

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Orange

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture 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) Cities of Lake Forest, Anaheim, Brea and Irvine Orange County
Personal Contacts None
Websites Used for Reference San Joaquin Reservoir: http://www.irwd.com/construction/san-joaquin-reservoir Google Maps: www.google.com/maps
GIS Data Used for Reference California City Boundary Layer Orange 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.

Conversions to Urban Land

Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	6 changes
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Most of the conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban Land occurred in the City of Irvine and were due to new homes and parks. Approximately 500 acres of new homes and parks were added in Irvine, including homes in the Stonegate, Portola Springs, Pavilion Park, Woodbury and Cypress Village developments along with Egret, Swallows and Arbor Parks. Finally, new homes (~50 acres) were the cause of the conversion of irrigated farmland in the Rancho Mission Viejo community.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	26 changes
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New homes and parks were the primary cause of the urbanization of nonirrigated and Other Land.

City of Irvine

Approximately 180 acres of new homes were added on nonirrigated land in Irvine, including additions of homes in the Portola Springs (~75 acres) and Laguna Altura (~60 acres) developments. Further, new parkland was added in the form of soccer fields and ponds at Orange County Great Park (~20 acres), the Resort at the Groves recreation center (~10 acres) and Orchard Terrace Park (~10 acres).

City of Brea

New homes in the Blackstone development and Wildcatters Park were the cause of the conversion of approximately 130 acres of nonirrigated land in Brea.

Community of Rancho Mission Viejo

Approximately 100 acres of nonirrigated land was urbanized in Rancho Mission Viejo due to new homes.

City of Yorba Linda

New homes were added in Yorba Linda, primarily in the Amalfi Hills development (~90 acres).

City of Lake Forest

New homes and a couple of parks were in evidence in Lake Forest, primarily in the Baker Ranch development (~90 acres).

City of San Juan Capistrano

Approximately 90 acres of new homes were added in the San Juan Capistrano area.

City of Huntington Beach

Approximately 30 acres of new homes were added in Huntington Beach in the Brightwater development.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland

aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	6 changes
<p>Conversions from irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land uses were due to plots of irrigated farmland, pastureland or nurseries being fallow for three or more update cycles. These conversions of irrigated farmland were scattered around the county and were generally less than 50 acres. The two largest conversions totaled approximately 100 acres and were located in the Rancho Santa Margarita area.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	6 changes
<p>Changes from irrigated farmland to Other Land were primarily due to plots of irrigated farmland or nurseries that had been fallow for three or more update cycles and the land was disturbed or graded for future development.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	2 changes
<p>Two additions of irrigated farmland were seen in the Irvine area in the form of row crops (~20 acres) on the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station and orchards, likely avocados (~10 acres), in the Orchard Hills area on the eastern edge of Irvine.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
<p>(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)</p>	
<p><u>Conversion to Water:</u> The San Joaquin Reservoir (~40 acres) in Newport Beach was mapped as a waterbody since it has been consistently filled with recycled water in recent years. It had previously been empty, and mapped as Other Land, for approximately 11 years.</p>	
<p><u>Conversions from Urban Land:</u> These conversions were due to a lack of sufficient infrastructure and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.</p>	
Areas of Concern for Future Updates	
<p>(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 update, and reasons.)</p>	
<p>None</p>	
Definitions:	
<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>	

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 2014 update.

Image interpretation, start date: 10/20/15
Image interpretation, number of days: 4
Ground truth dates: February 18-19, 2016
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 1

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>