

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

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Orange

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Air Photo USA – Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	March 2008
Data description	True Color
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)
Cities of: Brea, Costa Mesa, Irvine, Placentia, Santa Ana, San Juan Capistrano & Tustin
Personal Contacts
Bob Schallmann, Conservation Program Manager, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach.
Websites Used for Reference
City of Orange - http://www.cityoforange.org/
Costa Mesa Recreation Department http://www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us/recreation/recreati.htm
City of Brea Mayor - http://www.johnbeauman2.blogspot.com/
Brea sports park http://www.breasoccer.org/images/brea_sports_park_aerial_large.jpg
La Floresta Homes - http://laflorestahomes.com/Home_Page.html
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	39 changes
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Various small fields of irrigated agriculture have been going fallow for some time. Many of these small fields had new homes on them this update. Most of these changes were less than 50 acres with four changes greater than 50 acres. Only one of those four is very large, where over 400 acres in East Irvine was converted to homes and parks. This change is north of the old El Toro Marine Corps Air Station and bounded by Highway 133 and Interstate 5. Additional nearby areas east of Irvine Blvd. are also noted for future urban development. Elsewhere, the new Brea Sports park was noted for land use disturbance in the imagery and site checked. A photo from the Brea soccer club web site listed above helped delineate the park boundary. This converted over 25 acres.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	84 changes
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This is the most significant change this update. Most of the changes are new homes and parks. Sometimes other land uses like a golf driving range or landfill expansions also occurred. The following four changes were the only ones over 100 acres. North of San Clemente, 180 acres of new homes were built near Segunda Deshecha Cañada, accessible by Avenida Pico. Near San Juan Capistrano, over 200 acres of new homes for the Turtle Ridge development were built. This area is north of Highway 74. Near the coast at the Huntington Beach State Park, the paved parking lots were mapped as Urban and converted over 100 acres. A similar situation occurred at Bolsa Chica Beach State Park converting another 115 acres. Other notable changes include the new San Juan Hills High School in San Juan Capistrano (50 acres) and a developed portion of Huntington Central Park with parking lots, paved paths and manicured lawns (50 acres).

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	25 changes
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This change is due to irrigated agriculture going fallow for three or more updates. Six changes are over 100 acres, but one of them stands out from the rest. Over 1,100 acres on the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station were confirmed by Naval staff to be dry-farmed lima beans. Without irrigation, these areas are moved into the Grazing Land classification. The very helpful staff also clarified the current agricultural uses on the base areas that have been inaccessible by car in the past. In Brea, near the new Brea Sports Park mentioned earlier, a very large nursery area has gone fallow for three updates. It was site checked and over 60 acres at the intersection of Valencia and Carbon Canyon Road was changed to Grazing.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	8 changes
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Most of these changes are due to irrigated farmland going fallow for three or more updates as well as being too small to qualify for Grazing Land. These areas were adjacent to Other Land and therefore went to that land use.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	5 changes
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The addition of irrigated land was very rare this update. Four of the five changes are new orchards. All of the changes are 30 acres or less. Not a significant land use change.

Unusual Changes

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

Any time land is removed from the Urban category it is unusual, and is typically related to the use of more detailed imagery to improve the urban boundary; but three actual land use changes were notable this update. Near Bolsa Bay and the Sunset Beach Oil Field, a large dry-grain area was site checked, and 8 acres of Urban Land on one side of the field was consequently reclassified to Grazing Land. In Huntington Beach near the Santa Ana River, 18 acres of Urban Land were found to be potted nursery plants and subsequently changed to irrigated farmland. North of Seal Beach, west of the Naval weapons station and south of Westminster Avenue is the Los Alamitos Retarding Basin. Just over 40 acres of the basin was corrected using the USGS quad as the source of the basin boundary. The imagery and the quad agreed nicely, so the area was changed to Other Land. The rest of the conversions from Urban Land were due to improvements to the Urban boundary.

Adoption of an updated county boundary file led to the addition of 253 acres to the Orange County total. Adjacent counties lost acreage by a similar amount.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

At the intersection of Imperial Highway (Highway 90) and Valencia Avenue in the city of Brea, an urban area at the former location of the UNOCAL Hartley Research Center has been tracked for lacking buildings for a few updates. A site visit confirmed the same situation, but a website for a future development called La Floresta Homes was found. This area currently doesn't have buildings, but should in the near future.

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

4/13/2009

Image interpretation, number of days	10
Ground truth dates	5/4/2009 – 5/6/2009
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	4

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