

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

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Barbara

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy & 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)
City of Santa Maria
Personal Contacts
Kevin Barnard, General Manager of the Los Alamos Community Services District.
Websites Used for Reference
Google Earth, Street View: http://maps.google.com
Rancho Real Vineyard: http://www.coastallandpartners.com/wp-content/downloads/RanchoRealVineyardOverview.pdf
GIS Data Used for Reference

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	29 changes
<p>Conversions from Irrigated farmland to Urban land are well distributed throughout the county, and the largest is just over 20 acres. Homes and business are the dominant land uses on these changes. In the southwest part of the city of Santa Maria, the Old Dominican Freight Lines building and paved lot converted seven acres. At the very north end of Lompoc, the Rivers Edge Estates private park on Canfield Lane was verified with Google streetview. Many of the remaining changes are additions to existing urban land adjacent to Irrigated Farmland.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	61 changes
<p>Non irrigated land uses to Urban land was very common and dispersed throughout the county. The largest is almost 40 acres of homes off of Toro Canyon Road near Highway 192 and East Valley road in Summerland. The paved RV area of the El Capitan State Beach area converted 14 acres to urban and a large processing plant and lined pond converted 13 acres west of Santa Maria. Many of the remaining changes are homes, parks, wide streets adjacent to existing urban land.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	74 changes
<p>This change is primarily due to irrigated farmland going fallow for three or more update cycles and was widespread throughout the county. The largest is approximately 50 acres of non-accessible land located along Highway 101, south of Santa Maria near Palmer Road. Google streetview was very helpful for determining the status of farmland in Santa Barbara County this update due to the date of the imagery, which varied in the month, but was consistently 2012. Some non-irrigated grains were also mapped and field verified along Highway 33 near the Cuyama Valley.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	51 changes
<p>Conversions from irrigated Farmland to Other land were very significant and varied. The largest is 73 acres in Santa Maria along Carmen Lane and South Blosser Road that went fallow for three updates. It was graded for homes that were not built, but paved roads were evident in the photos. Many other changes were areas that also went fallow but had farmsteads, horse training, or low density housing. One interesting change involved a 43 acre irrigated pasture with verified sprinklers in Los Alamos, across the street from the local waste water treatment plant. A phone call to the general manager, Kevin Barnard, provided key information on the pasture, which is actually an effluent field for the waste water treatment plant. The community services district tried some cattle grazing in the past, but currently does not allow grazing or plan to. This area is more appropriate in Other due to the land use.</p>	

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	116 changes
<p>This is the change with the greatest number of changes, but only one individual change is greater than one hundred acres. Many are new agricultural fields, typically adjacent to existing agricultural land, planted with row crops and vineyards. The largest change is 129 acres in Santa Maria along the east side of Highway 101 at the Santa Maria Way off ramp. An expansion of the Rancho Real vineyard south of Santa Maria was verified with Google streetview and a map of the vineyards on their website, listed at the beginning of this report.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)	
None.	
Areas of Concern for Future Updates	
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2014 update, and reasons.)	
None.	
<p>Definitions:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.</p> <p>For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the FMMP web site.</p>	

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2012 update.

Image interpretation, start date:
Image interpretation, number of days:
Ground truth dates: January 12, 2015
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up:

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

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