California
Department of
Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection

California Important Farmland

Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program

March 20, 2025

A Brief History of FMMP

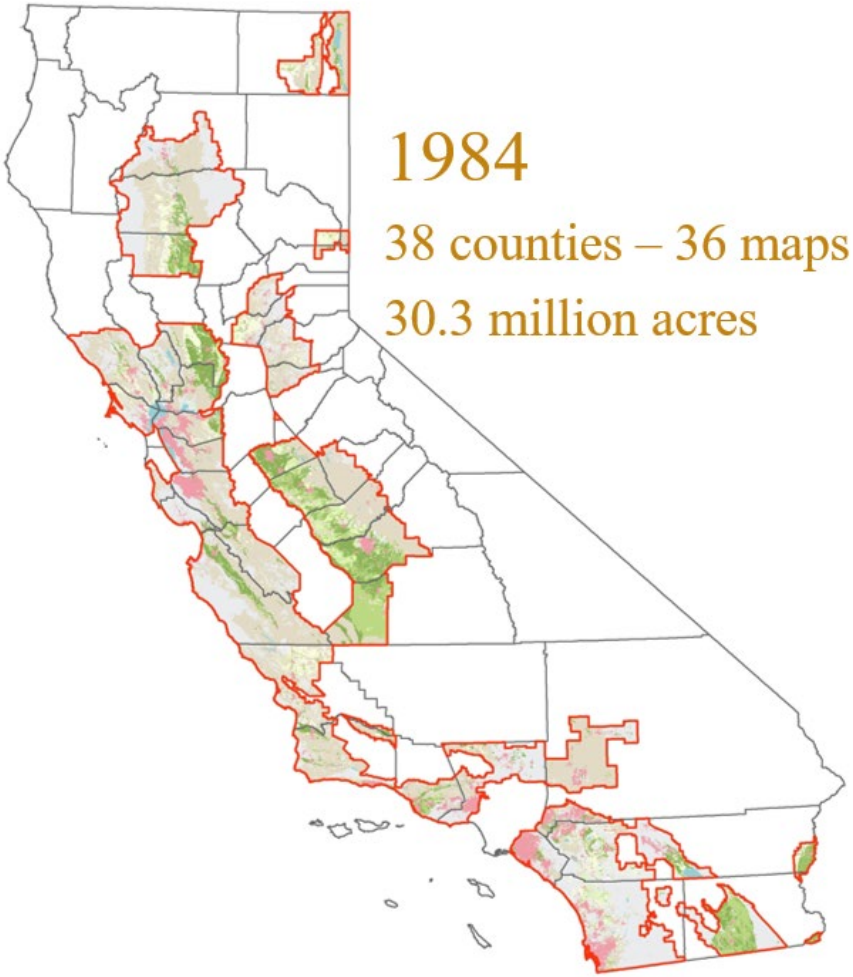
- Established 1982, Gov Code §65570(b)
- Soil Conservation Fund, Gov Code §51283(d)
- Location, Quality, and Quantity
- Conversion over time
- Consistent and Impartial
- Nonregulatory
- First Important Farmland Maps were produced in 1984, covered 30.3 million acres (38 counties)

Photo: R. Yoha

Mandated Deliverables

- Important Farmland Maps
- Land Use Conversion Statistics
- GIS Data
- Biennial Farmland Conversion Report
- Land Committed to Nonagricultural Uses
- Expert Responsibility in Determining Right to Farm Disclosure

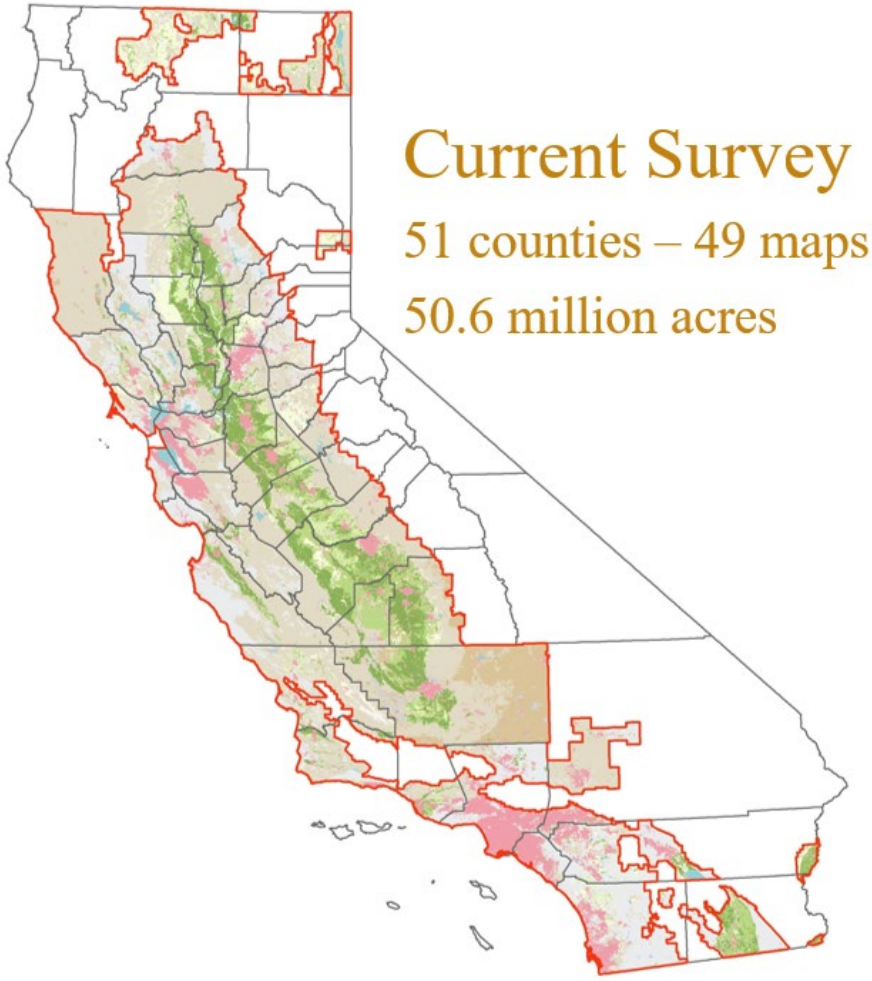
Survey Area



1984

38 counties – 36 maps

30.3 million acres



Current Survey

51 counties – 49 maps*

50.6 million acres

*Sierra Valley map covers portions of Sierra, Lassen and Plumas.

California Important Farmland Map

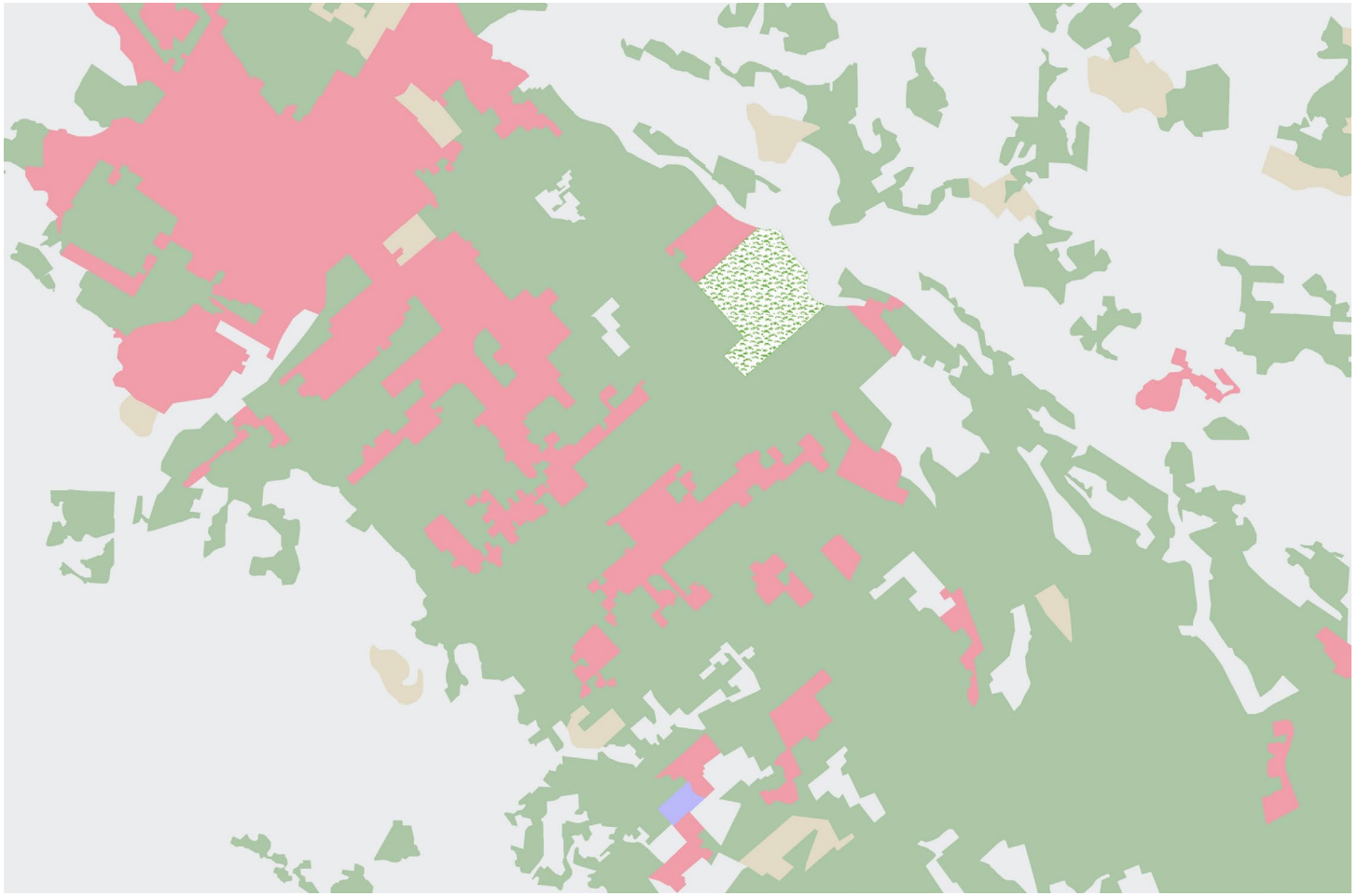
What is it?

How is it made?

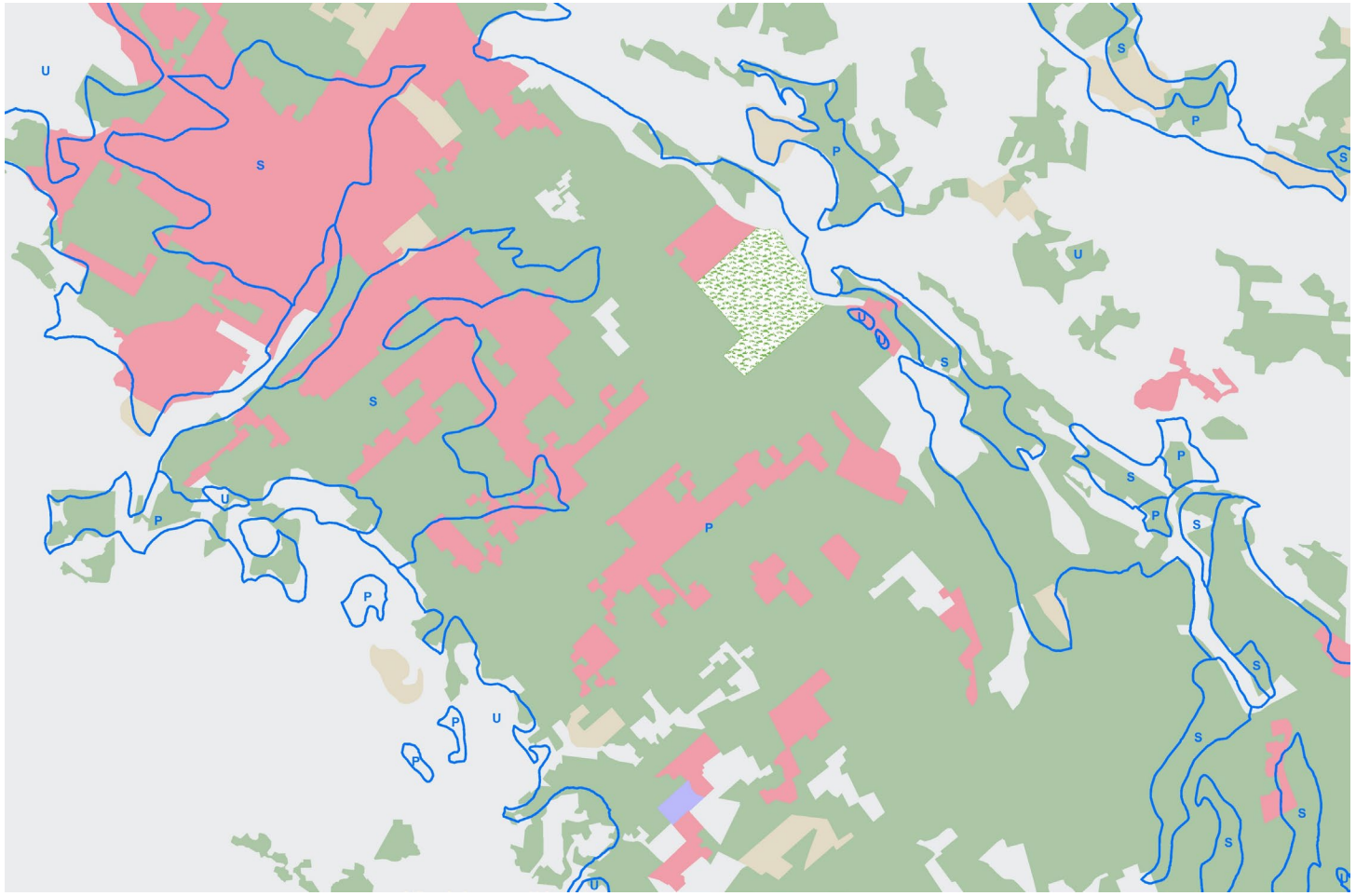
Photo: M. Kisko

Photo Interpretation

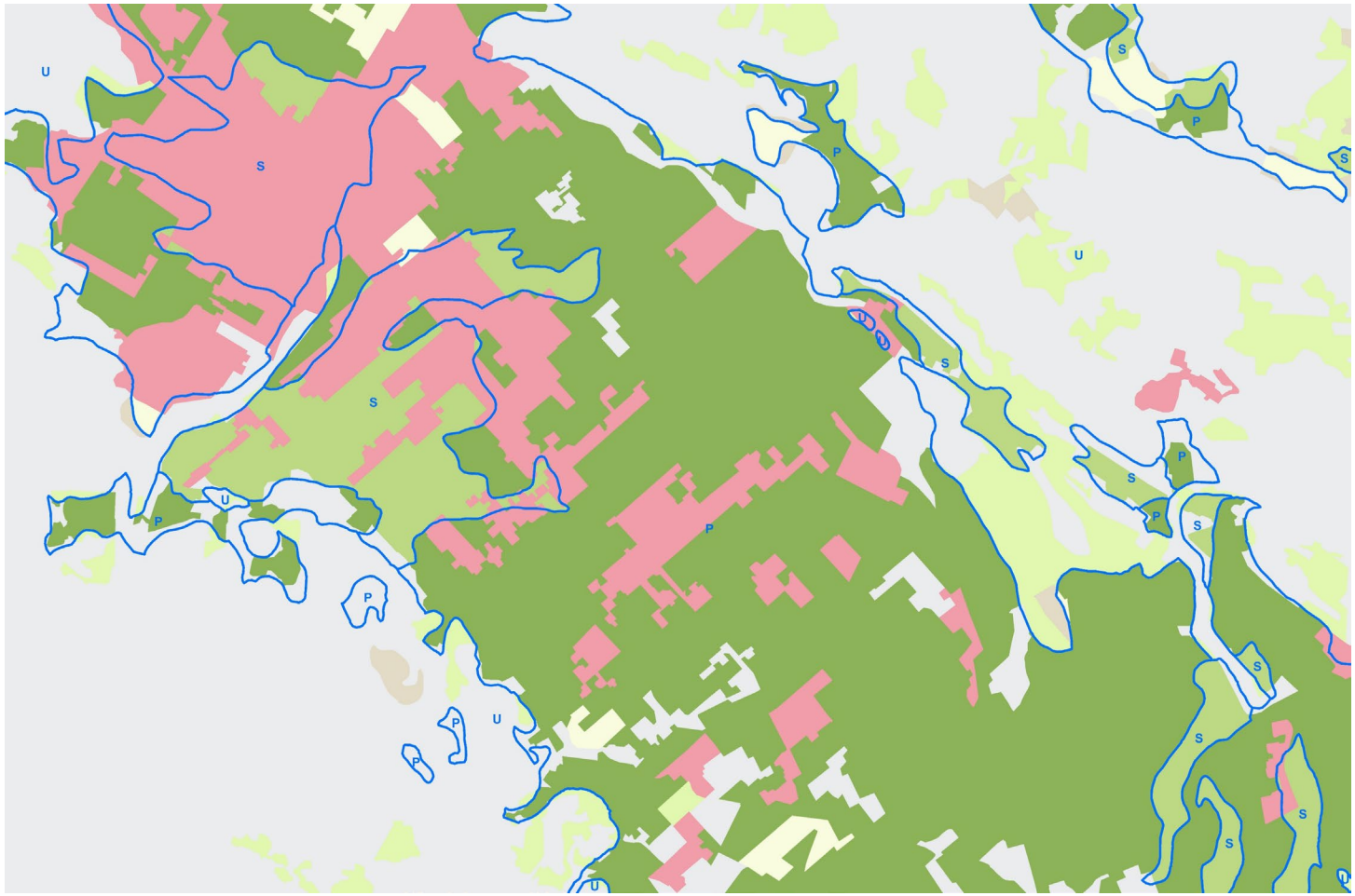
Land Use Data



Land Use combined with the Soil Survey



Agricultural Categories affected by Soils



Important Farmland Data

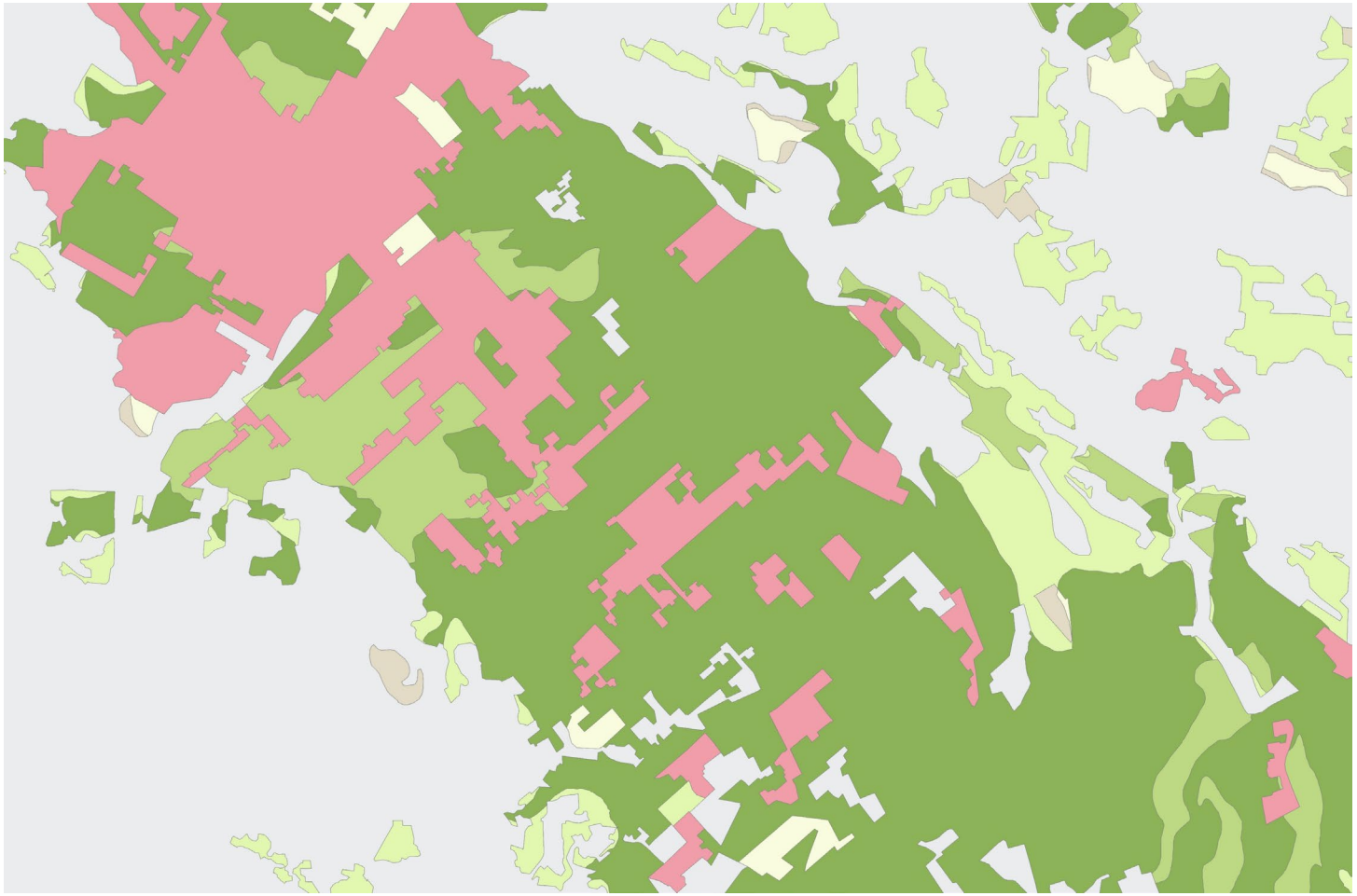
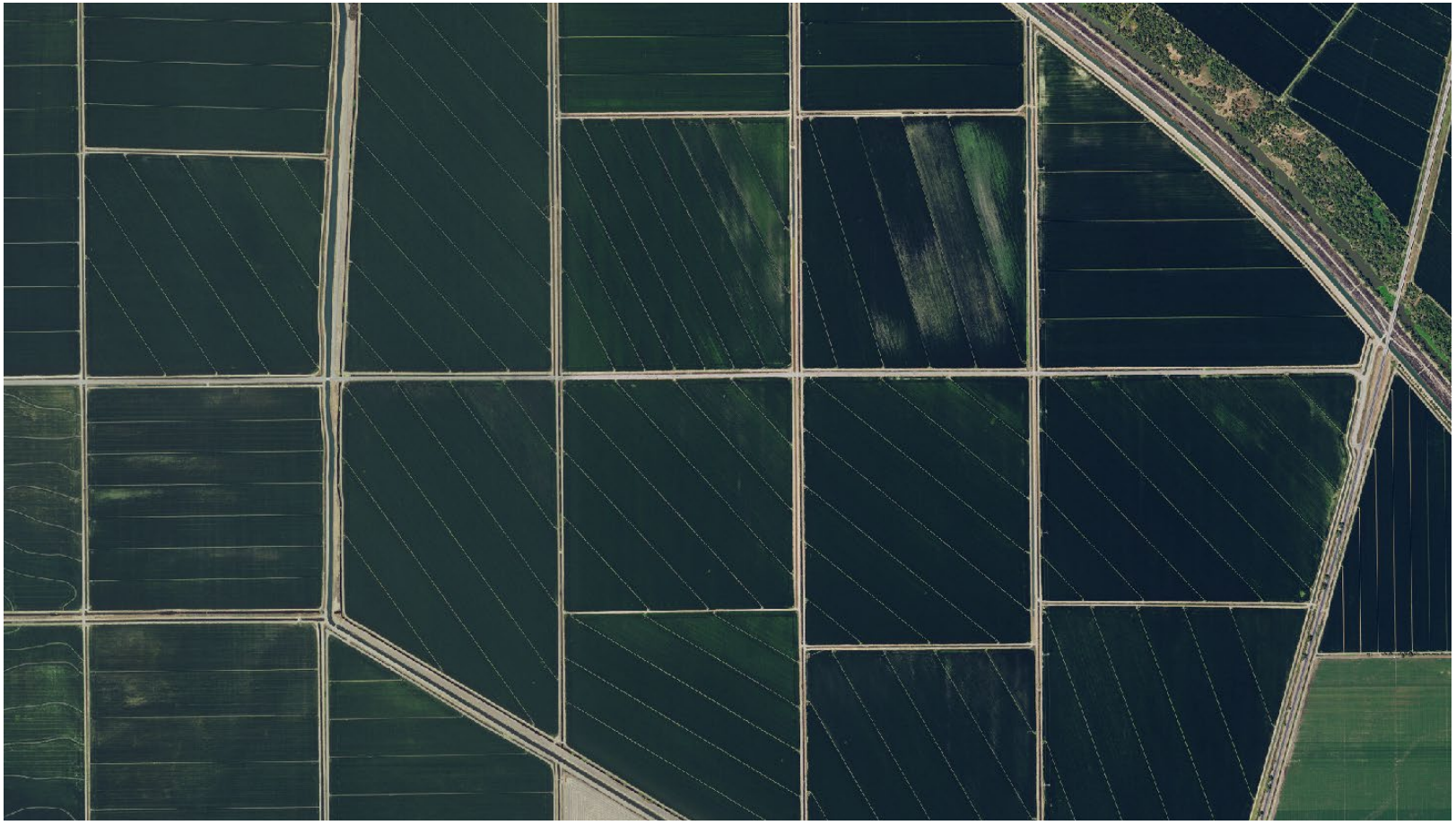


Photo Interpretation

Rice



Citrus Orchard

Irrigated Pasture

Almonds

Non-irrigated Grains

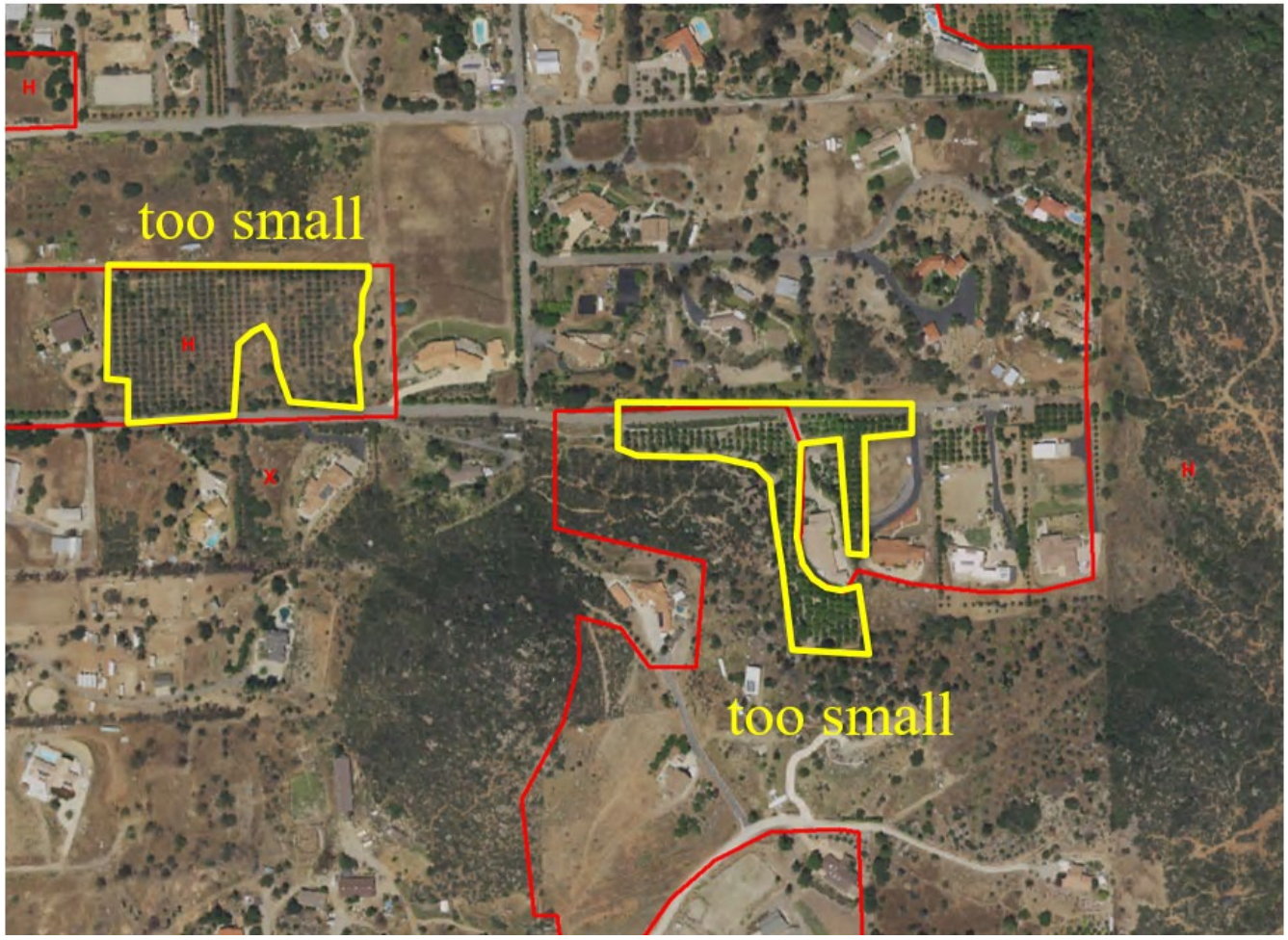
Solar Photovoltaic Panels

Landfill

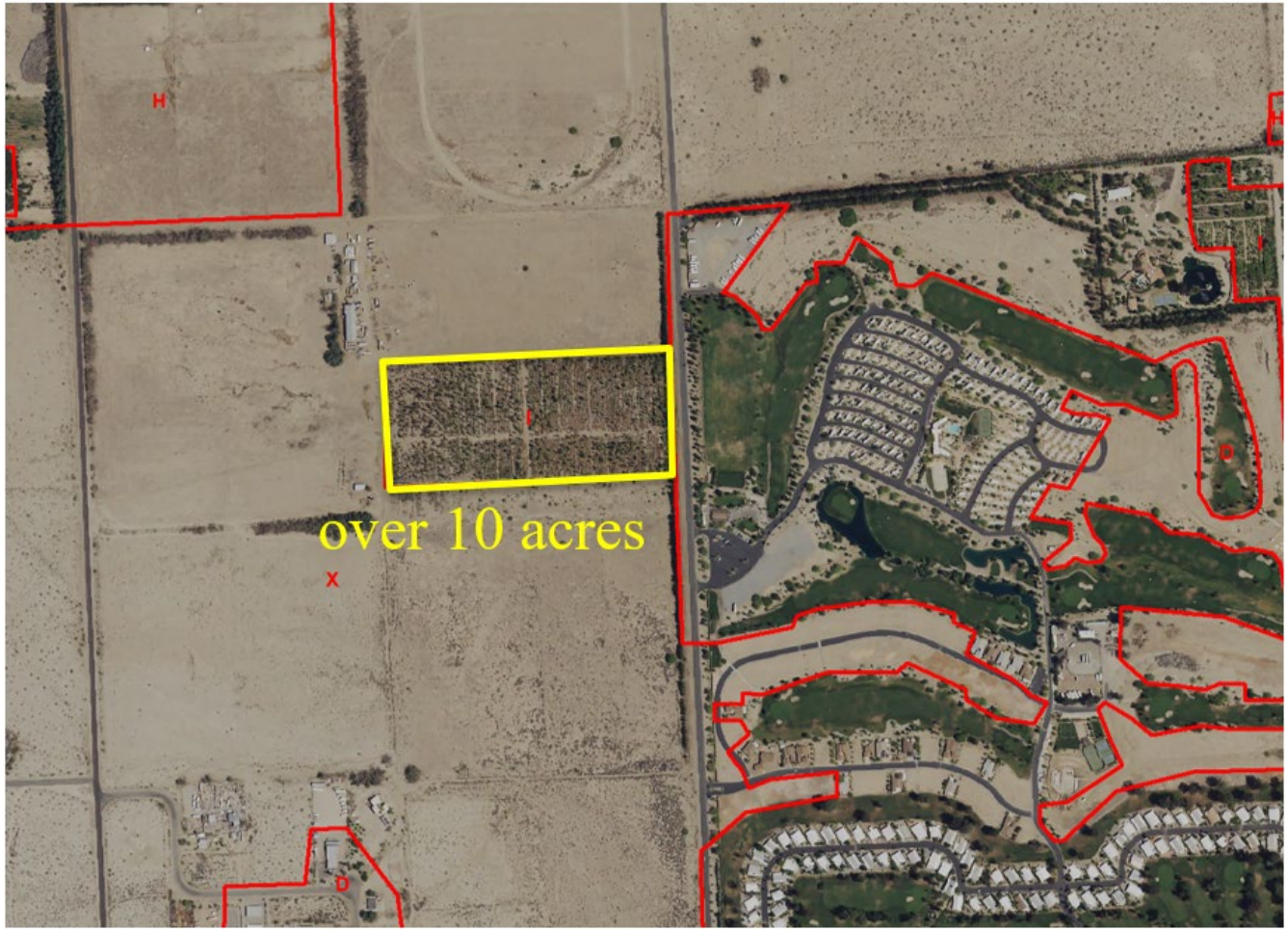
Polo Fields

Land Use Data

Minimum Map Unit 10 Acres

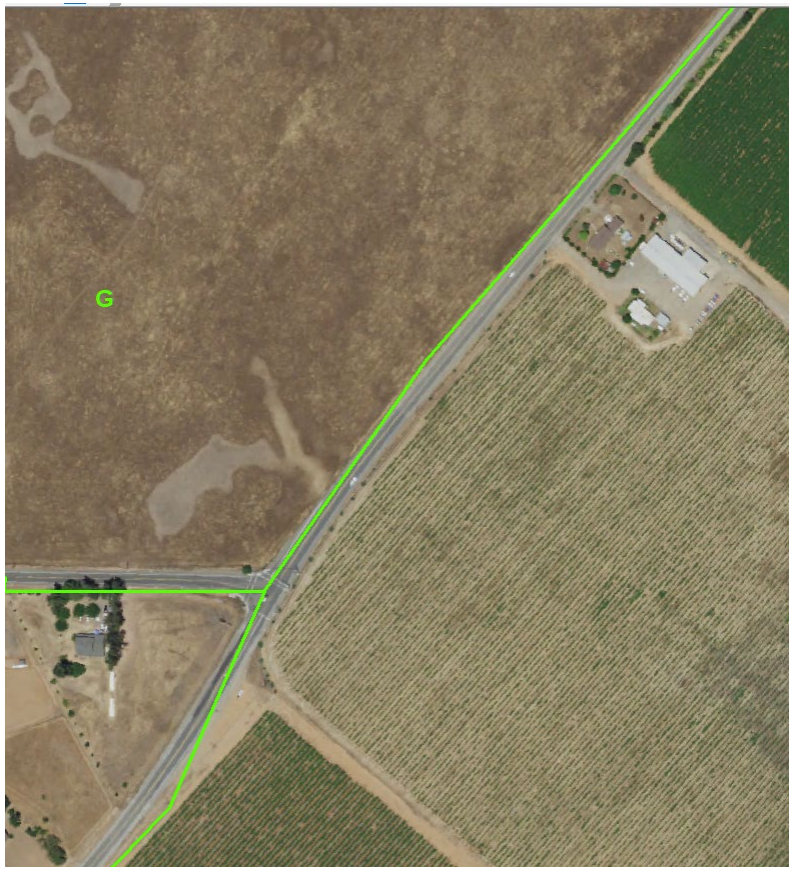


Minimum Map Unit 10 Acres



Looking for land use changes

Boundary Adjustments

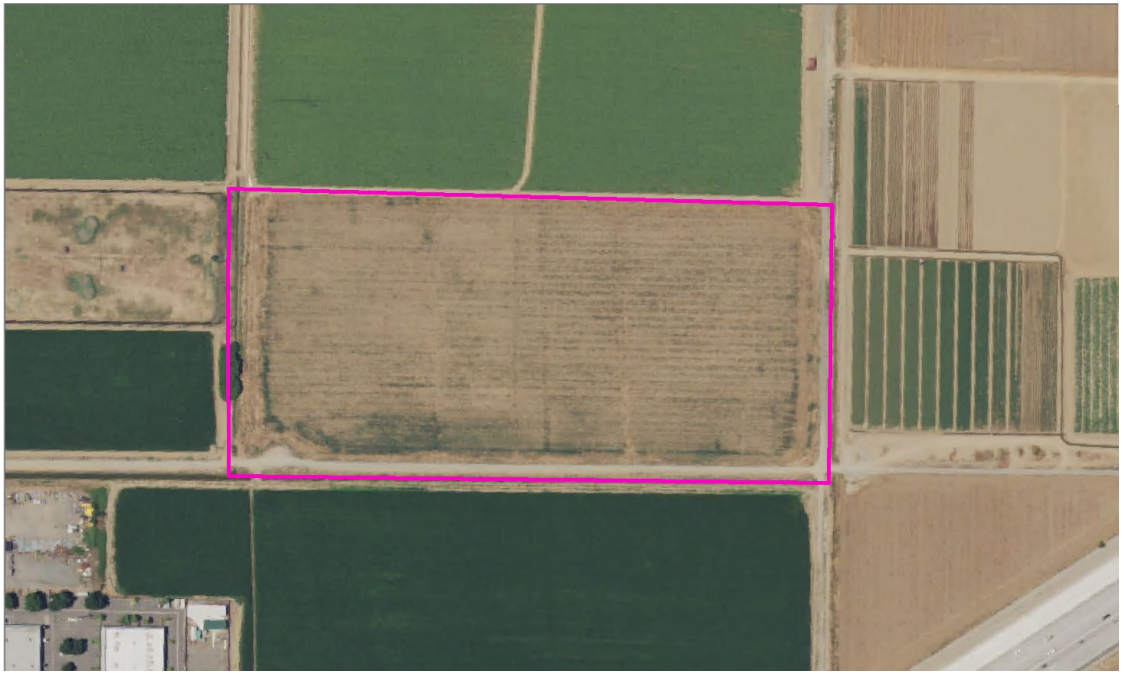


Internal Notes & Tracking

Irrigation Status

Irrigated agriculture

Irrigation Status



Irrigated agriculture
Fallow or non-irrigated grains noted (0 years)

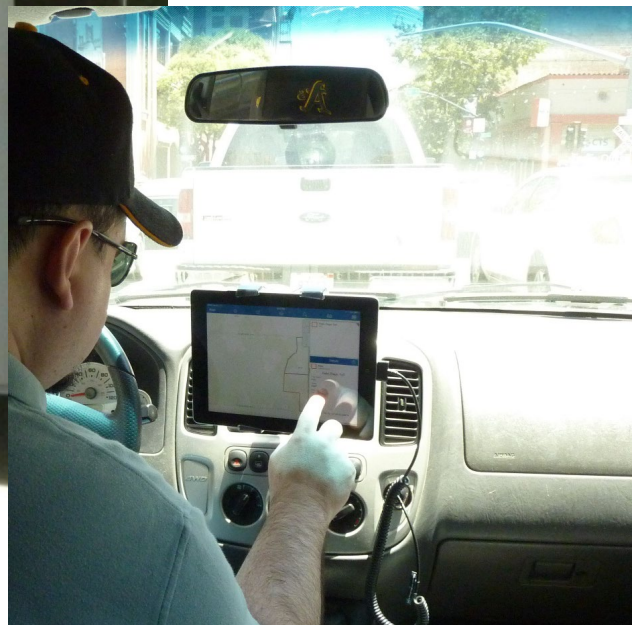
Irrigation Status

Irrigated agriculture
Fallow or non-irrigated grains noted (2 years)

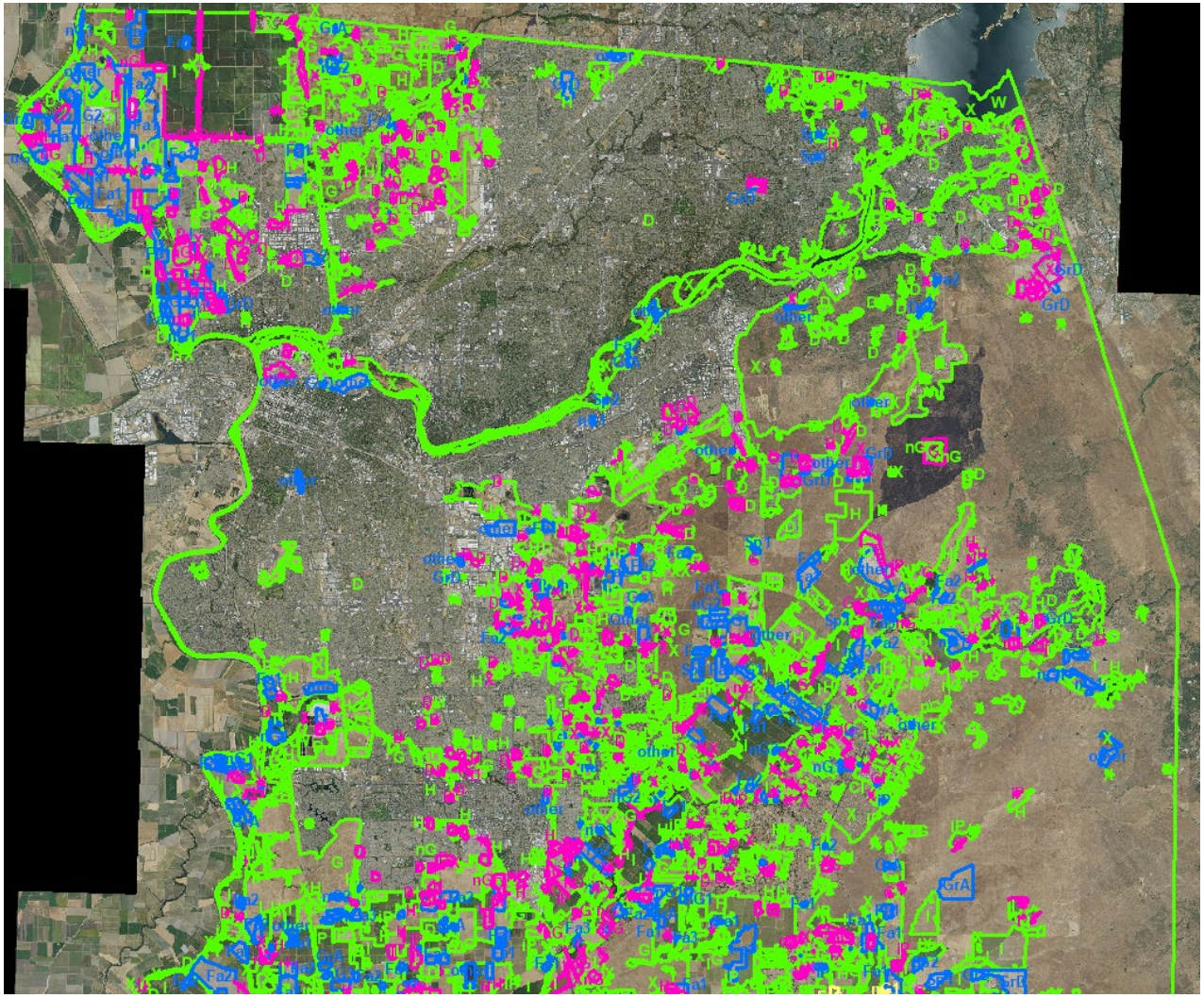
Irrigation Status

Land use changed from irrigated agriculture
Fallow or non-irrigated grains noted (4 years)

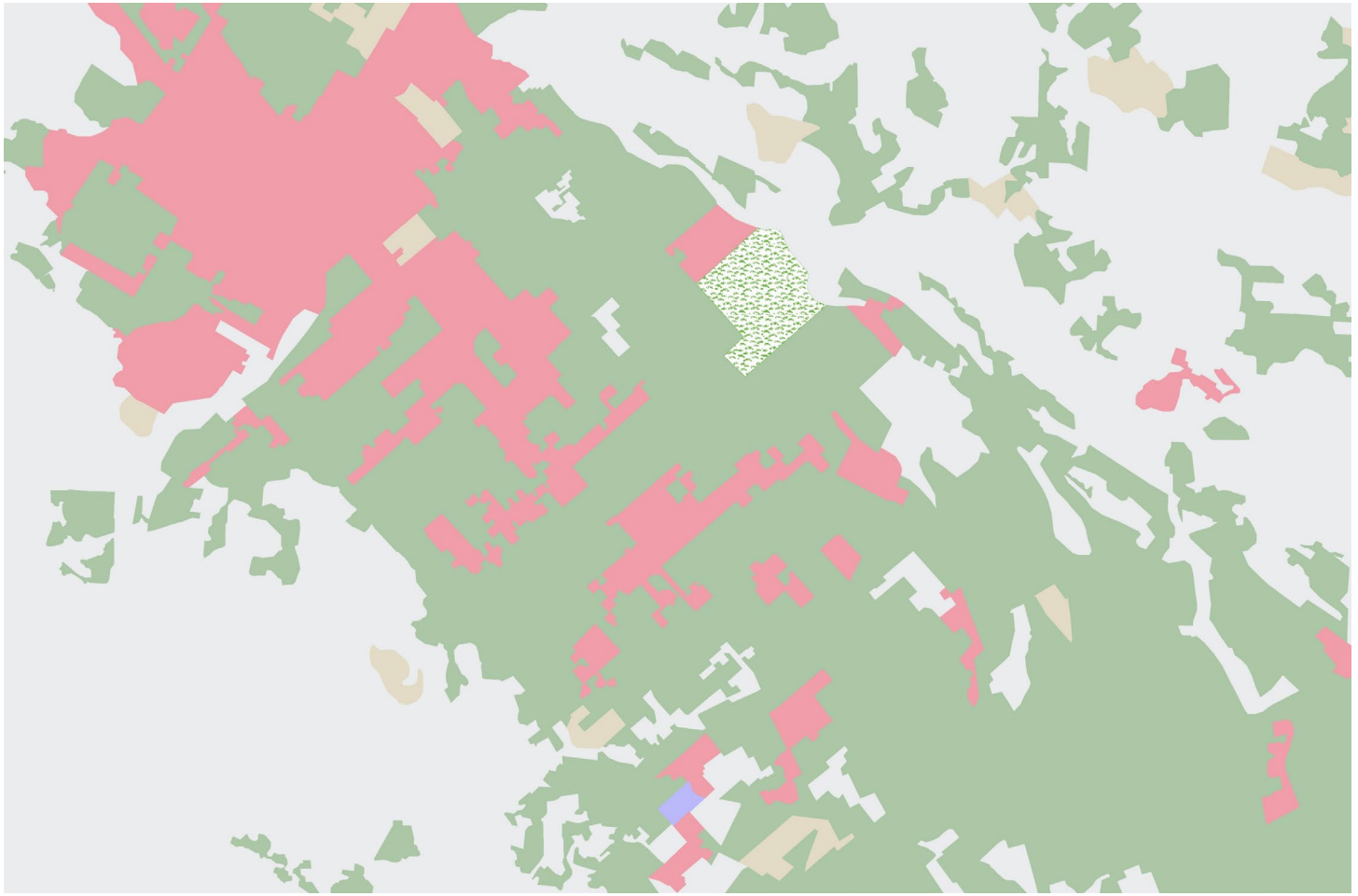
Field Work on iPads



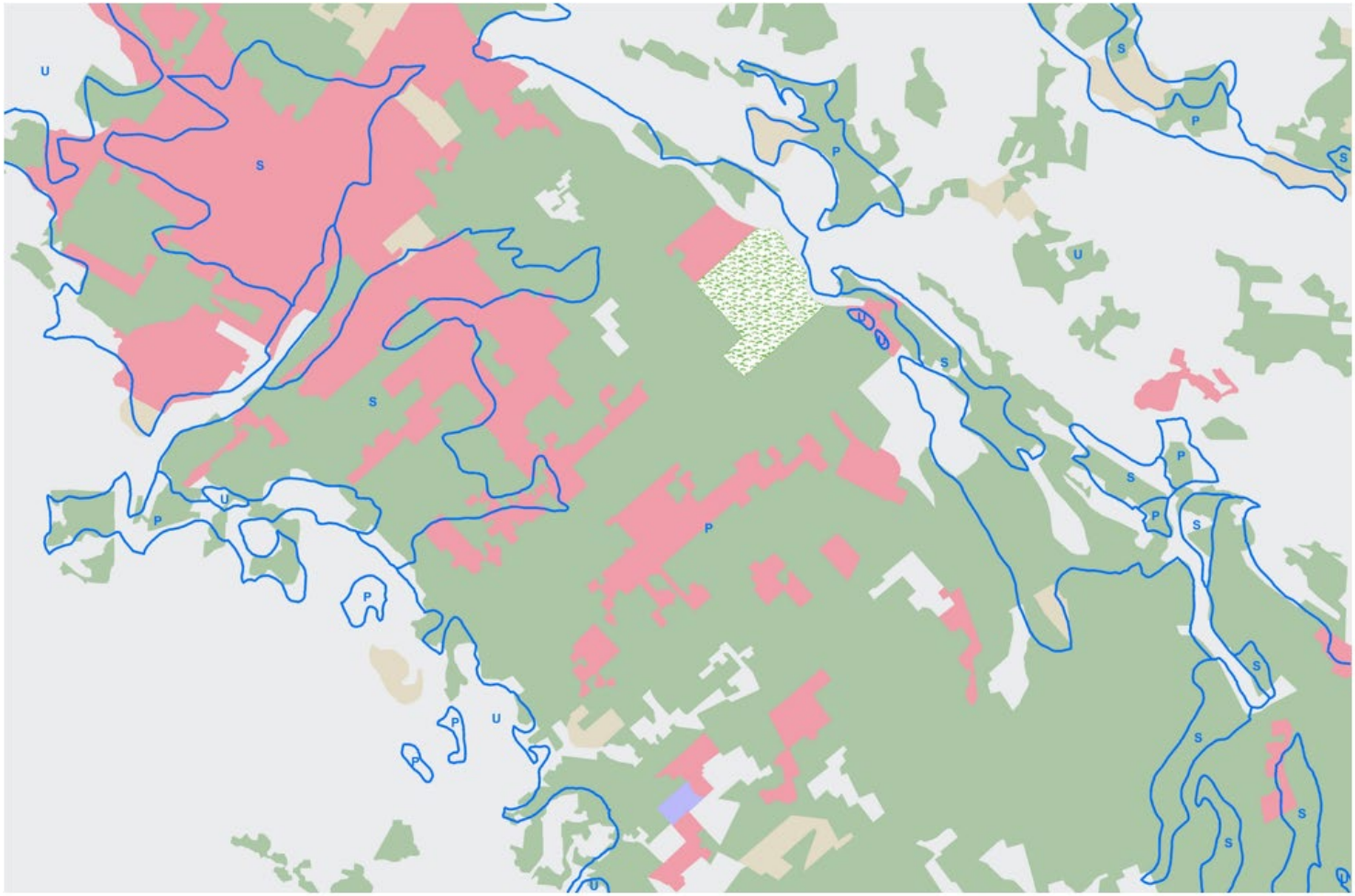
Managing the Project



Land Use Data



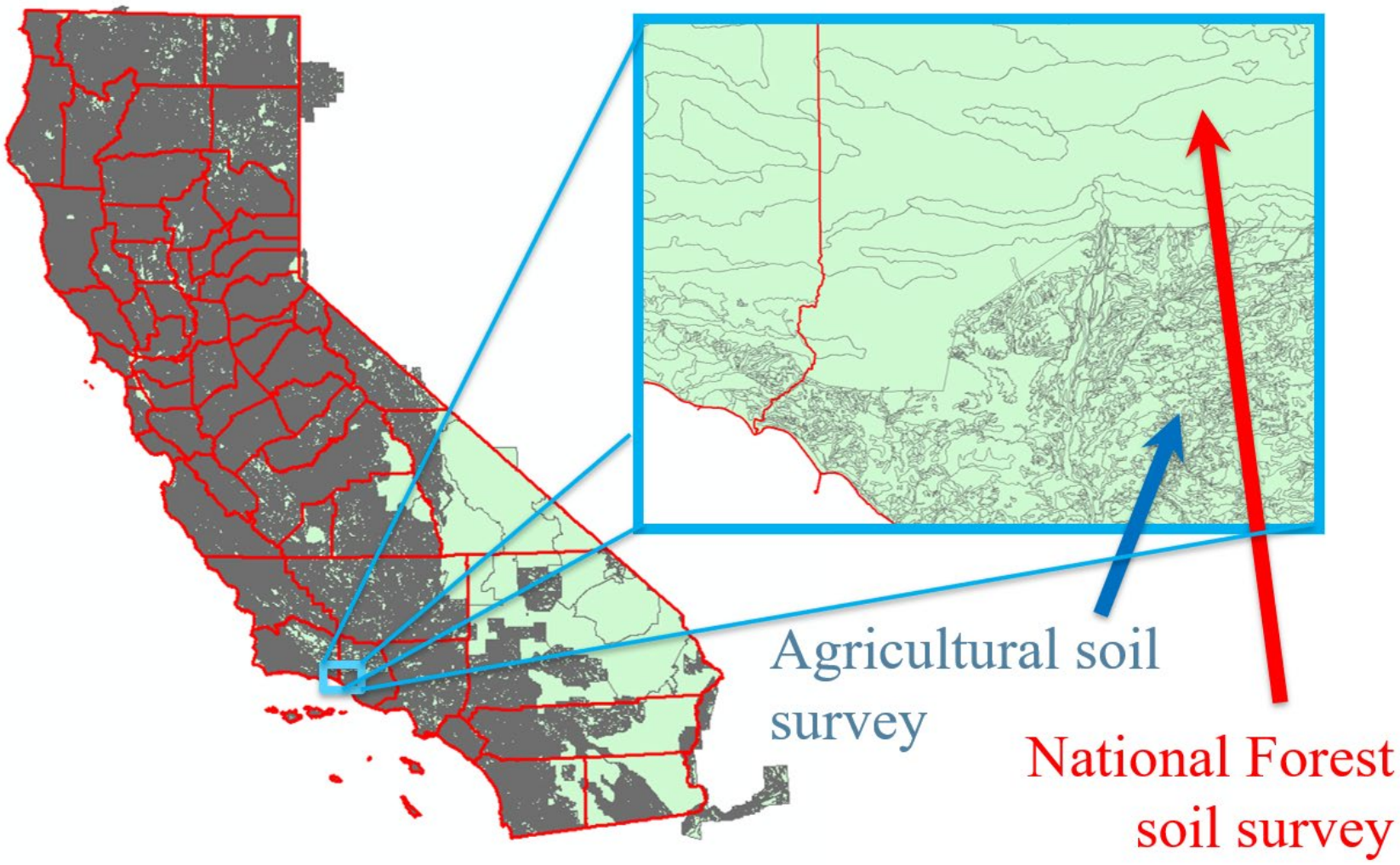
Land Use combined with the Soil Survey



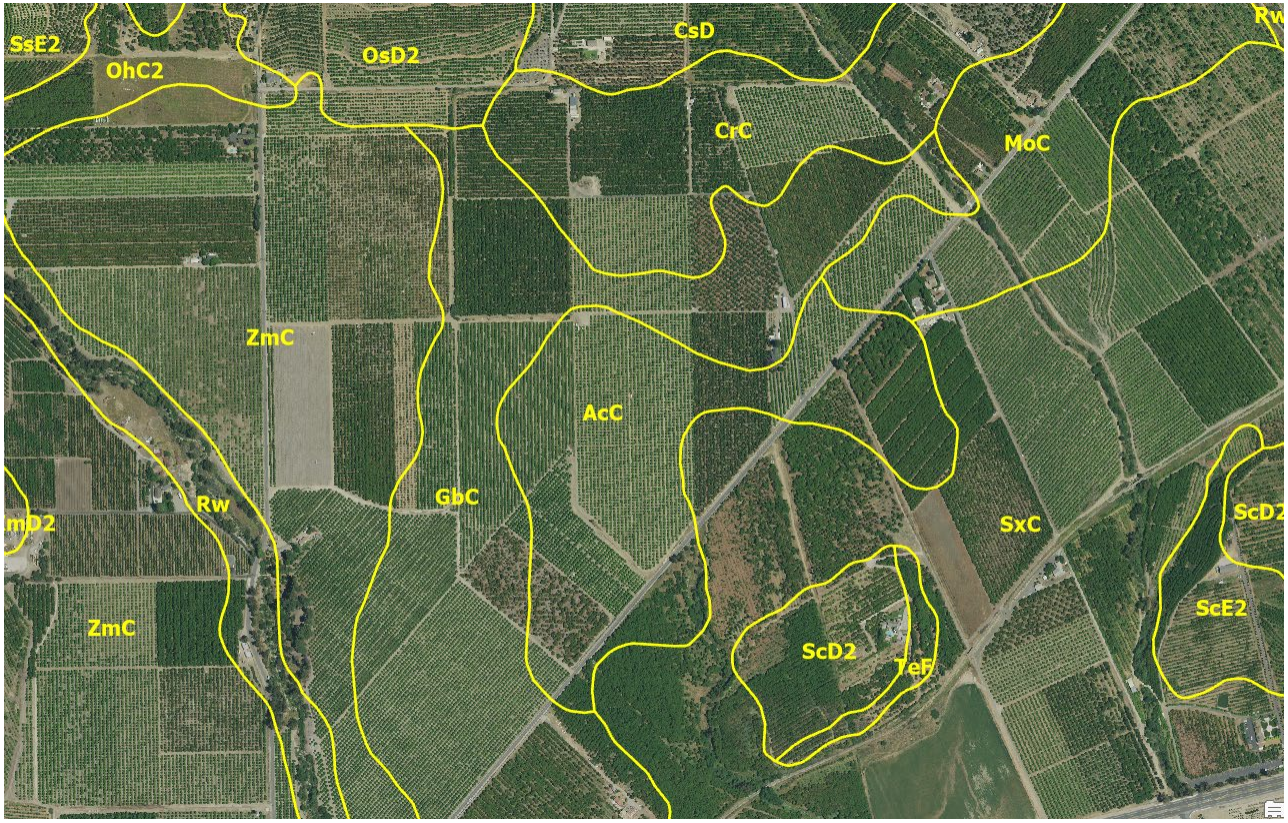
Soil Quality

Photo: M. Kisko

USDA-NRCS Soil Survey



NRCS soil units



USDA-NRCS determines which soils are Prime and Statewide Importance

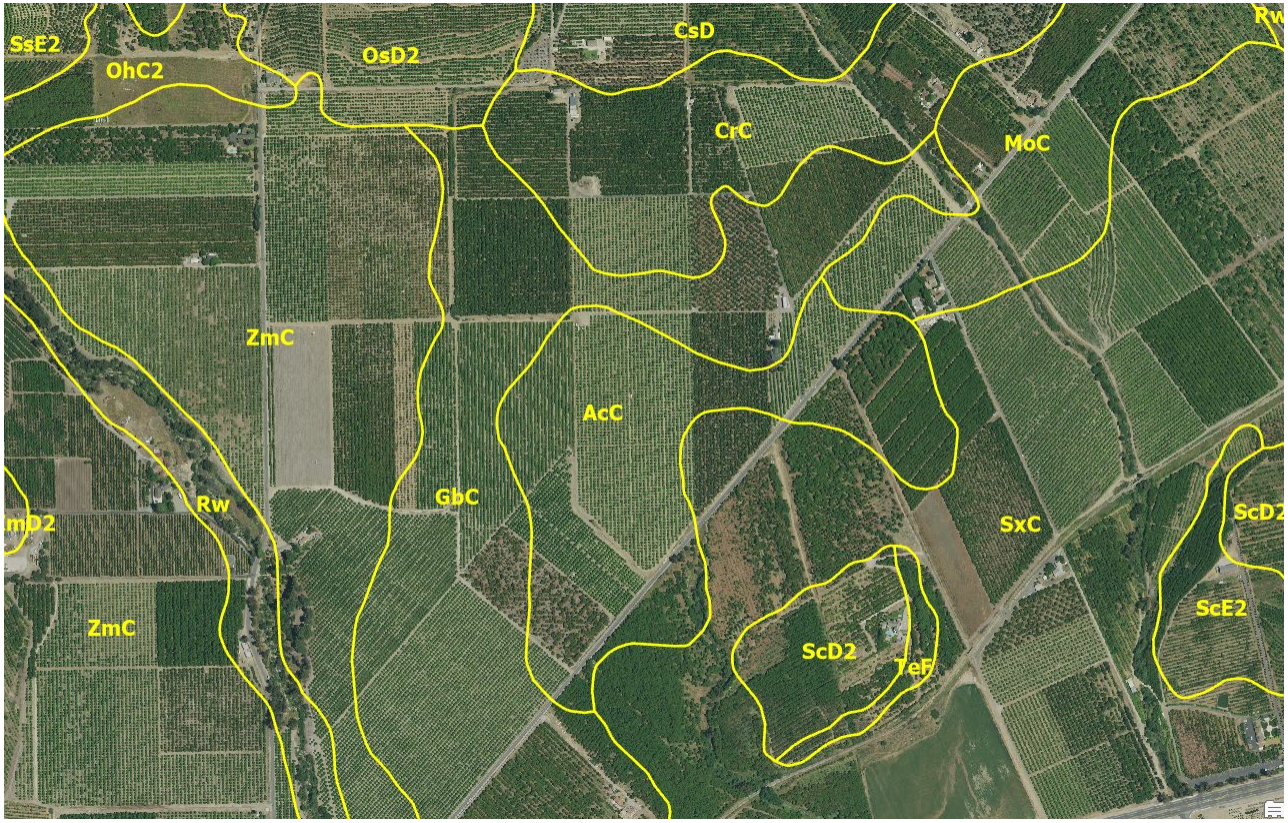
SACRAMENTO COUNTY
PRIME FARMLAND SOILS

THESE SOIL MAPPING UNITS MEET THE CRITERIA FOR PRIME FARMLAND AS OUTLINED IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S LAND INVENTORY AND MONITORING (LIM) PROJECT FOR THE *SACRAMENTO COUNTY* SOIL SURVEY.

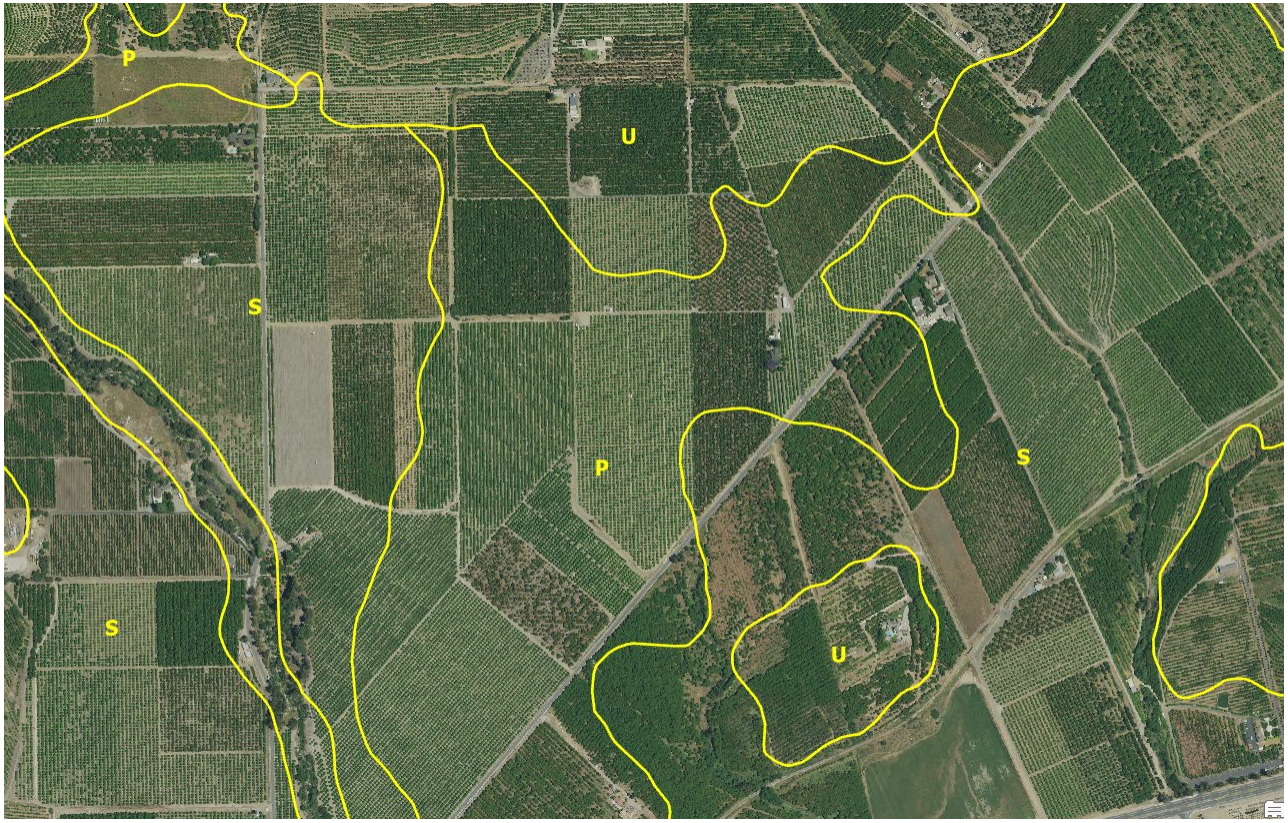
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

SYMBOL	NAME
111	Bruella sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
112	Bruella sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
113	Capay clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
114*	Clear Lake clay, partially drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded
115	Clear Lake clay, hardpan substratum, drained, 0 to 1 percent slopes
116	Columbia sandy loam, partially drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes
117	Columbia sandy loam, drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes
118	Columbia sandy loam, drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
119	Columbia sandy loam, clayey substratum, partially drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes
120	Columbia sandy loam, clayey substratum, drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes
121	Columbia sandy loam, clayey substratum, drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
122	Columbia fine sandy loam, partially drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes
123	Columbia silt loam, drained, 2 to 5 percent slopes
127	Cosumnes silt loam, partially drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes
128	Cosumnes silt loam, drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes
129	Cosumnes silt loam, drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
131	Coyotecreek silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
132	Creviscreek sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
135	Dierssen clay loam, deep, drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes

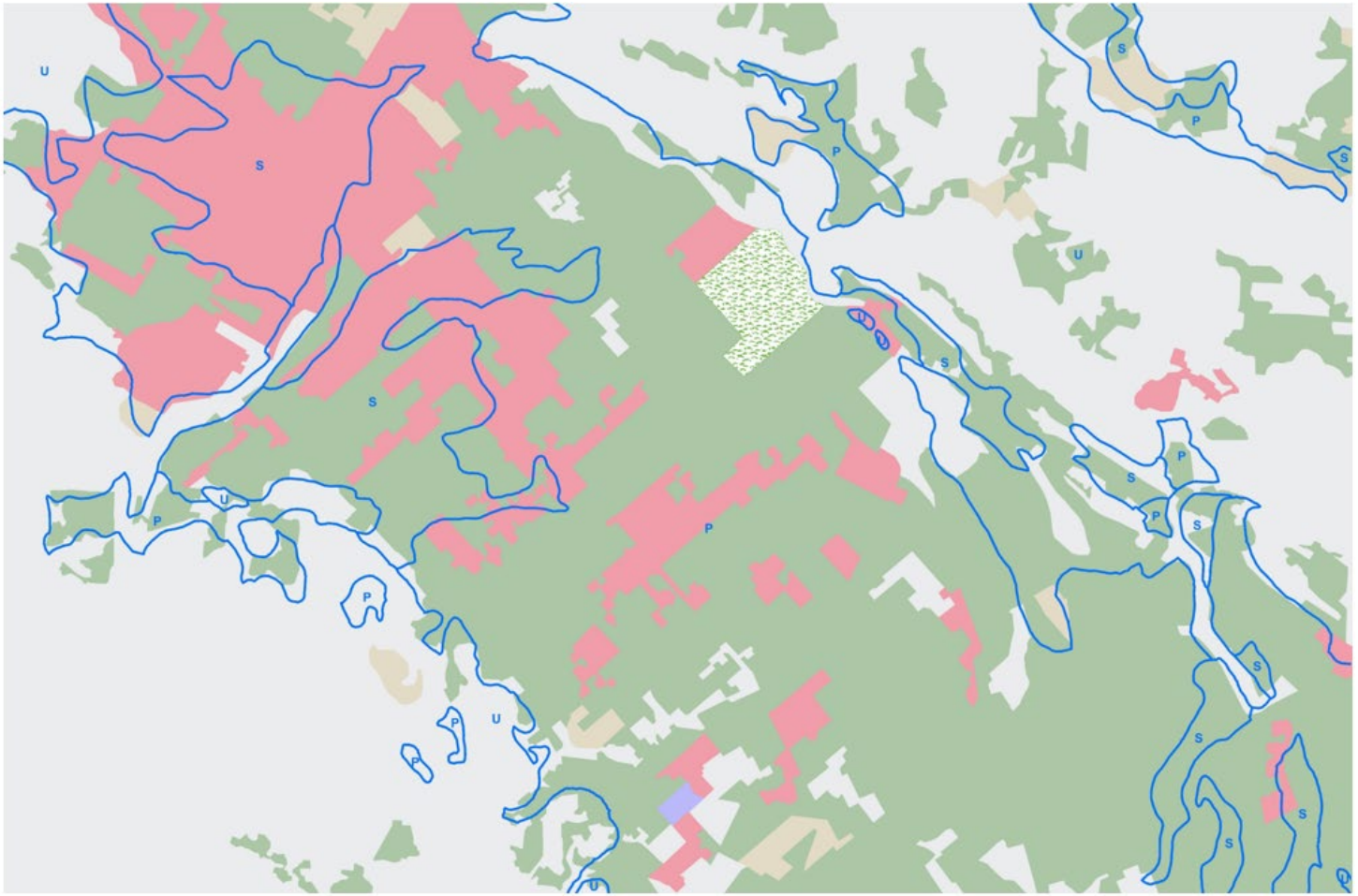
Soil Units Classified as Prime Soils or Soils of Statewide Importance



