

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

**2016 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Contra Costa

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

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer
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 2016 mapping.*

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2014 maps) Greg Fuz, City of Pleasant Hill
Personal Contacts Erik Vink, Delta Protection Commission
Websites Used for Reference Google Map, Google Street View Metropolitan Water District: <a href="http://www.mwdh2o.com/DocSvcSPubs/Delta_Islands/">http://www.mwdh2o.com/DocSvcSPubs/Delta_Islands/</a> CADWR Land Use Viewer: <a href="https://qis.water.ca.gov/app/CADWRLandUseViewer/">https://qis.water.ca.gov/app/CADWRLandUseViewer/</a>
GIS Data Used for Reference FRAP California City Boundary Layer (2016) California Protected Areas Database

**2014-2016 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>	
<b>Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land</b>	<b>1 change</b>
Approximately 30 acres of new houses were added in the Emerson Ranch development in eastern Oakley.	
<b>Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land</b>	<b>31 changes</b>
<p>These conversions were primarily due to new houses and commercial developments. The more significant changes are as follows:</p> <p>Many conversions to Urban Land took place along the Highway 4 corridor between Bay Point and Byron. In Pittsburg, four changes totaling approximately 60 acres of new housing were made near San Marco Boulevard. In Antioch, a new BART terminal yard resulted in a change of approximately 10 acres and new homes (~15 acres) were added along Phillips Lane just west of Hwy. 160. In Oakley, new houses (~25 acres) were added in the Shoreline at Summer Lake subdivision, along with approximately 20 acres of new houses in The Reserve. Brentwood had the largest number of significant changes, with eight large housing developments resulting in an overall gain of approximately 250 acres. This included approximately 90 acres around Garin Parkway and Sand Creek Road as well as approximately 80 acres in The Vineyards at Marsh Creek.</p> <p>The San Ramon area was also active with housing (~50 acres) added in the Gale Ranch development as well as approximately 20 acres near Monarch Park and approximately 15 acres on Laurelspar Loop north of Bollinger Canyon Road. The Tassajara area saw new houses (~30 acres) built in the Ashbury at Alamo Creek subdivision.</p> <p>Elsewhere in the county, northern Richmond added approximately 25 acres of warehouses to the Pinole Point Business Park and a new solar facility (~10 acres) was constructed west of Goodrick Avenue. In Orinda, approximately 25 acres of new houses were constructed in the Wilder area. Approximately 10 acres of new houses were constructed at Elworthy Ranch in Danville. Finally, the Lakes subdivision near Discovery Bay saw the addition of approximately 20 acres of new houses.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
<b>Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses</b>	<b>22 changes</b>
<p>These conversions were primarily due to plots of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The largest single change was approximately 110 acres of land along Cypress Road, east of Oakley. The Webb Tract saw the largest concentration of significant changes from irrigated to nonirrigated farmland, with four changes totaling approximately 150 acres fallowed. Also noted were the conversion of three former nurseries– one of approximately 15 acres in Richmond and two smaller nurseries (~5 acres) near Brentwood.</p>	
<b>Irrigated Farmland to Other Land</b>	<b>6 changes</b>
<p>These conversions were primarily due to plots of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The most significant of these changes was approximately 40 acres of former irrigated land that was graded for development east of Oakley.</p>	

<b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	12 changes
<p>Conversions to irrigated farmland were primarily between 10 and 50 acres and involved the addition of row and field crops along with some orchards. The most significant addition this update was approximately 1,500 acres of corn, sorghum, and sudan on Holland Tract. Also significant was the addition of approximately 160 acres of almond orchards and grapevines along Vasco Road, west of Byron.</p>	
<b>Unusual Changes</b>	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)	
<p><u>Conversions from Urban and Built-up Land:</u> Conversions from Urban and Built-up Land were primarily due to a lack of sufficient infrastructure. Examples include the Oakley and Discovery Bay areas, portions of Port Chicago Naval Weapons Station, oil tanks removed at the Tesoro Golden Eagle refinery, abandoned industrial areas along Wilber Avenue in Antioch, and breached ponds north of Waterfront Road near Interstate 680 in Martinez.</p> <p><u>Conversions affecting Grazing Land and Farmland of Local Importance:</u> This type of change is due to areas of nonirrigated grain having been fallow for four or more update cycles. Nonirrigated grain is part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in Contra Costa County. Conversely, some areas that had been in Grazing Land were cropped to dry grain. Although this could show as a statistical conversion, the land may have already been mapped as Farmland of Local Importance based on other factors within the County's definition.</p> <p><u>Water Boundary Update:</u> Contra Costa county's extensive shoreline was updated based on high resolution imagery that has become available in recent years. This resulted in substantial changes between Water and various other classifications. Of particular note was the designation of approximately 800 acres of artificial channels as Water. These conversions included approximately 650 acres in Discovery Bay (formerly Urban Land) and approximately 150 acres in the Delta Coves planned development on Bouldin Island (formerly Other Land).</p>	
<b>Areas of Concern for Future Updates</b>	
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 update, and reasons.)	
<p>The East Bay Times reported (4/4/18) that the Roddy Ranch Golf Course west of Brentwood had closed and is being converted to orchards by McCauley Olive Groves. This area should be monitored for removal of Urban Land as well as addition of irrigated farmland.</p>	
<b>Definitions:</b>	
<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)</p>	

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 2016 update.*

Image interpretation, start date: 1/29/2018
Image interpretation, number of days: 10
Ground truth dates: March 28-29, 2018
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 4

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>