

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

**2006 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Fresno

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

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP), USDA

*date:* summer 2006

*scale:* 2 meter resolution

*film type:* true color mosaic

*coverage gaps:* none

*additional imagery:* NAIP 2005, 1 meter resolution, true color mosaic; Infrared Landsat 7 satellite scene, summer 2005, 15 meter resolution

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2004 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2006 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none

*cities:*

*county:*

*others:*

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

Fresno County Office of Education: [www.fcoe.k12.ca.us](http://www.fcoe.k12.ca.us)

Welcome to Fresno County: [www.co.fresno.ca.us](http://www.co.fresno.ca.us)

Westlands Water District: [www.westlandswater.org](http://www.westlandswater.org)

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

Municipal boundary layer for the State of California (MUBCAXXX\_albers.shp)

Street layer for the County of Fresno (GDT\_fre.mdb\ Street)

**2004-2006 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: 92 conversions**

The majority of the urban changes occurred in the Cities of Fresno and Clovis. In the City of Fresno, the Brentwood (~100 acres), La Ventana (~100 acres), Oakville (~40 acres), and Bonadelle (~35 acres) housing developments were added as well as the Canyon Spring (~15 acres) and Villa Lucia (~25 acres) apartment complexes. Two other areas of new homes were, approximately, 55 and 75 acres. Also, the James Polk Elementary School and Deran Koligian Stadium (~ 20 acres each) were noted. In the City of Clovis, the Creekside (~15 acres) and European Park (~15 acres) housing developments were added along with another approximately 70-acre area of new homes. Woods Elementary School (~20 acres) and Derrel's Storage (~15 acres) were also noted.

Urban change also occurred in the cities to the southeast of Fresno. In the City of Fowler, two areas of new homes were noted (~25 and 30 acres). New homes were also in evidence in the Cities of Selma (~40 acres total in three developments) and Kingsburg (~15 acres). In the City of Sanger, the Walnut Grove (~20 acres) housing development was added along with six other areas of new homes (~175 acres total). New homes (~45 acres total in three developments) and retail (~15 acres) occurred in the City of Parlier. In the City of Reedley, new homes accounted for approximately 50 acres of change in three developments. In the City of Orange Cove, the Citrus Middle School (~20 acres) and the SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc campus (~40 acres) were added.

In the western part of the county, urban change was scattered. North of the City of San Joaquin, the American Avenue Disposal Site was expanded by approximately 95 acres and new evaporation ponds (~270 acres) were noted along the James Bypass. In the City of Kerman, the Quail Run Estates (~20 acres), Capistrano (~15 acres), and Bordeaux (~10 acres) housing developments were added along with two other areas of new homes (~40 and 25 acres). Also the Panoche Creek Packing Plant (~15 acres) was noted. An area of new homes (~20 acres) was added in the City of San Joaquin. In the City of Coalinga, the Promontory Point housing development (~20 acres) was noted. Lastly, an apartment complex (~10 acres) was added in the City of Huron.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land: 103 conversions**

The Cities of Fresno and Clovis experienced the majority of the conversions. The changes include new homes, shopping centers, warehouses, and churches. In the City of Fresno, new housing developments include the Copper Ridge Estates (~45 acres) and the Montelena Apartments (~10 acres) along with 27 other housing developments totaling approximately 485 acres (10-25 acres each). Also, two new shopping centers were added (~15 acres each) as well as two areas of warehouses (~20 acres each). In the City of Clovis, an approximately 65-acre area of new homes was added along with 5 other housing developments (~80 acres total). The Clovis Hills Community Church (~45 acres) was noted and the Sunrise Church and Clovis Christian School (~10 acres) were added.

New housing accounted for most of the changes in the cities to the southeast of Fresno. In the City of Selma, two housing developments (~35 and 15 acres) were added as well as some buildings (~15 acres). Four housing developments totaling approximately 90 acres were noted in the City of Sanger. In the City of Reedley, three housing developments (~40 acres total) were added along with a shopping center (~15 acres). In the community of Del Rey an apartment complex (~10 acres) was noted and approximately 10 acres of new retail occurred in the City of Parlier. Also, the community of Riverdale and

the City of Orange Cove each added an area of new homes (~10 acres each).

