

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

**2006 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Imperial

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Michael Kisko

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)

*date:* summer 2005

*scale:* 2 meter resolution

*film type:* true color mosaic

*coverage gaps:* none

*additional imagery:* Landsat 7 infrared imagery from summer 2005, 30-meter resolution

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2004 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2006 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

*cities:* El Centro

*county:*

*others:*

➤ *GIS data referenced:* SWIS landfill/waste facility reference file (swis.dgn)

**2004-2006 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quad or city) 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: 14 changes**

Conversions of Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land primarily took the form of new homes and commercial buildings in El Centro (~360 acres), Calexico (~150 acres), Imperial (~90 acres), and Brawley (10 acres).

The City of El Centro exhibited the most urbanization of Irrigated Farmland with the addition of commercial buildings such as the new Imperial Valley Mall (~115 acres) and a new Lowe's (~15 acres) along with new homes including the "Desert Village West, Wildflower, Sienna Trails, and Buena Vista" developments totaling approximately 230 acres. New homes were also in evidence in the City of Calexico where two new home developments in eastern Calexico accounted for the conversion of approximately 150 acres of Irrigated Farmland. Meanwhile, in southeastern Imperial, approximately 90 acres



of new homes were added. Finally, the southern edge of Brawley saw the addition of 10 acres of new homes.

➤ **Local or Other Land to Urban Land: 15 changes**

New homes and buildings and the delineation of existing landfills with help from the SWIS landfill reference file were the cause of much of the conversion from Local or Other Land to Urban Land. In northern Brawley, approximately 60 acres of new homes were added and the Brawley Landfill (~40 acres) was delineated. New homes were also added in southern El Centro (~30 acres). Further, new homes were added in southeastern Imperial (~15 acres) along with the delineation of the Allied Imperial Landfill (~150 acres) east of Imperial. On the other hand, urban land uses were also seen in the form of new buildings in northern Holtville (~10 acres), the expansion of a cemetery north of Calexico (~10 acres), and new buildings and paved areas at the Calexico East Port of Entry (~20 acres). Lastly, an RV park was delineated nearby the Community of Winterhaven (~30 acres).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local: 33 changes**

According to the Imperial County's Farmland of Local Importance definition, Irrigated Farmland that has been idle for three or more update cycles is converted to Farmland of Local Importance if the land contains high quality (Prime or Statewide) soils. All of the changes in this category were due to Irrigated Farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Large conversions of 100 acres or more occurred on the Brawley (~100 acres), El Centro (~120 acres), Calexico (~150 acres), and Bonds Corner (~200 acres) quads.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land: 55 changes**

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland to Other Land were made for a variety of reasons. The most common causes of these conversions involved the delineation of agricultural staging/storage areas, farmsteads, ranchettes, dairies, small farm ponds, and rural highway interchanges.

➤ **Local or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland: 13 changes**

New irrigated farmland was added throughout the Imperial Valley with most additions encompassing less than 40 acres. A large addition of citrus orchards owned by "Fresh Pic" (230 acres) was made on the Tortuga quad adjacent to the Coachella Canal. A further addition of orchards, including citrus and palm trees (240 acres), occurred just to the south of the Salton Sea. Other large additions of Irrigated Farmland were made on the Harpers Well (~100 acres) and Westmoreland West (~90 acres) quads.



➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2006.*

**Urban Land to Other Land:** A large area of ponds that had been mapped as water control ponds (Urban Land) northeast of the City of Imperial was found to be a fish farm (Other Land) on the field check of Imperial County. This conversion caused the statistical loss of approximately 600 acres of Urban Land.

**Other Land to Water:** An approximately 100-acre body of water was delineated on the Seeley quad just west of the Rio Bend RV & Golf Resort. This body of water was not new but we had been tracking it for a few updates to make sure it was a permanent rather than an intermittent water body.

**Irrigated Farmland to Nursery:** A large nursery with stock growing in containers was identified on the Wister quad during the field check of the county. This delineation will cause a shift of approximately 70 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance to Unique Farmland since all nurseries with stock grown in containers are classified as Unique Farmland per our mapping conventions.

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

*photo interpretation, start date: 3/27/07*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 6 days*

*ground truthing dates: 4/17/07 to 4/20/07*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 2 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)