

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

2002 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Fresno

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center

date: August 30, 2001

scale: 1:130,000

film type: CIR Transparencies

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery:

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities:

county: Planning and Resource Management Department

others: Westside Resource Conservation District

➤ *personal contacts:* Mendota Wildlife Area 559-655-4645

Fresno Ag Commission – referred Bob Veits

Bob Veits – Pleasant Valley Water District 559-269-2991

➤ *websites:*

City of Fresno www.fresno.gov

County of Fresno www.fresno.ca.gov

Fresno Council of Governments www.fresnocog.org

City of Clovis www.ci.clovis.ca.gov

City of Coalinga www.coalinga.com

Association of Calif. Water Agencies www.acwanet.com

US Bureau of Land Management www.ca.blm.gov/hollister/

Calif. Integrated Waste Management Board www.ciwmb.ca.gov/landfills

US Geological Survey <http://glovis.usgs.gov/ImgViewer/ImgViewer.html>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* 2000 Department of Water Resources Land Use Survey
(Western portion of county)

2000-2002 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.

Note: This is the first complete digital update for Fresno County. Using improved digital resources, more accurate boundaries were drawn throughout the county. Therefore, adjustments were made in all categories throughout the county. The changes listed below are only representative of the total number of actual changes.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

45 total changes. The vast majority of these changes range between 5-40 acres and occurred around the periphery of the Fresno urban area. The largest changes include the “Brentwood Willow North” Homes and Riverview Elementary School (125 acres) on the Friant quad. On the Clovis quad, the “Windover” homes converted 73 acres and additional new homes changed another 60 acres.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

67 total changes. Most of the changes were new homes or paved parking lots less than 40 acres. There are a couple large changes though. On the Friant quad, new homes changed 97 acres to urban land. The Clovis quad has a 50 acre change involving parking lots. Forty acres on the Herndon quad were identified as the Islewood Golf Course and junior golf camp. On the southern part of the county, Laton Regional Park was changed to urban (50 acres) because access roads, parking lots and picnic tables were observed during the field check.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

214 total changes. This may seem like a very large number, but only 31 of the 214 changes are greater than 40 acres. All of the changes were the result of irrigated farmland going fallow for three or more updates and most were very small and adjacent to existing Farmland of Local Importance. The following quads had several of these changes on them, Herndon (16), Clovis (28), Round Mtn. (17), Fresno South (10), Malaga (15), Sanger (11), Wahtoke (17), Reedly (13), and Riverdale (11). Some of the greatest activity includes four changes on the Herndon quad (45, 67, 70, 120 acres), seven on the Clovis quad (47, 52, 55, 63, 70, 80, 100 acres), six on Round Mtn. Quad (43, 45, 47, 55, 56, 120 acres), four on the Piedra quad (55, 55, 71, 112 acres), one on the Tranquility quad of 130 acres, and two on the Orange Cove South quad (75, 85 acres).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

29 total changes. The majority of the changes are low-density housing that converted less than 20 acres each, with the following exceptions. Two earthen irrigation ponds were identified on the Burrel and Westside quads changing only 11 acres combined. Twenty-two acres of covered hay storage was found on irrigated farmland on the Helm quad. Over on the Kerman quad, a water ski lake was identified (19 acres). Lastly, 63 acres went fallow for three update cycles near the Kings River on the Wahtoke quad and was converted to gravel extraction.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

85 total changes. Fourteen changes were for irrigated pasture and 16 changes involved orchards. The remaining changes are row crops, vines, alfalfa, or other types of irrigated agriculture. Only a couple of the total changes exceeded 40 acres. An orchard converted 63 acres on the Clovis quad, and another one was 53 acres on the Round Mountain quad. On the Jamesan quad, two large areas changed to irrigated agriculture (55, 225 acres) and the same thing happened on the Helm and Raisin quads (57 & 70 acres respectively). Irrigated pasture near Sanger converted 70 acres on the Wahtoke quad.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2002.*

There are two changes from Other land to Farmland of Local Importance that are unusual. On the Friant quad, 24 acres of dry grains were identified by the harvest patterns and on the Tranquility quad near the Mendota Wildlife Area, 32 acres were identified as a catfish farm.

Similarly, on the Round Mountain quad, 65 acres of Mack's Fish Farm changed from Urban and Built Up land to Farmland of Local Importance.

Lastly, the area around Miramonte had 65 acres of Urban and Built up land changed to Grazing land. The area was not covered by the high-resolution airphotos in the past, but during this update, the area was photographed and a more distinct urban boundary was digitized.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?*

The area around Coalinga appears very dry. Watch for dry grains there or wheat that may be started with irrigation. Fields may also be going fallow there. Over in the Fresno and Clovis area, the periphery of the urban areas need careful checking, especially areas south of the San Joaquin River and north of Clovis. The irrigated pastures near the Kings River are also worth keeping a close eye on.

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

Note that labor estimates include preparatory work on the 2000 data to begin the soil replacement on the 2002 data.

<i>photo interpretation, start date:</i>	7/9/03 – 7/16/03 Western	9/4/03 – 10/21/03 Central
<i>photo interpretation, number of days:</i>	6 Western	28 Central
<i>ground truthing dates:</i>	8/14 – 8/15 Western	10/23 – 10/24 Central
<i># days for map compilation and clean up:</i>	14	

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp