

**California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY:

FIELD MAPPER(S): Amy Klug

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Aerials Express.
Acquisition date	May, 2008
Data description	true color mosaic, 1 foot resolution
Coverage gaps	none
Additional imagery used	Google Earth

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2008 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps)
King County Planning Agency, Bill Zumwalt, (559) 584-8989 David Sorrick, Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc. dsorrick@ppeng.com
Personal Contacts
Jeremy Kinney, Senior Planner, Kings County Planning Division. (559) 582-3211
Websites Used for Reference
http://maps.google.com/maps?tab=wl http://www.countyofkings.com/planning/ http://www.irwd.com http://www.irwd.com/AboutIRWD/board_CEQA.php http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/03/15/1859943/valley-solar-plant-would-be-among.html
GIS Data Used for Reference

2006-2008 CHANGE SUMMARY:

Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. [See definitions](#) at bottom of table.

Conversions to Urban Land

Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land

13 changes

The north east portion of the county near Hanford, Grangeville, and Lemoore is where most of the changes occurred (~475 acres). Some changes worth mentioning were the addition/delineation of new homes, Hanford Christian School, a community park and Alexander Hamilton Elementary, and the expansion of West Hills College.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land

5 changes

Two small changes occurred near Corcoran: new homes were added and more distinct urban boundaries were delineated with the use of higher resolution imagery (~20 acres). In the vicinity of Lemoore and Armona there were approximately 40 acres of new homes and buildings added.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses

73 changes

There were several changes from Irrigated Farmland to Farmland of Local Importance this update due to the addition or expansion of dairies. Most conversions occurred above Corcoran (~855 acres) and at the upper north east portion of the county near Hanford and Remnoy (~105 acres).

The majority of acres converted to Grazing Land due to land left idle for three or more update cycles (~22,560 acres total). Accessible sites entire perimeters were driven on the field check in order to verify these areas were indeed fallow. There were several conversions in the south eastern part of the county (~5,225 acres). In the south western corner of the county, from just east of Kettleman City to Avenal, approximately 6,725 acres were converted due to fallowing. In the vicinity of Stratford, Lemoore, and Hanford approximately 10,330 acres converted with two large changes occurring east of Stratford near 16th and Manteca Avenue (~2,910 acres) and west (~5,070 acres) of Stratford in the vicinity of where it is proposed Westside Holdings install a solar power plant.

It was verified in the field that approximately 75 acres of orchards near Lemoore were not irrigated which led to a conversion from Farmland of Statewide Importance to Unique Farmland.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	22 changes
<p>Other Land is broken down into Rural Land categories in Kings County. There were three small changes to Natural Vegetation (≈45 acres) this update located in the north east portion of the county near Hanford, Grangeville, and Lemoore: a eucalyptus stand and a water-ski pond were noted and boundary improvements were made with more detailed imagery. Farmland fallow for three or more update cycles which was graded for new homes on imagery converted to Vacant Land near Hanford, Grangeville and Lemoore (≈125 acres). Near Hanford and Halls Corner ranchettes were delineated (≈100 acres) leading to a conversion to Rural Residential. Lastly, conversions to Semi- Agricultural and Rural Commercial were noted near Hanford and Lemoore because of expansions of current facilities (≈75 acres) and the addition of a composting operation (≈60 acres).</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	12 changes
<p>Several small changes throughout the county were the result of boundary adjustments with the use of more detailed imagery. Otherwise there were some orchards noted near Kettleman City (≈70 acres) which were added on Grazing Land, near Armona (≈15 acres) on Vacant Land, and near Halls Corner on Rural Residential.</p>	
Unusual Changes (Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)	
<u>Replacement of digital soil survey data</u>	
<p>The USDA issued a new digital soil survey (SSURGO data) which was incorporated into the 2008 Important Farmland data. As a result, approximately 2,000 acres shifted among the irrigated farmland categories—primarily from Unique Farmland to Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. This reflects modifications made to soil mapping by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as opposed to land use conversions.</p>	
<u>Addition of Rural Land mapping categories and associated adjustments</u>	
<p>Subsequent to release of the 2006 Important Farmland Maps, the Other Land category was subdivided into more detailed categories, including: Rural Residential and Commercial, Semi-Agricultural, Vacant Land, and Nonagricultural and Natural Vegetation. While this process was being undertaken, boundaries were adjusted to take advantage of improved digital imagery, and numerous smaller features were delineated. This work was done on the 2006 data prior to initiating the 2008 map update; therefore 2006 statistics published with this release differ from those published during the 2006 update. In total, nearly 10,900 acres were reclassified into the Rural Land categories, primarily from the Grazing Land category.</p>	
<p>During the 2008 update, the 1 foot resolution imagery and site visits helped to improve the</p>	

Rural Land mapping designations. Minor shifts among these categories are shown in the new 2006-2008 Rural Land Use data table.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2010 update, and reasons.)

Agreements to sell water rights have occurred in a few locations in the county; the long term effect this will have on irrigated farmland should be tracked.

Definitions:

Irrigated Farmland includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

Nonirrigated land uses include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.

Other Land includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the [FMMP web site](#).

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2008 update.

Image interpretation, start date	12/14/09
Image interpretation, number of days	10 days.
Ground truth dates	February 22, 23, and 24 th .
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	2 days

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>