

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

2010 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Imperial

FIELD MAPPER(S): Mike Kisko and Kerri Kisko

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
None
Websites Used for Reference
Brock Reservoir: http://www.cap-az.com/includes/media/docs/Update-Brock-Reservoir-Executive-Summary-of-Critical-Issues2.pdf Google Earth, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Imperial County Base 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	16 changes
These changes were primarily due to the construction of homes, a school, and a water control structure.	

City of Brawley: There was approximately 25 acres of new homes added as well as a new power plant (~25 acres) north of the city.

City of Calexico: Approximately 10 acres of new homes, a new park (~5 acres) and a sports field (~ 5 acres) were added.

City of El Centro: The new McCabe High School (~25 acres) was added along with approximately 10 acres of new homes.

City of Imperial: Approximately 35 acres of new homes were added throughout the city.

Community of Heber: Approximately 10 acres of new homes were added.

Water Control Structure: New water storage ponds at the Brock Research Center along Highway 8 and the All-American Canal, known as the “Brock Reservoir”, were added. These ponds will be used for storing water during brief periods after a rain in the Imperial Valley however they will be dry most of the time. Part of these ponds accounted for an approximately 60-acre conversion of Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land

11 changes

These changes were primarily due to the construction of homes, commercial buildings, urban parkland, and a water control structure.

City of Calexico: A paved trucking distribution yard (~10 acres) as well as an industrial building (~10 acres) were added near the Calexico Port of Entry.

City of El Centro: An approximately 20-acre commercial strip building and parking were added.

City of Imperial: Approximately 20 acres of new homes were added throughout the city.

Community of Heber: There were approximately 10 acres of new homes added.

Community of Seeley: Approximately 25 acres of baseball fields and new landscaped parkland was added at the Sunbeam Lake County Park.

Water Control Structure: New water storage ponds at the Brock Research Center along Highway 8 and the All-American Canal, known as the “Brock Reservoir”, were added. These ponds will be used for storing water during brief periods after a rain in the Imperial Valley however they will be dry most of the time. The majority of these ponds accounted for approximately 385 acres of conversion of Nonirrigated Land and Other Land to Urban Land.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	74 changes
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All of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were primarily located in the Imperial Valley. Other changes occurred in the Palo Verde Valley. The majority of these changes were 50 acres or less. The largest changes occurred on the Brawley (~230 acres), Calexico (~100, 165, and 615 acres), El Centro (~135 and 235 acres), Heber (~215 acres), Iris (~115 and 485 acres), Mt. Signal (~130 acres), Niland (~160 acres), and Wister (~330 and 500 acres) quads. These changes will primarily result in conversions to Farmland of Local Importance.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	40 changes
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Farmsteads, agricultural equipment storage areas, wetland areas, confined livestock, and disturbed land accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the Imperial Valley and were primarily between 10-30 acres in size. One change of note occurred on the Brawley quad where a fish farm expanded by approximately 80 acres.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	22 changes
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The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the Imperial Valley. Most of the changes were 10-40 acres in size. Some changes of note included the addition of field crops (~130 acres) on the Holtville West quad, field crops (~140 acres) on the Iris Wash quad, field crops (~170 acres) on the Westmorland West quad, and field crops (~165 acres) on the Wister quad.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversions from Urban Land: Approximately 50 acres of former water control ponds were converted to Other Land on the Brawley quad. Other small conversions were due to the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

Conversions from Farmland of Local Importance to Other Land: There were nine changes. These changes were due to farmsteads, dry evaporation ponds, disturbed land, rural commercial, and a wetland area.

Water Conversions: Approximately 15 acres of Other Land was converted to Water along the Salton Sea on the Obsidian Butte quad. Water was converted to Other Land on the Obsidian Butte quad (~140 acres) along the Salton Sea and on the Niland quad (~150 acres) where a wetland area was identified.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

A site visit was not conducted for Imperial County this update due to budgetary constraints. A site visit should be conducted the next time it is updated.

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 13, 2012
Image interpretation, number of days	12
Ground truth dates	None
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	None

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