

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Riverside East

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2016
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) Southern California Association of Governments
Personal Contacts None
Websites Used for Reference Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference FRAP California City Boundary Layer (2016) Riverside County Base Map

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.

Conversions to Urban Land

Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	4 changes
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The majority of these changes occurred in the La Quinta, Blythe and Indio areas. The largest conversions occurred near the City of La Quinta where approximately 140 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for the Thermal Club Race Track. Meanwhile, in the City of Blythe, approximately 20 acres of irrigated farmland was converted to a new solar facility and new homes. Finally, in the City of Indio, approximately 10 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for a new parking lot.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	33 changes
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The majority of the urbanization of nonirrigated land and Other Land was due to the expansion of urban development in or adjacent to the Cities of La Quinta, Indio, Indian Wells and Palm Springs. The largest conversions occurred in or adjacent to the City of La Quinta where approximately 200 acres was converted to the Thermal Club Race Track, the Orchard neighborhood, and other new homes.

Meanwhile, in the City of Indio, approximately 160 acres was converted to a Walmart, a parking lot, the Four Seasons at Terra Lago, the Plantation at Polo, and other new homes.

Lastly, in the Cities of Palm Springs and Indian Wells, approximately 120 acres of nonirrigated land and Other Land was converted to urban. In the City of Palm Springs, approximately 120 acres was converted for the Vermillion at Escena, the Gallery, a Fed Ex distribution center, a solar facility and other new homes. In the City of Indian Wells, approximately 120 acres was converted for part of the Toscana Country Club.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	50 changes
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Conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land uses was primarily due either to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles or the production of nonirrigated crops for three or more update cycles on formerly irrigated land. Some of these converted areas will be classified as Farmland of Local Importance due to the presence of high quality soils or their use for nonirrigated crop production. The remainder will be converted to Grazing Land.

The majority of these changes were due to plots of irrigated land having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of the changes in this category occurred on the McCoy quad with approximately 440 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Valerie quad with approximately 290 acres going out of production.

Finally, areas of irrigated farmland were identified that were no longer being irrigated but, instead, were being used for the cultivation of nonirrigated crops. The largest

changes due to nonirrigated crop production for three or more update cycles occurred on the Anza quad (~50 acres) followed by the Blythe quad (~20 acres).

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land

11 changes

The majority of these conversions were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles which had been graded for development or were too small to be mapped separately as a nonirrigated land use. The use of high resolution imagery also helped delineate wetland areas or low-density commercial development throughout the county. The majority of these conversions happened on the Blythe NE quad with approximately 70 acres being converted to Other Land due to the area being converted to wetlands. This was followed by the Blythe quad with approximately 30 acres converting to Other Land for low-density commercial development.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

76 changes

The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Indio quad, where approximately 400 acres was converted to irrigated farmland for orchards, palm trees, row crops and irrigated pasture. This was followed by the Valerie and Mecca quads with approximately 330 and 200 acres, respectively, that were converted to irrigated farmland.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland (P, S, U) categories: These conversions were due to soil unit changes from the incorporation of the statewide gridded soil survey from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 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 2016 update.

Image interpretation, start date: January 25, 2017
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Image interpretation, number of days: 8

Ground truth dates: March 20 – 23, 2017

Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 2
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Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Riverside West

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2016
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) Southern California Association of Governments
Personal Contacts None
Websites Used for Reference Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference FRAP California City Boundary Layer (2016)

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.

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	7 changes
<p>New homes added in Jurupa Valley (~50 acres), Eastvale (~25 acres), and Temecula (~15 acres) accounted for four of the conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban Land. In Perris, a new warehouse (~40 acres) and paved parking along with infrastructure associated with the Perris-South Station (~40 acres) were a cause of conversion. Finally, solar panels (~10 acres) were added adjacent to the Perris Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	129 changes
<p>The majority of the urbanization of nonirrigated land was due to the construction of new homes, which totaled approximately 2,160 acres. Large additions of new homes occurred in Menifee (~320 acres), Lake Elsinore (~240 acres), French Valley (~230 acres), Jurupa Valley (~200 acres), Riverside (~190 acres), Beaumont (~180 acres), Eastvale (~170 acres), Perris (~130 acres), Temecula (~110 acres), and Murrieta (~110 acres). More modest additions of new homes were seen in the Temescal Valley (~60 acres), Moreno Valley (~50 acres), Hemet (~45 acres), San Jacinto (~45 acres), Calimesa (~40 acres), and Wildomar (~40 acres).</p> <p>Commercial buildings were also a source of urbanization this update, primarily in the form of warehouses. New warehouses were in evidence in Perris (~170 acres), Moreno Valley (~110 acres), Jurupa Valley (~70 acres), near March AFB (~70 acres), and Eastvale (~50 acres). Further, a new Walmart (~40 acres) was a notable addition in Perris.</p> <p>Next, a couple of additions of solar panels in Hemet (~110 acres) and Murrieta (~40 acres) were further examples of the urbanization of nonirrigated land uses.</p> <p>Lastly, the Silverlakes Sports Complex (~110 acres) was added in Norco.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	41 changes
<p>The conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land uses was primarily due to irrigated farmland, irrigated pasture or nurseries having been fallow for three or more update cycles. These conversions occurred throughout the county and most of these changes were for 30 acres or less. Areas with a higher concentration of conversion were seen on the Bachelor Mountain (5 changes), Lake Mathews (4 changes), Pechanga (4 changes), Perris (4 changes), and Steele Peak (4 changes) quads. Some of the areas that were converted from irrigated farmland will be classified as Farmland of Local Importance due to the presence of high quality soils. The remainder will be converted to Grazing Land. There were two large conversions, greater than 100 acres, that occurred on the Perris (~240 acres) and Lake Mathews (~170 acres) quads.</p>	

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	5 changes
<p>These conversions were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles or to the delineation of ranchettes or farmsteads. The areas that went fallow were either disturbed, natural vegetation or too small to map as a nonirrigated land use. All of these conversions were for less than 20 acres.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	32 changes
<p>Additions of irrigated farmland were made throughout the western portion of Riverside County with most additions encompassing less than 40 acres. New irrigated farmland included row crops, orchards, vineyards, and irrigated hay crops. The areas with the most numerous conversions were the Lakeview (8 changes), Perris (5 changes), and Winchester (4 changes) quads. Large, single conversions of 100 acres or more occurred on the Lakeview (~160 acres and ~150 acres), Perris (~100 acres), and San Jacinto (~100 acres) quads.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
<p>(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)</p>	
<p><u>Conversions from Farmland of Local Importance:</u> There were numerous conversions from Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land this update due to the fallowing of areas that had formerly cultivated nonirrigated grain. These areas had been fallow for four update cycles. If these areas were on high quality soils, as determined by the USDA, they remained in Farmland of Local Importance. Areas on lesser quality soils were converted to Grazing Land.</p>	
Areas of Concern for Future Updates	
<p>(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 update, and reasons.)</p>	
None	
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>	
<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</p>	

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: February 24, 2017
Image interpretation, number of days: 11
Ground truth dates: May 10-12, 2017
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 3

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