

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

**2012 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Contra Costa

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source:	National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date:	Summer 2012
Data description:	True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps:	None
Additional imagery used:	None

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:**

*The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2012 mapping.*

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2010 maps)
None.
Personal Contacts
None.
Websites Used for Reference
Google maps, Google streetview, Bing maps.
GIS Data Used for Reference
None.

**2010-2012 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	15 changes
The conversion to Urban Land from Irrigated Farmland was not very common, with only two of the largest changes over 50 acres. Several conversions occurred in the Brentwood	

area, such as new homes near Lone Tree Way and Adams Lane (~55 acres). Another development of new homes was mapped along Neroly Road (~50 acres). Along Minnesota Avenue, south of Sand Creek Road, another 39 acres of residential construction. Near the eastern terminus of Sand Creek Road, the new Mary Casey Black elementary school and adjacent homes occupied 28 acres of new urban land.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	79 changes
---	------------

This certainly is the most active type of change this update, but only one change exceeded 50 acres, and over half of the total number of changes are less than 10 acres each. The majority are due to new homes, many times adjacent to existing Urban Land. Near the northern start of the Highway 4 Bypass in Brentwood, 57 acres of new homes were built. In Pittsburgh, 49 acres of new homes were built south of Highway 4 at the San Marco Boulevard exit. In the San Ramon area near Bollinger Canyon Road, new homes were built around Quail Run Park and Elementary School. Four changes occurred there in close proximity and combined to urbanize approximately 80 acres.

### Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	23 changes
--	------------

Most of the changes of this variety were due to land going fallow for three or more update cycles. The three largest changes were all approximately 95 acres each. In Brentwood, near the Mary Casey Black elementary school mentioned above, Irrigated Farmland was being tracked for new homes, but the homes and roads were never built and consequently were reclassified as Grazing Land (~95 acres). Near Discovery Bay, another 95 acres went fallow southwest of Bixler Road and Highway 4. On Jersey Island, 95 acres of irrigated pasture was fallow but not accessible for a site visit.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	37 changes
----------------------------------	------------

Many of these changes are due to Irrigated Farmland going fallow for three or more updates and have paved roads for planned developments, but no homes. This was very common around Brentwood. Areas around Mary Casey Black elementary school fit this description (55 acres). Smaller changes of this type are due to farmsteads, riparian areas or areas too small to be mapped as Grazing but adjacent to Other Land.

### Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	21 changes
---	------------

There are several areas of new Irrigated Farmland, mostly in the Brentwood area. The largest is 64 acres of new olive trees along Marsh Creek Road near Deer Valley Road. Various other crops were noted in the field during site visits. Corn near Vasco Road and Walnut Boulevard (45 acres), a new orchard on Concord Avenue (29 acres), Walnuts along Knightsen Avenue (17 acres), and grape vines near Vineyard Parkway (15 acres).

### Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)

There were several conversions from Urban Land. The closure of Point Molate Naval Fuel Depot and Chevron's Point Orient fuel depot eventually led to the removal of above ground infrastructure, resulting in conversions to Other Land. At the Chevron employee's yacht club, land mapped as Urban and Built-Up was reconfigured with water ponds contained within stone jetties along the bay shoreline. The remaining conversions from Urban and Built-Up Land were tracked for a lack of structures near Orinda, San Ramon, Oakley, and Port Chicago.

#### **Areas of Concern for Future Updates**

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2014 update, and reasons.)

Brentwood is the most active are of the County, with land going fallow, some new agriculture, and urbanization.

#### **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 2012 update.*

Image interpretation, start date: September 9, 2013
Image interpretation, number of days: 13
Ground truth dates: October 28-29, 2013

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>