

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

**2008 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Santa Barbara

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Amy Klug

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Source                  | Digital Globe Inc.  |
| Acquisition date        | July 06 and 07  |
| Data description        | true color mosaic, 1 foot resolution  |
| Coverage gaps           | On Quads: Point Sal, Guadalupe, Casmalia, Surf, Point Arguello, Lompoc Hills, Tranquillon Mtn., Santa Rosa Hills, and Point Conception. |
| Additional imagery used | Google Earth, Street View   |

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:**

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

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| <b>Local Review Comments</b><br>(submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps) |
| The City of Lompoc<br>The Santa Ynez Water Conservation District                       |
| <b>Personal Contacts</b>   |
| Bruce Hesson; Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources--Ventura field office      |
| <b>Websites Used for Reference</b>   |
| None   |
| <b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b>   |
| 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.*

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>   |           |
| Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land   | 2 changes |
| Approximately 40 acres total converted this update due to the delineation of Polo Fields in Carpinteria (~15 acres) and the addition of new homes in the City of Santa Maria (~25 acres) |           |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land  | 3 changes  |
| <p>There were three fairly small changes this update from Other Land to Urban due to the addition of new homes: Approximately 35 acres in Orcutt, nearly 45 acres north of Lompoc, and just over 15 acres east of Lompoc.</p>  |            |
| <p><b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland<br/>aside from urbanization</b></p>  |            |
| Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses   | 43 changes |
| <p>The majority of acres converted to Grazing Land (≈615 acres total) due to land left idle for three or more update cycles. There were several changes which occurred about the Los Alamos Valley (≈285 acres). Just over 80 acres converted to the east of Solvang. In the vicinity of Santa Maria, approximately 190 acres went to Grazing. Lastly, approximately 30 acres converted near the north east corner of the county by Ventucopa.</p> <p>Conversions to Farmland of Local Importance due to dryland grain farming occurred near Los Olivos (≈175 acres), Lompoc (≈55 acres), and Sisquoc (≈20 acres).</p>   |            |
| Irrigated Farmland to Other Land   | 11 changes |
| <p>Conversion to Other Land was largely due to the delineation of agricultural staging areas (≈80 acres) near Santa Maria and Guadalupe. A natural vegetation area was also delineated near Guadalupe (≈20 acres) and ponds were noted just west of Guadalupe (≈25 acres).</p>   |            |
| <p><b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b></p>  |            |
| Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland  | 26 changes |
| <p>Changes involving Other Land included orchards expanded or added near Carpinteria (≈30 acres) and Tajiguas (≈10 acres) and new crops located near Guadalupe (≈30 acres) and Santa Maria (≈15 acres).</p> <p>In the Santa Ynez Valley new orchards, crops, and vines were added on Grazing Land (≈95 acres total). Approximately 200 acres of new crops appeared near Santa Maria. New crops and vines were noted in the Santa Rosa (≈20 acres) and Los Alamos Valleys (≈80 acres). Orchards were delineated along the coast between Tajiguas and Goleta (≈60 acres). Lastly, there was a large addition of crops in the Cuyama Valley (≈135 acres).</p> <p>Irrigated crops in Cuyama Valley led to the conversion of approximately 590 acres from Farmland of Local Importance to irrigated categories.</p> |            |
| <p><b>Unusual Changes</b><br/>(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)</p>   |            |
| <p>Nearly 10,000 acres of Grazing Land was converted to Other Land due to the delineation oil fields: Cat Canyon (≈4,455 acres), Orcutt (≈2,775 acres) and South Cuyama (≈1,545</p>  |            |

acres). Grazing status was verified with information from the Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources. Additionally, low density housing added near Buellton also led to the conversion of nearly 305 acres from Grazing to Other Land.

Approximately 8,420 acres of Farmland of Local Importance converted to Grazing Land after areas of non irrigated crops were allowed to fallow for four or more update cycles. Most areas were in the western half of the county.

Also of note, a new statewide county boundary file reflecting legal boundary changes and data accuracy improvements was adopted in the 2008 data. As a result, Santa Barbara County lost a net 487 acres to adjacent counties.

### 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              | November 26, 2008       |
| Image interpretation, number of days          | 8 Days                  |
| Ground truth dates                            | January 5,6,7,8, and 9. |
| Number of days for post-ground truth clean up | 3.5 Days                |

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