

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

**2010 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Santa Barbara

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Troy Dick

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)
Acquisition date	summer 2009
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)

City of Buellton  
City of Lompoc  
City of Santa Maria

**Personal Contacts**

None

**Websites Used for Reference**

Capital Pacific Homes: <http://cph-co.com>

Century 21: <http://www.century21.com>

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

Keller Williams Realty: <http://www.kw.com>

Prudential California Realty: <http://vow.prudentialproperties.com>

Skytt Mesa : <http://skyttmesa.com/>

**GIS Data Used for Reference**

California City Boundary Layer

**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.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	11 changes
<p>The majority of these conversions occurred in or adjacent to the cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc. The largest conversions took place in the City of Santa Maria with a total of approximately 70 acres for the Pacific Crest Neighborhood, La Ventana Development, Driscoll’s Warehouse, and API Trailers. Meanwhile, conversions were made in the Lompoc area with a total of approximately 50 acres for the Briar Development and Community Park, Briar Creek Development, part of a park, and water holding structures.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	18 changes
<p>The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the expansion of urban development in and adjacent to the cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc. The largest conversions took place in the Santa Maria area with a total of approximately 70 acres for the Herrera Corporation, Fastenal, Mesa Verde subdivision, The Enclave at Harp Springs, Orcutt Community Park, and other homes and businesses. Meanwhile, conversions were made adjacent to the City of Lompoc with a total of approximately 30 acres for Providence Landing, Community Park, and water holding structures.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	91 changes
<p>A majority of these conversions were due to plots of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Countywide approximately 1,700 acres was converted to nonirrigated land uses. The largest number of conversions in this category occurred on the Los Olivos quad with approximately 250 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Orcutt and Cuyama quads, with a total of approximately 250 and 200 acres, respectively, going out of production.</p> <p>Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is mapped as Farmland of Local Importance in Santa Barbara County. The largest conversion occurred on the Ballinger Canyon quad with approximately 100 acres going to Farmland of Local Importance.</p>	

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	28 changes
----------------------------------	------------

These conversions were due to a combination of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles which have been graded for development, plots of land too small to be mapped as nonirrigated land uses, and the use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery to delineate areas of low-density housing and low-density commercial areas throughout the county. The majority of these conversions happened on the Los Olivos quad, with approximately 60 acres going to Other Land. This was followed by the White Ledge Peak quad, with approximately 50 acres going to Other Land.

**Conversions to Irrigated Farmland**

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	98 changes
---	------------

This update a total of approximately 2,670 acres was converted to irrigated farmland. The most notable addition this update occurred on the Santa Maria quad, at approximately 460 acres. This was followed by the Sisquoc and Los Alamos quads with approximately 380 and 340 acres, respectively, converting to irrigated farmland.

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

Conversion between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 7 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to the identification of areas of irrigated pasture. These changes may result in conversion between Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance.

Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: There were 33 conversions of Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land. These changes were due to plots of nonirrigated grain or dry beans being fallow for 4 or more update cycles. The largest conversions were on the Guadalupe and Point Conception quads, with approximately 160 and 140 acres, respectively, going to Grazing Land.

Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance: There were 15 conversions of Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance. These changes were due to identification of nonirrigated grain or dry beans. The largest conversions were on the Los Olivos and Zaca Creek quads both with 80 acres going to Farmland of Local Importance.

Water conversions: The upper reaches of Twitchell Reservoir were observed to be dry in most years. This reservoir is used to hold excess water in wet years for short periods to recharge the local groundwater basin. In dry years the land is used for other purposes, therefore, approximately 468 acres of Water was reclassified as Other Land.

**Areas of Concern for Future Updates**  
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2012 update, and reasons.)

None

**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	October 28, 2010
Image interpretation, number of days	11
Ground truth dates	January 10 – 14, 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>