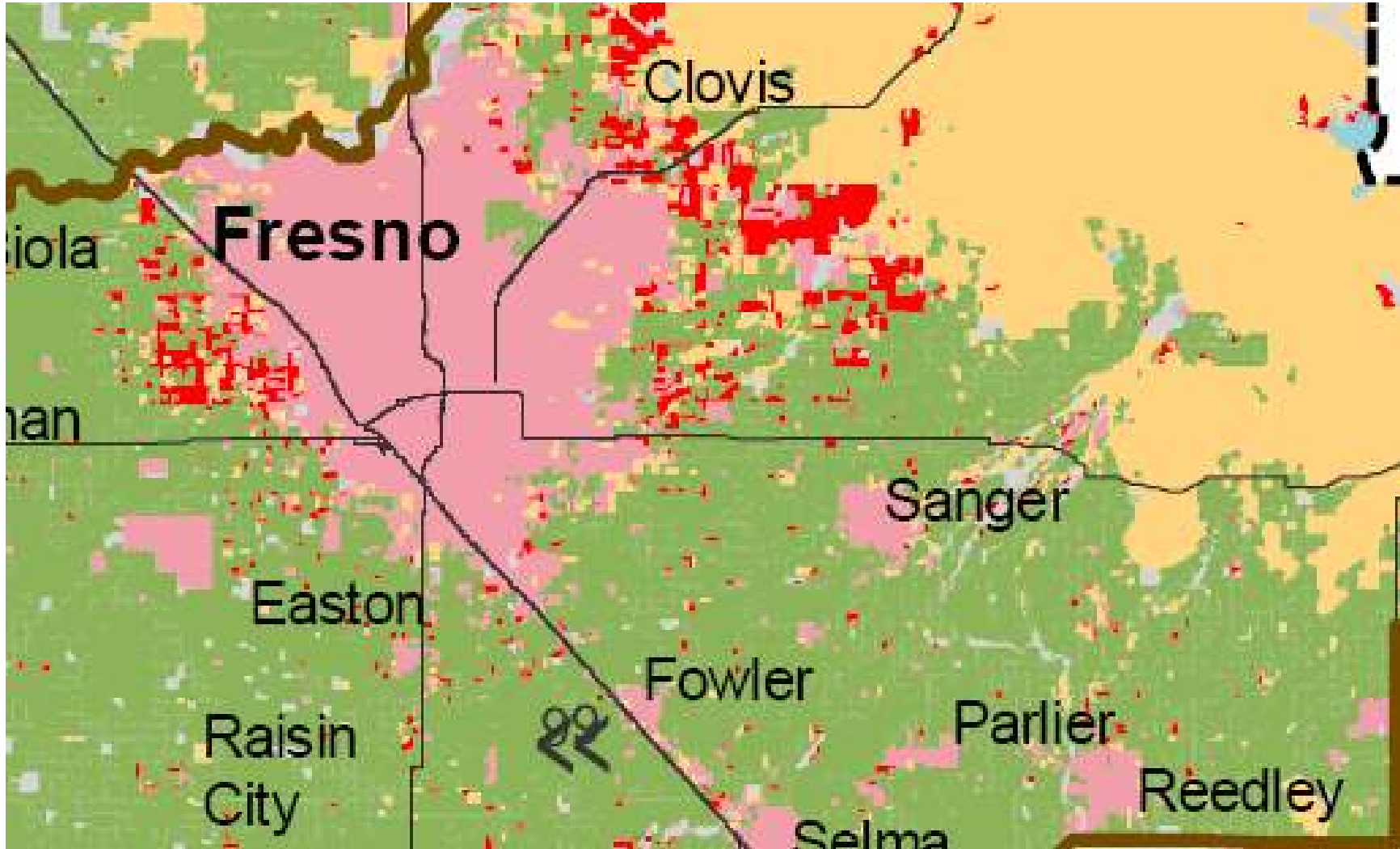




# Rural Ranchettes

## Rural Ranchette Development

- ✓ One of the biggest threats to farmland is rural ranchette development
- ✓ In 2004, four counties were shown 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 one and a half percent of the total population of these counties.





# Farmland Policy Priorities

- ✓ Direct development away from highest quality farmland
- ✓ Increase efficiency of urban development
- ✓ Curb ranchettes
- ✓ Make good plans and stick to them – accountability!

An aerial photograph showing a residential development with several houses and a road. The foreground is dominated by a dense, green forest. The houses are clustered together, and a road curves through the development. The text is overlaid on the image.

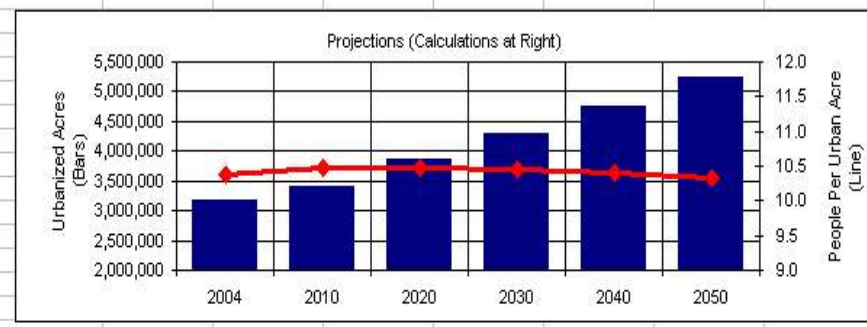
# **Farmland Protection Policies**

- ✓ **Lead to More Efficient Growth Patterns**
- ✓ **Reduce Traffic and Air Pollution**
- ✓ **Diminish Greenhouse Gases**
- ✓ **Minimize Tax Burden of Public Services**

**American Farmland Trust**  
**A New Perspective on California Farmland Conversion** © 2007 American Farmland Trust

**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 ("HGF" - 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	13,136	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
<b>Total Area Converted to Urban</b>	<b>95,625</b>	<b>50,296</b>	<b>51,996</b>	<b>64,189</b>	<b>85,569</b>	<b>90,895</b>	<b>99,703</b>	<b>538,273</b>

	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



# American Farmland Trust Contact Information

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**“...land, they’re not making it anymore.”**

**- Mark Twain**