

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

**2008 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Monterey

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	Air Photo USA – Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	April 2007
Data description	True Color
Coverage gaps	Everything south of Soledad
Additional imagery used	Imagery from prior update cycle: 2005 & 2006 National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP), USDA

**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)
Personal Contacts
Websites Used for Reference
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.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	12 changes
<p>Over fifty acres of new homes were built in the eastern part of Salinas near Williams Road. Construction was incomplete in the photo, so expect more Urban Land to be added in that area next update. Towards the south of Salinas, a shipping center with large buildings and paved lots converted over 40 acres on Harris Road. This change is in the middle of irrigated agriculture very close to the town of Spreckels. On the western side of Salinas, approximately 25 acres of Urban Land was added for a new Home Depot on the west side of Highway 101 from the Boronda Road exit. There were a few more changes due to new</p>	

homes, parking lots, and adjacent freeway interchanges, but these were all smaller than 15 acres.

<b>Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land</b>	<b>20 changes</b>
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Just south of the city of Gonzales, a Highway 101 on-off ramp area adjacent to the Gonzales cemetery added 35 acres of new Urban Land. On the Monterey peninsula, there were a couple of changes where portions of golf courses were added to the adjacent Urban Land. This situation left a couple Other Land polygons smaller than 40 acres surrounded by Urban Land; situations of this type result in their reclassification into Urban. These areas were along 17 mile drive near the Cypress Point and Pebble Beach golf courses. Also in this general vicinity, there were some new homes that increased the building density. The rest of the changes were smaller than 15 acres and consisted of mainly new homes, a parking lot, shopping plaza, and a school.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland  
aside from urbanization**

<b>Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses</b>	<b>33 changes</b>
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This is the most abundant type of change this update with the largest individual changes. It is the result of Irrigated Farmland going fallow for three or more update cycles. Every change was field checked if possible and of course they varied in location throughout the county. The 4 largest were over 100 acres each. In the Lockwood area, the largest change occurred at the intersection of Jolon and Interlake Roads. Over 300 acres was used for mostly dry grains during the field check, and therefore changed to Grazing Land. Another large change occurred in the same area. At the end of Lockwood Road, 180 more acres of dry grains were field verified. This trend in dry grain conversion is likely to continue in that particular locale. Just south of King City, over 160 acres of dry grains was found at the intersection of San Lucas and Oasis Roads. North of Soledad, over 125 acres of Irrigated Farmland went fallow. This is just outside of the city, near the foothills. The rest of the changes were less than 100 acres.

<b>Irrigated Farmland to Other Land</b>	<b>24 changes</b>
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This type of change occurred for a couple different reasons. The first and most common involved areas fallow for three update cycles and too small to be mapped as Grazing Land, therefore they were put into Other Land. Riparian areas were changed to Other Land three times and additional changes included farmsteads with horse pens. All of the changes were less than 30 acres each.

**Conversions to Irrigated Farmland**

<b>Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland</b>	<b>26 changes</b>
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A variety of new irrigated crops were found during the field check. There were new orchards and additions to existing orchards, strawberries, grape vines and corn. The largest change was over 175 acres of alfalfa in the Chalome Valley south of Parkfield. There was a large area of lettuce found during the field check north of San Lucas. It's located on Freeman Flat Road off of Highway 198. There was more lettuce present than was mapped this update. This area is in the photo coverage gap, but certain distinct boundaries were identified in the field and in previous air photos to map some of the lettuce. The rest was flagged for the next update, which could be a sizable amount.

## Unusual Changes

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

None.

## Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Everything south of Soledad will need careful checking due to the lack of photo coverage. Every fallow flag from the previous update was field checked if possible and updated, but many could not be updated because of inaccessibility. The Lockwood area seems to frequently change from irrigated to nonirrigated uses and vice versa, so keep a careful watch there. For example, an Irrigated Farmland field was site checked as possibly dry grains for a third update cycle. That field had irrigated corn during the field check. Watch out for fluctuations.

### 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	9/29/2008
Image interpretation, number of days	15
Ground truth dates	10/29/2008 – 10/30/2008
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>