

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

**2014 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Sutter

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Andrew McLeod

**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:	Google Maps with Streetview

**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)  
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Denise Thomas, Southridge Venue – [southridge.venue@yahoo.com](mailto:southridge.venue@yahoo.com)  
Helen Swagerty, River Partners – [hswagerty@riverpartners.org](mailto:hswagerty@riverpartners.org)

Websites Used for Reference  
River Partners - <http://www.riverpartners.org>  
Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority - <http://www.trlia.org>  
California Department of Fish and Game, Feather River Wildlife Area Map - <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=87792&inline>  
Southridge Estates - <http://www.southridgeestates.net/>  
*Marysville Appeal-Democrat* –  
Re. Southridge golf course: [http://www.appeal-democrat.com/southridge-golf-course-in-the-rough/article\\_e50851cf-6cf1-5dce-bbb5-86fbb3b8fe33.html](http://www.appeal-democrat.com/southridge-golf-course-in-the-rough/article_e50851cf-6cf1-5dce-bbb5-86fbb3b8fe33.html)  
Re: Willow Island Park: [http://www.appeal-democrat.com/yuba-city-s-willow-island-readies-for-december-opening/article\\_6676b9e9-e7eb-5d98-b555-3d369b8b250d.html](http://www.appeal-democrat.com/yuba-city-s-willow-island-readies-for-december-opening/article_6676b9e9-e7eb-5d98-b555-3d369b8b250d.html)

GIS Data Used for Reference  
California Protected Area Database 2014  
Additional GIS shapefiles of revegetation projects provided by River Partners

## 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	1 change
Pristine Sun LLC built a new solar facility, called Harris Plant, just north of Live Oak.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	5 changes
Three areas of new homes (totaling ~30ac) were built on the north and west sides of Yuba City, in existing subdivisions. John L. Sullivan's new auto dealership (~10ac) was constructed on the west side of Yuba City. A new freeway interchange (~60ac) was constructed at the intersection of CA-99 and Tudor Road in the southern part of the county.	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	43 changes
<p>The majority of these changes were due either to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles, or conversion to nonirrigated grain. This type of change was concentrated in the southeastern portion of the county, south of the Bear River. These conversions included two large areas just west of Sankey: An irrigated field of 250 acres was fallowed for a third cycle, and another 230 acre field was converted to nonirrigated grain.</p> <p>Two areas were converted from irrigated to grazing land as part of riparian revegetation projects. These are ~200 acres on the south side of the Bear River just downstream of Hwy 70 near Rio Oso, and ~90 acres on the west side of the Feather River, near Tudor. The latter restoration project is partially in the O'Connor Lakes Unit, Feather River Wildlife Area, in land removed from flood protection by a levee setback project. An enquiry to River Partners, the contractor that did the revegetation work, indicated that grazing is allowed in these projects. These had been misidentified as an irrigated orchard but was actually restored riparian forest land. The misidentification was likely made due to the way the riparian forest had originally been planted in rows, resembling an orchard planting.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	6 changes
<p>One larger area (~55ac) near Boyers Bend on the Sacramento River was converted to wildlife habitat. Although it was not flooded in our imagery, a field check confirmed that it is an extension of a larger area of adjacent restored habitat area, and it features a sign indicating that it is a conservation easement.</p> <p>A freeway interchange (~35ac) was also completed at the intersection of CA-99 and Riego Rd.</p>	

### Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

52 changes

We observed quite a bit of new irrigation, especially in the area surrounding the Sutter Buttes. Most of this was orchards, with only 7 changes involving new rice. Walnuts appeared to be the most common new crop, with significant plantings near Pleasant Grove (~65ac) and on the flanks of the Sutter Buttes along Pass Road (~45ac). A planting of what appeared to be peaches (~90ac) was observed near Olivehurst. New almonds were also added.

### Unusual Changes

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

#### Conversion from Urban Land

A conversion of land from urban land to grazing land came from Southridge Golf Course (~200ac), which closed in early 2010, after which sheep grazing began to occur. Pathways are now partly overgrown with significant cracking visible in the field check, Google Maps and drone footage posted to the venue's website. An email enquiry to Southridge Estates, whose website now bills the site as an event center, confirmed no plans to reopen the golf course.

Another conversion from urban land (~15ac) came from a reclassification a portion of the Willow Island park in Yuba City, due to lack of urban infrastructure.

An additional area (~20ac) was converted from urban land to grazing land from the decommissioning of a runway northwest of Riego. The southern end of the runway has been obliterated by a re-grading.

### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

As the county adjusts its approach to flood control, we may see additional projects involving levee setbacks and restoration of riparian vegetation. These projects seem to be most common along the Feather and Bear Rivers (with activity more common across the rivers in Yuba County.) However, mappers should be attentive to realignment of levees and planting of new native trees and shrubs along all waterways including the Sacramento River. These projects often appear in orchard-like formations, but can be distinguished by variation in color and size among the individual plants as well as rows that are sometimes curved to follow the river course.

### 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: 10/26/2015
Image interpretation, number of days: 7
Ground truth dates: 11/30, 12/2 and 12/4/2015
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 6

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