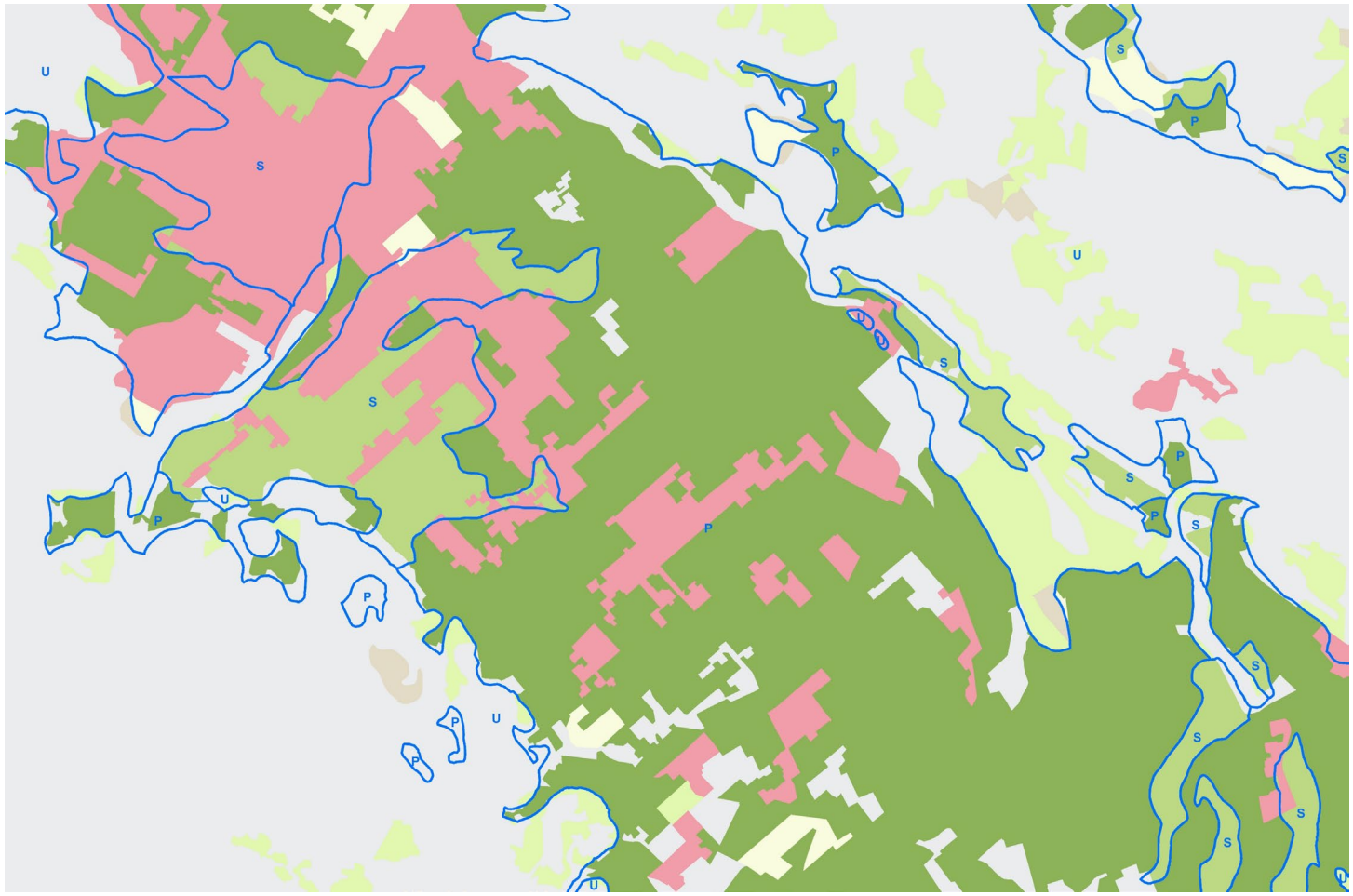
Soil Units Classified as Prime Soils or Soils of Statewide Importance



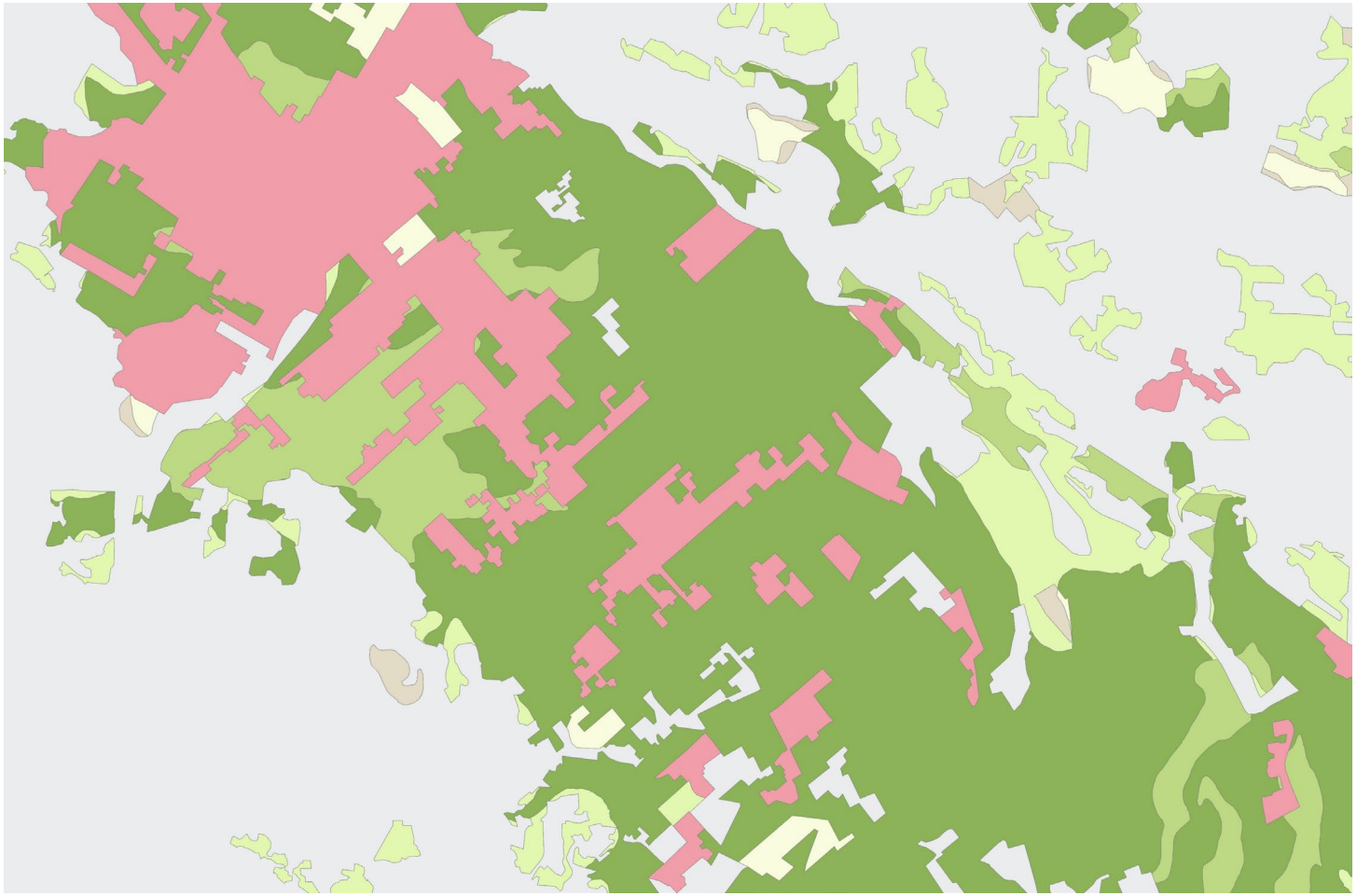
Land Use combined with the Soil Survey



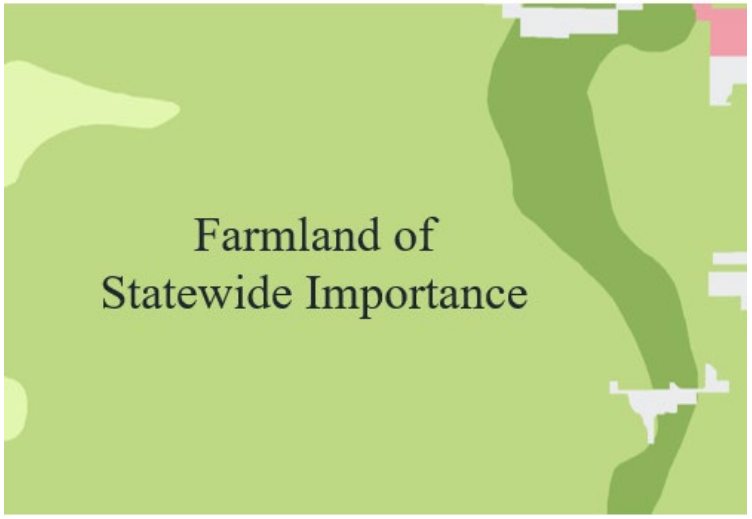
Agricultural Categories affected by Soils



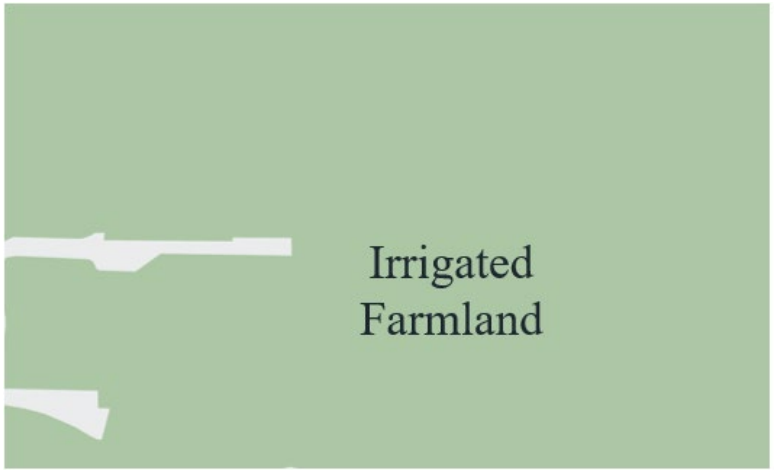
Important Farmland Data



Important Farmland Categories



Prime Farmland



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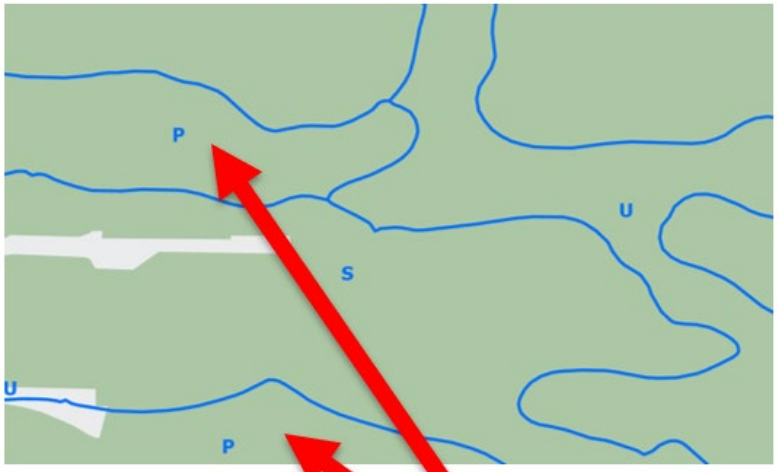
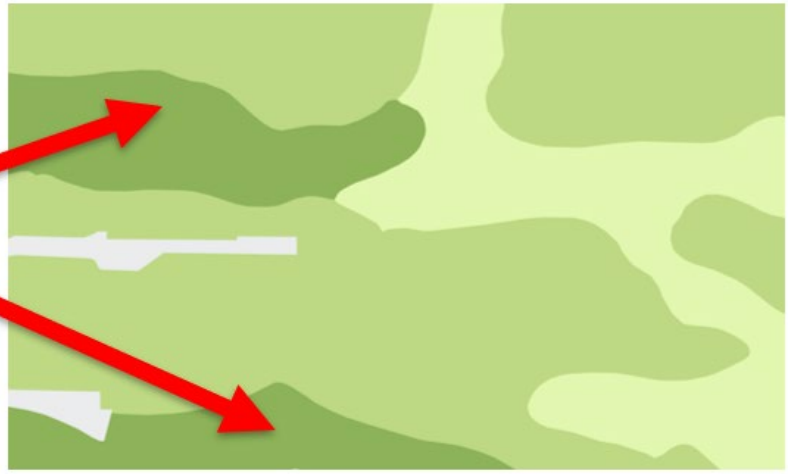


Prime
Soils

Prime
Farmland



Farmland of Statewide Importance

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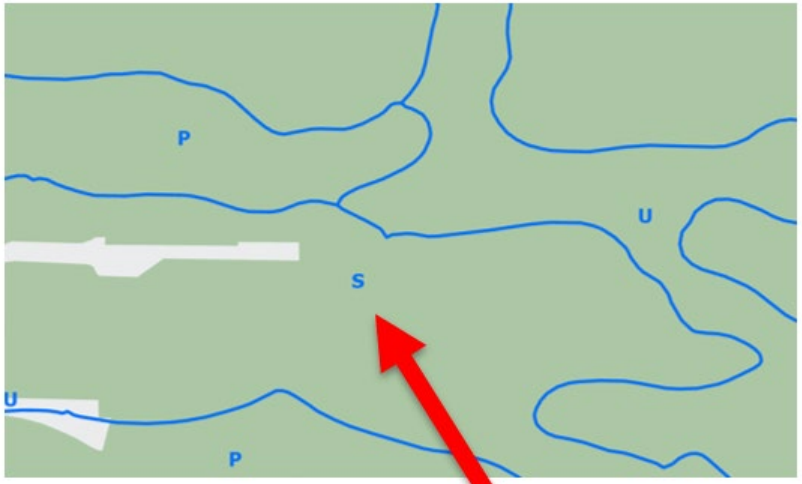
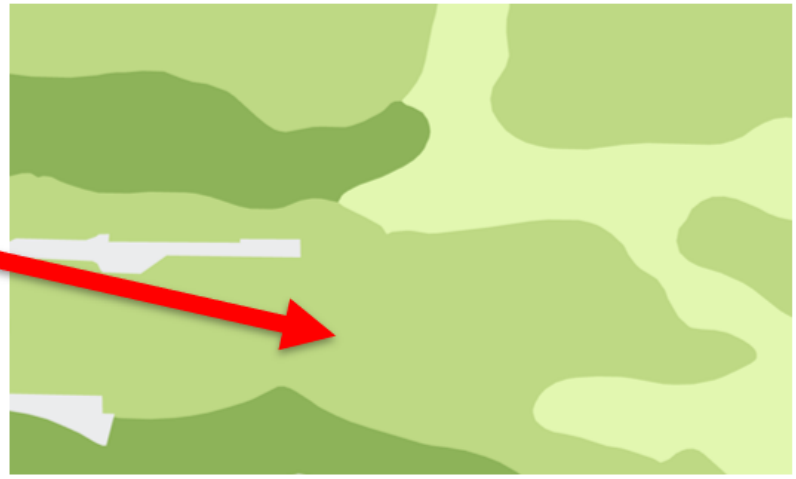
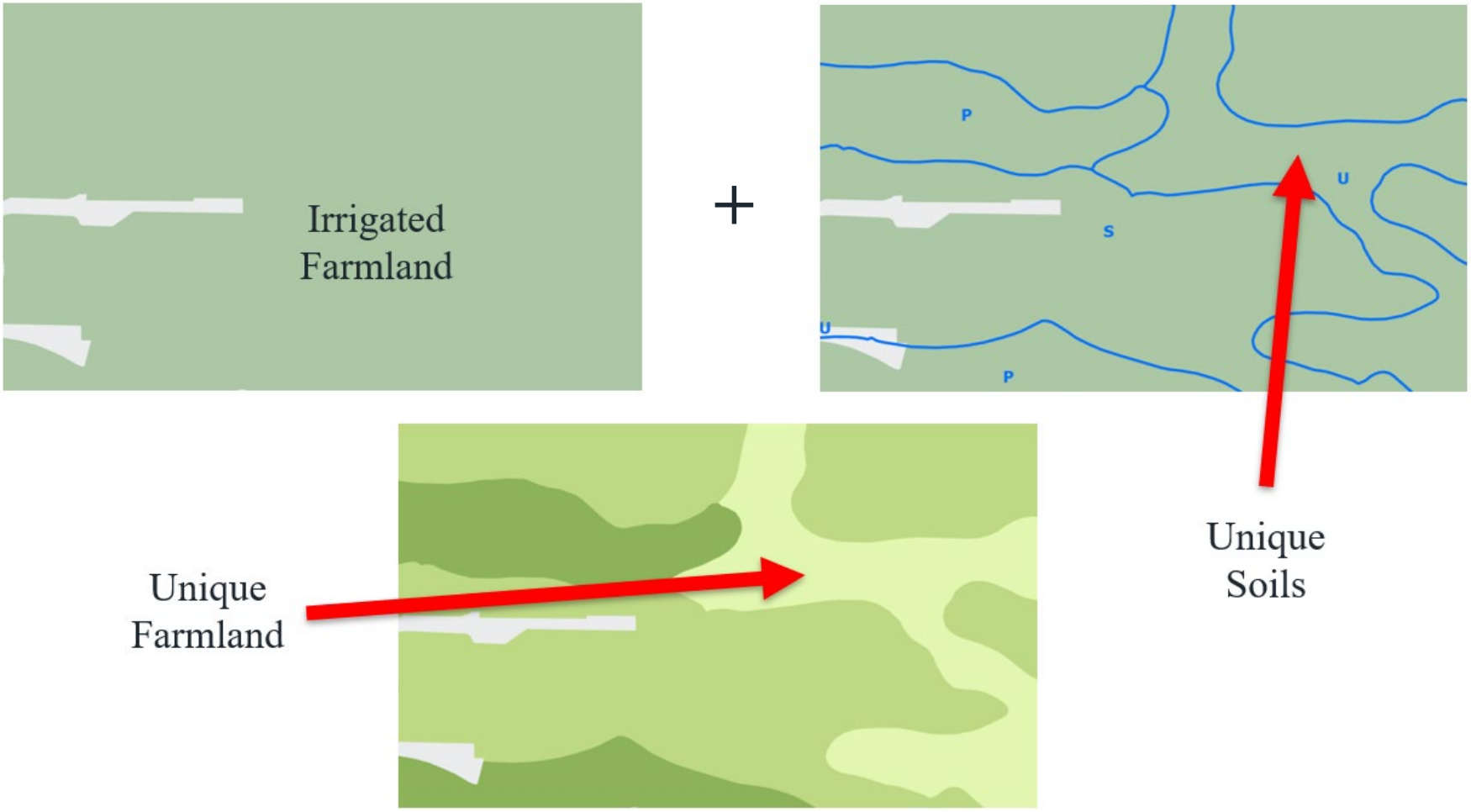


