

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

**2002 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Kern

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Larelle Burkham-Greydanus

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* NASA-Ames Research  
*date:* 9-07-01  
*scale:* 1:130,000  
*type:* CIR  
*coverage gaps:* Eastern third of county, filled by Spot  
*additional imagery:* Spot 2000 satellite image

**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*

*cities:*  
*county:*  
*others:* Eastern Kern County RCD  
1525 N. Norma St., Ste. C  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

➤ *personal contacts:*

David Hardt, Manager  
Kern National Wildlife Refuge  
See website below

Phil Nixon  
Lost Hills Water District

➤ *websites:*

Kern County Farm Bureau  
<http://www.kerncfb.com/>

Kern National Wildlife Refuge  
<http://natureali.org/KNWR.htm>

Seven Oaks Country Club  
<http://www.sevenoaksrealestate.com/ez.php?Page=1797>

California State University, Bakersfield  
<http://www.csubak.edu/>

Kern County Fairgrounds  
<http://www.kerncountyfair.com/images/Maps/2003%20GROUNDS%20MAP.jpg>

Van Dam Farms  
<http://www.theav.com/business/quartzhill/vandamfarms/>  
(661) 946-1630 Diary

Skyline Valley Ranch  
Kelso Valley  
<http://www.gregssandbox.com/kelso/>

Vintage Nurseries  
<http://vintagenurseries.com>

Pine Mountain Club  
<http://www.pinemountainonline.com/vitals.html>

**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.*

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

There were 35 changes overall with the largest amount occurring near Bakersfield on the Oildale Quad. Other notable changes included ~250 ac of homes and expanded golf course in the Seven Oaks Country Club area on the Stevens Quad.

➤ **Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

The majority of land being reclassified as Urban came from the Other land category this update. Approximately one hundred changes were found. Notable size changes included ~450 acres near Tehachapi in the Golden Hills area, three areas of increased housing infill totaling 216 acres on the Tehachapi North Quad, and 150 acres of increased housing infill at Pine Mountain Club on the Sawmill Mountain Quad. Increases in Urban in the high desert area of the county is higher than normal due to this being the first complete air photo coverage in a number of updates.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Grazing Land**

The mid western part of Kern County on the Stevens (574 ac), Pentland (~567 ac) Millux (~379 ac) Quads had the largest amount of change in this category. The second largest group was in the northwest on the Sawtooth Ridge (~520 ac), and Avenal Gap (~332 ac) Quads. Twenty-nine changes overall in the county were noted.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

Eighty-three changes were found in this category with the largest amount occurring on the Cantil Quad. There were a total of ~2000 acres which had been fallow for 6 to 8 years in the Fremont Valley area.

➤ **Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

The largest addition of land converted from Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland was just west of Delano on the Hacienda Ranch Quad for ~1200 acres. The second largest area found was just east of Rosamond where there were ~1100 acres (Fairmont Butte Quad) and ~590 acres (Little Buttes Quad) of newly mapped irrigated farmland. Seventy-three changes were found in the entire county. Some amount of the acreage in the second example may have occurred prior to 2002 but were captured this update due to the availability of complete air photo coverage.

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

Approximately one hundred and thirty acres of Urban was reclassified as Other land because the land was found to be a composting facility that lacked sufficient infrastructure to be classified as Urban e.g. paving and buildings.

➤ **Other Land to Grazing**

The grazing of cows on a specific limited area of the Kern National Wildlife Refuge required ~2400 acres of Other land to be reclassified as Grazing land. There will be more addition to this grazing area in the next update.

Also, there is a trend of increased confined livestock facilities in the county--these currently fall under the "Other Land" category because there is no Farmland of Local Importance definition.

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

Continued checking of the northwest portion of the county for possible removal of large portions of irrigated farmland going fallow for 6 years. Also continue checking of graded irrigated farmland areas for detached urbanization seen during field checking in areas west of Bakersfield

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

<i>photo interpretation, start date:</i>	12/05/03
<i>photo interpretation, number of days:</i>	~14 days
<i>ground truthing dates:</i>	1/12 to 1/16/04
<i># days for map compilation and clean up:</i>	11

\* **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)*