

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

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Imperial

FIELD MAPPER(S): Pat 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	8 changes
The conversion of Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land was very limited. The largest change is only twenty five acres, and only one other is greater than ten acres. New homes, buildings, and businesses were built, as well as the Dogwood Elementary School in Heber (~18 acres). West of El Centro, solar panels were constructed along West Evan Hewes Highway near Nichols Road (~4 acres).	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	18 changes
Most of the changes of this type were small, with one exception. Sun Peak Solar's Imperial Valley Solar Company Number 1 project converted approximately one hundred acres to the urban category. The remaining changes are all less than fifteen acres in size, typically due to new homes, parking lots, commercial buildings, parks and playgrounds.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	52 changes
There are several areas that went fallow for three or more updates, and six of them are larger than one hundred acres. The largest is 640 acres, incidentally an entire section of the public land survey system, located in the East Mesa sand dunes north of Interstate 8 and Brock Reservoir. Almost 500 acres went fallow southeast of Centinela State Prison, along the Westside canal. On the east side of the city of Brawley, approximately 220 acres along Highway 111 went out of production. On the south side of Brawley, additional changes (90 and 75 acres) took farmland out of production between the railroad tracks and South Brawley Avenue. Northeast of the city of Calexico, two areas of farmland went fallow (200 and 150 acres).	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	40 changes
Several 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. In the north part of the city of Calexico between the railroad tracks, Main and Beech Canal, over 130 acres of farmland went fallow and roads were paved for homes that were not built. There were a couple similar changes around Brawley, particularly along Best Road, Malan Street, and behind the new Walmart in South Brawley. The remaining changes are less than 100 acres and 30 of the 40 total changes are less than 20 acres. These areas typically consist of farmsteads, dairy expansions, and fallow land less than 10 acres adjacent to Other Land.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	18 changes
There were three large changes of this variety, and the rest were modest additions to existing farmland. The largest change is almost 420 acres just southeast of Niland near the intersection of Pound and Blair Roads. North of Niland along Highway 111 at Howell Road, another 225 acres of new Irrigated Farmland was mapped. The other significant	

change involved 215 acres of new orchards along the Highland Canal where Yocum Road terminates. This change happens to be on the east side of the Canal, where agriculture is limited.

Unusual Changes

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

There was one small change involving Urban Land converted to Other and small portions to Irrigated Farmland. This area had been flagged for lacking structures several updates. Historical research revealed that the area has been mapped as Urban since the 1984 update as buildings and storage. It appears that they have been removed.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Expect future activity to be found around the edge of cities for Urban changes and the edges of the farmland for fallowing and new agriculture. Solar facilities are also proposed or approved that will convert a significant number of farmland acres in future updates.

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: 3/3/2014
Image interpretation, number of days:12
Ground truth dates: None
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: None

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>