

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

**2014 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Imperial

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Troy Dick

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2014
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 2014 mapping.*

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2012 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 Imperial County Base Map

**2012-2014 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.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	15 changes
<p>The majority of these changes occurred in the Calexico, Calipatria, and Seeley areas. The largest conversions occurred near to the City of Calexico where approximately 4,350 acres were converted for the Heber Solar Energy Facility, Cantinela, C Solar South, Calexico II, and Mount Signal Solar Facilities. Meanwhile, near the City of Calipatria, approximately 1,250 acres were converted for the Alhambra, Sonora, and Arkansas Solar Facilities. Near the town of Seeley, approximately 1,110 acres were converted for the Campo Verde Solar Facility.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	19 changes
<p>The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the expansion of urban development in or adjacent to the cities of El Centro and Imperial and near the town of Seeley. The largest conversions occurred near the town of Seeley where approximately 220 acres were converted for the Campo Verde Solar Facility, 4 All Star Seed, and a smaller solar facility.</p> <p>Meanwhile, in the City of El Centro, approximately 140 acres were converted for Sol Orchard Solar Project and new businesses.</p> <p>Lastly, in or adjacent to the City of Imperial approximately 80 acres were converted for new homes, a new building for the Imperial Valley College, and expansion to the Allied Imperial Landfill.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	91 changes
<p>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 Niland quad with approximately 580 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Wister and Iris quads with approximately 540 and 430 acres, respectively, going out of production.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	15 changes
<p>Most of these conversions to Other Land were due to a combination of irrigated farmland having been converted to wetlands, land fallow for three or more update cycles, in units which were too small to be mapped separately as nonirrigated land uses, vacant or disturbed land, and low density development. The use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery assisted in delineating areas of low-density commercial throughout the county. The largest conversion happened on the Niland quad with approximately 440 acres going to wetlands. This was followed by the Alamorio quad with approximately 70 acres converting to Other Land.</p>	

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	40 changes
<p>The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Iris quad with approximately 210 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for new orchard and row crops. This was followed by the Niland and Plaster City quads with approximately 180 and 170 acres, respectively, being converted to irrigated farmland.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)	
<p><u>Conversion to Urban due to Solar Facilities:</u> There were 17 conversions to Urban due to solar facilities. Countywide approximately 7,100 acres were converted to Urban due to the construction of solar facilities.</p>	
<p><u>Conversions from Urban Land:</u> Conversion from Urban and Built-up Land is primarily the result of the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.</p>	
Areas of Concern for Future Updates	
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 update, and reasons.)	
<p>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.</p>	
<p><b>Definitions:</b></p> <p><b>Irrigated Farmland</b> 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 &amp; 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><b>Nonirrigated land uses</b> 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><b>Other Land</b> 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><b>Urban Land</b> includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.</p>	

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the [FMMP web site](#).

**LABOR ESTIMATE:**

*Time estimates for conducting the 2014 update.*

Image interpretation, start date: September 23, 2014
Image interpretation, number of days: 10
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>