

**California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Fresno

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Air Photo USA – Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	February 2007
Data description	True Color (1 foot resolution)
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2008 mapping.

Local Review Comments

(submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps)

Personal Contacts

None.

Websites Used for Reference

Fresno Trap and Skeet Club

<http://www.fresnotrapandskeet.com/index.html>

Kelly's Beach (park and camping)

<http://www.kellysbeach.com/>

Ram Tap Horse Trails

<http://www.ramtap1.com/>

Clovis North Educational Center (high school)

<http://cnec.cusd.com/>

Fresno County Juvenile Justice Campus

<http://www.correctionalnews.com/articles/2007/02/26/facility-the-month-marchapril-2007-character-counts>

<http://www.knninc.com/uploads/news/FresnoJJC.pdf>

J & J Aquafarms

<http://www.jandjaquafarms.com/>

Waldron Pond Facility

<http://www.fresnoirrigation.com/waldron.htm>

http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/docs/prop13/Prop_13_Final_Report.pdf

http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/docs/prop13/Prop13_Attachment_B_grants_director.pdf

GIS Data Used for Reference

None.

2006-2008 CHANGE SUMMARY:

Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. [See definitions](#) at bottom of table.

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	66 changes
The vast majority of this type of change was less than 20 acres. The new land uses varied from new homes to parking lots and schools. There are two changes that are over 100 acres that are worth noting. The Waldron pond is west of the city of Fresno and the websites above helped determine the pond utility. The pond expansion converted almost 140 acres of Irrigated Farmland. The other notable change involved 100 acres for construction of the Clovis North High School and athletic facilities.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	69 changes
This change was also individually less than 20 acres in size. Many of the changes fall into a couple categories, such as new homes, parking lots, schools, golf courses, and freeway interchanges and expansions. One change from Vacant land to Urban land was for waste water control structures at the Spreckles sugar plant . That converted just over 100 acres.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	430 changes
This is clearly the most significant type of change in Fresno county this update. Not only is the total number of changes very large, but the size of some of the individual changes are also very large. Most of the total changes are due to land going fallow for three or more updates. Over 380 of the 430 total changes are of that type. The largest is over 4,800 acres, west of the city of Mendota that was site checked and verified as fallow. Near the town of Helm, over 1000 acres at another area was also verified as fallow. Another distinct type of this change is when Irrigated Farmland goes to non-irrigated grains. That scenario is not a significant portion of the total changes, but the largest of this type of change was over 22,000 acres just south of Mendota. This one particular change was actually several fields that were adjacent to each other and tracked as fallow. They were site checked this	

update and verified with harvested non-irrigated grains. This single huge change is not a surprise though. The area was noted for possible land retirement several updates ago. Three other changes to non-irrigated grains over 1,000 acres also occurred in the western part of the county.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land

116 changes

This change consists of lots of little ones spread throughout the county. Most of the total changes are due to Rural Residential uses, and all were less than 40 acres. A few changes northeast of the city of Fresno, were changed to Vacant land. These areas were tracked as going fallow with signs of possible development. This was the third update cycle for those areas to be noted as fallow. The Vacant category was chosen due to the fact that streets and sidewalks were installed, but no homes were built yet. The development of these areas had been temporarily delayed.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

67 changes

Most of the changes in this section were small and usually additions to existing adjacent Irrigated Farmland. These were also spread evenly throughout the county. New orchards were a common reason for this type of change.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)

Just east of Sanger, the J and J aqua farm was previously mapped as Urban. The ponds may have been identified as water control structures in the past. The website for the fish farm has a photo of the site taken from an airplane. This made the confirmation easy. It ended up changing 33 acres to Confined Animal Agriculture.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2010 update, and reasons.)

There are large areas of Irrigated Farmland in the western part of the county marked as fallow or non-irrigated grains. These areas could change next update or remain as Irrigated Farmland. Nothing as big as the 22,000 acres on non-irrigated grain this update, but some of the noted areas are over a couple thousand acres. Also watch for the completion of a new prison south of Mendota.

Definitions:

Irrigated Farmland includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

Nonirrigated land uses include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.

Other Land includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the [FMMP web site](#).

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2008 update.

Image interpretation, start date	7/6/2009
Image interpretation, number of days	28
Ground truth dates	9/21-23/2009
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	10

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>