

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

**2008 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Stanislaus

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

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	Digital Globe Inc
Acquisition date	August 2008
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 foot resolution
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	

**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>
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	58 changes
<p><b>Modesto/Ceres:</b> New homes and apartments, including the Villas at Villagio and the Berkshire Estates as well as commercial buildings such as the Grand Events retail store accounted for approximately 30 acres of development in Modesto. In Ceres, approximately 45 acres of new homes were also in evidence. The delineation of sports fields (~30 acres) at the Daniel J. Savage Middle School, Alice Stroud Elementary School, and Glick Middle School in the Modesto area were further conversions. The new La Rosa Elementary School was a notable addition in Ceres. Golf facilities were also added in the Modesto area in the form of the McHenry Golf Center (~20 acres) and the Eastlake Driving</p>	

Range (~10 acres). The addition of a church in Modesto accounted for the conversion of approximately 15 acres. Finally, a paved parking area for a flea market was expanded in the Ceres area (~10 acres).

**Oakdale/Riverbank:** New homes and a small park accounted for approximately 40 acres of urbanization in Oakdale. In Riverbank, new homes including the Heartland at Crossroads development and some commercial buildings were the cause of approximately 50 acres of conversion. The Riverbank Sports Complex (~10 acres) was a notable addition this update. Lastly, the new Pioneer Equine Hospital facility (~10 acres) was added in the Oakdale area.

**Turlock/Denair:** New homes and parkland were the most significant type of conversion in Turlock (~60 acres) and Denair (~15 acres). Other notable urbanization that took place in the Turlock area included the new Sierra Oaks Apartments (~15 acres), a banquet hall (~10 acres), and some industrial buildings (~10 acres). Soccer fields were also delineated in the Turlock area (~10 acres).

**Hughson/Waterford:** Approximately 20 acres of new homes and buildings were added in Hughson. Meanwhile, the new Lucille Whitehead Intermediate School was added in Waterford (~10 acres).

**Patterson/Newman:** Most notable in Patterson was the addition of the new Keystone West Business Park (~30 acres), as well as approximately 25 acres of new homes and commercial buildings. Newman also saw the addition of approximately 20 acres of new homes.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	17 changes
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Much of the conversion of nonirrigated land uses to Urban Land was centered in the Modesto/Ceres area. Notable additions this update included approximately 50 acres on new homes added in Modesto along with approximately 20 acres of new homes in Ceres. A shopping center with a Raley's grocery store (~15 acres) was another new addition in Modesto. A large, new industrial building and an adjacent Elks Lodge (~15 acres) was a further example of urbanization in Modesto. The Modesto Christian Center (~10 acres) was added this update. Finally, some water control ponds associated with nearby industry were delineated (~40 acres).

On the other hand, notable instances of urbanization occurring outside the Modesto/Ceres area included new homes adjacent to the Diablo Grande Golf Resort west of Patterson (~40 acres) and in the community of Denair (~10 acres). Finally, a new Lowe's was added in Turlock (~10 acres).

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland  
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	48 changes
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This category of change primarily involved the conversion of irrigated farmland or irrigated

pasture that had been fallow for three or more update cycles to Grazing Land. These conversions occurred throughout the county and ranged in size from approximately 10 to 50 acres.

#### Irrigated Farmland to Other Land

166 changes

The majority of these conversions were due to the use of higher resolution (1 foot) imagery to delineate existing areas of rural residential land throughout the county. Quads showing conversions to rural residential land totaling 100 acres or more included the Denair (~280 acres), Waterford (~250 acres), Ceres (~230 acres), Crows Landing (~200 acres), Riverbank (~120 acres), and Hatch (~120 acres) quads. Other conversions in this category were due to the delineation and expansion of dairies and poultry facilities throughout the county. A final notable change occurred in the San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge where an area of native trees that had been planted in rows similar to an irrigated orchard and, thus, misidentified in the past was shifted to the Natural Vegetation land use category (~200 acres).

#### Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

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

113 changes

The most significant additions of irrigated farmland this update were new orchard plantings, primarily almonds. The majority of these orchard additions occurred in the northern and eastern portions of the county. In the northern portion of the county, additions of new orchards were made primarily in the Bachelor Valley (~900 acres) and Woodward Reservoir (~1,200 acres) areas. In the eastern portion of the county, additions of new orchards were made primarily in the Modesto Reservoir (~2,300 acres) and Turlock Lake (~2,500) areas. Lastly, areas of irrigated pasture were identified throughout the county, totaling approximately 150 acres.

#### Unusual Changes

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

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: These conversions were due to the delineation of potted plant nurseries and to a technical correction to soil data in the county. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.

Conversions between Irrigated Pasture and Irrigated Farmland: Conversions were due to the use of higher resolution (1 foot) imagery and field verification that allowed for more accurate delineation between these land use categories. These changes may cause conversion between Farmland of Local Importance and Unique Farmland since irrigated pasture cannot be mapped as Unique Farmland per FMMP mapping conventions. So, irrigated pasture on Unique soils (as determined by the USDA) is mapped as Farmland of Local Importance. On the other hand, irrigated farmland on Unique soils is mapped as Unique Farmland.

Conversions from Urban Land: Conversions from Urban Land were due to the use of

higher resolution (1 foot) imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Farmland adjacent to the San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge and the San Luis National Refuge Complex will need careful monitoring for continued conversion to wetlands.

#### 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	October 27, 2009
Image interpretation, number of days	10
Ground truth dates	December 14-17, 2009
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>