

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

**2004 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Kern

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Michael Kisko

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)

*date:* summer 2004

*scale:* 2 meter resolution

*film type:* true color mosaic

*coverage gaps:* none

*additional imagery:* 2003 Airphoto USA natural color imagery, 2 foot resolution

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2002 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2004 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none

*cities:*

*county:*

*others:*

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

International Trade and Transportation Center: <http://www.ittc.com/index.asp>

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

SWIS landfill/waste facility reference file (swis.dgn)

**2002-2004 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.*

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land:** 57 Changes

The majority of conversions from irrigated farmland to urban land this update were due to new home construction, along with additions of schools, an industrial center, a prison, and water control ponds.

New homes were in evidence in the greater Bakersfield area notably on the northern, southern, and western fringes as well as in the Rosedale area. In the Rosedale

area, five additions of new homes were made totaling approximately 350 acres with one large addition of new homes along Jewetta Ave accounting for the conversion of approximately 180 acres. In northern Bakersfield, seven additions of new homes were made totaling approximately 650 acres, including the “Madison Grove” home development (~100 acres), part of the “Celebrations” development (~100 acres) and two additions of new homes nearby each other off Fruitvale Ave (~120 acres). In western Bakersfield, three additions of new homes were made along Buena Vista Road including the “Seven Oaks,” “Buena Vista Ranch,” and “Greystone” home developments (~500 acres) with a further addition of new homes totaling approximately 300 acres and including the “Villages of Brimhall” development to the north. Finally, five additions of new homes in southern Bakersfield accounted for the conversion of approximately 500 acres of irrigated farmland.

New homes were also added outside Bakersfield in Delano, McFarland, Wasco, and Shafter. On the eastern fringe of Delano, the “Villagio” home development (~75 acres) along with another area of new homes including the “Milestone” development (~50 acres) was added. Approximately 60 acres of new homes were also in evidence along the southern fringe of McFarland. Meanwhile, new homes were added on the southern edge of Wasco (~40 acres). Finally, approximately 70 acres of new homes were added to the western urban fringe of Shafter.

New schools made a showing this update with the new “Cesar E. Chavez High School” (~60 acres) added in eastern Delano, the new “Golden Valley High School” (~60 acres) in southern Bakersfield, and a new school added in Tehachapi (~80 acres).

The largest, single conversion of irrigated farmland to urban land this update occurred to the west of the City of Delano where the new “Kern Valley State Prison” was built (~500 acres). A second, large conversion occurred on the Rosedale quad where the new International Trade and Transportation Center (ITTC) featuring a Target distribution center was added (~150 acres).

Finally, multiple water control ponds were added on the Belridge (~100 acres) and Lamont (~70 acres) quads and the “North Canal Spreading Works” (~350 acres) was added on the Arvin quad.

#### ➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 119 Changes

About half of the conversions from local, grazing, or other land to urban land were due to the addition of new homes. Other conversions were due to new commercial or industrial buildings. Still other additions were due to an increased density of structures because of infill development. Some of these conversions may be at least partially attributable to the use of more detailed, digital imagery. Finally, the addition of water control ponds and raceway and landfill expansions accounted for a small amount of conversion.

Many of the new homes added in this category of conversion were on the urban fringe of the greater Bakersfield area as well as in the Rosedale and Oildale areas. In northern Bakersfield, approximately 130 acres of new homes were added. In southern Bakersfield, approximately 60 acres of new homes were also in evidence. In western Bakersfield, additions of new homes, including one approximately 180-acre addition, combined for approximately 260 acres of conversion. In eastern Bakersfield, approximately 100 acres of new homes were added with another two additions of homes just to the east of the urban fringe of Bakersfield (~50 acres). In the Rosedale area,

approximately 100 acres of new homes were added in four additions. On the other hand, one single addition of new homes in the Oildale area accounted for the conversion of approximately 190 acres.

New home construction was also seen outside Bakersfield in Delano, Wasco, Arvin, Rosamond, and Ridgecrest. In Delano, approximately 50 acres of new homes were added on the western urban fringe while approximately 30 acres were added on the eastern fringe. Two additions of new homes in southern Wasco accounted for the conversion of approximately 40 acres of other land. An addition of approximately 40 acres of new homes was added in southern Arvin. Lastly, new apartments were added in Rosamond (~20 acres) and new homes in southern Ridgecrest (~20 acres).

