

**California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

**2002 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Imperial

**FIELD MAPPER:** Sam Coe

**IMAGERY:**

*source: Thematic Mapper (TM)*

*date: 5/25/02, 7/21/02*

*scale:*

*film type:*

*coverage gaps: none*

*additional imagery: True color slides from the USDA Farm Services Offices*

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments - None*

*cities:*

*county:*

*others:*

➤ *personal contacts:*

➤ *websites:*

➤ *GIS data referenced: Swis Data File, Department of Fish and Game Data*

**2000-2002 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

**Note: This is the first digital update for Imperial County. Using improved digital resources, more accurate boundaries were drawn throughout the county. Therefore, adjustments were made in all categories throughout the county. The changes listed below are only representative of the total number of actual changes.**

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

15 changes total. Four changes came from land that was fallow for three updates. The most notable of these changes occurred in El Centro where an approximately 70 acre parcel of prime soil was covered by an industrial area. In most cases, prime soils that are listed as fallow for three updates are placed in the Local category, but since the parcel obviously covered areas that had buildings it was moved to the Urban (D) category.

Other note worthy changes included an approximately 40 acre parcel of new homes in Calexico, and a 60 acre change involving an airport runway in Seeley.

#### ➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

8 changes total. Notable changes include a water treatment plant (~40 acres) in East Westmorland, and the Salamander mobile park (~90 acres) located in Bard.

#### ➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

42 changes total. All changes occurred due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three updates. The largest of these changes occurred in Plaster City. The change moved approximately 800 acres of irrigated farmland to the Local category. Other notable changes occurred in Niland where two parcels of statewide farmland, approximately 150-200 acres in size, were placed in the Local category.

#### ➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

30 changes total. Seven changes occurred from farmland being fallow for three updates, while the rest were for ranchette development or boundary adjustments. Notable changes include ranchettes in the Bard area of approximately 90 acres and in El Centro (~40 acres), and ~120 acres of disturbed land near Brawley.

#### ➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

23 changes total. There are six changes worth noting because they had large parcels of new irrigated farmland taken out of the Local or Other Land category. The changes occurred in Wister (~170 acres), Tortuga (~350 acres), Westmorland West (~170 acres), Bard (~70 acres), Plaster City (~130 acres), and Mount Signal (~90 acres).

#### ➤ **UNUSUAL: Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2002.**

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?*

Boundaries along cities in Calexico and El Centro need careful checking to monitor urban growth.

**LABOR ESTIMATE:** Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.

*photo interpretation, start date: January 03*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 5 days*

*ground truthing dates: 4 days 1/13-1/16*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 3 days*

\* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

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

*[www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)*