

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

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Kings

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: NASA
date: September 9, 1999
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR transparencies (9x9)
coverage gaps: Extreme southwestern portion of county

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities: City of Hanford
county: Kings Co. Board of Supervisors
others: Kings Co. Water District

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:* www.hanfordchamber.com/

➤ *GIS data referenced:* *Base_data\vector\agency_data\drainage_evap_ponds_evap_ponds.dgn*

1998-2000 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) 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.*

➤ P, S, U → D

There were 19 conversions of farmland to urban land this update, with 11 of those conversions taking place in and around the City of Hanford. In the Hanford area, the urbanization of farmland was seen primarily in the form of new homes and schools on the north and northwestern urban fringe of the City of Hanford, encompassing approximately 160 acres. Some of the new developments in Hanford include the Stonecreek (~80 acres), Vintage Estates (~15 acres), and Bridgegate Estates (~5 acres) developments. Two new schools in the Hanford area were the new Pioneer Middle School (~12 acres)

and the new Joseph M. Simas Elementary School (~10 acres). The Hanford Airport also underwent a runway expansion, a conversion of approximately 35 acres of farmland. Another conversion just south of the City of Hanford was the addition of approximately 160 acres of ponds adjacent to the City of Hanford Wastewater Treatment Plant. Further south of Hanford, a conversion of approximately 25 acres of farmland occurred in the form of a new Del Monte/Contadina warehouse facility.

Meanwhile, the rest of the county experienced less urbanization of farmland than occurred in the Hanford area. Ten acres of new homes were in evidence on the western urban fringe of the nearby town of Armona while approximately 30 acres of new housing was seen along the western urban fringe of Lemoore. The Lemoore Sports Complex (~20 acres) was also noted this update. The Penny Newman Milling Co. Mill and silos was a conversion near the town of Guernsey and a long, cement runway (~40 acres) was noted alongside Hwy 43 outside the City of Corcoran. Finally, a large groundwater recharge basin (~280 acres) was noted along Hwy 198 approximately 5 miles east of Hanford.

➤ L, G, X → D

There wasn't much evidence of the urbanization of local, grazing, and other land this update as only 4 conversions were found countywide with 3 of those occurring in the form of new homes and a new apartment complex (~40 acres total) in the Lemoore area. The other conversion was on the southern urban fringe of the City of Corcoran where 20 acres of new homes were added.

➤ P, S, U → L, G

There were 20 conversions of farmland to local or grazing land with 7 of these conversions (~300 acres) due to farmland (plots >40 acres) having been fallow for three updates going into the grazing category on the Stratford quad. The remaining conversions were due mainly to new or expanded dairies. Two dairies added this update which were notable for their size were the Diamond Dairy (~80+ acres) a few miles south of Hanford and the Valadao Dairy (~50 acres) on the Waukena quad. Other dairies were added on the Riverdale (1), Laton (1), Lemoore (1), Remnoy (1), and Goshen (1) quads. The rest of the conversions were simply expansions of some of the existing dairy boundaries throughout the county.

➤ P, S, U → X

The conversion of farmland to "other" land was the biggest category of change with 22 conversions taking place this update. Most of the conversions were due to farmland (plots <40 acres) having been fallow for three updates going into the "other land" category. These fallow fields were spread pretty evenly throughout the county. Also, a few areas of ranchettes (~50 acres) were noted on the Lemoore quad. Other notable conversions of farmland to "other land" include a waterski lake (<40 acres) a few miles south of Lemoore and two seemingly defunct dairies on the Guernsey quad.

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U

There were 17 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to farmland in Kings County this update. Most of this new farming activity was seen in the southern portion of

the county. The majority of this new farmland acreage was added on the Dudley Ridge quad, where several fields consisting of over 3500 acres of farmland were added this update. Most of these fields were circular with center-pivot irrigation and were most likely alfalfa according to a representative of the King's County Agricultural Commissioner's office. Another notable farmland addition was a large, 1,000-acre plot of farmland on the Hacienda Ranch quad adjoining the Kings County boundary line.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

D→S There were two changes of this type on the Stratford quad where basin areas surrounded by levees which may have been recharge basins or water storage basins were found to be currently used for crop production.

G→X A fenced lot with some pipes protruding from the ground (natural gas wellhead?) located between two poultry farms was shifted from G to X on the Hacienda Ranch quad.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

Special attention will need to be given every update to discern the status of the large evaporation, percolation, and storage ponds throughout the county. If crops are found to be growing in these basins, they can be reclassified as farmland.

OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS: *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

N/A

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

<i>photo interpretation, start date:</i>	May 31, 2001
<i>photo interpretation, number of days:</i>	6
<i>ground truthing dates:</i>	June 12-15, 2001
<i># days for map compilation and clean up:</i>	5

* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp