California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Placer

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	September 2008
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 foot resolution
Coverage gaps	none
Additional imagery used	NA

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
None.
Websites Used for Reference
Cal-Fire incidents: http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents Fiddyment Farm: www.fiddymentfarm.com Google Earth, Street View: http://maps.google.com Placer County Online GIS: http://lis.placer.ca.gov/gis.asp?s=1072&h2=889 Placer Grown: www.placergrown.org
GIS Data Used for Reference
Placer County Base Map California City Boundary Layer Solid Waste Information System Layer

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	2 changes

These changes were due to new home construction within the City of Lincoln. The Lincoln Crossing development added approximately 20 acres of homes and approximately 10 acres of homes were added in another development.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	109 changes

These changes were primarily due to new homes, commercial buildings, schools, and parks. The majority of the changes occurred in the southern portion of the county, primarily in the Cities of Roseville, Lincoln, and Rocklin.

City of Roseville: There were approximately 530 acres of new housing added throughout the City of Roseville. Some of the new developments included Eskaton Village, Fiddyment Farm, Long Meadow, Meadowbrook, West Park, Willow Creek, and Woodlake Village.

New schools were also added, such as the Barbara Chilton Middle School (~20 acres) and the Junction Elementary School (~10 acres) within the new West Park neighborhood. The Creekview Ranch Middle School (~25 acres) was added in the southern part of the city.

There were approximately 145 acres of commercial buildings added throughout the city as well, including the Pleasant Grove Pointe shopping center and the Stone Point business park.

Finally, the Western Regional Landfill located just north of the city was expanded by approximately 85 acres.

City of Lincoln: Approximately 185 acres of new homes were added throughout the city, including some at the Lincoln Crossing and Sun City developments.

There were also approximately 120 acres of commercial buildings added, primarily within new shopping centers. Some of the new shopping centers included: Lincoln Crossing, Lincoln Gateway, and Sterling Pointe.

Foskett Regional Park (~35 acres) was also added, as well as a new parking lot (~20 acres) at Thunder Valley Casino.

City of Rocklin: There were approximately 195 acres of new housing added, including the Montessa Apartments and Whitney Ranch developments. The Blue Oaks Town Center shopping center (~85 acres) and other commercial buildings (~35 acres) were also added. Camp Whitney Park (~25 acres) was added along with another park (~10 acres). A new parking lot (~10 acres) was also added at Sierra College.

Other Cities:

- City of Auburn: Lariat Ranch homes (~30 acres) were added along with approximately 20 acres of other homes.

- Community of Meadow Vista: Approximately 120 acres of new homes were added, primarily in the Winchester Club development.

Other changes were due to the increased density of homes in existing housing areas resulting in changes from Other Land to Urban and Built-up Land. Approximately 775 acres of change occurred throughout the county, primarily in the foothill communities of Colfax, Meadow Vista, and Weimar. The use of 1 foot resolution imagery enabled more detailed mapping of homes in wooded areas.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland
aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	32 changes

The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of these changes were less than 75 acres and primarily occurred in the Sacramento Valley. Large conversions of 100 acres or larger occurred on the Pleasant Grove (~175, 225, and 645 acres), Rio Linda (~100 acres), and Sheridan (~110, 110, and 210 acres) quads.

Some changes were due to the identification of irrigated pastures on formerly irrigated farmland. Irrigated pastures are mapped as Farmland of Local Importance when they occur on poorer soils in Placer County, resulting in changes from Unique Farmland to Farmland of Local Importance. Most of these changes were less than 50 acres and also primarily occurred in the Sacramento Valley. Larger conversions occurred on the Lincoln (~260 acres), Pleasant Grove (~265), and Sheridan (~300) quads.

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is mapped as Farmland of Local Importance in Placer County. These changes primarily occurred in the Sacramento Valley. Most of the changes were less than 40 acres. The largest conversion occurred on the Lincoln quad (~160 acres).

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	18 changes

Low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, and rural commercial facilities accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 10-50 acres in size. One change of note was an approximately 90-acre conversion of irrigated farmland to wetlands along Riosa Road on the Sheridan quad.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	49 changes

The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the Sacramento Valley and low foothills. Most of the changes were 10-40 acres in size and consisted of irrigated pasture, vineyards, orchards, and rice. The largest change was a new vineyard on the Rocklin quad (~55 acres) within the future Sierra de Montserrat development.

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

Nonirrigated Land Uses to Other Land; There were 168 conversions to Other Land. The majority of these changes were due to low-density housing (ranchettes). These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily less than 50 acres each. Large changes greater than 100 acres occurred on the Auburn (2), Gold Hill (6), Lincoln (2), and Wolf (1) quads. Other changes were due to farmsteads, rural commercial facilities, and mining facilities.

Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance: There were 8 conversions of Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance. These changes were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain and irrigated pastures on poorer soils. The majority of these changes occurred in the Sacramento Valley and low foothills. Most of the changes were less than 50 acres each. The largest conversions were due to nonirrigated grain and occurred on the Pleasant Grove (~900 acres) and Roseville (~185 acres) quads.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 2 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. One of these changes was due to irrigated farmland being converted to a nonirrigated orchard. The other change was due to a potted plant nursery being converted to irrigated farmland. Nonirrigated orchards and potted plant nurseries are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 6 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to irrigated farmland due to the conversion of water holding ponds to rice on the Pleasant Grove quad and the delineation of a potted plant nursery on the Folsom quad. Further conversions to Other Land and Grazing Land were due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Adoption of an updated county boundary file led to a decrease of 71 acres in the Placer County total. Adjacent counties gained acreage by a similar amount.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

There were a lot of irrigated pastures identified this update due to the improved digital imagery. Careful checking may be required in the future to determine if land is irrigated farmland or irrigated pasture.

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	September 9, 2009
Image interpretation, number of days	8
Ground truth dates	October 5-7, 2009
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	6

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