New buildings for commercial, industrial, or educational uses were also a notable cause of conversion, particularly in the western Bakersfield, northern Bakersfield, Shafter, and Lamont areas. In western Bakersfield, new buildings associated with the California State University at Bakersfield and some nearby commercial buildings accounted for the conversion of approximately 90 acres. The new "Bakersfield Christian High School (~50 acres) was a further addition in western Bakersfield. In northern Bakersfield adjacent to Meadows Field Airport, new commercial or industrial buildings were added (~60 acres). Meanwhile, south of Shafter, some industrial buildings were added (~20 acres) and a William Bolthouse Farms facility (~20 acres) was added a few miles to the southwest. Finally, a Grimmway Farms facility was noted to the east of Lamont (~100 acres).

New homes were also added in some areas due to an increased density of structures in the area. This can be attributed partially to infill development of new homes as well as the use of highly detailed, digital imagery this update. This type of conversion was particularly notable in the eastern, desert areas of the county where we have not always had good imagery coverage in the past. For example, approximately 1,000 acres of homes were added in the California City area due to an increased density of homes in the area as well as the use of highly detailed, digital imagery. Similar additions of homes due to increased density were also made in the Wofford Heights area (~50 acres) near Lake Isabella and the Bear Valley Springs area (~200 acres) northwest of Tehachapi.

Finally, multiple water control ponds were added throughout the county accounting for the conversion of approximately 200 acres of local, grazing, or other land. The largest addition was a water control pond added at the gigantic Borax mine nearby Boron (~30 acres). Further, the Willow Springs Raceway was expanded by adding a new racetrack (~20 acres). Landfills were also a final source of conversion as the McKittrick Waste Treatment Site was noted in the western part of the county (~40 acres) and the Bakersfield Metropolitan (Bena) Sanitary Landfill was expanded by approximately 50 acres on the Edison quad.

#### ➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 125 Changes

The conversions made in this category of change all involved irrigated farmland that had been fallow for three or more update cycles being converted to grazing land since Kern County has no farmland of local importance definition.

These conversions of irrigated farmland to grazing land occurred throughout the agricultural areas of the county and were generally less than 50 acres in size. However, single conversions of 100 acres or more occurred on the Sawtooth Ridge (1 conversion), Lone Tree Well (1), Allensworth (1), Emigrant Hill (2), Antelope Plain (1), Lost Hills NW (4),

Lost Hills NE (1), Deepwell Ranch (1), Blackwells Corner (2), Lost Hills (1), Semitropic (4), Oildale (1), Stevens (1), Gosford (1), Taft (1), Buena Vista Lake Bed (1), Pentland (1), Onyx (1), Tehachapi South (1), Saltdale SE (1), and Fairmont Butte (1) quads. The largest conversion occurred on the Buena Vista Lake Bed quad where an approximately 2,000-acre plot of irrigated farmland was removed. The next largest conversion took place on the Lost Hills NW quad where an approximately 1,500-acre plot of irrigated farmland was removed. Other large, single conversions of irrigated farmland to grazing land took place on the Deepwell Ranch (~650 acres), Saltdale SE (~470 acres), Semitropic (~460 acres), Oildale (~425 acres), and Gosford (~330 acres) quads.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 91 Changes

The delineation of farmsteads, ranchettes, and agricultural staging areas accounted for the majority of the conversions of this type with most conversions encompassing 20 acres or less. These types of land use conversions were made throughout the county with many of the changes attributable to improved imagery that allowed for the delineation of these land use types.

The addition of new dairies was a further cause of this type of conversion and was confined, primarily, to the south, west, and southwest of Bakersfield on the Conner (3 new dairies), Millux (2), Rio Bravo (1), and Buttonwillow (2) quads. These dairies ranged in size from approximately 100 to 350 acres with the two largest conversions occurring on the Conner quad (~650 acres). Three further additions of new dairies were also made on the Allensworth (1) and Lost Hills NE (2) quads.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 65 Changes

New additions of irrigated farmland were made throughout the agricultural areas of the county with most conversions encompassing 40 acres or less. Large, single additions of 100 acres or more occurred on the Lost Hills NE (1 large addition), Blackwells Corner (1), Rosedale (1), Conner SW (2), Edison (1), Weed Patch (4), Arvin (1), Little Buttes (2), and Rosamond (1) quads. The largest, single conversion was an addition of approximately 350 acres of new irrigated farmland at the "Kootstra Farms" on the Weed Patch quad. The Weed Patch quad also led the way in new irrigated farmland with the addition of approximately 800 acres of new irrigated farmland this update.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2004.*

G to X: Ranchettes and disturbed land, sometimes associated with oil fields, were delineated throughout the county. The use of highly detailed digital imagery is at least partially responsible.

D to I: Urban boundary adjustments were made throughout the county due to the use of highly detailed digital imagery this update.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2006? Why?*

The next mapper may want to include the Tehachapi area on the next field check, as I could not get there due to weather conditions.

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

*photo interpretation, start date: 2/21/06*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 13*

*ground truthing dates: 3/13/06-3/17/06*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 7*

\* **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](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)