

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Kings

FIELD MAPPER(S): Joel Bonilla

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
date: 2005
scale: 2 meter
film type: none
coverage gaps: true color mosaic
additional imagery: none

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:* None

cities:
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:* None

➤ *websites:*

Kings County Planning Agency
<http://www.countyofkings.com/planning/index.htm>

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

O:\Vector\agency_data\Spenceville_Wildlife_Area\cattle lease parcel 1_albers.shp;\cattle lease 2_albers.shp; \cattle lease parcel 3_albers.shp; \cattle lease parcel 4_albers.shp;

2004-2006 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** 14 changes

All changes occurred due to urban expansion of existing communities. The most notable change includes the 114-acre housing complex named "the Meadows and the

Grove at Silver Oaks Community” in Hanford. The City of Lemoore had its own expansion with the “Liberty” housing complex and the new “Island Union” elementary school just north of Lemoore. Other changes include “Mountain View” estates in Hanford and the Tachi youth alternative education\community center approximately 3 miles southeast of Lemoore.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land** 11 changes

A major source of conversion occurred through the identification of increased density in rural communities. When an area increases the amount of infrastructure, it is categorized as urban land. This occurred in the area of land in between the fringes of Home Garden and Hanford. Other conversions occurred just south of Lemoore, adjacent to the Tachi Palace Hotel and Casino and in Armona, just north of state highway 198.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land** 73 changes

All conversions are a result of farmland left idle or used for dryland pasture or grains for three or more mapping cycles. The majority of conversions occurred in the southern half of the county within close proximity along Interstate 5.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land** 56 changes

This type of change largely represents irrigated farmland left idle for three or more update cycles, in areas that are not adjacent to or near existing grazing lands. A second reason for this type of conversion was the delineation of canals adjacent to farmland west of Corcoran. This was done in order to be consistent with mapping in the remainder of the county and region. Canals included the Tule River canal, Kings River canal, and Middle Branch Cross Creek / Lewis Ditch. Another source of conversion was the delineation of small plots of farmsteads and rural ranchettes. The bulk of these conversions occurred around Hanford and Lemoore, at the urban fringe. These small conversions are primarily a product of improved digital imagery as opposed to new developments.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland** 6 changes

The most significant conversion this update was the addition of approximately 40 acres of new agricultural land just southeast of Hanford along state highway 198. Other changes include a change east of Avenal along the “5” freeway and a plot of land west of Kettleman City along Milham Road.

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

A couple of canals were delineated due improved digital imagery. These changes are not typical and do not represent new development.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2008? Why?*

Plots of land in the Southern portion of the county along I-5 are not accessible and difficult to navigate to because of unnamed streets and dirt roads.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 4/2/2007
photo interpretation, number of days: 15
ground truthing dates: 4/17/2007 – 4/20/2007
days for map compilation and clean up: 7

* **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