

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

**2012 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Fresno

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Michael Kisko

**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 Earth, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a>
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Fresno County Base Map

**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	23 changes
<p>These conversions of irrigated farmland were primarily due to the construction of solar facilities and arrays (~520 acres), homes and parks (~90 acres), schools (~90 acres) and water control ponds (~110 acres).</p> <p>New solar facilities and arrays were the largest cause of the conversion of irrigated farmland in Fresno County this update. Significant additions included the PG&amp;E Giffen Solar Station (~80 acres), PG&amp;E Five Points Solar Station (~90 acres), PG&amp;E Huron Solar Station (~160 acres) and PG&amp;E Cantua Solar Station (~160 acres).</p> <p><b><u>City of Fresno:</u></b> There were 10 acres of homes added on irrigated farmland along with a Derrel's Storage (~10 acres) that was added in another part of Fresno. Schools were the largest cause of the conversion of irrigated farmland in the form of the Roger S. Orazo Elementary School (~20 acres), the Glacier Point Middle School (~40 acres) and the Sequoia Elementary School (~15 acres) added just to the east of Fresno. Finally, a portion of the Fresno Police Department Regional Training Center located to the southwest of Fresno represented a conversion of approximately 50 acres of irrigated farmland.</p> <p><b><u>City of Clovis:</u></b> There were approximately 80 acres of new homes and parkland added in Clovis, including the Crownstone development and the adjacent Pasa Tiempo Park (~40 acres for both).</p> <p><b><u>City of Kerman:</u></b> The only significant conversion of irrigated farmland in Kerman was due to the addition of the Goldenrod Elementary School and a few new homes (~25 acres).</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	60 changes
<p>Conversions of nonirrigated land to Urban Land were primarily due to the construction of new homes and parks (~370 acres), solar facilities (~220 acres) and water control ponds or basins (~275 acres).</p> <p>New solar facilities were a significant cause of conversion and were seen in the form of the PG&amp;E Stroud Solar Station (~130 acres), the PG&amp;E Westside Solar Station (~80 acres) and a Pacific Power solar facility (~10 acres).</p> <p><b><u>City of Fresno:</u></b> Approximately 250 acres of new homes were added on nonirrigated land throughout Fresno, including new homes in the Rivers Edge development and the Villa Sa Vini apartments. The new Veterans Home of California-Fresno (~30 acres) was a notable addition. Finally, the remaining portion of the Fresno Police Department Regional Training Center located to the southwest of Fresno represented a conversion of approximately 30 acres of nonirrigated land.</p> <p><b><u>City of Clovis:</u></b> Approximately 45 acres of new homes were added throughout Clovis.</p>	

**Other Notable Conversions Throughout the County:** The Coalinga Youth Sports Complex along with another park (~20 acres for both) were notable additions this update. In Selma, approximately 30 acres of new homes were added, including the Valley View Village development. Finally, new homes were also a cause of conversion in Parlier (~10 acres), Firebaugh (~20 acres) and Fowler (~10 acres) along with an addition of industrial buildings (~30 acres) to the north of Fowler along Highway 99.

### **Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization**

#### **Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses**

130 changes

The majority of the changes (98 changes) were due to irrigated farmland or pasture having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Irrigated land that goes out of production is converted to Farmland of Local Importance in Fresno County. These changes ranged in size from 10 acres to 230 acres. The largest single conversions occurred on the La Cima (~200 acres), Levis (~160 acres), and Monocline Ridge (~145 and 230 acres) quads.

The remainder of the conversions from irrigated farmland were primarily due to a shift of growing nonirrigated grain crops on land that had formerly been irrigated cropland. Areas producing nonirrigated grain crops are mapped as Farmland of Local Importance in Fresno County. These conversions primarily took place on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. The largest, single conversions occurred on the Avenal (~330 acres), Cantua Creek (~240 and 160 acres), Coit Ranch (~160, 160, 160 and 4,260 acres), Monocline Ridge (~120 acres), Oxalis (~110 acres) and Westside (~170 and 200 acres) quads. The large, approximately 4,260-acre change that occurred on the Coit Ranch quad was located just north of Levis, near Murietta Farm.

#### **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

25 changes

These types of conversions were scattered throughout the county and were due to the delineation of farmsteads and ranchettes as well as the identification of disturbed areas that are graded for future development and the expansion of surface mining activity. One notable change occurred on the Lanes Bridge quad where an area that had previously been orchards was now part of an expanded surface mine (~100 acres). However, the majority of these changes were for 20 acres or less.

### **Conversions to Irrigated Farmland**

#### **Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

133 changes

Additions of new irrigated farmland were primarily row crops and orchards with a small amount of irrigated pasture. These conversions occurred throughout the valley areas of the county and the majority of them (99) were for 30 acres or less.

Notable additions of new irrigated farmland included two additions of row crops and orchards on the Broadview Farms quad totaling approximately 840 acres that were both located east of Lyon and Hoag Ranch. New orchards (~450 acres) were also added on the Jamesan quad, south of Jamesan. On the Coalinga quad, there was an addition of row crops (~130 acres) near Three Corners and an addition of row crops (~300 acres)

and orchards (~300 acres), likely pistachios, northeast of the City of Coalinga. Further additions of irrigated row crops were made on the Avenal (~150 acres) and San Joaquin (~100 and 110 acres) quads. Finally, approximately 280 acres of irrigated grain and row crops were added on the Kreyenhagen Hills quad and alfalfa (~180 acres) was added on the Kearney Park quad.

Also notable this update were a number of conversions where dairies were replaced by irrigated cropland, particularly almonds and pistachios. These types of changes occurred on the Fresno South (3), Jamesan (1), Kearney Park (1), Kerman (1), and Laton (1) quads.

### **Unusual Changes**

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

**Conversions from Urban Land:** Conversion from Urban and Built-up Land is primarily the result of the removal of paved runways at the site of the old Coalinga Municipal Airport and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

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

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

More than 60,000 acres are flagged as having been fallow or cropped with dry grain for at least one update cycle. These areas may be downgraded during future updates depending on whether they remain in these uses during future updates.

Although just over 700 acres of solar facilities were added this update, more than 16,000 acres of solar have been proposed in the County, based on a summary of environmental documents. Some proportion of these will comprise future urban conversions.

### **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: March 18, 2014
Image interpretation, number of days: 19
Ground truth dates: June 16-20, 2014
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>