

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

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Luis Obispo

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)
City of San Luis Obispo
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps: www.google.com/maps
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer San Luis Obispo 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	0 changes
<p>There were no significant conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban land this update.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	35 changes
<p>These conversions were primarily due to new solar facilities, homes, commercial buildings and paved parking.</p> <p>The most notable conversions to Urban Land occurred on the Carrizo Plain nearby Simmler with the continued build out of the Topaz Solar Farm (~2,760 acres) and the California Valley Solar Ranch (~900 acres). Expansions of these two solar facilities caused the urbanization of approximately 3,660 acres of nonirrigated lands.</p> <p>On the other hand, Nipomo experienced urbanization in the form of new homes added at the Trilogy at Monarch Dunes development (~70 acres). Meanwhile, San Luis Obispo saw an addition of new homes (~10 acres) as well as new commercial buildings (~30 acres) adjacent to the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport. Paso Robles also saw the addition of new homes (~20 acres) and buildings with adjacent parking (~10 acres) at the Vina Robles Winery. Finally, new homes were in evidence in Atascadero (~20 acres) and Arroyo Grande (~10 acres).</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	61 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to irrigated farmland or pastureland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The majority of these changes were for 30 acres or less and were distributed throughout the county. The only large conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land (~130 acres) took place to the west of Shandon.</p> <p>On the other hand, twenty-three of the changes were due to areas of formerly irrigated farmland that have converted to growing nonirrigated grain crops for at least three update cycles. These areas will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	5 changes
<p>Conversions from irrigated farmland to Other Land were due to small plots of irrigated farmland that had been fallow for three or more updates but were too small to change to Grazing Land (<10 acres) or had land uses appropriate for Other Land. Examples include the delineation of an existing farmstead, agricultural staging area and a small water pond.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	109 changes
<p>Additions of irrigated farmland were well represented this update with large additions of vineyards and much lesser additions of orchards and row crops.</p> <p>The most notable additions of irrigated farmland this update consisted of large additions of new vineyards in the region surrounding Paso Robles. There were twelve</p>	

additions of irrigated vineyards that were greater than 100 acres. These twelve additions, on their own, totaled approximately 3,600 acres of new vineyards.

The largest, single addition of new vineyards was seen to the southeast of Paso Robles and was approximately 880 acres. The next single, largest planting of new vineyards was just west of San Miguel for approximately 500 acres. Meanwhile, three additions of vineyards around the San Lawrence Terrace area, totaled approximately 740 acres. Further, three additions of vineyards around the Estrella area accounted for approximately 780 acres of new irrigated farmland. Sizeable additions of new vineyards were also added in the Shandon (~240 acres), Creston (~190 acres), Wellsona (~150 acres) and Camatta Canyon (~120 acres) areas.

Meanwhile, notable additions of irrigated row crops were seen near Nipomo (~90 acres) and in the Cuyama Valley (~120 acres).

Finally, approximately 70 acres of new citrus orchards were added to the northeast of Edna along Orcutt Rd.

The remaining conversions to irrigated farmland were generally due to small (<30 acres) additions of new vineyards and orchards in the northern part of the county and row crops in the southern, coastal areas of the county and in the Cuyama Valley.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)

Conversions from Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: These conversions were primarily due to fields of nonirrigated grain having been fallow for four or more update cycles. There were 168 conversions with a majority occurring in the northern part half of the county. The largest, single conversion was approximately 3,100 acres and occurred on the Shandon quad.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 update, and reasons.)

Watch for more nonirrigated grain that is going fallow for a fourth update cycle.

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 2014 update.

Image interpretation, start date: April 7, 2016
Image interpretation, number of days: 15
Ground truth dates: July 12-15, 2016
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 2

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