California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2010 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Los Angeles

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)
Acquisition date	Summer 2010
Data description	1 meter resolution, true color mosaic
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	NAIP 2009 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
Fairmont Reservoir http://www.dpla.water.ca.gov/sd/environment/tehachapi/deir/chap%204.pdf Gray Butte solar facility. http://www.pressreleasepoint.com/solar-land-grab-continues-two-los-angeles-county-solar-projects-have-been-purchased-first-solar Halloween Harvest Festival grounds at Pierce College http://www.halloweenharvestfestival.com/index.html Golden Oak Ranch http://studioservices.go.com/goldenoakranch/index.html http://studioservices.go.com/goldenoakranch/pdf/site_plan_2010.pdf Lancaster Water Treatment Plant Expansion http://www.lacsd.org/projects/lancaster_expansion.asp http://www.sukut.com/News-Articles-Library/sukut-construction-overcomes-grading-challenges-constructing-the-lancaster-water-treatment-plant.html http://www.ebidboard.com/public/projects/showproject.asp?mbrguid=%7BEF0F08B2-

89F4-4189-B787-4A96B91F999A%7D&projectguid=%7B97BCE981-3C56-4A25-9048-E6B2847BE778%7D

Solar Power Facilities
http://articles.latimes.com/2009/feb/23/local/me-solar23
http://www.pressreleasepoint.com/solar-land-grab-continues-two-los-angeles-county-solar-projects-have-been-purchased-first-solar

GIS Data Used for Reference
None.

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	5 changes
The conversion of Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land is rare and has small acreage. The largest is the Gray Butte solar facility, but it is only 15 acres. It is located in the northwest part of the county near the Gray Butte airfield, in the desert among center pivot irrigated fields. Over in the San Fernando Valley at Pierce College in Canoga Park, just over 13 acres was changed to Urban. A portion was due to the Halloween Harvest Festival grounds near the intersection of Victory Blvd and De Soto Ave. Some buildings and parking lot expansions were also built on the north part of the college property. The remaining two changes are very small adjustments, each at 4 acres.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	216 changes
This is the conversion that is clearly predominant based on the quantity alone, but half of the total changes are 10 acres or less. Most of these are new homes or homes next to adjacent urban land scattered throughout the county. Areas in Lancaster and Palmdale that were mapped as Other were changed to Urban due to building densities. Down near the San Fernando Valley and Malibu, homes on the hillsides were changed to Urban also to due increased building densities. Clearly housing is the source of most of this change, but interestingly not the source of the largest. The largest change is 400 acres of Other Land converting to Urban Land for the Lancaster water treatment plant expansion. This is located north of Lancaster next to Highway 14 and includes 4 large lined ponds, confirmed by internet research. Ironically, the second largest change is another set of large lined ponds that couldn't be identified with internet research. They are located northwest of the Desert Buttes area and over 200 acres. All the remaining changes were less than 75 acres consisting of homes, shopping plazas, freeways, etc.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland **aside from urbanization**	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	43 changes
The conversion from Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses is very straightforward. Every change was due to land going fallow for three or more update cycles, and only 10 of	

the changes are over 75 acres. The largest was 575 acres near Holiday Valley in the northwest part of the county, close to the Kern county line and adjacent to the California Aqueduct. A change of 470 acres was field checked along Highway 138 at 60th Street West. Near the Boeing Skunkworks, 160 acres went fallow at the intersection of Avenue M and 50th Street East. The next largest was 130 acres in the agricultural area of Redman, northeast of Lancaster. The rest of the changes are less than 100 acres each. The following areas seem to have a concentration of this type of conversion; Antelope Acres; areas east of Lancaster; and lastly Pierce College in the San Fernando Valley.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	13 changes

There are only 13 total changes to Other Land and none of them are over 10 acres. Most of the changes are due to Irrigated Farmland going fallow for three or more update cycles, but are not adjacent to or big enough to change to Grazing land. Therefore these areas went to the most appropriate adjacent land use which was Other Land. A group of five changes occurred in the Littlerock area.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	19 changes

Not a whole lot of this change, but there are a couple big ones. Almost 200 acres of Irrigated Farmland was mapped near Gray Butte airfield. The next four largest changes of 118, 118, 117, and 59 acres are due to a new group of 3 ½ center pivot irrigation fields in the Redman area.

Unusual Changes

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

Fairmont Reservoir near the California Poppy Reserve was designed as a water storage structure for the California Aqueduct. The lack of water in the Reservoir has been noted for the last 5 update cycles. Internet research on the status of Fairmont Reservoir led to an Environmental Impact Report for the Tehachapi East Afterbay Project. The link is provided in the websites reference section. The report indicates that the Reservoir was damaged during the 1971 Sylmar earthquake and isn't seismically sound. It is essentially abandoned for future water storage uses. Therefore it seemed like a good reason to change the 150 acres of Water to Other Land.

Another unusual change involved 100 acres of Urban that was changed to Grazing Land in Sylmar. North of the freeway interchange for Interstate 5 and 210 was Cascades Golf Club that has been tracked for three updates as abandoned. The condition of the golf course deteriorated in the imagery over time, but this update, most of the course was totally cleared from the land. Another 30 acres of the defunct golf course is due to be removed in 2 more updates, mainly because these areas appeared to be still irrigated before, but are no longer.

There are a few small instances where Urban Land was converted to another land use. Some nurseries were found in Urban Land, as well as an irrigated pasture.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2012 update, and reasons.)
Watch for the expansion of solar power stations. There were two mapped in the Antelope Valley this update. The first one is called the Sierra Generating Station Sun Tower power plant. It is located north of Lancaster near Avenue G and the UP railroad tracks, and it's probably over 30 acres with more to come. The area used for the plant during the 2011 site visit was clearly larger than the plant area in the 2010 photo. The other solar plant was the Gray Butte solar facility, out by the airfield. This is a slightly smaller solar plant but could expand as well.
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	12/6/2010
Image interpretation, number of days	21
Ground truth dates	1/13/2011
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