Soils of Statewide Importance

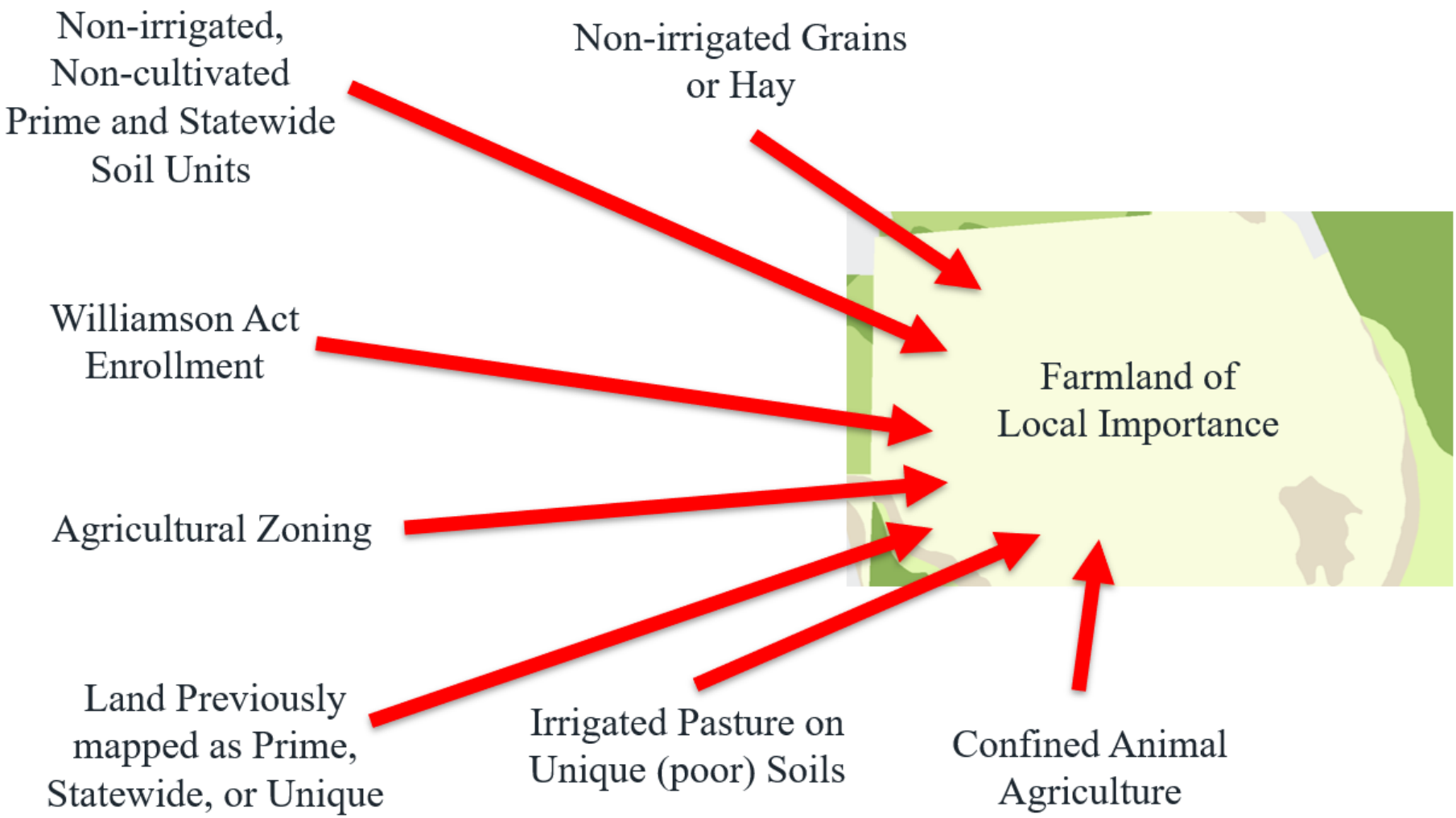
Farmland of Statewide Importance



Unique Farmland

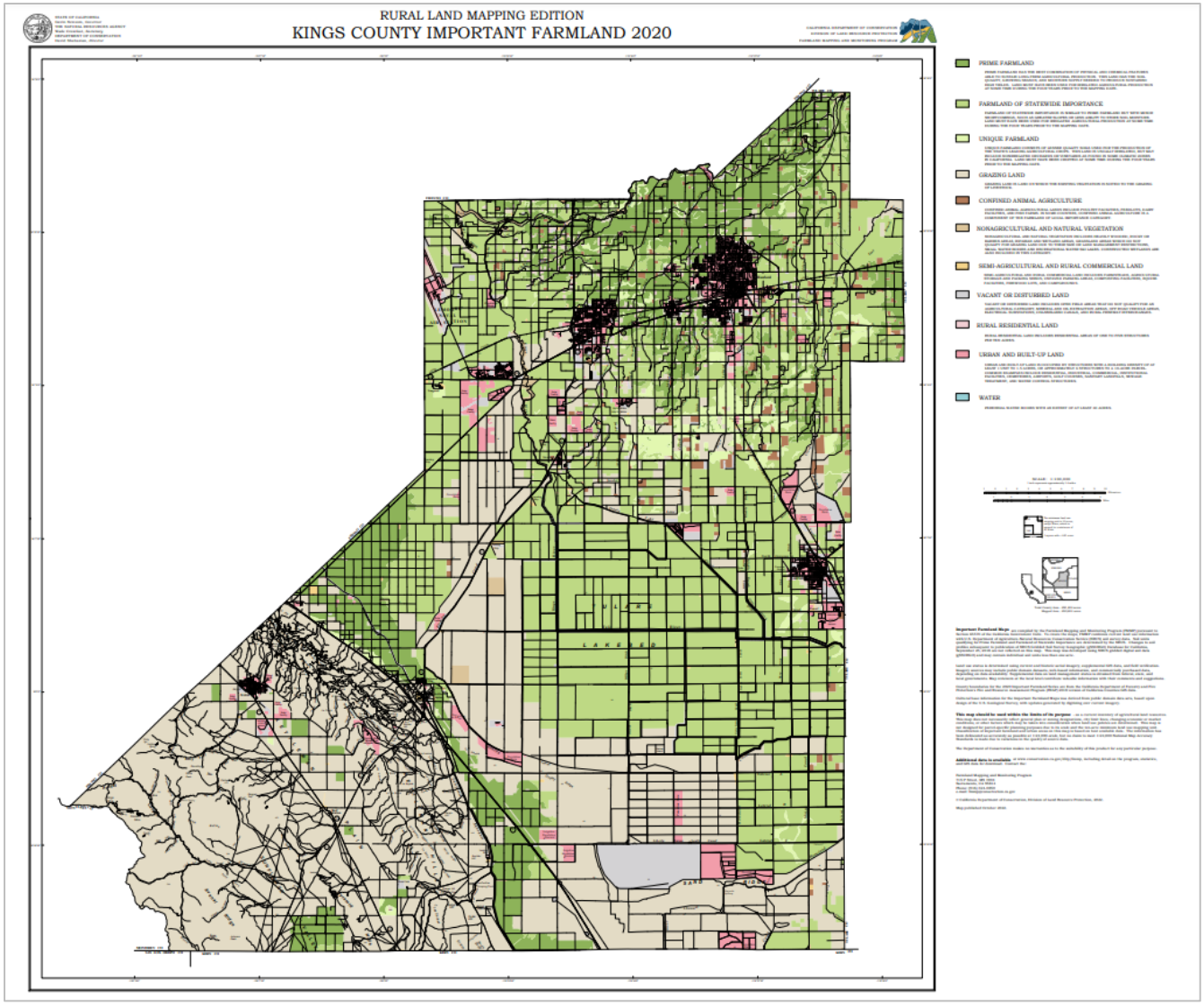


Farmland of Local Importance



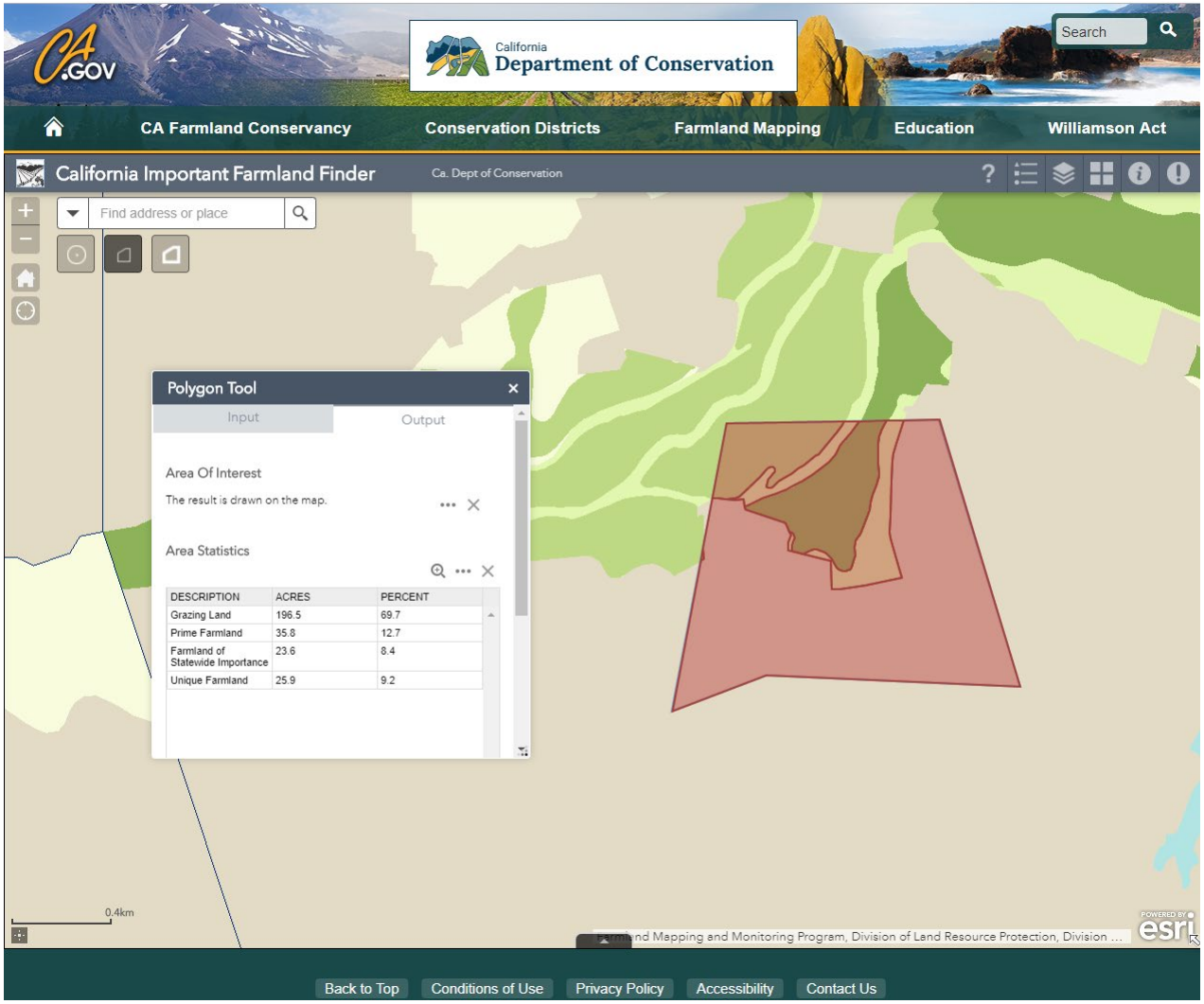
Additional Map Categories

Important Farmland Map



California Important Farmland Finder

https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/



Land Use Conversion Table

TABLE A-12
KINGS COUNTY
2018-2020 Land Use Conversion

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Division of Land Resource Protection

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

PART I
County Summary and Change by Land Use Category

LAND USE CATEGORY	TOTAL ACREAGE 2018	TOTAL ACREAGE 2020	2018-2020 ACRES LOST (-)	2018-2020 ACRES GAINED (+)	2018-2020 TOTAL ACREAGE CHANGED	2018-2020 NET ACREAGE CHANGED
Prime Farmland	107,913	109,698	2,623	4,408	7,031	1,785
Farmland of Statewide Importance	320,052	315,272	6,452	1,672	8,124	-4,780
Unique Farmland	20,531	20,272	274	15	289	-259
Farmland of Local Importance	10,534	10,514	64	44	108	-20
IMPORTANT FARMLAND SUBTOTAL	459,030	455,756	9,413	6,139	15,552	-3,274
Grazing Land	358,342	359,932	6,952	8,542	15,494	1,590
AGRICULTURAL LAND SUBTOTAL	817,372	815,688	16,365	14,681	31,046	-1,684
Urban and Built-up Land	39,428	40,930	125	1,627	1,752	1,502
Other Land	33,942	34,186	737	981	1,718	244
Water Area	62	0	62	0	62	-62
TOTAL AREA INVENTORIED	890,804	890,804	17,289	17,289	34,578	0

PART II
Land Committed to Nonagricultural Use

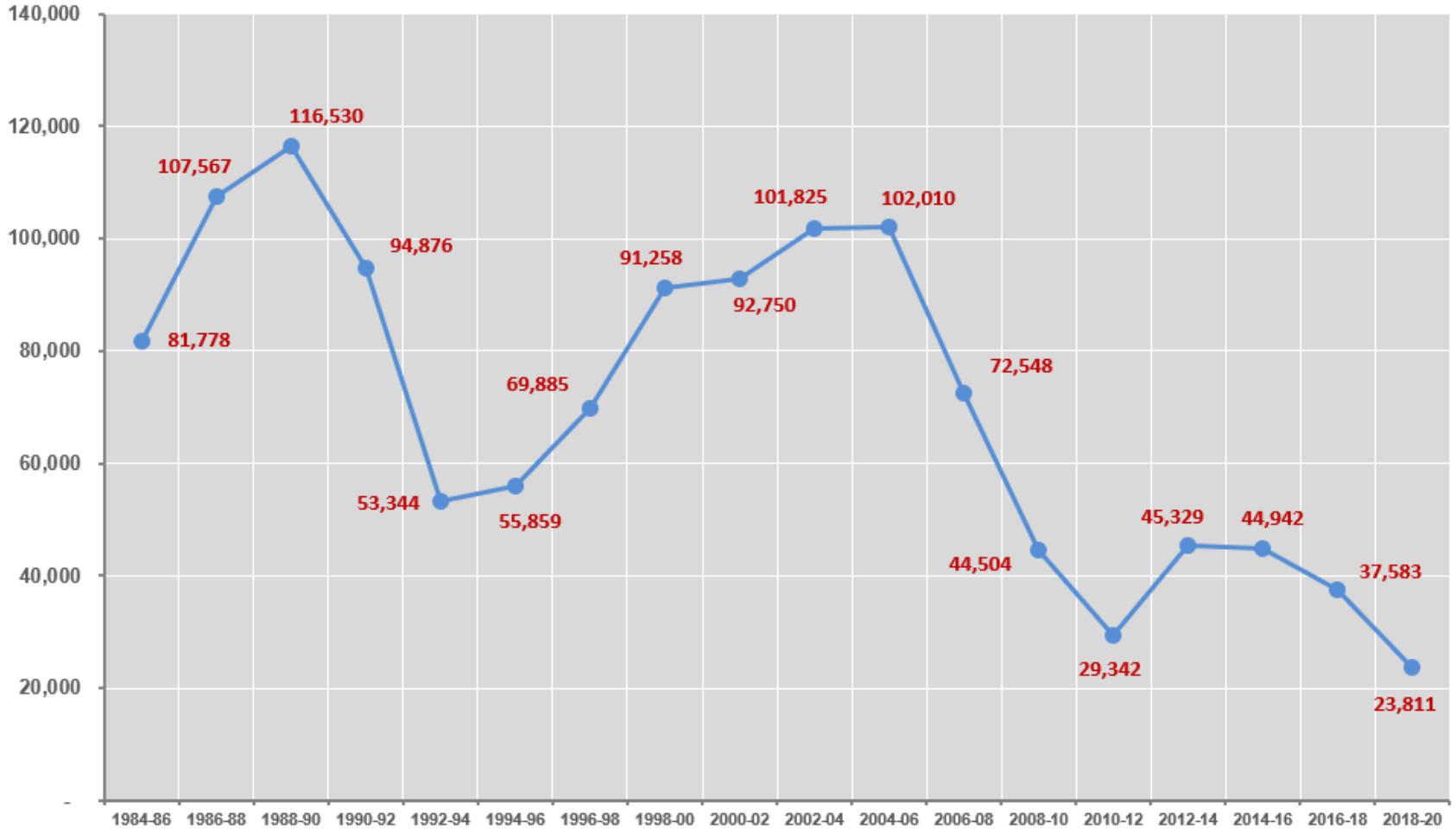
LAND USE CATEGORY	TOTAL ACREAGE 2020
Prime Farmland	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Farmland of Statewide Importance	
Unique Farmland	
Farmland of Local Importance	
IMPORTANT FARMLAND SUBTOTAL	
Grazing Land	
AGRICULTURAL LAND SUBTOTAL	
Urban and Built-up Land	
Other Land	
Water Area	
TOTAL ACREAGE REPORTED	

PART III Land Use Conversion from 2018 to 2020

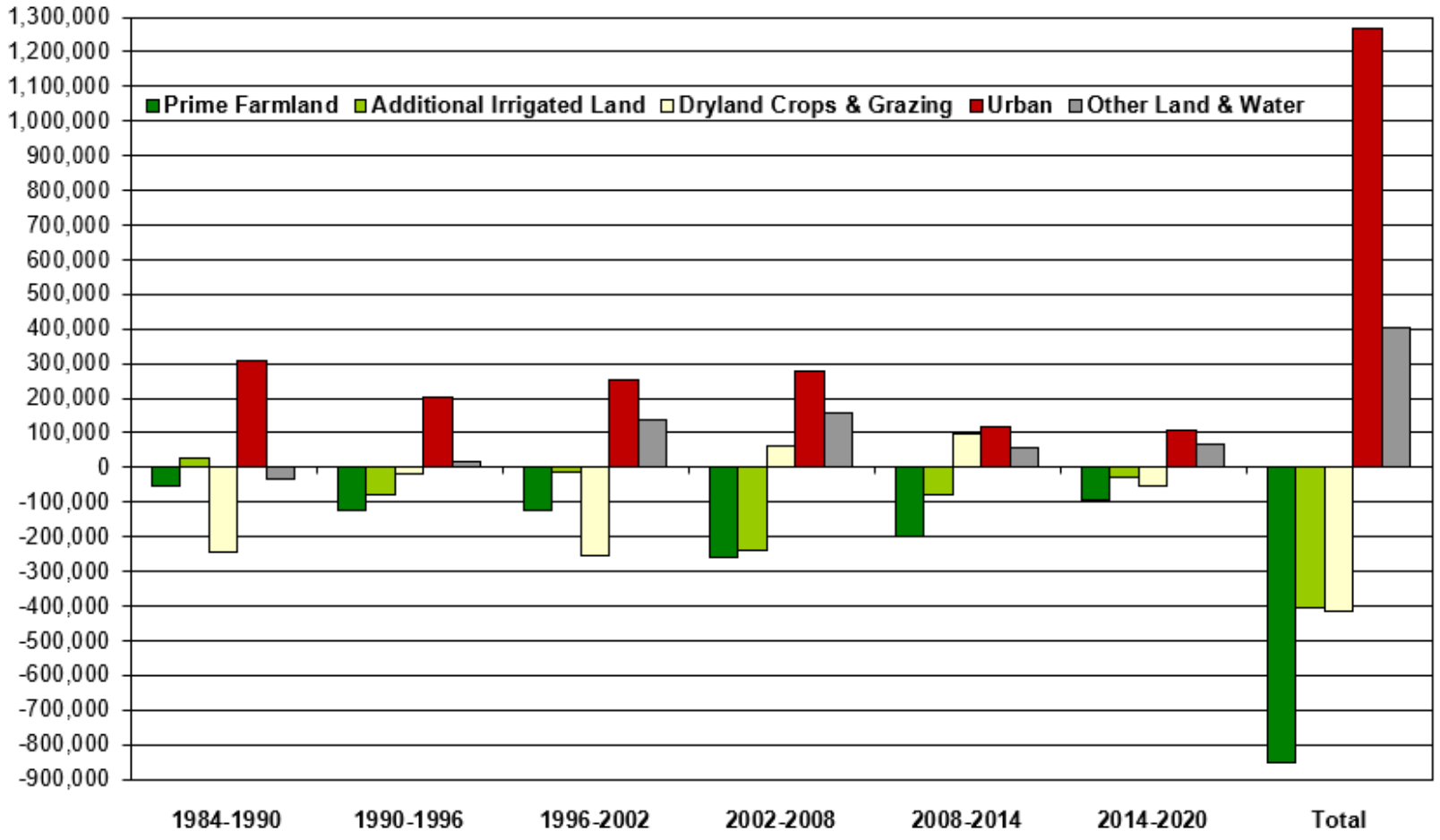
LAND USE CATEGORY		Prime Farmland	Farmland of Statewide Importance	Unique Farmland	Farmland of Local Importance	Subtotal Important Farmland	Grazing Land	Total Agricultural Land	Urban and Built-up Land	Other Land	Water Area	Total Converted To Another Use
Prime Farmland (1)	to:	--	0	0	7	7	2,319	2,326	133	164	0	2,623
Farmland of Statewide Importance	to:	0	--	0	25	25	5,564	5,589	333	530	0	6,452
Unique Farmland	to:	0	0	--	0	0	252	252	13	9	0	274
Farmland of Local Importance	to:	7	13	2	--	22	4	26	0	38	0	64
IMPORTANT FARMLAND SUBTOTAL		7	13	2	32	54	8,139	8,193	479	741	0	9,413
Grazing Land (2)	to:	4,291	1,624	12	12	5,939	--	5,939	875	138	0	6,952
AGRICULTURAL LAND SUBTOTAL		4,298	1,637	14	44	5,993	8,139	14,132	1,354	879	0	16,365
Urban and Built-up Land (3)	to:	11	0	0	0	11	12	23	--	102	0	125
Other Land	to:	99	35	1	0	135	329	464	273	--	0	737
Water Area (4)	to:	0	0	0	0	0	62	62	0	0	--	62
TOTAL ACREAGE CONVERTED	to:	4,408	1,672	15	44	6,139	8,542	14,681	1,627	981	0	17,289

(1) Conversion to Grazing Land is primarily due to land left idle or land used for dryland grain production for three or more update cycles.
(2) Conversion to irrigated farmland is primarily due to the addition of irrigated orchards, row crops and field crops.
(3) Conversion from Urban and Built-up Land is primarily the result of a defunct golf course, land lacking sufficient infrastructure, and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.
(4) Conversion from Water due to a water body northeast of Lemoore Naval Air Station that had been dry for multiple updates.

Net Urban Acreage Change 1984-2020



Net Acreage Change 1984-2020



Total irrigated farmland loss – 1,222,166 acres
Prime Farmland loss – 850,488 acres - 70% of total

#1 Urbanizing Region

1984-2014
Southern California

2014-2016
San Joaquin Valley

2016-2018
Southern California

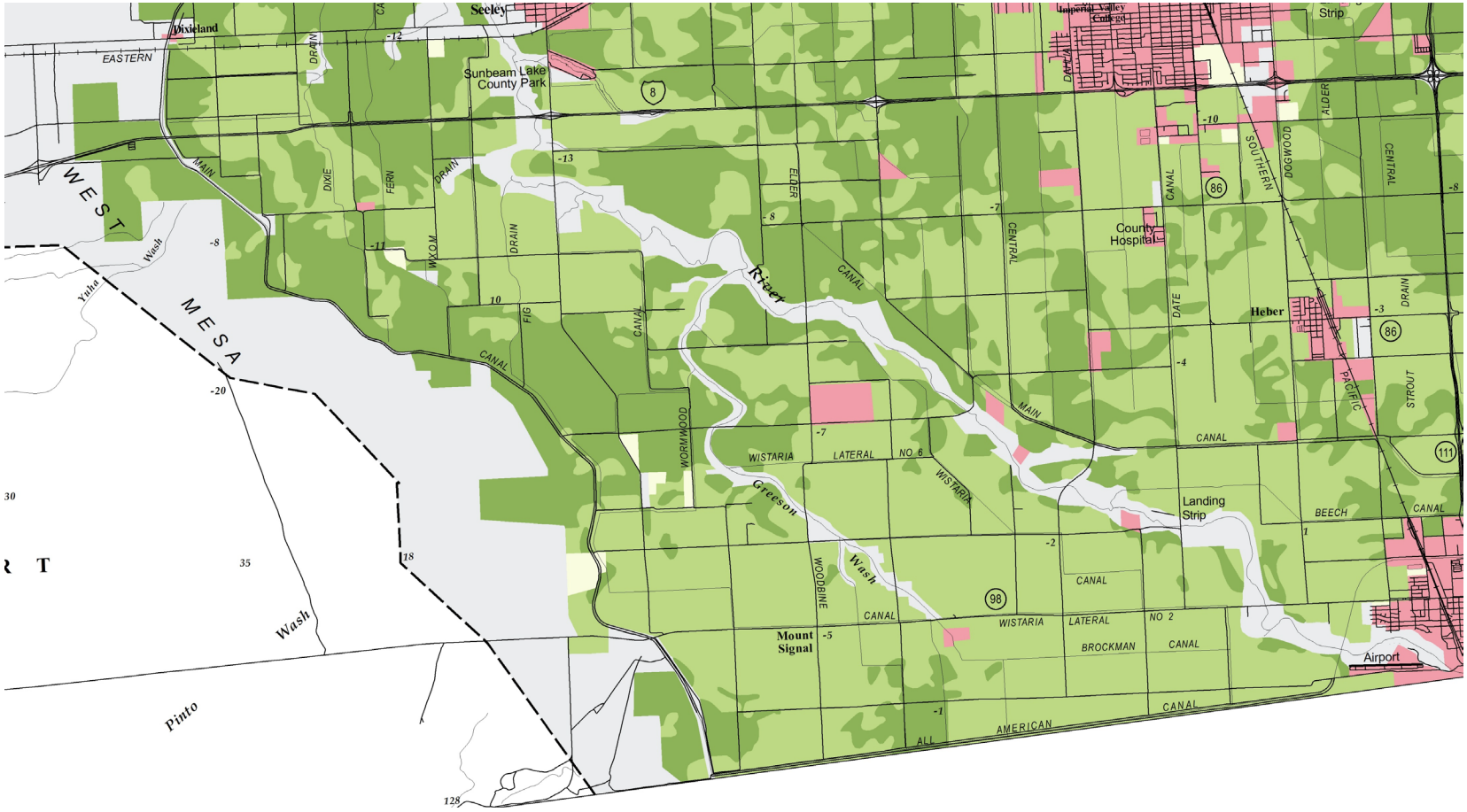
2018-2020
Southern California

2018-2020 Urbanization Totals	Southern California	12,726 acres
	San Joaquin Valley	12,279 acres

