California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2010 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Tulare

FIELD MAPPER(S): Amy Klug

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)
Acquisition date	Summer 2009
Data description	1 meter resolution, true color mosaic
Coverage gaps	
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)
Bill Geyer, Consulting and Advocacy in California Government, geyerw@pacbell.net.
Personal Contacts
Websites Used for Reference
GIS Data Used for Reference

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
In the north west portion of the county (Dinuba and surrounding areas), approximately 350 acres converted to Urban due to the addition of new homes, the Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Course, a water treatment plant expansion, and a school was expanded. Visalia, Tulare and surrounding areas had the most acres converted (≈965 acres) in the county. Visalia added new homes, an Orchard Supply Hardware and Lowes shopping center, the Ashley Grove Housing Development, and the Visalia Riverway Sports Park (≈450 acres total). Another large change occurred east of Tulare where new homes were	

added (≈110 acres). Other notable changes: Mission Oak High School (≈60 acres), Woodbridge Homes Development (≈70 acres), and the Impressions at Willow Creek development (≈30 acres).

In the vicinity of Porterville, approximately135 acres of urban were delineated. New homes and a school were added. Also, the Strathmore High School had an approximately 20 acre expansion.

Lastly, near Earlimart and Pixley a school (≈15 acres), distribution center (≈10 acres) and evaporation ponds (≈20 acres) were noted.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	18 changes

In the Rural Land categories, a school was noted on Semi-agricultural and Commercial Land (≈10 acres), a distribution center was added on Vacant Land south of Ivanhoe (≈10 acres) as were parking lots south east of Goshen (≈10 acres).

The Porterville Development Center expanded ≈20 acres on non-irrigated grain (a Farmland of Local Importance category).

Conversion to Grazing Land (Farmland of Local Importance if on Prime or Statewide soils) included new commercial buildings added near Dinuba (≈10 acres), new homes in the vicinity of Woodlake (≈15 acres), new homes, a shopping center, the Annie Mitchell Elementary School, and a Honda dealership around the Ambler and Tulare areas (≈125 acres), new homes in north Lindsay, and scattered around Porterville, new homes and retail were added (≈55 acres).

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland **aside from urbanization**	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	227 changes

Conversions to nonirrigated grains (Farmland of Local Importance) occurred near Dinuba (≈20 acres), Lindcove (≈75 acres), Visalia (≈30 acres), Woodville (≈10 acres), Terra Bella (≈150 acres) and Allensworth (≈315 acres).

Confined Livestock and Grazing Land (on Prime or Statewide Soils) appear as Farmland of Local Importance on Tulare County's IFL 2010 Map. Fallow farmland on Prime or Statewide Soils for three or more update cycles led to conversions to Farmland of Local Importance which were scattered throughout the county (≈7,640 acres total). There were several changes which were over 100 acres. With the exception of one, all of the changes over 100 acres occurred close to Alpaugh (≈2,235 acres); The single change was located up near Woodlake (≈115 acres). Confined Livestock expansions occurred near the west central portion of the county in the vicinity of Tulare, Woodville, Angiola, Waukena, and Pixley (≈600 acres total).

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	109 changes

Conversion to Rural Land Categories:
Natural Vegetation: A large ≈630 acre change, near Angiola, was due to farmland that was fallow and had the appearance of wetlands for three updates. Another conversion to wetlands occurred south of Alpaugh (≈50 acres).
Vacant Land: 4 small changes occurred in the south west corner of the county, the first near Angiola (≈20 acre agricultural pond), the second north of Pixley near Quail (≈10 acres of fallow land that is graded for development), the third south of Earlimart (≈20 acre conversion due to an agricultural pond), and the fourth slightly south east of Waukena (≈30 acre water control structure). In the vicinity of Visalia and Tulare, most of the conversions were due to fallow farmland for three or more update cycles which were also graded for development (≈780 acres). There were also changes near Porterville (4 changes, ≈75 acres total) and Lindsay (1 change, ≈30 acres) where land had been fallow and graded for development.
Semi-agricultural Commercial: Most of these changes were less than 10 acres and scattered throughout the western side of the county and due to the addition of farmsteads (≈120 acres total).
Rural Residential: Rural residential housing was added near Farmersville, Ivanhoe, and Lindcove (≈190 acres), Visalia and Tulare (≈100 acres), Dinuba (≈95 acres), Porterville (≈75 acres), Magnolia and Globe (≈180 acres), and Earlimart (≈10 acres).

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	91 changes

Conversion from Rural Land Categories (Other Land):
Natural Vegetation: Irrigated crops including vines and orchards were added near Allensworth (≈260 acres), Porterville (≈90 acres), Lindsay (≈15 acres), Farmersville (≈10 acres), and Waukena (≈75 acres).
Vacant Land: There were new crops added near Ivanhoe (≈30 acres), Porterville (≈25 acres), and Earlimart (≈90 acres).
Semi-agricultural and Commercial: There were 2 small changes approximately 10 acres in size which occurred in the vicinity of Strathmore and Dinuba.
Rural Residential: Most of these changes were due to orchards that were noted on ranchettes and were located close to Farmersville and Lindsay (≈40 acres), Dinuba (≈30 acres), and Terra Bella (≈10 acres).

Conversion to row crops (≈1,110 acres) accounted for the majority of acres converting out of Farmland of Local Importance and into Irrigated Farmland categories; followed by orchards (≈705 acres), vines (≈180 acres), and lastly irrigated pasture (≈165 acres). The conversions were pretty evenly scattered throughout the west side of the survey area. Approximate locations for changes were determined to have occurred in the vicinity of Dinuba, Monson and Wimp (≈220 acres), Ivanhoe, Woodlake and Lindcove (≈155 acres), Farmersville, Lindsay and Portersville (≈535 acres), Terra Bella, Ducor, and Richgrove

(≈364 acres), and lastly Allensworth, Earlimart, and Pixley (≈915 acres).

Lastly, there were conversions from nonirrigated grain, which appears as Farmland of Local Importance on the Tulare County IFL Map, to Irrigated Farmland. These changes occurred near Monson (≈18 acres), Tonyville (≈25 acres), Zante (≈25 acres), and Terra Bella (≈1,035 acres, majority vines)

Unusual Changes

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

Nonirrigated Land uses to Other Land: There were 37 conversions to Other Land. The Majority of these changes were due to low-density housing (ranchettes). These changes occurred near Visalia and Lindcove (≈90 acres), Dinuba (≈45 acres), Porterville, Plano and Terra Bella (≈230 acres) and Alpaugh and Pixley (≈20 acres).

Changes between Irrigated Farmland Categories: There were 3 small conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to the identification of new nonirrigated orchards and potted plant nurseries. Potted plant nurseries and nonirrigated orchards 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.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 6 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to irrigated farmland and Other Land due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

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	August 11, 2010
Image interpretation, number of days	27 days
Ground truth dates	November 29-December 3, 2010
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	4 days

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