

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

**2008 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Madera

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Troy Dick

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	February, 2007
Data description	1 Foot resolution, true color mosaic
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	Google Maps

**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)
<b>Personal Contacts</b>
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b>
Google Maps, Street View <a href="http://maps.google.com/">http://maps.google.com/</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b>

**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	15 changes
<p>The majority of these changes occurred in or adjacent to the city of Madera, where a total of approximately 235 acres were delineated for the Olive Estates, Covington Homes, Santa Barbara Estates, Cesar Chavez Elementary School, and other new homes.</p>	

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	37 changes
<p>The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the expansion of urban development in and around the city of Madera, where a total of approximately 160 acres was added for new homes, buildings, and the John J. Pershing Elementary School.</p> <p>On the other hand, higher resolution (1 foot) imagery was used to delineate existing homes throughout the county, as some areas had lacked detailed imagery in the past. On the Ahwahnee quad, this higher resolution imagery allowed approximately 90 acres of Urban Land to be added. Meanwhile on the Bass Lake quad <math>\approx</math> 40 acres of existing homes were added.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	66 changes
<p>Most of the changes that occurred in this category were due to plots of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Countywide approximately 2,850 acres were converted to nonirrigated land uses. The majority of the changes in this category occurred on the Berenda quad with a total of approximately 730 acres of this type of change, followed by the <math>\sim</math>460 acres on the Madera quad.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	35 changes
<p>A majority of these changes were due to the use of higher resolution (1 foot) imagery to delineate areas of Rural Residential Land or Confined Animal Agriculture throughout the county. The majority of these changes happened on the Madera quad, with a total of <math>\approx</math>120 acres going to Rural Residential Land. This was followed by the Gregg quad with a total of <math>\approx</math> 70 acres going to Rural Residential Land. Other notable changes were on the Bliss Ranch quad, with a total of <math>\approx</math> 90 acres going to Confined Animal Agriculture.</p>	
<b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	32 changes
<p>The most notable additions of irrigated farmland this update occurred in the southern part of the county, with approximately 640 acres for new orchards and irrigated crops on the Poso Farm quad and <math>\approx</math>430 acres of new orchards on the Gregg quad.</p>	
<b>Unusual Changes</b>	

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

#### Grazing to Rural Residential Land: 65 changes

A majority of these changes were due to the use of higher resolution (1 foot) imagery to delineate areas of Rural Residential Land throughout the county. The largest changes happened near the National Forest boundary, with a total of  $\approx$  590, 350 and 270 acres going to Rural Residential Land on the Knowles, Ahwahnee, and North Fork quads, respectively.

Urban and Built-up Land to various categories: Minor boundary improvements due to the use of 1 foot resolution imagery resulted in approximately 150 acres being reclassified to adjacent uses.

#### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

None

#### 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	10/20/2008
Image interpretation, number of days	8
Ground truth dates	12/16/2008 to 12/19/2008
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	5

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