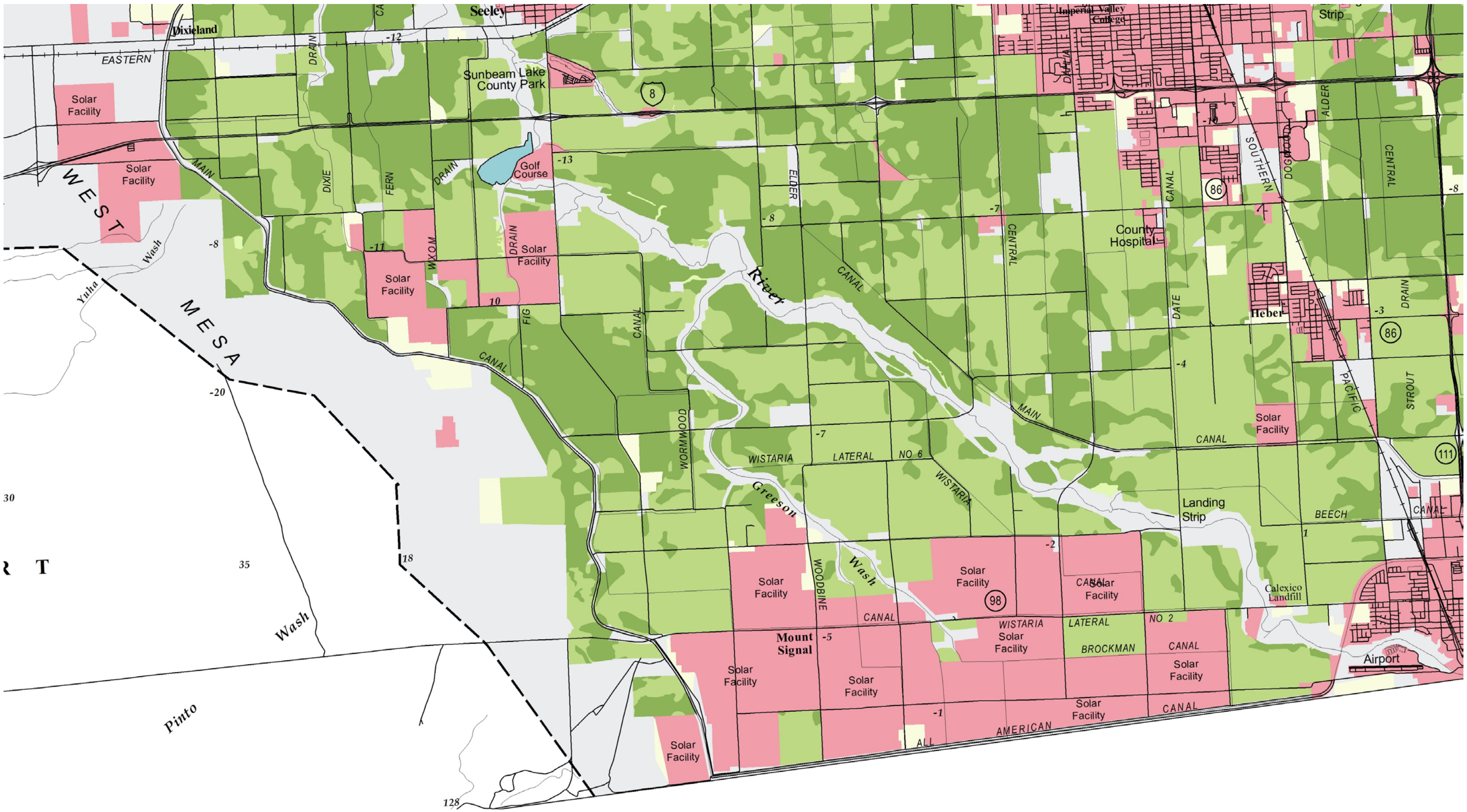
New Urban Due to Solar (within FMMP survey area)

- 2012-2014 19,809 acres
- 2014-2016 19,744 acres
- 2016-2018 17,192 acres
- 2018-2020 10,499 acres

