

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

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Ventura

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 Moorpark Southern California Association of Governments
Personal Contacts
Henry Gonzales, Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps: www.google.com/maps
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Ventura 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	7 changes
<p>Conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban Land were primarily due to new homes and apartments, paved parking, sports fields and solar arrays.</p> <p>First, paved parking, a soccer field and a baseball diamond were the cause for conversion of approximately 20 acres of formerly irrigated farmland at the CSU Channel Islands campus. Further, the AMLI Spanish Hills Apartments (~20 acres) were a cause of conversion of former irrigated lands in Camarillo. Solar Panels were added at the Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility (~15 acres) and the Ventura County Jail (~5 acres). Finally, new homes (~10 acres) and parkland (~5 acres) were added in Ventura.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	17 changes
<p>These conversions were primarily due to new homes, apartments, schools, commercial buildings and sports fields.</p> <p>In Moorpark, new homes (~45 acres) were added in the Moorpark Highlands development. Meanwhile, in and around Thousand Oaks, new homes (~25 acres) and the Del Prado Playfield (~10 acres) were a cause of conversion. Oxnard saw the addition of new homes (~20 acres) and the Artisan at East Village Apartments (~15 acres). The Rio Vista Elementary School (~15 acres) was an addition to Fillmore. Finally, new homes were added in Santa Paula (~10 acres) and Camarillo (~5 acres) and the Allied Beverage warehouse (~20 acres) was a notable addition in Ventura.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	36 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 20 acres or less. There was one larger conversion (~130 acres) due to fallowing that occurred adjacent to the CSU Channel Islands campus. These formerly irrigated lands will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance if they are on high quality soils, as determined by the USDA, or to Grazing Land if on lesser quality soils.</p> <p>Finally, three of the changes were due to areas of formerly irrigated farmland that have converted to growing nonirrigated grain crops, totaling approximately 145 acres. These areas will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	14 changes
<p>These conversions were primarily due to small areas of former irrigated farmland that have been disturbed or graded for development for three updates or to the delineation of farmsteads, ranchettes and agricultural staging areas. One notable conversion was a new highway interchange (~30 acres) adjacent to the Camarillo Airport that is mapped as Other Land rather than Urban Land due to the complete lack of urbanization surrounding the interchange. These changes were generally 10-20 acres in size with all of the changes accounting for approximately 200 acres of conversion from irrigated farmland to Other Land.</p>	

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

32 changes

Additions of irrigated farmland were primarily due to newly irrigated orchards such as citrus and avocados and new row crops. However, the most notable addition of irrigated farmland this update was approximately 100 acres of raspberries grown under high tunnels that was added to the northwest of Moorpark. New citrus and avocado orchards were also added in the Moorpark area (~30 acres). Meanwhile, in the Piru area, new citrus and avocado orchards, row crops and in-ground nursery stock were in evidence (~80 acres). New orchards (~60 acres) also made an appearance in the Ojai area. The Fillmore area experienced additions of citrus orchards, row crops and nursery stock grown in containers (~50 acres). Finally, row crops and orchards (~40 acres), likely citrus, were added in the Camarillo area.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland (P,S,U) categories: There were a few instances where areas that had previously cultivated nursery stock in pots were converted to in-ground, irrigated crops or vice versa. This type of change in land use causes shifts between irrigated farmland categories since nursery stock grown in pots is always mapped as Unique Farmland, regardless of the underlying soil type.

Conversions from Urban Land: These conversions were due to a lack of sufficient infrastructure and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 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 2014 update.

Image interpretation, start date: November 10, 2015
Image interpretation, number of days: 10
Ground truth dates: February 16-17, 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>