

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

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Kings

FIELD MAPPER(S): Rain Ananael

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research
date: 9-07-03
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR
coverage gaps: None
additional imagery: None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2002 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2004 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities:

county: Bruce A. Roberts, County Director and Farm Advisor
Greg Gatzka, County Planning Agency

others:

➤ *personal contacts:* Kings County Agricultural Commissioner (lschrump@co.kings.ca.us)

Bill Zumwalt, Director of Planning and Building
David Scruggs, Department of Water Resources
Manucher Alemi, Department of Water Resources

➤ *websites:* http://www.kingsedc.org/web_brochure1.html
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/profiles/ca/cp06031.PDF>
<http://www.countyofkings.com/ag%20commissioner/index.htm>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* Federal and State Refuges, Water Resources Land Use Data, SSURGO soil data

2002-2004 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**

16 Changes occurred in this category, with the majority occurring in and around the cities of Hanford and Lemoore. The West Hills College project is near completion in Lemoore. Other large changes were observed in the Vanguard quad west of Lemoore where an airport runway expansion project is underway. A Target and other commercial buildings are part of a new shopping center across from the Hanford Mall. Several small housing projects have gone in directly around Hanford's existing urban center. This trend also occurred in Avenal with small developments going in around the periphery of the city.

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

There were 7 changes in this category, a small change occurred east of Avenal where grazing land on the periphery of an urban area was moved into urban land because of the addition of housing. Other changes occurred predominantly as increases in rural housing density or industrial sites adjacent to Hanford and Corcoran City limits. The City of Hanford water treatment plant and the J.G. Boswell facility were expanded this update.

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

29 changes occurred in this category, 7 of which were conversions to grazing land. One of these, a large 500-acre change resulted from land fallowed for three update cycles in the Kettleman City quad east of Avenal. Others included large changes in the Guernsey and Stratford quads resulting from land fallowed for three or more update cycles. The predominant changes in this category were conversions to confined livestock operations, which constitute Kings County farmland of local importance. These changes were usually expansions of existing operations and were dispersed throughout the county.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 54 changes in this category. This change represents the most common land conversion in the county. Most of these changes are due to land being fallowed for 3 or more update cycles as well as a rise in low density housing such as ranchettes or farmsteads.

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

13 changes occurred in this category. The most significant changes occurred where large tracts of grazing land went into irrigated agriculture in the southern central portion of the county. Three changes of over 1,000 acres were found in the West Camp, Dudley Ridge, and Pyramid Hills quads. East of Avenal in the La Cima quad, several 100+ acre conversions from grazing land to irrigated agriculture occurred.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2004.*

There were 7 changes that occurred between irrigated pasture and irrigated agriculture. These changes ultimately represent a shift between agricultural uses rather than a land conversion.

There were 2 changes from other land to farmland of local importance and 3

changes from grazing to other land. The largest change occurred in the extreme southeastern portion of the county (lone tree well quad) where a 1900+ acre tract has been flooded to accept irrigation water from the aqueduct for flood control overflow and agricultural storage.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2006? Why?*

Look for rural residential density changes to increase and the resultant changes to urban land use. Irrigated pasture can be difficult to assess in a county with so much irrigated grain and confined livestock. This county can have long crop resting cycles, so land use should be carefully assessed before removing any land from irrigated agriculture.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 7/22/04
photo interpretation, number of days: 13
ground truthing dates: 8/6/04-8/9/04
days for map compilation and clean up: 5

* **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