

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

**2008 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Imperial

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

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	United States Geological Survey
Acquisition date	Summer 2008
Data description	True color, 6 inch and 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.*

<b>Local Review Comments</b> (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps)
None.
<b>Personal Contacts</b>
None.
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b>
County of Imperial: <a href="http://www.imperialcounty.net">www.imperialcounty.net</a> Imperial County Farm Bureau: <a href="http://www.icfb.net">www.icfb.net</a> Imperial Irrigation District: <a href="http://www.iid.com">www.iid.com</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b>
California City Boundary Layer Solid Waste Information System Layer

**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.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	27 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to new home construction and commercial buildings. The majority of these changes occurred in the Imperial Valley, primarily in the Cities of Imperial, El Centro, and Calxico.</p> <p><b><u>City of Imperial:</u></b> There were approximately 190 acres of new housing added throughout the City of Imperial. Some of the new developments included Mayfield,</p>	

Monterrey Park, Savanna Ranch, and Sky Ranch.

Commercial buildings were also added, such as the Duggins Construction and Alford Distribution offices (~10 acres total) and the Vilore distribution facility (~10 acres).

Finally, a parking lot (~10 acres) was added at the Imperial Valley College campus.

**City of El Centro:** Approximately 65 acres of new homes were added throughout the City of El Centro, primarily within the Countryside development.

There were also approximately 45 acres of new commercial buildings added. The new Walmart (~25 acres) is the most notable.

**City of Calexico:** There were approximately 100 acres of new homes added throughout the City of Calexico. Some of the new developments included Sereno, Sevilla Estates, and Victoria Villages. An apartment complex (~15 acres) was also added.

**Other Cities:**

- **City of Brawley:** Victoria Park homes (~20 acres) were added along with a new Walmart (~20 acres).
- **Community of Heber:** The Estancia (~70 acres) and Heber Meadows (~35 acres) housing developments were added.
- **Community of Winterhaven:** The Quechan Education Administration Complex (~10 acres) was added.

**Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land**

17 changes

These changes were primarily due to new housing construction, commercial buildings, and the identification of landfills.

**City of Brawley:** Approximately 20 acres of new homes were added.

**City of Imperial:** Approximately 100 acres of new homes were added along with the Frank Wright Middle School (~15 acres).

**City of El Centro:** The Plaza shopping center (~20 acres) was added along with approximately 10 acres of other buildings.

**Community of Heber:** The Desert Vista home development (~50 acres) was added.

**Landfills identified:** There were three landfills that were identified due to improved digital imagery. The Palo Verde landfill (~10 acres) was noted on the Thumb Peak quad, the Holtville Solid Waste Site (~40 acres) was identified on the Holtville East quad, and the Calexico Solid Waste Site (~40 acres) was noted on the Heber quad.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland  
aside from urbanization**

**Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses**

38 changes

These changes were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of these changes were less than 40 acres and primarily occurred in the Imperial Valley. Large conversions of 100 acres or greater occurred on the Bonds

Corner (~190 acres), Iris (~120 acres), and Westmorland East (~135 acres) quads.

**Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

48 changes

Farmsteads, rural commercial facilities, low-density housing (ranchettes), mining facilities, and dairy expansions accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the Imperial Valley and were primarily between 10-30 acres in size. Notable changes include a dairy expansion (~70 acres) on the Alamorio quad and a gravel lot used for hay storage (~135 acres) on the El Centro quad.

**Conversions to Irrigated Farmland**

**Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

43 changes

The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the Imperial Valley, primarily in the northern portion. Most of these changes were 10-40 acres in size and consisted of row crops, field crops, orchards, in-ground nurseries, and irrigated pasture. Some changes of note included three additions of row crops (~100, 115, and 115 acres) on the Niland quad, and an addition of row crops (~130 acres) and field crops (~150 acres) on the Wister quad.

**Unusual Changes**

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

Nonirrigated Land Uses to Other Land: There were 27 conversions to Other Land. The majority of these changes were due to farmsteads and rural commercial facilities. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily less than 45 acres each. Other changes were due to wetland conversion near the Salton Sea resulting in approximately 320 acres of change.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 21 conversions from Urban Land. The majority of the conversions from urban were due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Other Land to Water: The Weist Lake boundary was expanded due to improved digital imagery.

Updated Survey Area: Due to the adoption of a new survey boundary, there was a decrease of 58 acres in Imperial County.

**Areas of Concern for Future Updates**

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

Watch for the expansion of wetlands near the Salton Sea.

**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	December 1, 2010
Image interpretation, number of days	11
Ground truth dates	January 11-14, 2010
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	7

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