

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

**2010 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Fresno

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Kerri Kisko and Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date	Summer 2010
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA; summer 2009

**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**

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**Websites Used for Reference**

Chevron Solar to Steam Demonstration Plant in Coalinga:

[www.brightsourceenergy.com/coalinga](http://www.brightsourceenergy.com/coalinga)

City of Clovis: [www.ci.clovis.ca.us](http://www.ci.clovis.ca.us)

City of Fresno: [www.fresno.gov](http://www.fresno.gov)

County of Fresno: [www.co.fresno.ca.us](http://www.co.fresno.ca.us)

Don Gragnani WRP: [www.gragnanifarms.com/wetlands](http://www.gragnanifarms.com/wetlands)

Federal Correctional Institution in Mendota:

<http://www.bop.gov/locations/institutions/men/index.jsp>

Google Earth, Street View: <http://maps.google.com>

**GIS Data Used for Reference**

California City Boundary Layer

Fresno County Base Map

Fresno County Digital Soil Surveys

Solid Waste Information System data

## 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	55 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to the construction of homes, buildings, infrastructure, schools and government facilities.</p> <p><b>City of Fresno:</b> There was approximately 285 acres of homes added throughout the City of Fresno, including the Colby Park and Oxford Commons (~110 acres total), Amber Pointe (~30 acres), Maple Run (~20 acres) developments and new apartments at Campus Pointe on the CSU Fresno campus (~20 acres). Harvest Elementary School (~30 acres), a Sun Valley Raisins facility (~20 acres) and a Ferguson warehouse (~10 acres) were also added. Also, an area of solar panels (~20 acres) was added near the airport and two freeway intersections (~15 acres each) were added along the new 180\Kings Canyon Highway.</p> <p><b>City of Clovis:</b> There was approximately 300 acres of new homes added throughout the City of Clovis, including the Harlan Ranch development (~135 acres) and two larger developments (~100 and 70 acres). The City of Clovis Water Reuse Facility (~10 acres) was also added along Ashlan Avenue.</p> <p><b>City of Fowler:</b> The R.J. Hill housing development (~20 acres) was added along with approximately 25 acres of new businesses.</p> <p><b>City of Reedley:</b> Approximately 35 acres of new homes, the Silas Bartsch School (~20 acres) and a new park (~10 acres) were added.</p> <p><b>City of Kerman:</b> The Vineyard housing development (~45 acres) was added along with approximately 10 acres of new businesses. Landfill expansions were noted at the Mid Valley Disposal Site (~10 acres) and the American Avenue Disposal Site (~10 acres) southeast of Kerman.</p> <p><b>City of Mendota:</b> Approximately 25 acres of new homes as well as the new Federal Correctional Institution (~135 acres) were added.</p> <p><b>Other Conversions Throughout the County:</b> Approximately 35 acres of new water storage ponds were added in Biola and the Panoche Power Station (~25 acres) was added along Panoche Road. New homes were added in Kingsburg (~20 acres) and Orange Cove (~5 acres). The Van-G Logistics facility (~10 acres) was added in Conejo and an area of solar panels (~5 acres) was added in Riverdale.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	108 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to the construction of homes, buildings, schools, infrastructure and solar facilities.</p>	

**City of Fresno:** There was approximately 875 acres of homes added throughout the City of Fresno, including Madison Place (~70 acres), Woodside Park at Millcreek (~55 acres), Sunnyside Grove and Green Park (~50 acres), Autumnwood Ranch (~45 acres), Granville (~40 acres), Remington Place (~40 acres), La Ventana (~35 acres), Traditions (~30 acres) and Arboleda (~20 acres) developments and the Tanger Springs Apartments (~15 acres). Peach Tree Plaza (~30 acres), two new Derrel’s Mini Storage facilities (~25 and 20 acres), and a shopping center featuring a Rite Aid (~15 acres) were also added. The Central California Blood Center (~10 acres), and VFW Post 800 (~5 acres) were noted and the Fresno County Juvenile Justice Campus was expanded by approximately 15 acres. Also, two freeway intersections (~25 and 15 acres) were added along the 180/Kings Canyon Highway, three water control structures (~55 acres total) were added as well as an area of solar panels (~5 acres).

**City of Clovis:** There was approximately 180 acres of new homes added throughout the City of Clovis, including an approximately 55-acre development and several smaller developments. Also, there was approximately 50 acres of new commercial buildings added as well as the Clovis Botanical Garden (~15 acres) and Sierra Meadow Park (~10 acres). Tennis courts and a new pool were added at Clovis North High School (~10 acres) and the Willow International Community College was expanded by approximately 30 acres.