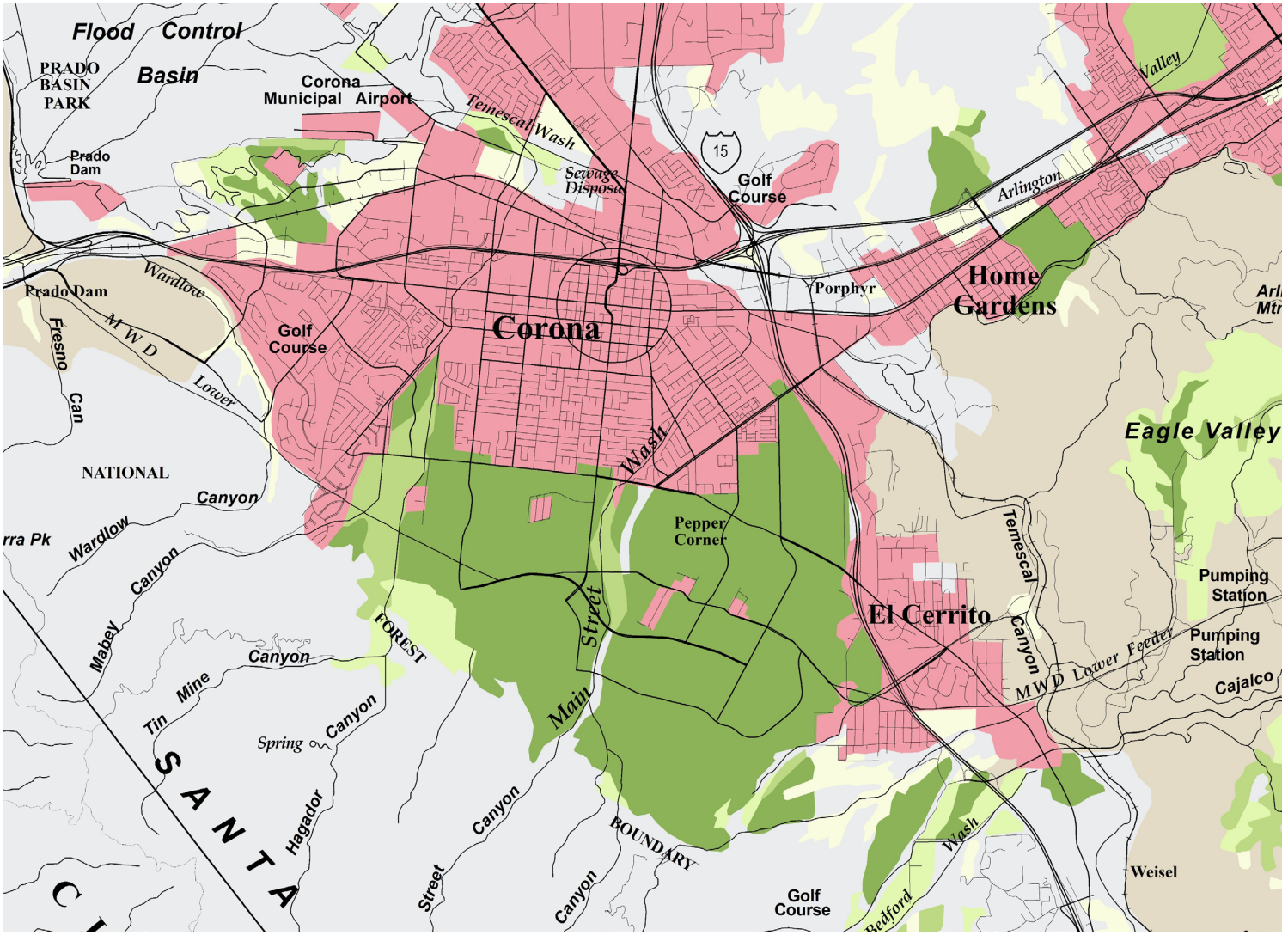
Solar, Imperial County
1984



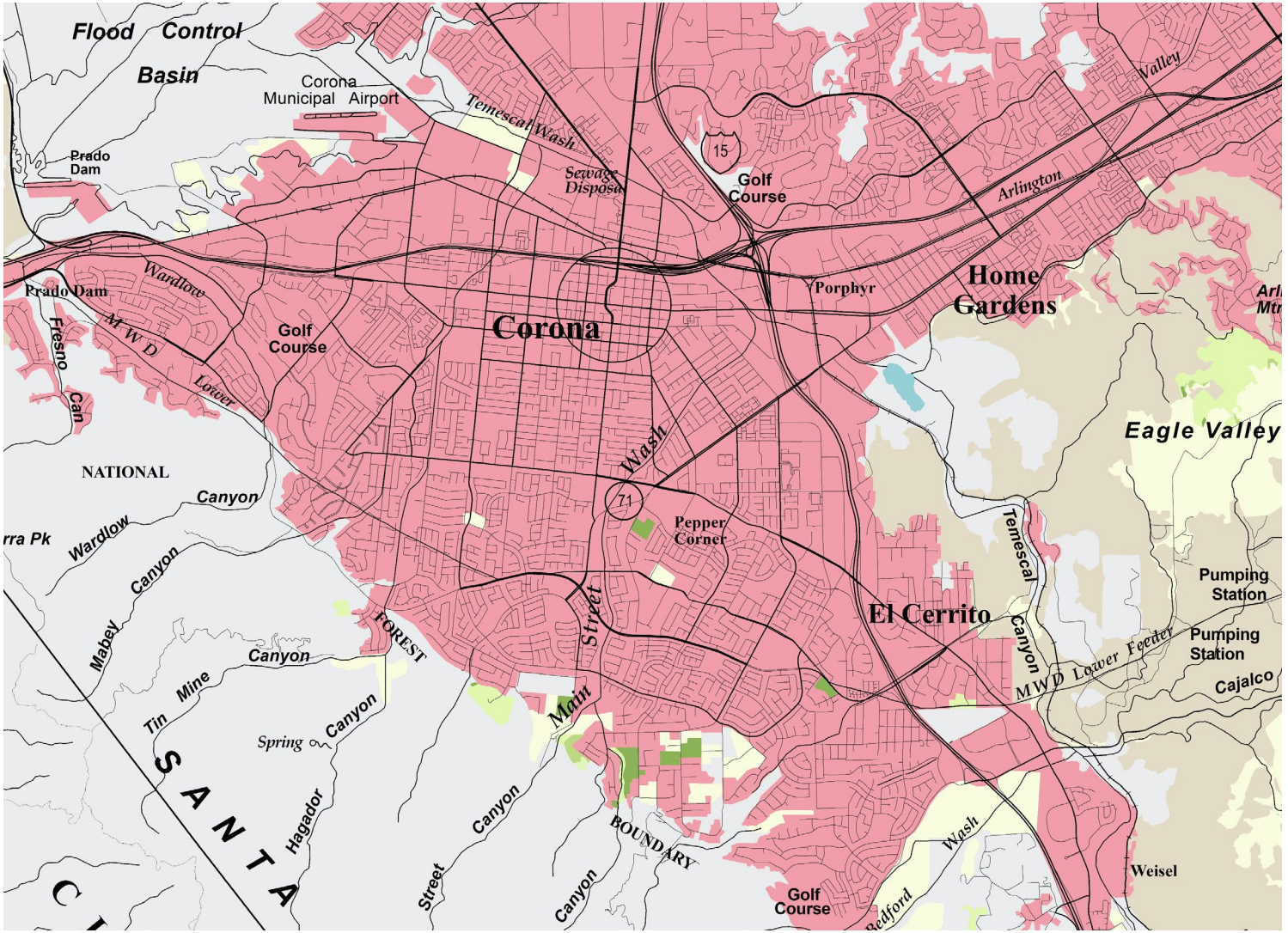
Solar, Imperial County 2020



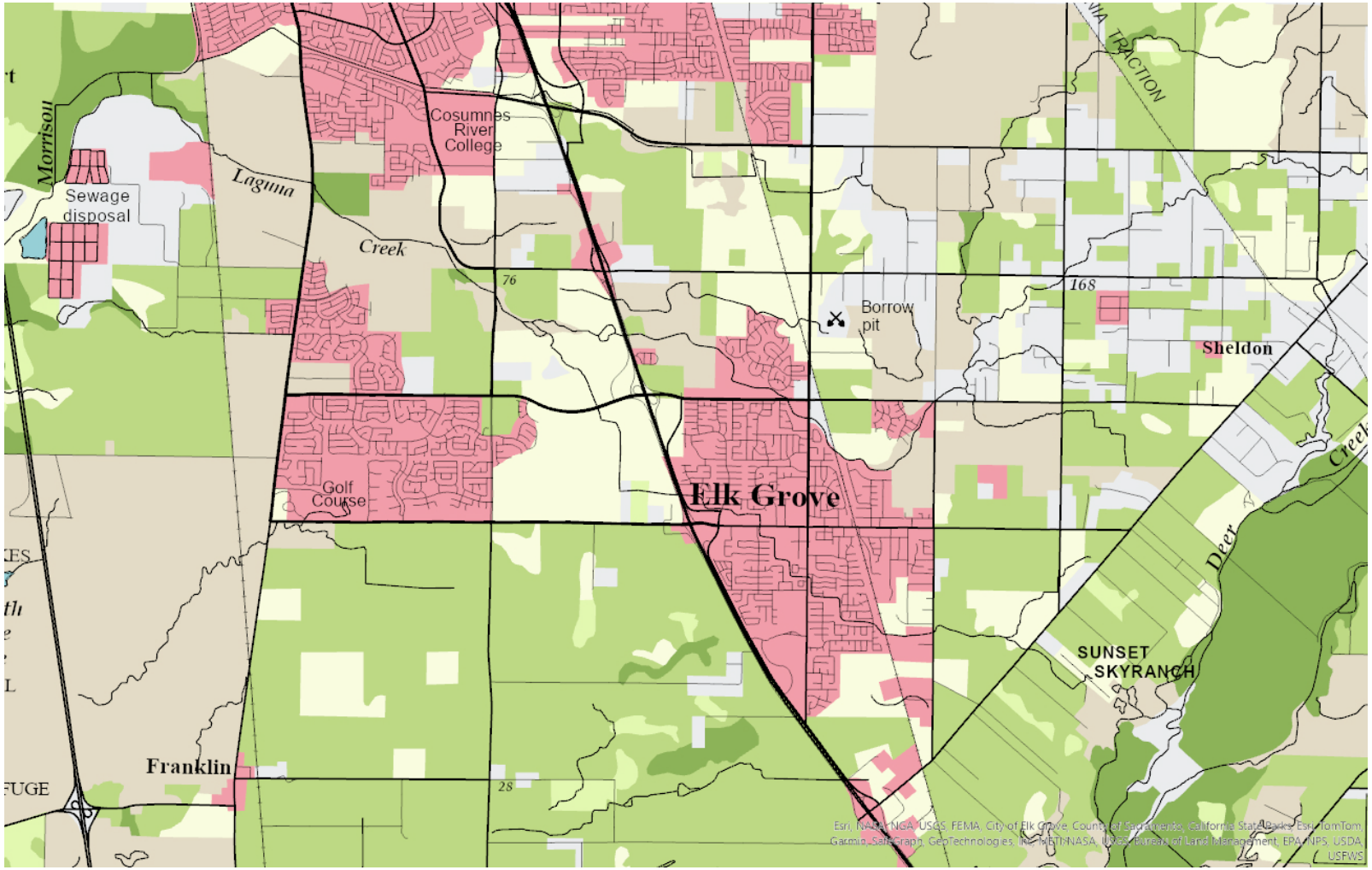
Corona, Riverside County
1984



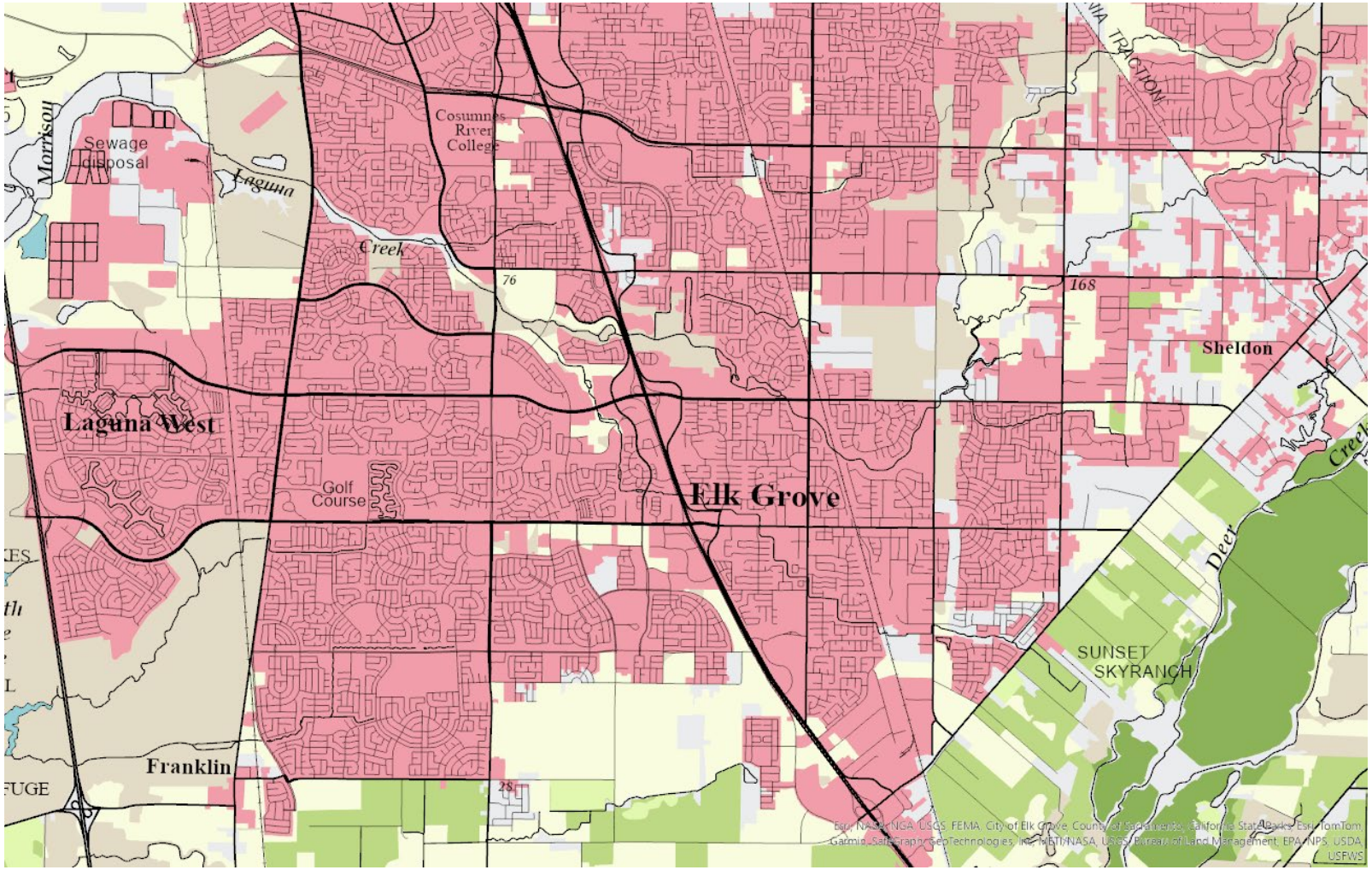
Corona, Riverside County 2018



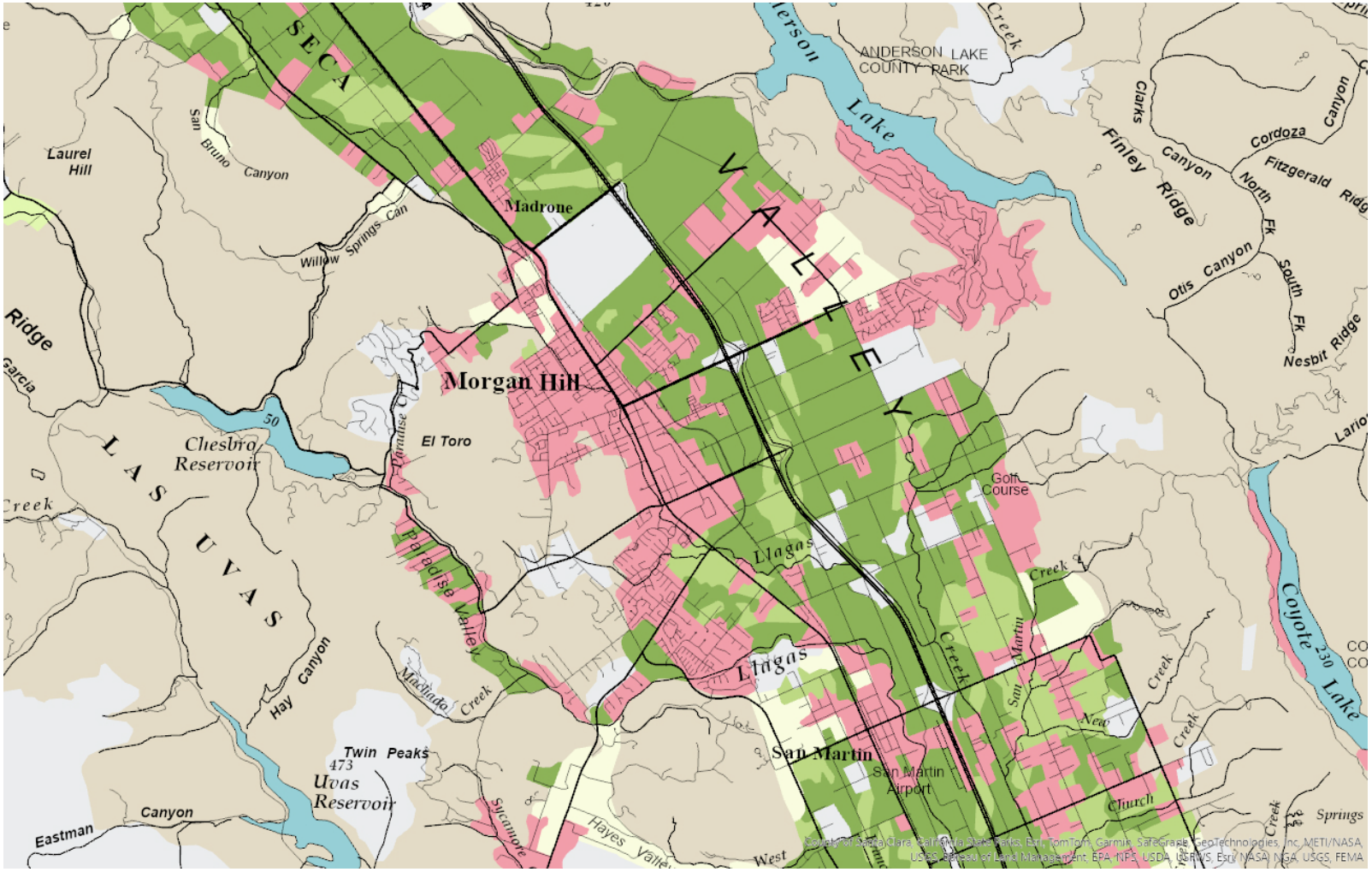
Elk Grove, Sacramento County 1988



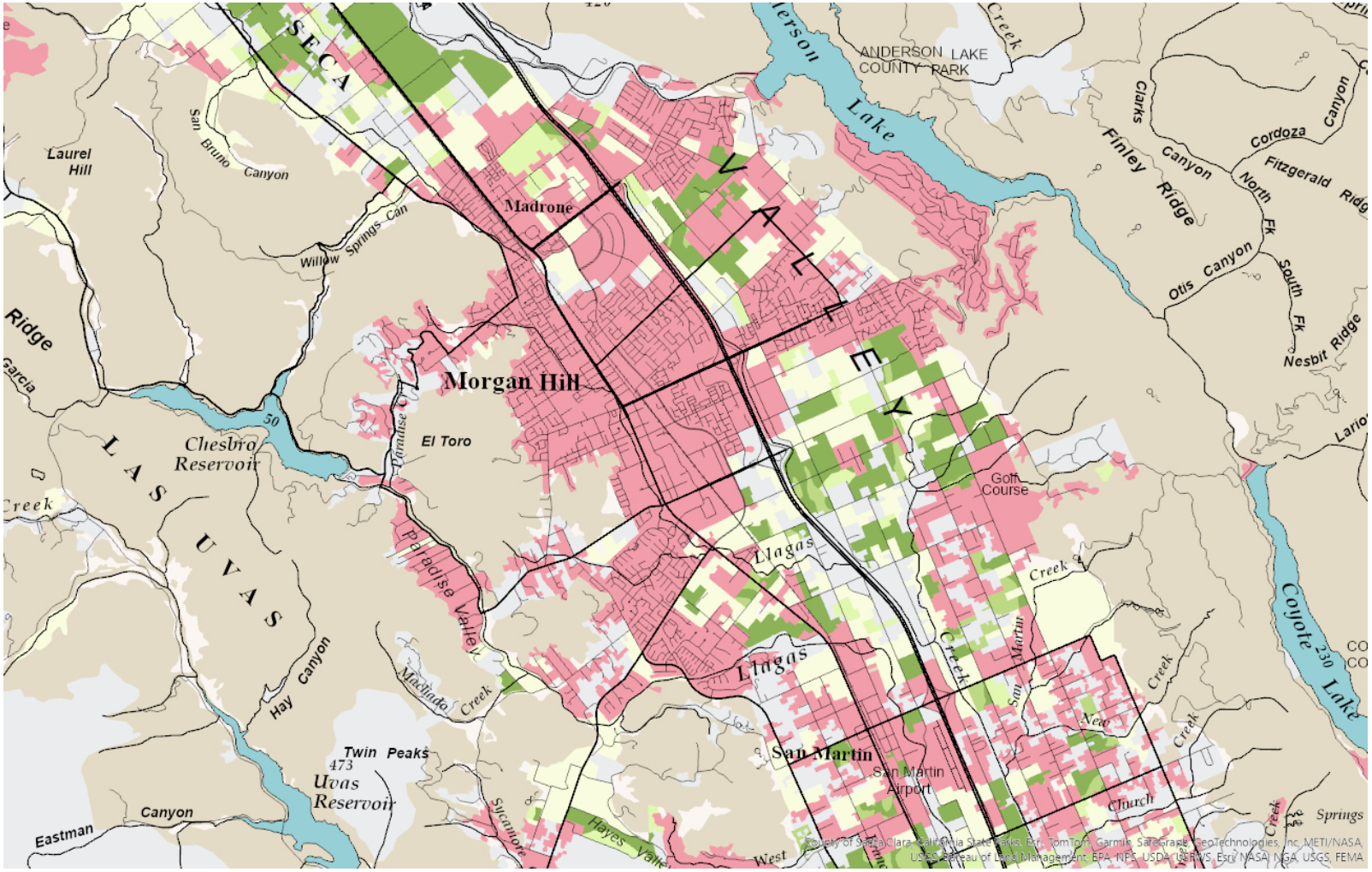
Elk Grove, Sacramento County 2020



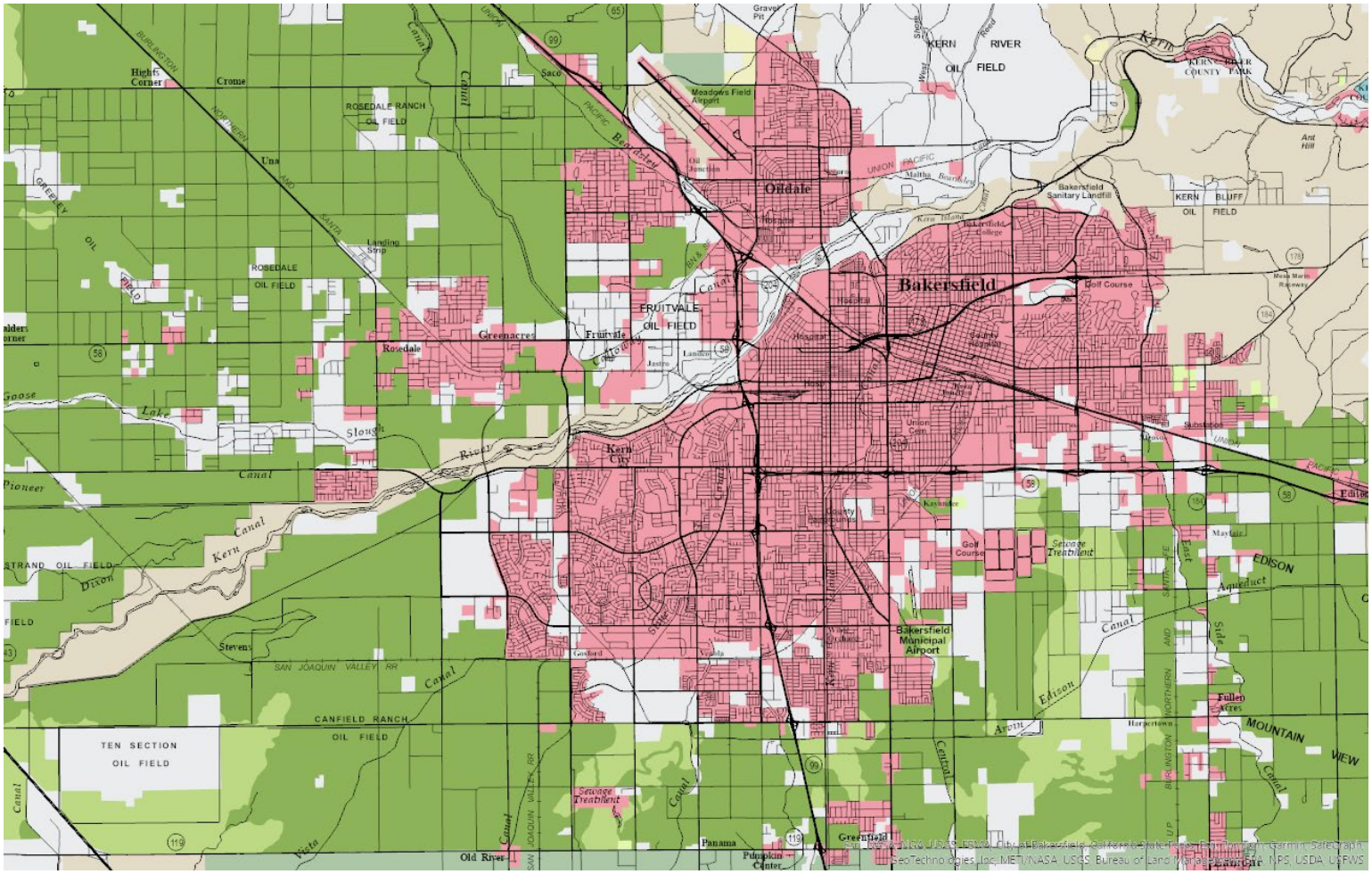
Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County
1988



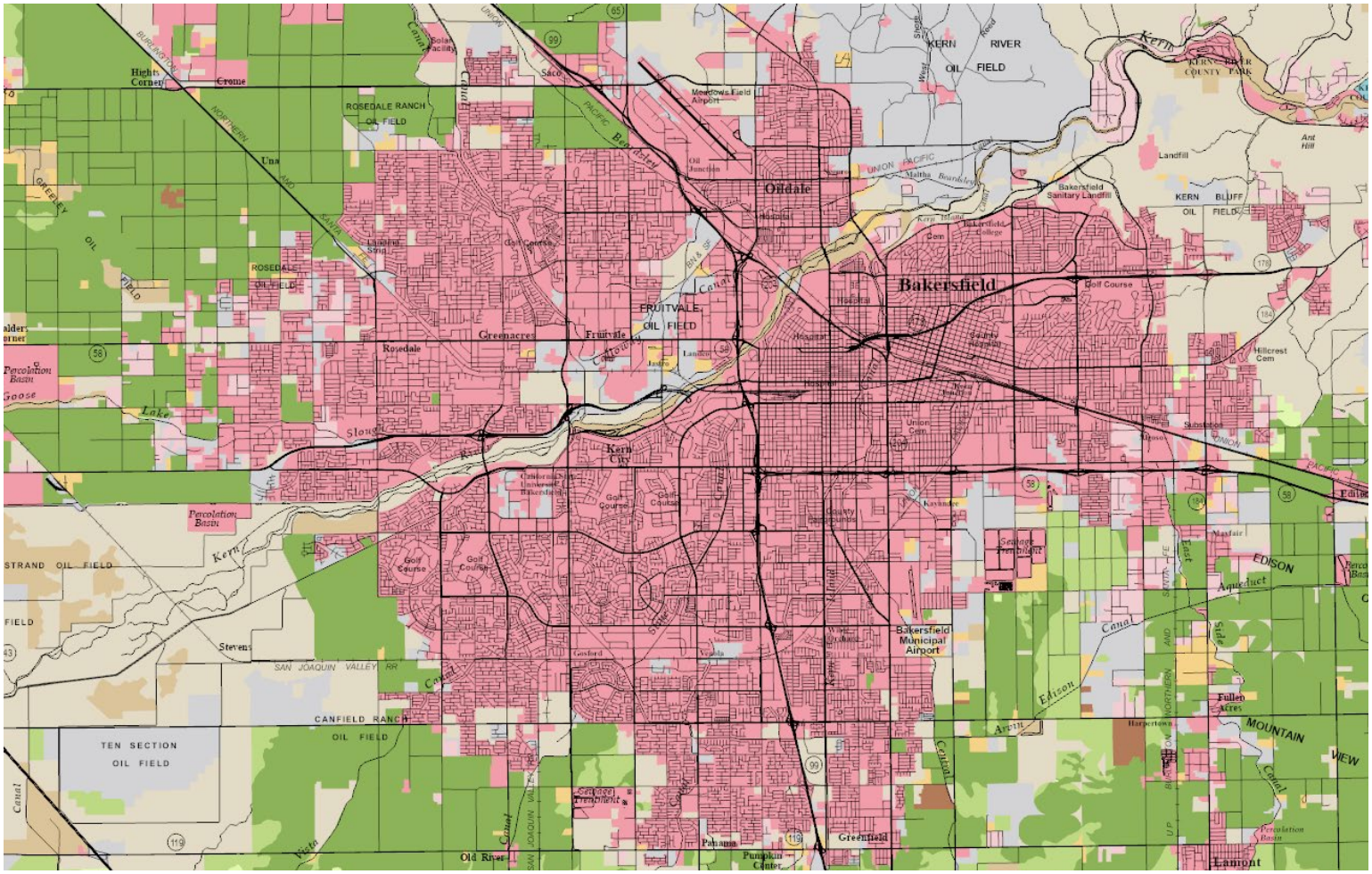
Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County 2020