In the western part of the county, the urban change occurred mainly in the Cities of Mendota and Coalinga. In the City of Mendota, the Hacienda Gardens (~30 acres) housing development was added along with the Lozano Vista (~15 acres), The Village at Mendota (~15 acres), and the La Armistad (~10 acres) apartment complexes. Also, the water treatment plant was expanded by approximately 75 acres. In the City of Coalinga, the Stallion Springs (~15 acres) housing development was noted as well as another housing development (~20 acres). Finally, an approximately 10-acre area of new buildings was added in the City of Kerman.

#### ➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land: 318 conversions**

The majority (245) of these changes were due to Irrigated Farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were scattered throughout the county. Most of the changes were between 10 to 40 acres. Larger conversions of 100 acres or larger were mostly noted in the western part of the county. These large conversions occurred on the Avenal (~200 acres), Cantua Creek (~235 acres), Coalinga (~105 and 210 acres), Guijarral Hills (~440 acres), Monocline Ridge (~210 acres), Round Mountain (~140 acres), San Joaquin (~150, 190, and 580 acres), and Tranquility (~135, 285, and 1,000 acres) quads.

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in Fresno County. These changes primarily occurred in the western part of the county. Most of the changes were 50 acres or larger. The largest conversions occurred on the Avenal (~230, 260, 265, 300, 490, and 620 acres), Broadview Farms (~570 acres), and Guijarral Hills (~235 acres) quads.

Confined livestock in the form of dairies, feedlots, poultry facilities, and aquaculture are also part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in Fresno County. Most of these conversions were due to small expansions (between 10-20 acres) of existing dairies and poultry facilities. One change of note was a new dairy (~130 acres) on the Five Points quad.

#### ➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land: 122 conversions**

Low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial, and agricultural staging areas (gravel lots with equipment storage) accounted for the majority (97) of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 10-30 acres in size. Other changes were due to the expansion of mining facilities and the identification of agricultural ponds.

#### ➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland: 94 conversions**

The majority of the Irrigated Farmland was added in the eastern part of the county. Most of the changes were 10-30 acres in size and consisted of row crops, orchards, vineyards, and irrigated pasture. Some changes of note include an orchard (~220 acres) and an area of row crops (~75 acres) on the Monocline Ridge quad, an orchard (~80 acres) on the Orange Cove North quad, and an orchard (~75 acres) on the Kreyenhagen Hills quad.

#### ➤ **Local, Grazing to Other Land: 268 conversions**

Low-density housing (ranchettes) in the northeastern foothills accounted for the majority (167) of the changes to Other Land. These conversions were due to improved digital imagery in this section of the county and are not due to new construction. These changes account for approximately 6,000 acres of total change with the largest conversion (~1,340 acres) occurring on the Academy quad.

The rest of the changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily less than 40 acres each. The majority of these changes were due to ranchettes and farmsteads. Large changes greater than 50 acres occurred on the Arenal (1), Clovis (1), Jamesan (1), and Round Mountain (3) quads. Other changes were due to rural commercial, agricultural ponds, mining facilities, and riparian areas.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2006.*

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 11 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to Other Land and Irrigated Farmland due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Other Land to Grazing, Local: There were 31 conversions from Other Land. The majority of these changes were due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct boundaries. Other changes were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain on previously vacant areas and areas of confined livestock.

Grazing Land to Local: There were 13 conversions of Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance. All of these changes were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Conversions of 100 acres or greater occurred on the Alcalde Hills (1), Friant (1), and Kreyenhagen Hills (1) quads.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 9 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to the identification of potted plant nurseries and a nonirrigated orchard. Potted plant nurseries and nonirrigated orchards are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes may result in Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance being converted to Unique Farmland.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2008? Why?*

The Westlands Water District has stopped supplying water to large areas of the district. Some of these lands are being permanently fallowed and others are being used for nonirrigated grain. Many of these lands will be ready for conversion in the 2008 update.

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

*photo interpretation, start date: December 26, 2007*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 14*

*ground truthing dates: February 4-8, 2008*  
*# days for map compilation and clean up: 10*

\* **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)