**City of Selma:** Approximately 25 acres of new buildings were added along with approximately 15 acres of new homes. Also, the Selma Flea Market (~20 acres) was noted.

**City of Mendota:** A new solar facility (~50 acres) was added on the eastern side of the city as well as an approximately 20-acre water control pond. Also, Mendota Junior High School (~25 acres) was added.

**City of Coalinga:** The Chevron Solar to Steam Demonstration Plant (~100 acres) was added as well as approximately 20 acres of new homes.

**Other Conversions Throughout the County:** The Hillcrest Travel Plaza (~15 acres) was added at the I-5/Highway 269 interchange. Approximately 20 acres of new homes were added in the City of Firebaugh and the Estrella Condominiums (~10 acres) were added in the City of Fowler. The cities of Orange Cove (~15 acres), Parlier (~15 acres) and Reedley (~35 acres) also added new homes.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland  
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	370 changes
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The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. Fallow farmland is mapped as Farmland of Local Importance in Fresno County. These changes were primarily located in the San Joaquin Valley. These changes ranged in size from 10 acres to 1,620 acres. Approximately 225 of the changes were 30 acres or less, 70 changes ranged from 30-100 acres in size, and 30 changes were 100 acres or larger. The largest changes (300 acres or larger) occurred on the Cantua

Creek (~325 acres), Coalinga (~ 315 acres), Coit Ranch (~325 acres), Dos Palos (~355 acres), Five Points (~1, 620 acres), Monocline Ridge (~315 acres), San Joaquin (~425 acres) and Westside (~645 acres) quads.

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is mapped as Farmland of Local Importance in Fresno County. These changes primarily occurred in the western part of the San Joaquin Valley. Most of these changes were greater than 60 acres. The largest conversions (300 acres or larger) occurred on the Broadview Farms (~775 and 6,485 acres), Cantua Creek (~655 acres), Coit Ranch (~330 and 460 acres), San Joaquin (~5,280 acres), Tranquility (~565 acres) and Westside (~320, 320, 395, and 560 acres) quads.

Further conversions were due to the identification of confined livestock. Confined livestock in the form of dairies, feedlots, poultry facilities and aquaculture are part of the Farmland of Local Importance definition in Fresno County. Most of these conversions were due to small expansions (between 10-30 acres) of existing dairies. One change of note is an expansion of a dairy on the Jamesan (~45 acres) quad.

**Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

91 changes

Low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial, agricultural equipment storage areas and disturbed land accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the San Joaquin Valley portion of the county and were primarily between 10-30 acres in size. A few changes of note include: on the Coit Ranch quad approximately 150 acres of irrigated farmland was changed to Other Land when the land was vacated and fenced as part of the Federal Correctional Institution at Mendota, the Superior Almond Hulling facility (~80 acres) was added on the Lillis Ranch quad, and approximately 60 acres was changed to nonagricultural vegetation as part of the Don Gragnani Wetland Reserve Project on the San Joaquin quad.

**Conversions to Irrigated Farmland**

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

137 changes

The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the San Joaquin Valley. Most of the changes were 10-50 acres in size and consisted of orchards, row crops, field crops, grape vines and irrigated pasture. Some changes of note included the addition of orchards (~155 and 205 acres) and row crops (~310 acres) on the Avenal quad, an orchard (~135 acres) on the Burrel quad, orchards (~165 and 185 acres) on the Coalinga quad, and orchards (~170 and 225 acres) on the Gujarral Hills quad.

**Unusual Changes**

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

Nonirrigated Land Uses to Other Land: There were 120 conversions of nonirrigated land uses to Other Land. These changes were primarily due to low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial, agricultural equipment storage areas, disturbed land and nonagricultural vegetation. These changes occurred throughout the county and were primarily 10-25 acres in size. One change of note occurred on the San Joaquin quad where approximately 1,685 acres was converted to nonagricultural vegetation as part of

the Don Gragnani Wetland Reserve Project.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 16 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to irrigated farmland, Grazing Land, and Other Land due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 2 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to irrigated farmland having been converted to potted plant nurseries. Potted plant nurseries 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.

### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Watch for more fallowing or conversions to nonirrigated grain in the western part of the San Joaquin Valley.

#### 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	January 23, 2012
Image interpretation, number of days	15
Ground truth dates	March 12-16, 2012
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	14

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