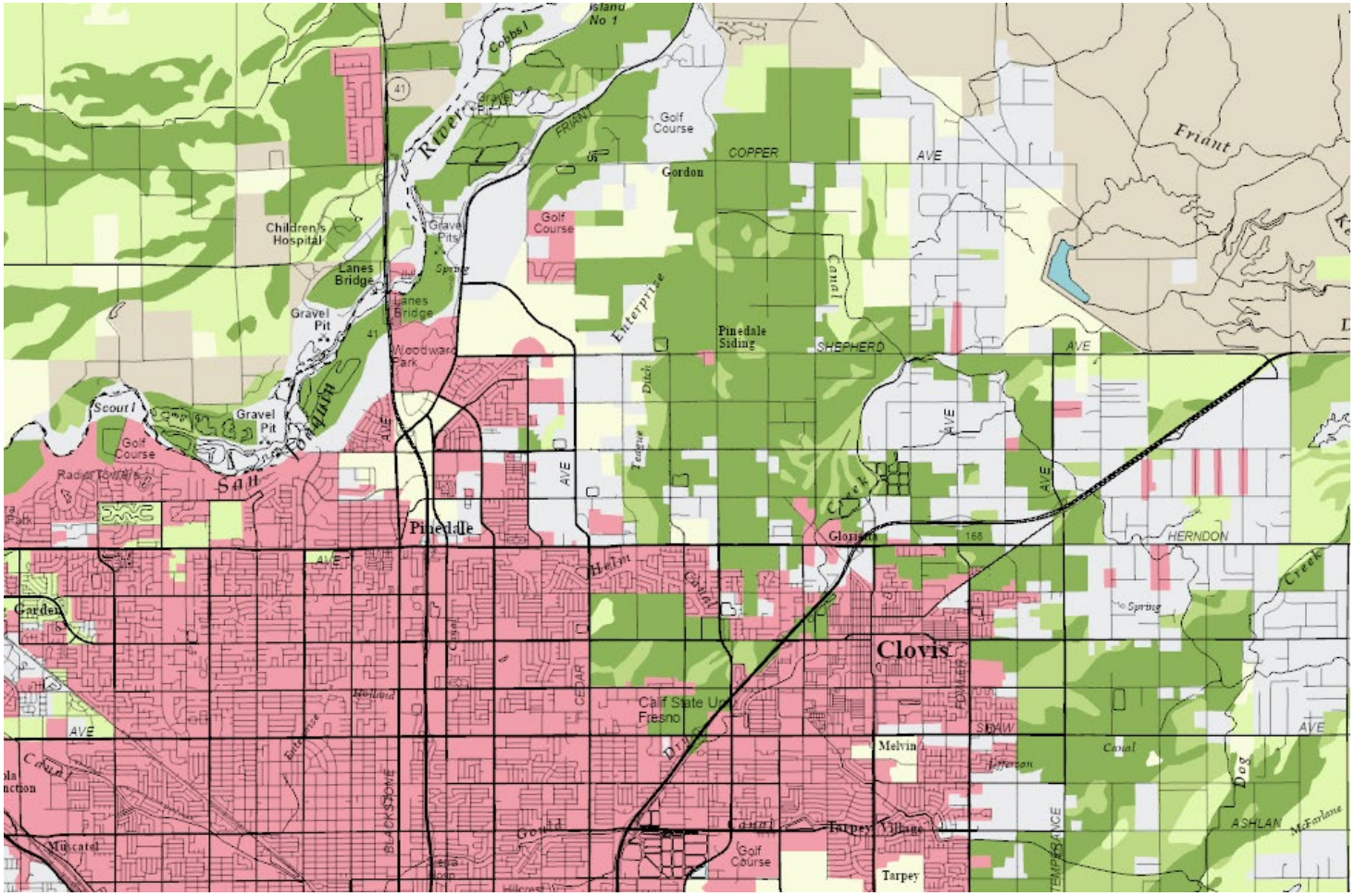
Bakersfield, Kern County
1988



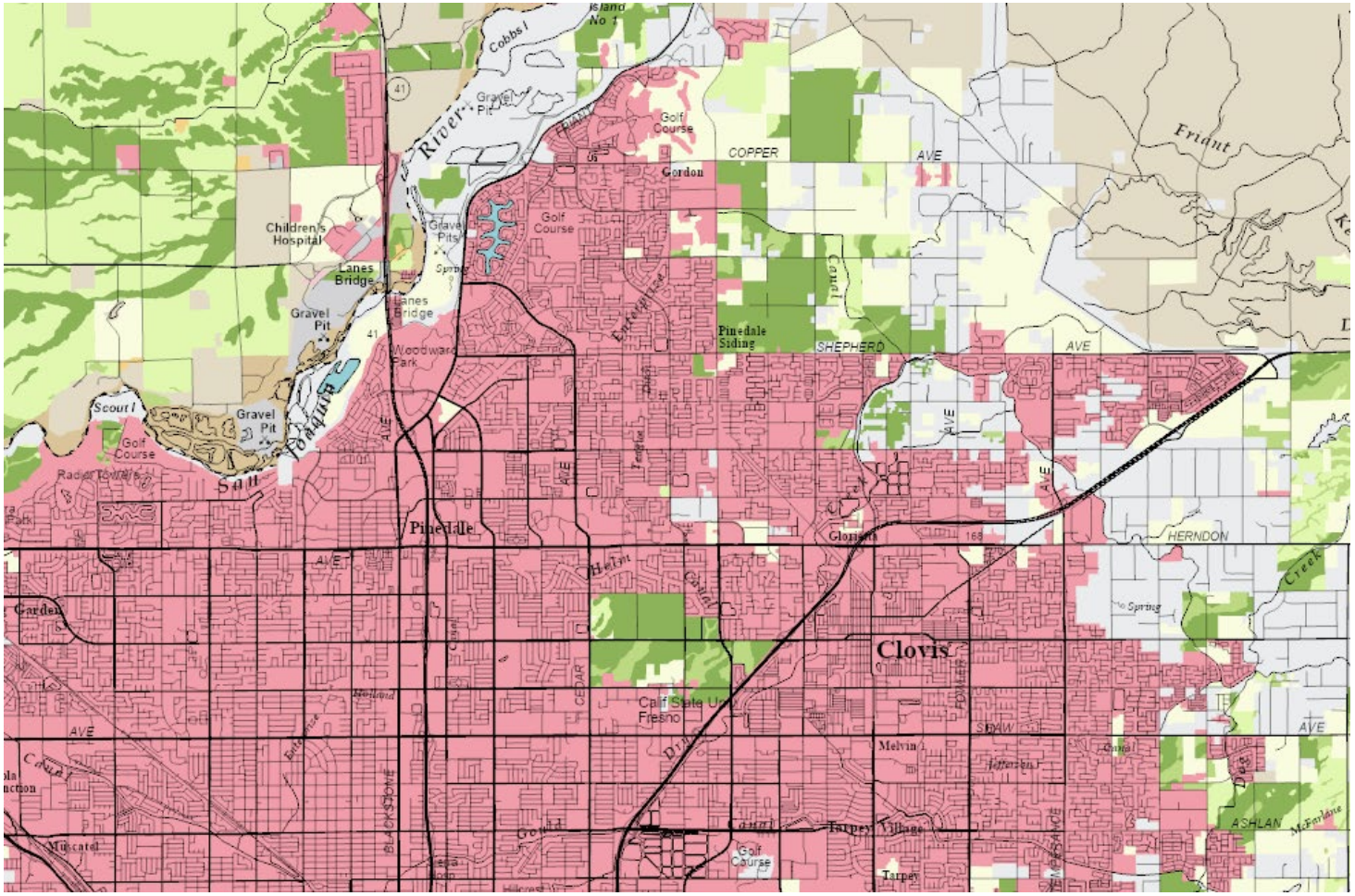
Bakersfield, Kern County
2020



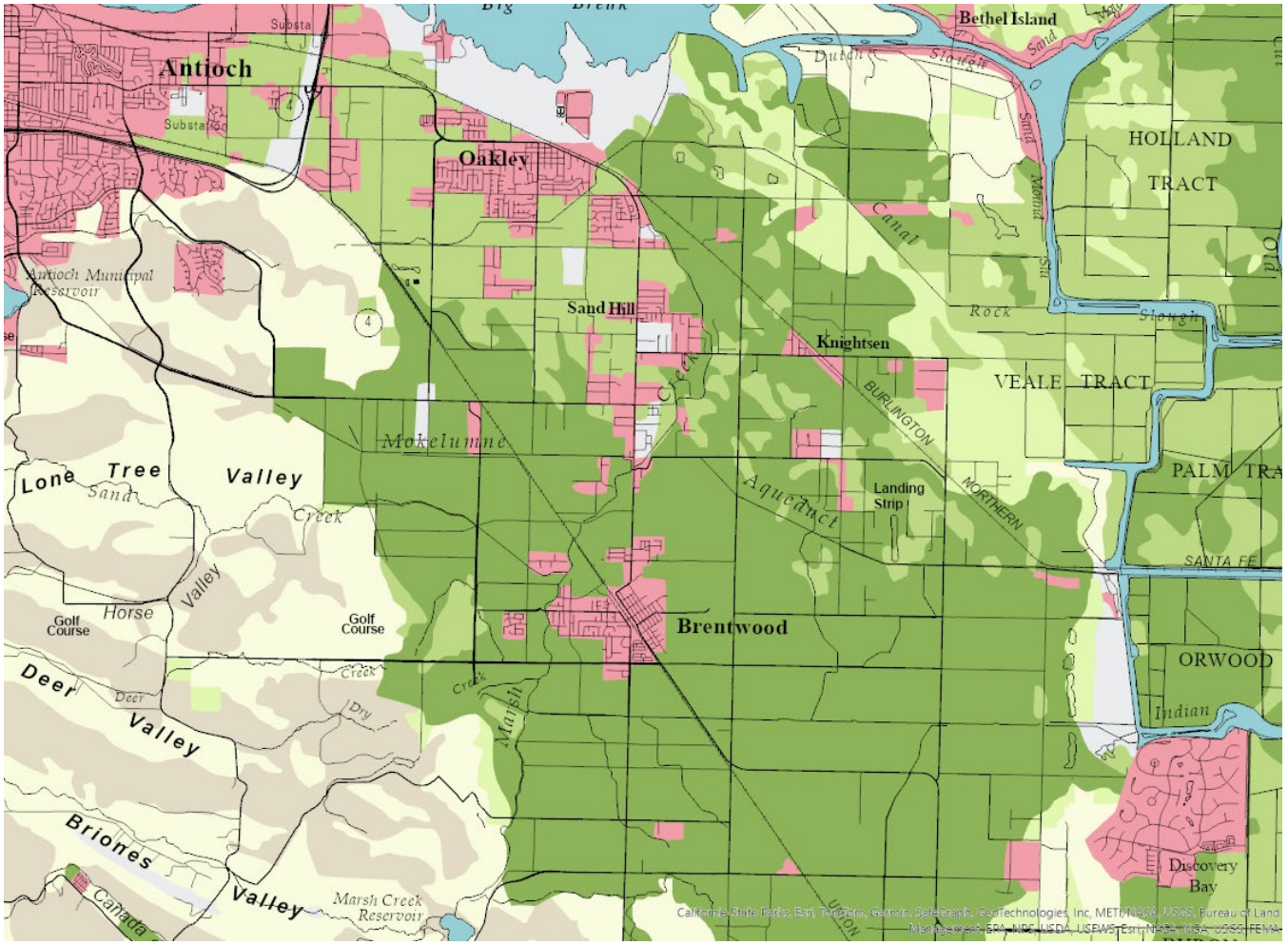
Clovis, Fresno County
1984



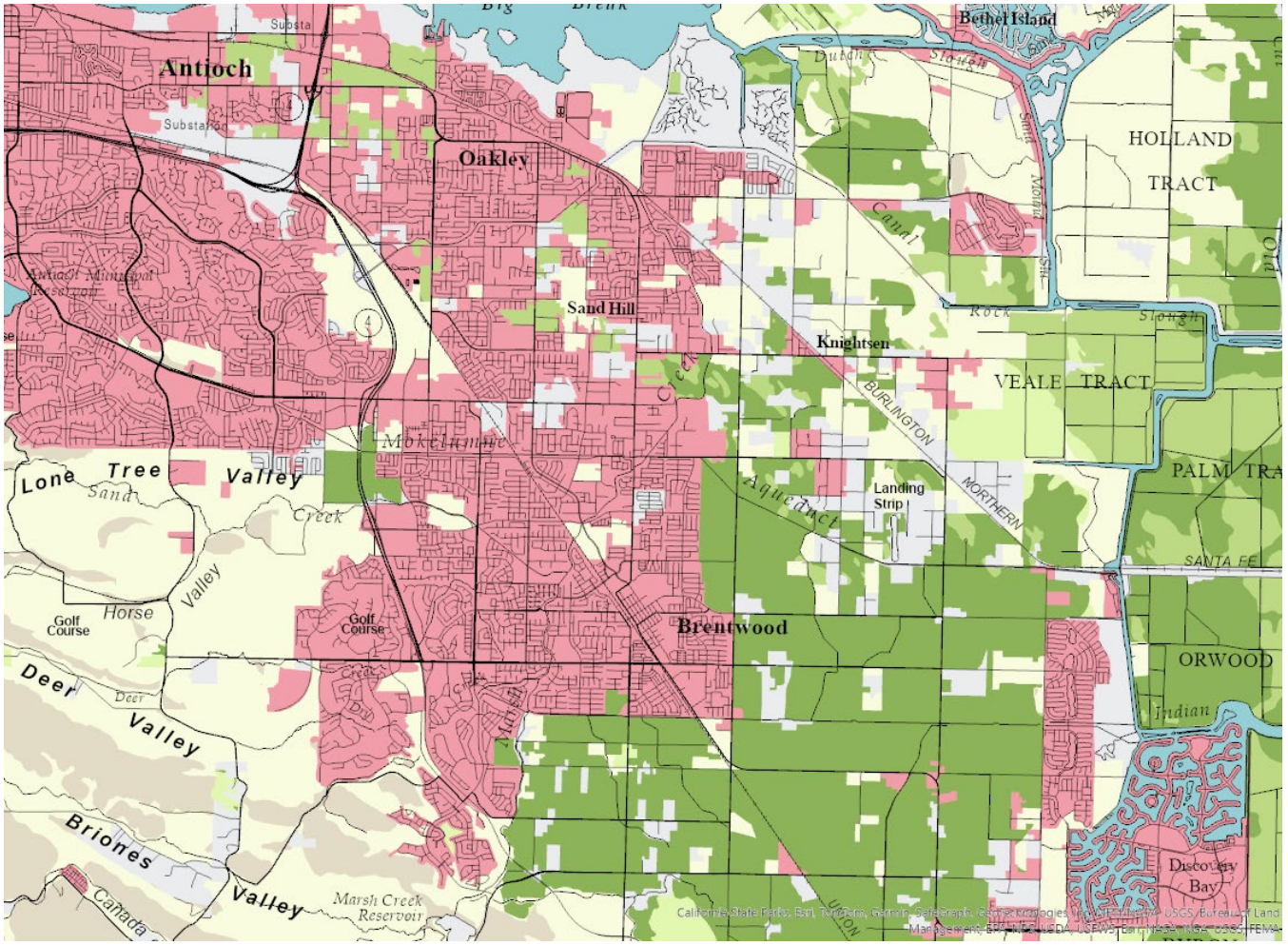
Clovis, Fresno County
2020



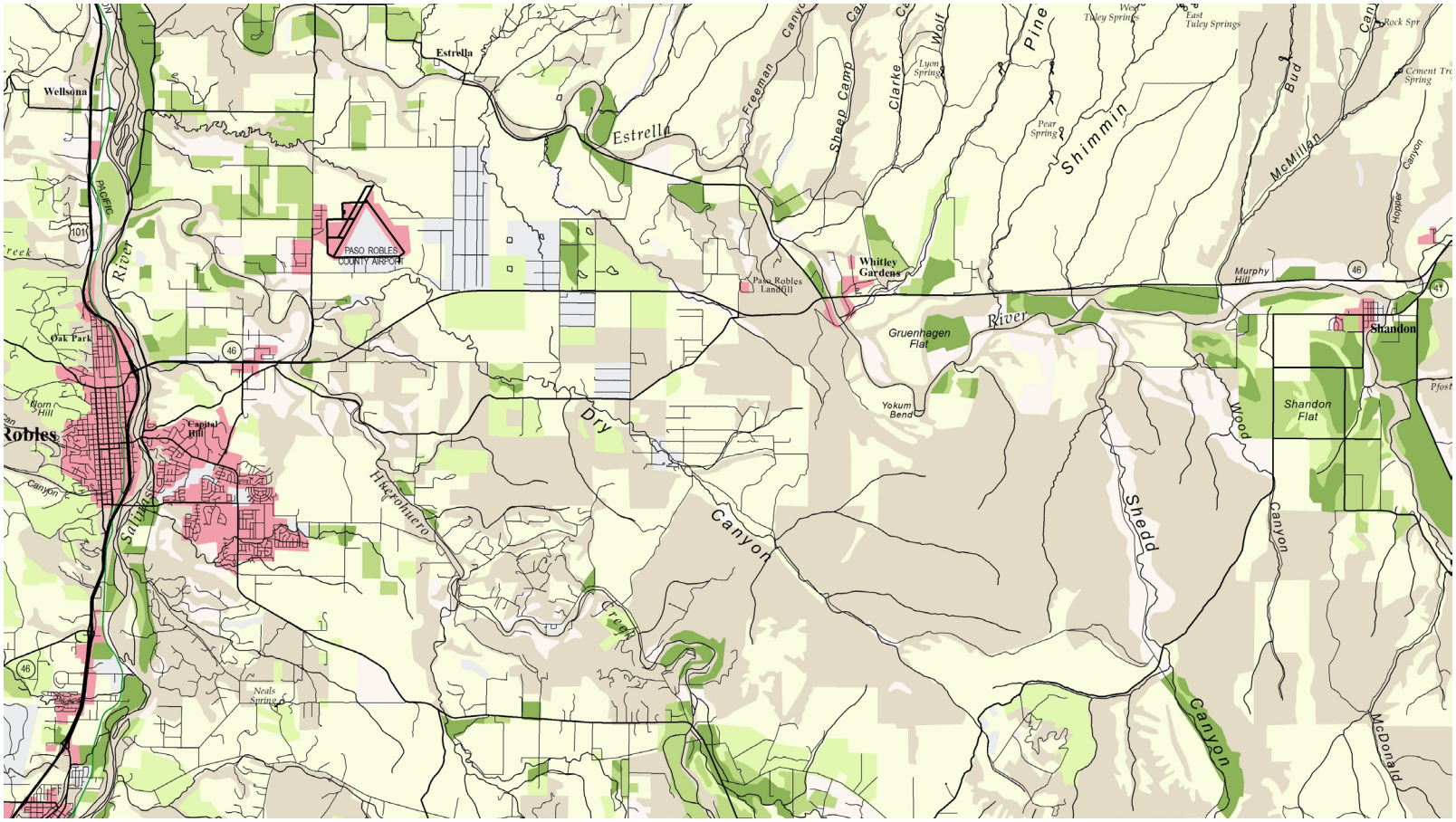
Brentwood, Contra Costa County 1984



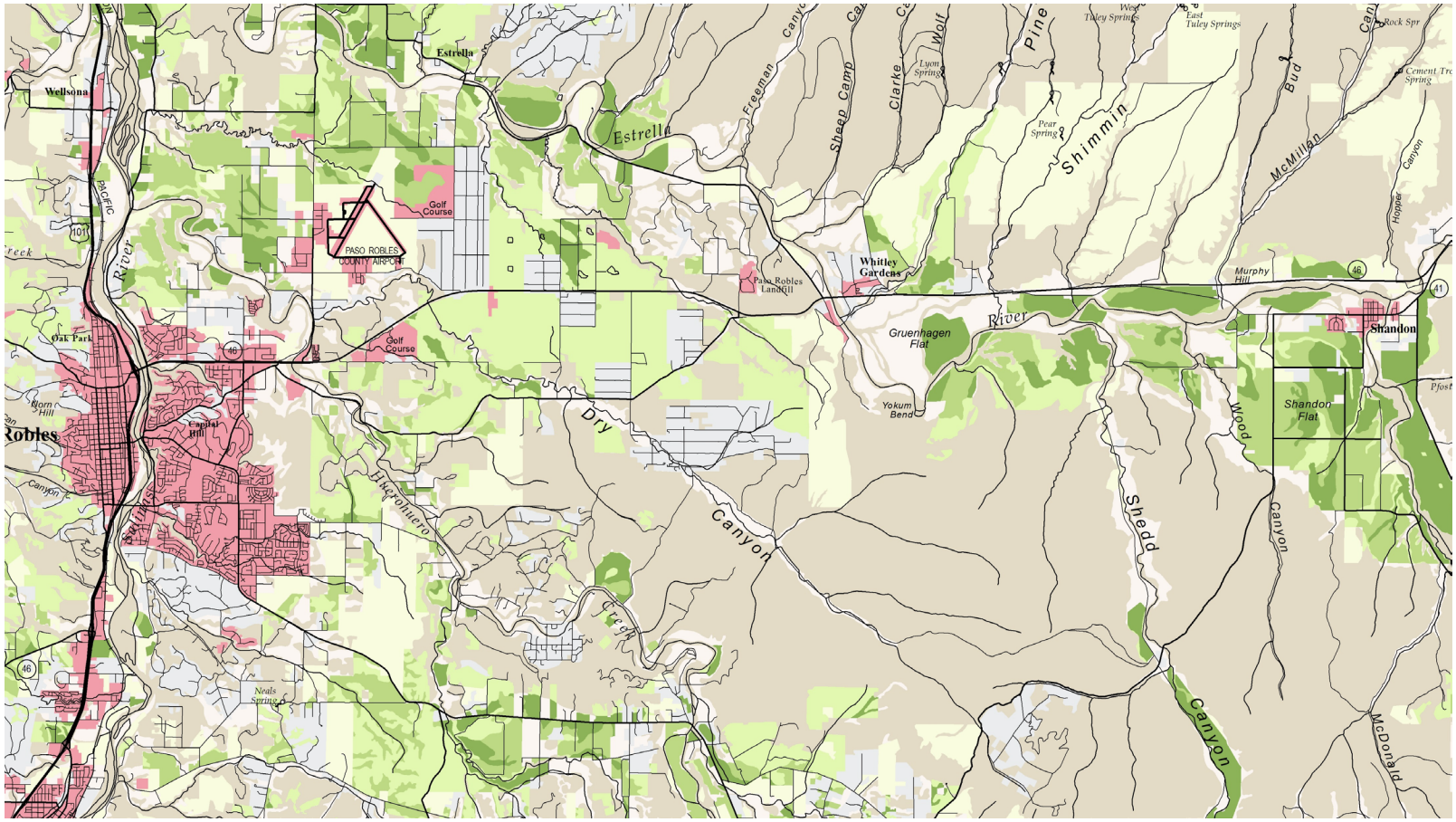
Brentwood, Contra Costa County 2020



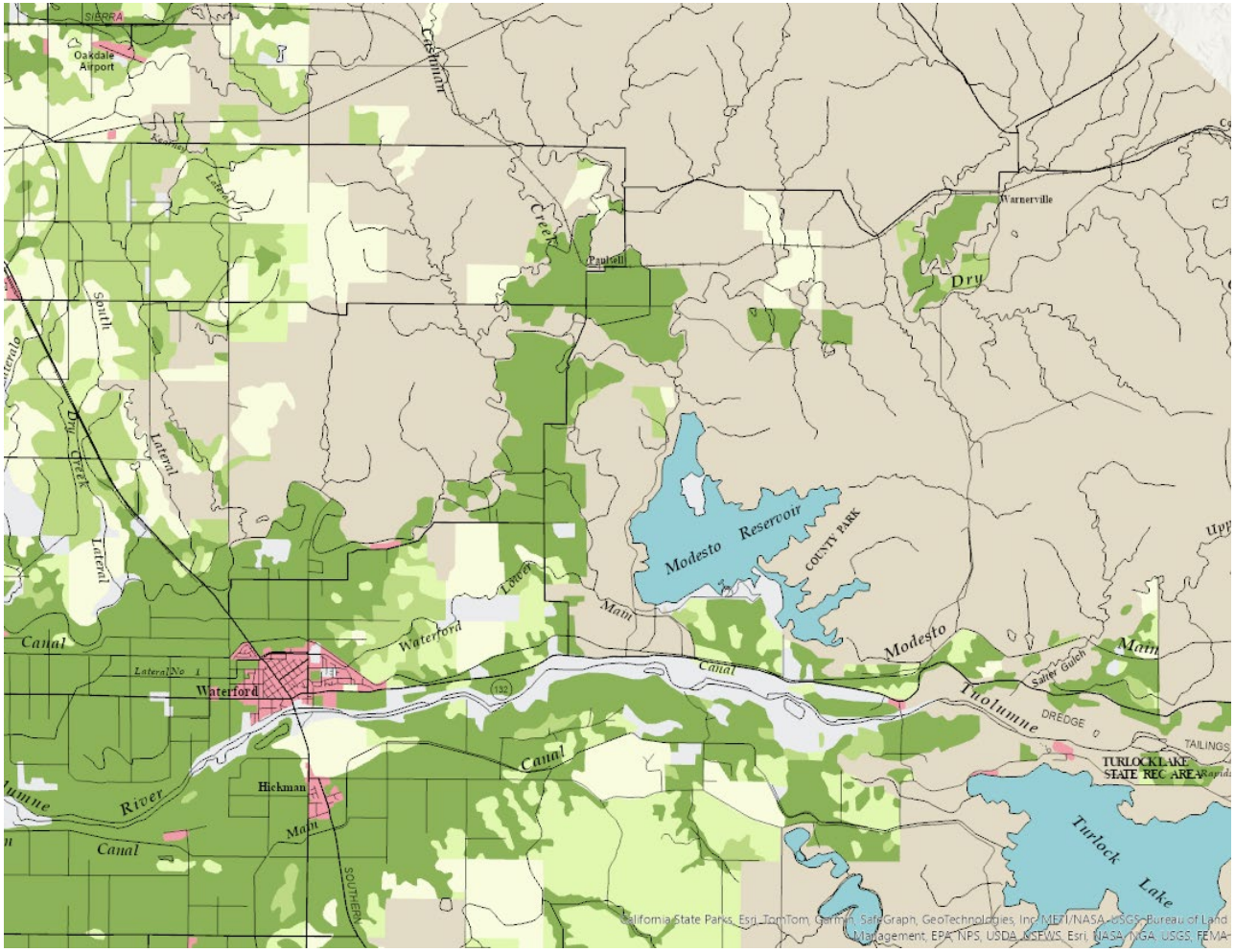
Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County 1988



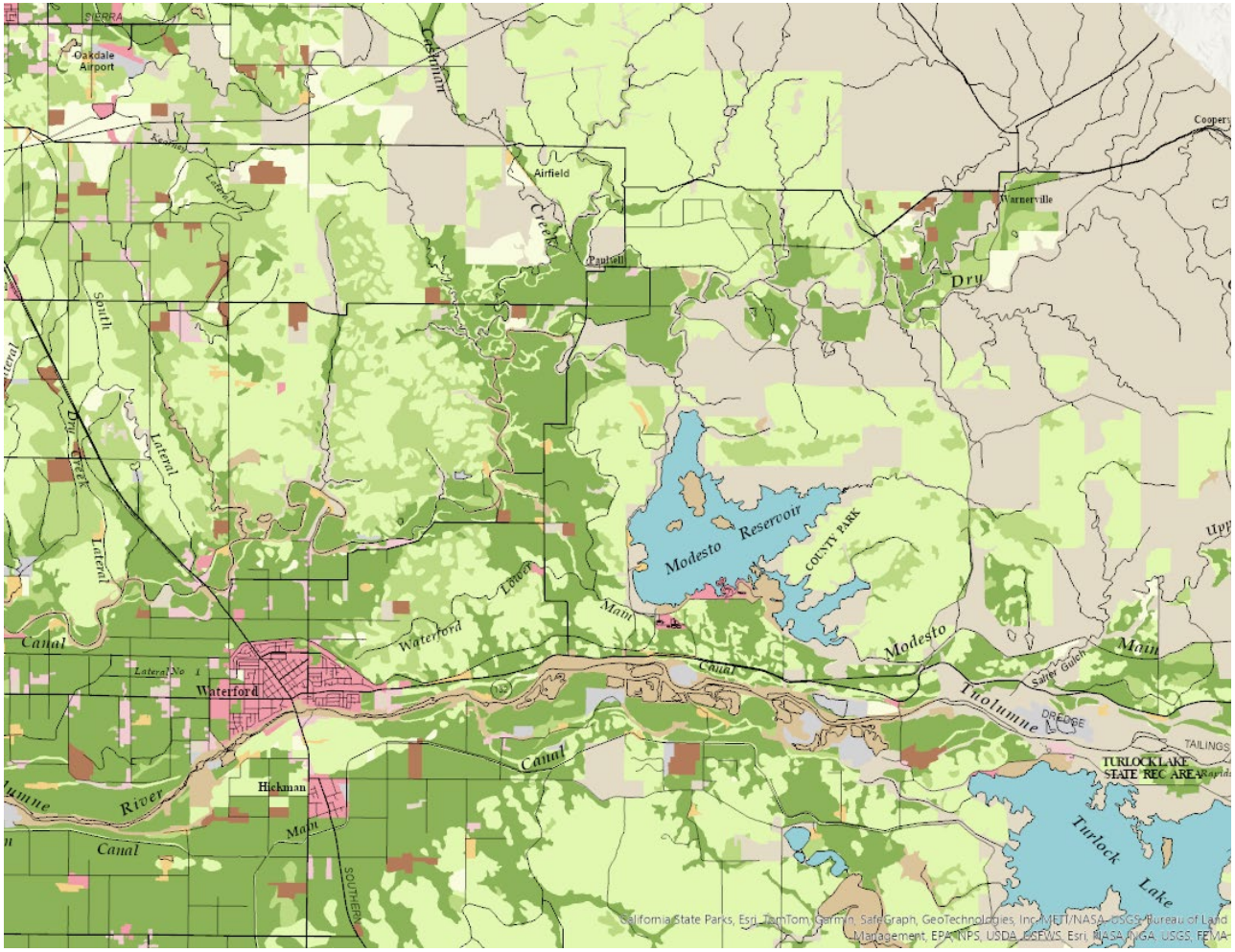
Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County 2018



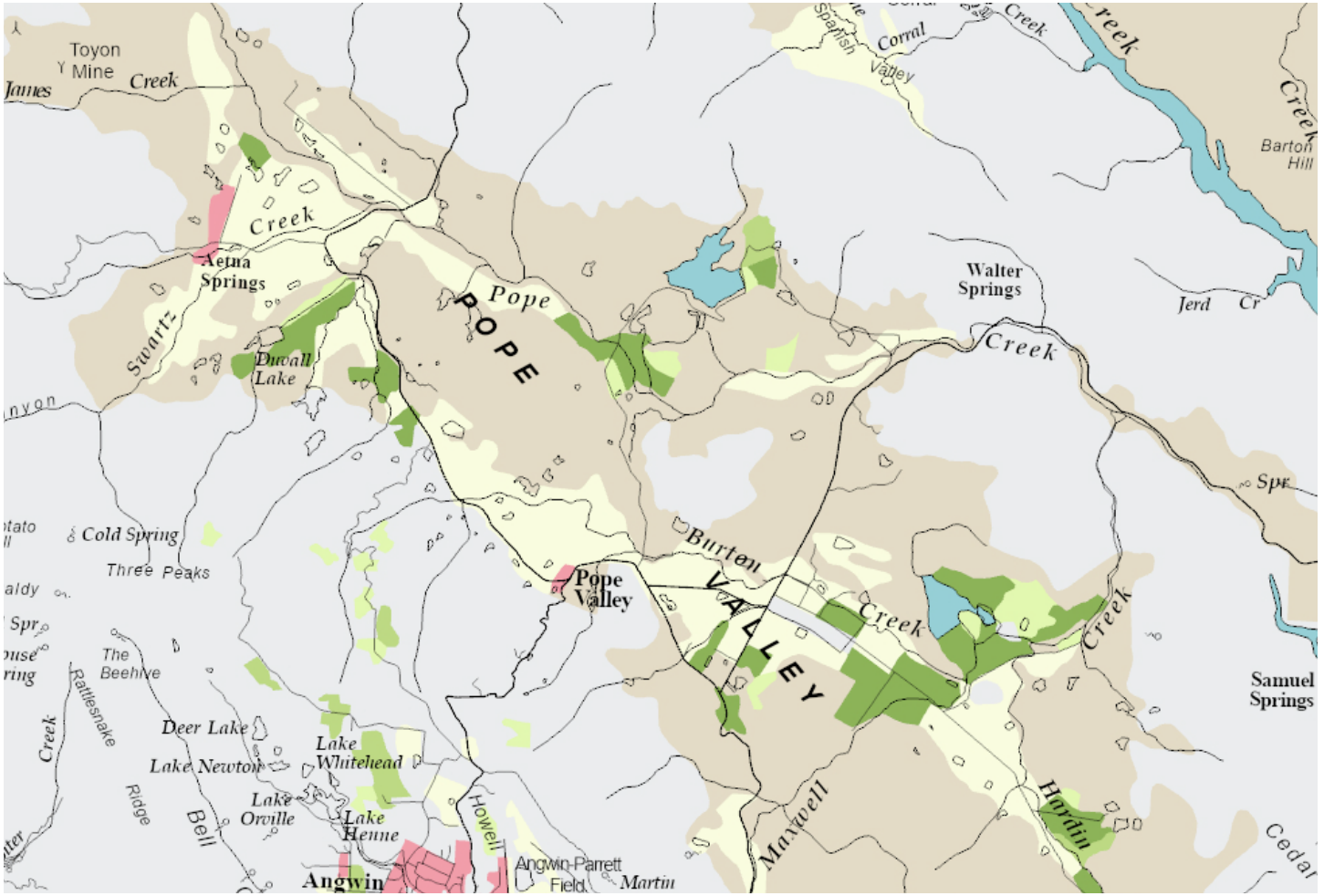
Eastern Stanislaus County
1984



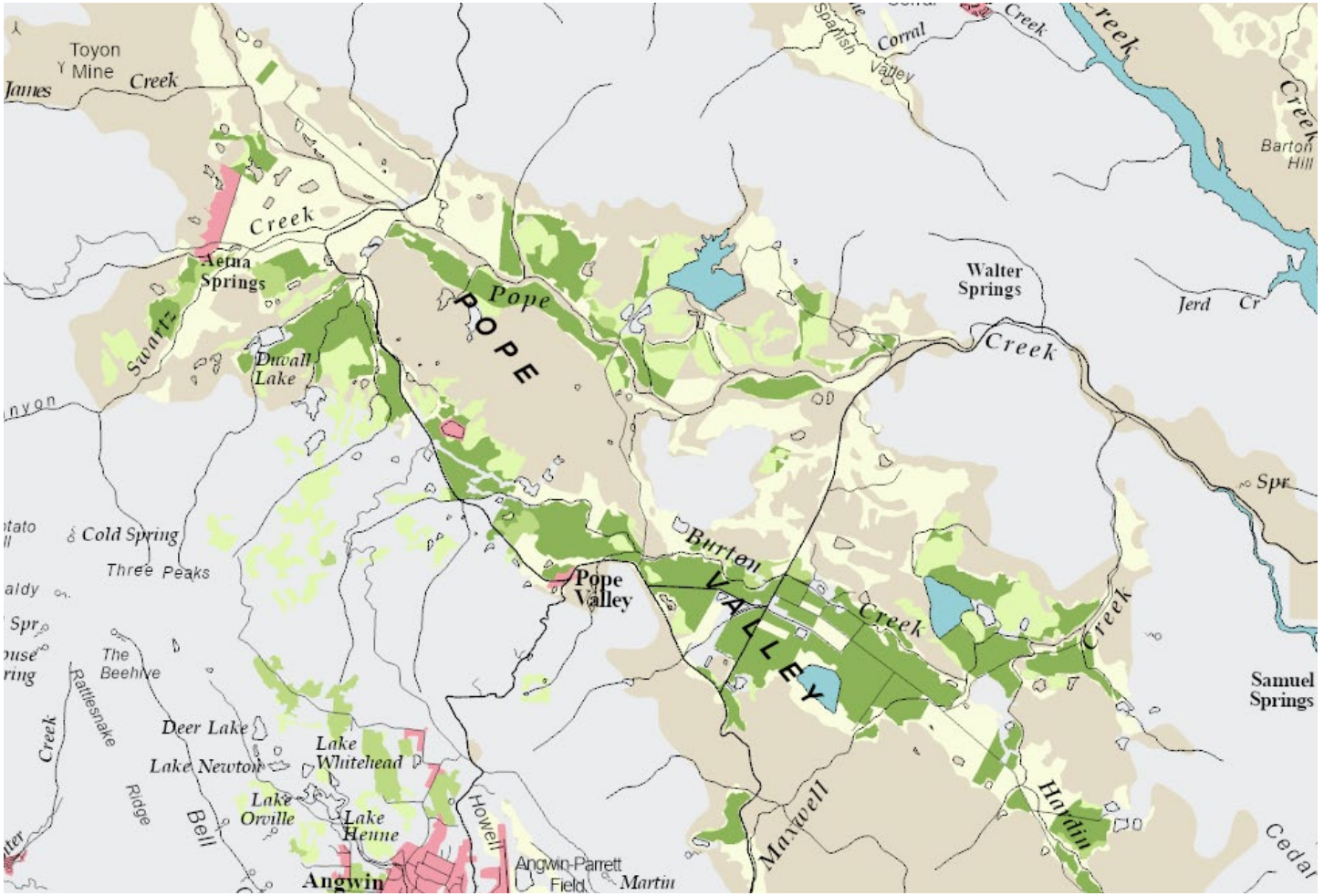
Eastern Stanislaus County 2020



Pope Valley, Napa County
1984



Pope Valley, Napa County
2020



Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program

https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp
fmmp@conservation.ca.gov

Photo: M. Kisko

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Photo: M. Kisko