

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Tulare

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

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: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Tulare 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

34 changes

The majority of these changes occurred in or adjacent to the cities of Visalia, Tulare, and Dinuba. The largest conversions occurred in or adjacent to the City of Visalia where a total of approximately 200 acres was converted for a VWR Warehouse, Majestic Oak homes, Shannon Ranch Elementary School, expansion to the Visalia Riverway Sports Park, Pheasant Ridge homes, and other new homes and businesses. Meanwhile in or adjacent to the City of Tulare a total of approximately 180 acres was converted for new water control structures, Tulare Irrigation District buildings, paved areas for the Sundale Storage warehouse, Del Lago neighborhood, new homes, and businesses. In the city of Dinuba approximately 160 acres converted for Las Casas at Viscaya, Emmanuel Elementary School, Sun Valley Solar Power Plant, expansion to the Smith Mountain Cemetery, and other new homes and businesses.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land

20 changes

The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the expansion of urban development in or adjacent to the City of Visalia and the Allensworth Quad. The largest conversions occurred in Visalia, where approximately 210 acres was added for Traditions of Vista homes, water control structure ponds, and new homes. Meanwhile on the Allensworth quad approximately 130 acres was added for the Atwell Island Solar Plant.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses

228 changes

There were three primary reasons for the conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated uses:

First, the majority of these changes were due to plots of irrigated land having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of the changes in this category occurred on the Allensworth quad with a approximately 1,750 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Alpaugh and Rocky Hill quads with a approximately 610 and 510 acres, respectively, going out of production.

Second, areas of irrigated farmland were identified that were no longer being irrigated but, instead, were being used for the cultivation of nonirrigated grain crops. Nonirrigated grain crops appear as Farmland of Local Importance on Tulare County's IFL Map. These areas had not been irrigated for multiple update cycles. The largest changes due to nonirrigated grain production occurred on the Richgrove quad (150 acres) followed by the Porterville quad (110 acres).

Third, areas of irrigated farmland were identified that are no longer being irrigated but, instead are being used for Confined Livestock. Confined Livestock appears as Farmland of Local Importance on Tulare County's IFL Map. These areas had not been irrigated for three or more update cycles. The largest changes occurred on the Alpaugh quad where approximately 90 acres converted to Confined Livestock. This was followed by the Taylor Weir quad with 50 acres converting to Confined Livestock.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land		56 changes
<p>A majority of these conversions were due to a combination of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles which has been graded for development, the use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery to delineate areas of rural residential land, and low-density commercial areas throughout the county. The majority of these conversions happened on the Tulare quad with approximately 150 acres converting to vacant or disturbed land and rural residential land. The Visalia quad has 120 acres of similar conversions to vacant or disturbed land, rural residential land, and low-density commercial.</p>		
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland		
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland		127 changes
<p>This update a total of approximately 4,780 acres was converted to irrigated farmland. The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Delano West quad with a total of approximately 1,470 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for new orchards and row crops. This was followed by the Ducor and Pixely quads with approximately 710 and 300 acres, respectively, converting to irrigated farmland.</p>		
Unusual Changes		
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)		
<p><u>Conversion between Irrigated Farmland categories:</u> There were 7 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to either irrigated pasture being replaced by irrigated crops or irrigated crops being replaced by irrigated pasture. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance.</p>		
<p><u>Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance:</u> There were 8 conversions of Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance. These changes were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in Tulare County.</p>		
<p><u>Conversions from Urban Land:</u> There were 14 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to irrigated farmland, Other Land, Grazing Land, and non irrigated grains due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.</p>		
Areas of Concern for Future Updates		
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2014 update, and reasons.)		
None		

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: June 21, 2013

Image interpretation, number of days: 28
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Ground truth dates: November 4 – 8, 2013
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Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 5
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Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>