

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

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Los Angeles

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	March 2008
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 foot resolution
Coverage gaps	none
Additional imagery used	n/a

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)
None
Personal Contacts
Gary Mork with Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, County of Los Angeles
Websites Used for Reference
County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures: http://acwm.co.la.ca.us/
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	1 change
<p>The only significant conversion of Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land occurred nearby the I-5/SR 126 interchange in Santa Clarita where some new commercial buildings were added (~10 acres).</p>	

This was a very large category of change this update with most of these types of conversions to Urban Land occurring in the Antelope and Santa Clarita Valleys. The primary cause of conversion was the construction of new homes and commercial buildings.

Antelope Valley

Palmdale: Approximately 700 acres of new homes were added throughout the City of Palmdale. Some of the developments included the Sonoma Ranch, Collections, Somerset Creek, Discovery Trails, Mountain View Ranch, Vineyards, and parts of the Calico Terrace and Madeleine Court developments.

New commercial buildings were also added such as the 47th Street Pavilion shopping center with a Target, Home Depot, and Staples (~55 acres) and the Venture Commerce Center (~20 acres).

Recreation facilities were added in the form of Birdie's Restaurant and Driving Range (~10 acres).

The Highlands Christian Fellowship Church was a further notable addition (~10 acres).

Lancaster: The City of Lancaster experienced a similar level of home construction with approximately 740 acres of new homes in evidence. New developments added in Lancaster included the Reserve, Westview Estates, Pavilion, Estates, Pinnacle at Quartz Hill, Tierra Del Sol, and Falcon Pointe home developments. There were many other home developments that either were not visibly named or were not visited in the field check due to time constraints.

A final, notable addition in Lancaster was the new Endeavor Middle School (~10 acres).

Santa Clarita Valley

Santa Clarita: Approximately 200 acres of new homes were added in the Santa Clarita area, including the Stetson Ranch development and a couple of additions in the Plum Canyon area.

On the other hand, new commercial buildings accounted for the conversion of approximately 130 acres of nonirrigated land in the Santa Clarita area.

Lesser Areas of Development

Finally, lesser amounts of development occurred in the Cities of Los Angeles and Calabasas where approximately 100 acres and 70 acres of new homes and apartments, respectively, were added.

In the Halsey Canyon area, new commercial buildings were also on hand (~70 acres).

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

The majority of these changes occurred in the Antelope Valley and were due to irrigated crop land having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Large conversions of 100 acres or more occurred on the Fairmont Butte (~500 acres), Del Sur (~150 acres and 220 acres), and Lancaster East (~150 acres) quads. There were also a few instances of farmland going out of production in the Newhall area.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land

1 changes

There was only one conversion of this type where a small plot of Irrigated Farmland had been fallow for three update cycles and was too small to map in any other category.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

24 changes

There were some notable additions of new Irrigated Farmland this update, all of them occurring in the Antelope Valley area. The most significant additions were made on the Redman, Palmdale, and Neenach School quads.

On the Redman quad near Edwards AFB, six plots of center-pivot Irrigated Farmland (~700 acres) were added. This new agriculture alternates between crops of grain hay, sudan grass, and alfalfa per sources familiar with the agriculture in this area. Meanwhile, on the Palmdale quad to the east of Plant 42, more new center-pivot Irrigated Farmland was in evidence (~600 acres) in the form of more irrigated hay and alfalfa as well as a turf farm. Lastly, a large plot of new Irrigated Farmland (~375 acres) was identified on the Neenach School quad.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)

Out of Survey Area Addition: An addition of 47,597 acres of “Other Land” was made in an area of northeastern Los Angeles County near Edwards AFB. This land had been added to the NRCS soil survey in recent years, so was added to our survey area this update.

Updated County Line File: Due to adoption of an updated county boundary file, there was a decrease of 1,037 acres in the Los Angeles County total. Adjacent counties gained acreage of a similar amount.

Urban Land to Nursery: Nurseries were delineated in urban areas on the Oat Mountain, San Fernando, and Canoga Pass quads due to improved imagery (~35 acres).

Irrigated Farmland to Nursery: An area that had formerly been irrigated crop land was converted to a nursery with plants in pots on the Lovejoy Buttes quad (~100 acres).

Nonirrigated Grain to Grazing Land: Only thing notable here is the size of the change with two plots of nonirrigated grain having been fallow for four update cycles on the Fairmont Butte quad, totaling approximately 2,000 acres. This represents a conversion from Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land on the map.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

None

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	February 2, 2009
Image interpretation, number of days	8
Ground truth dates	March 2-5, 2009
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	4

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