

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

2010 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Butte

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)
Acquisition date	Summer 2009 & 2010
Data description	1 meter 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 2010 mapping.

Local Review Comments

(submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2008 maps)

None.

Personal Contacts

None.

Websites Used for Reference

Koppers Industries Inc, Oroville wood treatment plant:

Source document detailing the history, superfund status, remediation.

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/vwsoalphabetic/Koppers+Industries+Inc.+\(Oroville+Plant\)?OpenDocument](http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/vwsoalphabetic/Koppers+Industries+Inc.+(Oroville+Plant)?OpenDocument)

Location Map

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/3dc283e6c5d6056f88257426007417a2/608c19c46df4f0c388257007007dcd3/\\$FILE/KoppersSite%20Map01.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/3dc283e6c5d6056f88257426007417a2/608c19c46df4f0c388257007007dcd3/$FILE/KoppersSite%20Map01.pdf)

Oroville Industrial Park Concept Map

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/3dc283e6c5d6056f88257426007417a2/73d15b27be8cea7b8825724c00318475/\\$FILE/Oroville%20Industrial%20Parklayout%20062306.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/3dc283e6c5d6056f88257426007417a2/73d15b27be8cea7b8825724c00318475/$FILE/Oroville%20Industrial%20Parklayout%20062306.pdf)

Gridley Industrial Park:

<http://www.gridley.ca.us/economic-development/community-profile?preSel=5>

http://www.edsuite.com/proposals/proposals_168/concept_master_plan_-_ind_park_fi_33.pdf

<http://www.jamesventure.com/>

<http://www.manta.com/c/mmgvsjc/james-venture-corp>

GIS Data Used for Reference

City of Chico GIS comments on 2006 map.

2008-2010 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	35 changes
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These changes were due to homes, apartments, parks, and commercial buildings and all of them are less than 15 acres.

In the Chico area, about 10 acres of new homes were mapped near the west end of Eaton Road. Also in the north part of Chico, almost 15 acres of new apartments and a park were built.

On the north side of Biggs, near H and 4th Streets, 7 acres of irrigated farmland was changed to Urban due to homes, and a couple large additional structures.

In Gridley, homes and the backyards associated with them contributed to 5 small changes on the edge of the city.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	65 changes
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Homes adjacent to existing Urban land accounted for the majority of the changes, and most were smaller than 10 acres. In the Oroville area, the Thermalito Forebay Pumping-Generating Power Plant was over 30 acres in size. Over 40 acres of the Merry Mountain Village was mapped in Clipper Mills. While the homes there may not have been new, the improved imagery of the last couple updates have made it easier to count structures for Urban densities.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	95 changes
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The vast majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland going fallow for three or more update cycles. These sites were also field checked if they were accessible from a public road. Only one of the changes is over 100 acres and most are less than 30. The largest change consists of non-irrigated grains near the intersection of Lone Tree Road and Cox Lane, south of Palermo. This large change was being tracked as fallow, but the field check revealed the non-irrigated grains.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	112 changes
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There are a large number of changes from irrigated farmland to Other land, but only 10 of the changes are over 30 acres. Low density housing, farmsteads, riparian areas and canal areas were the cause of most changes. The largest is 245 acres of land that was tracked for seasonal flooding and a return to wetlands. This area is near the southern county boundary surrounded by the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. Another large change (190 acres) occurred in the Llano Seco area, where wetlands are also prominent. South of Chico,

Butte Creek flows by the Butte Creek Country Club and continues south into agricultural areas towards Durham. The creek area is a significant land feature and over 1/10th of a mile wide at several locations. This converted approximately 150 acres.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland | 40 changes

Irrigated farmland was added in several locations throughout the county. The largest is 135 acres of rice in the Llano Seco area. On River Road near Ord Bend Road, 90 acres of alfalfa were observed during the field check. Overall, most of the changes are rice or new orchards and impact less than 30 acres each.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2010 update.)

There are some notable changes from Urban Land this update. The largest is almost 80 acres just south of Oroville. The Koopers Industries wood treatment plant closed in 2001 and the land was declared a superfund site and remediated for future uses. The plant infrastructure was removed and plans for an Oroville Industrial Park were drawn up in 2006. Unfortunately, there is no indication that the industrial park is going to be built, therefore it was changed to Other land.

The community of Feather Falls is located in the mountains along Lumpkin Road. At one point, this was a thriving area indicated by the many buildings on the USGS quad. That situation no longer exists. Nearly every building is gone with the exception of the elementary school. The area had been flagged as abandoned for three update cycles. This resulted in approximately 50 acres of Urban land changing to Other land.

In the Gridley region, almost 20 acres was changed from Urban land. This area was prematurely mapped as Urban in 2004, at the planned site for the Gridley Industrial Park, but there are no indications of progress on this project.

The community of Oroleve located along La Porte Road is similar to Feather Falls. The USGS quad indicates buildings where the aerial photos show none. Just over 15 acres of Urban land was flagged three updates as abandoned and changed to Other land.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2012 update, and reasons.)

The Gridley and Biggs area seems to have more activity in land use changes on a smaller scale. Less acreage involved there, but more work overall.

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 2010 update.

Image interpretation, start date	5/26/2011
Image interpretation, number of days	12
Ground truth dates	6/15- 6/17/ 2011
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>