

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

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Tulare

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	February 2007
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 foot resolution
Coverage gaps	Extreme southeast portion
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)
None.
Personal Contacts
None.
Websites Used for Reference
City of Visalia: http://www.ci.visalia.ca.us Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com/ Tulare County: http://www.co.tulare.ca.us Tulare County Office of Education: http://www.tcoe.org
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Solid Waste Information System layer Tulare County Base Map

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	54 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to the new construction of homes, commercial buildings, and municipal facilities. The majority of the changes occurred in the cities of Visalia and Tulare.</p>	

City of Visalia: There was approximately 630 acres of new housing added throughout the City of Visalia. Some of the new developments included Amber Crossing, Avalon, Fieldstone Oak, The Meadows, Rancho Santa Fe, South Cameron Creek, West Park, and Willow Creek.

New commercial buildings were also added, such as the Coast Distribution warehouse (~70 acres), other warehouses (~60 acres total), and a new shopping center featuring a Winco (~15 acres).

North of the City of Visalia, the Visalia Disposal Site landfill was expanded by approximately 80 acres.

City of Tulare: Similar to Visalia, the City of Tulare primarily added new homes. There was approximately 225 acres of new housing added throughout the city. The Cambridge Collection, Claremont Greens, Westgate, and Woodside developments are some examples.

A new shopping center featuring a Home Depot and a Walgreens was also added (~20 acres) as well as a water storage facility (~35 acres).

Other Cities:

- City of Porterville: approximately 60 acres of new homes were added, including the Williams Ranch development. Sequoia Middle School (~10 acres) was also added, as well as a water storage facility southwest of the city (~50 acres).
- City of Dinuba: the Sugar Plum Estates housing development was added (~30 acres) along with the Red Rock Plaza shopping center (~10 acres).

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land

32 changes

The changes in this category were primarily due to new homes and commercial buildings. The majority of the changes occurred in the cities of Visalia, Tulare, and Dinuba.

City of Visalia: There was approximately 80 acres of new housing added throughout the city in six developments. The Northside Shopping Center featuring a Food 4 Less (~15 acres) was also added.

City of Tulare: There was one new housing development (~35 acres) added in the City of Tulare. A new shopping center featuring a Lowe's and a Longs Drugs (~15 acres) was also added, as well as an expansion of Derrel's Mini Storage (~15 acres).

City of Dinuba: A new Ford dealership (~10 acres), other commercial buildings (~10 acres), and an apartment complex (~10 acres) were added.

Lesser areas of development:

In the community of Orosi, an apartment complex (~10 acres) was added. The Pleasant View Elementary School (~15 acres) was added in the community of Poplar. In the City of Porterville approximately 20 acres of new homes were added. Finally, within the Tule River Indian Reservation, approximately 40 acres of new housing was added.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland

aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	243 changes
<p>The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were scattered throughout the county. Most of the changes were less than 40 acres. Larger conversions occurred on the Allensworth (~100, 645, and 985 acres), Alpaugh (~250 and 830 acres), Cairns Corner (~165 acres), Exeter (~115 acres), Hacienda Ranch Northeast (~260 acres), and Quincy School (~225 acres) quads.</p> <p>Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in Tulare County. These changes primarily occurred in the eastern foothills of the county. Most of the changes were less than 60 acres. The largest conversions occurred on the Ducor quad (~100, 135, 180, and 285 acres).</p> <p>Confined livestock in the form of dairies, feedlots, poultry facilities, and aquaculture are also part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in Tulare County. Most of these conversions were due to small expansions (between 10-30 acres) of existing dairies. A few changes of note include new dairies on the Cairns Corner (~135 acres), Monson (~165 acres), and Pixley (~135 acres) quads.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	61 changes
<p>The largest single change was an expansion of the wetlands undergoing restoration in the Tulare Basin (~1,100 acres) on the Hacienda Ranch Northeast quad. In numeric terms, low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial, and agricultural staging areas (gravel lots with equipment storage) accounted for most of the changes. These conversions were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 10-30 acres in size. Other changes were due to the expansion of mining facilities and the identification of compost facilities.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	84 changes
<p>The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the northwestern and southern parts of the county. Most of the changes were 10-40 acres in size and consisted of row crops, orchards, and irrigated pasture. Some changes of note included row crops (~100 and 635 acres) on the Allensworth quad, row crops (~115, 135, and 485 acres) on the Alpaugh quad, an area of row crops (~325 acres) and orchards (~210, 225, and 310 acres) on the Delano West quad, and an orchard (~205 acres) on the Ducor quad.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)	
<p><u>Nonirrigated Land Uses to Other Land:</u> There were 123 conversions to Other Land. The majority of these changes were due to low-density housing (ranchettes). These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily less than 40 acres each. Large changes greater than 50 acres occurred on the Alpaugh (1), Ivanhoe (1), and Springville (4) quads. Other changes were due to farmsteads, rural commercial, agricultural ponds, mining facilities, and riparian areas.</p> <p><u>Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories:</u> There were 9 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to potted plant nurseries</p>	

having been replaced with irrigated farmland and the identification of new potted plant nurseries and nonirrigated orchards. Potted plant nurseries and nonirrigated orchards are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 7 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to irrigated farmland and Other Land due to improved digital 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.)

Watch for more wetland restoration in the Tulare Basin.

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 29, 2008
Image interpretation, number of days	14
Ground truth dates	December 8-12, 2008
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	15

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