

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

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Diego

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

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

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)
Cities of Carlsbad, Encinitas, and Escondido as well as the San Diego-Imperial Cattlemen's Association.
Personal Contacts
Jim Davis, President of the San Diego-Imperial Cattlemen's Association: (760) 782-0358
Walter Graves, County of San Diego, AWM Department: (858) 694-2778
Bill Winans, County of San Diego: (858) 694-2777
Websites Used for Reference
SanGIS: http://www.sangis.org/
Lovacres Ranch: http://www.lovacres.com/Home.aspx
GIS Data Used for Reference
Vegetation Layer from SanGIS for use in determining extent of rangelands suitable for addition to Grazing Land in San Diego County.

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
Conversion from irrigated farmland to Urban Land primarily took the form of new homes. New homes were added in the La Jolla Valley area of San Diego (~80 acres),	

Oceanside (~60 acres), and to Eureka Springs in Escondido (~70 acres). The Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa (~25 acres) and the Rancho Minerva Middle School (~30 acres) in Vista were further notable additions.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land

188 changes

This was a large category of change with most conversions taking the form of new homes, commercial and industrial buildings, schools, and parks.

City of San Diego

Approximately 450 acres of new homes and apartments were added in the San Diego area this update. Notable additions of commercial buildings were made in the form of the 4S Commons Town Center (~30 acres) and the TurboTax Headquarters of Intuit (~15 acres). Approximately 100 acres of industrial buildings were also added in the Otay Mesa area. Schools made a showing with the addition of the Maranatha Christian School (~20 acres), Marshall Middle School (~15 acres), an addition of sports fields and parking for Canyon Crest Academy (~30 acres), and Southwestern Community College (~10 acres). Lastly, parkland was expanded with the addition of the Nobel Athletic Area and Library (~30 acres), Montevalle Park (~25 acres), and Mountain Hawk Park (~15 acres).

City of Chula Vista

Approximately 140 acres of new homes were added in the Chula Vista area. Meanwhile, approximately 110 acres of new commercial buildings, including the Otay Ranch Town Center (~80 acres), were added this update. Schools provided some notable conversion with the addition of Mater Dei Catholic High School (~50 acres), Olympian High (~60 acres), and Wolf Canyon Elementary (~15 acres).

City of Carlsbad

New homes and apartments, including Bressi Ranch, La Costa Greens, and La Costa Ridge developments, accounted for the conversion of approximately 200 acres of nonirrigated land in Carlsbad. Approximately 130 acres of new commercial and industrial buildings were also added, including the Palomar Forum Business Park (~80 acres). The Crossings at Carlsbad Golf Course (~300 acres) and adjacent Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa (~30 acres) were further notable additions this update. Finally, the Poinsettia Elementary School (~15 acres) and Calvary Chapel (~15 acres) were added.

City of Oceanside

The City of Oceanside saw the addition of approximately 50 acres of new homes. New commercial and industrial buildings accounted for approximately 60 acres of conversion. The Louise Foussat Elementary School (~15 acres) and Cesar Chavez Middle School with adjacent Mance Buchanon Park (~50 acres) were also added.

City of San Marcos

San Marcos saw the addition of approximately 100 acres of new homes, the San Elijo Elementary School (~10 acres), and the Mission Hills Church (~10 acres).

Further, lesser additions of new homes were cause for conversion in Escondido (~30 acres), Vista (~20 acres), Fallbrook (~20 acres), Encinitas (~15 acres), Campo (~20

acres), and Ramona (~10 acres).

Finally, a combination of an increased density of homes due to infill construction and the use of detailed digital imagery led to the delineation of Urban Land throughout the county with notable concentrations in the Fallbrook, Winterwarm, and Ramona areas.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	97 changes
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These conversions were primarily due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Irrigated farmland that goes out of production in this manner is converted to Farmland of Local Importance in San Diego County. The vast majority of the changes were for less than 30 acres with a couple of conversions larger than 100 acres occurring on the Rodriguez Mtn (~175 acres) and Santa Ysabel (~140 acres) quads.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	62 changes
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The conversion of irrigated farmland to Other Land primarily occurred where farmland had been fallow for three or more update cycles and low-density housing (ranchettes) were present. These ranchettes may have been new additions in some cases or the use of detailed digital imagery may have allowed for their delineation. These conversions were concentrated on the Temecula, Bonsall, Pala, Boucher Hill, and Rodriguez Mtn quads.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	62 changes
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Conversions to irrigated farmland were primarily due to new orchard plantings, mainly avocado and citrus, along with some nursery expansion. These additions of orchards and nursery crops were centered in the northern portion of the county in the Fallbrook, Rainbow, Pala, Bonsall, Weaver Mtn, Red Mtn, and Escondido areas. The majority of these conversions were for 30 acres or less. The two largest conversions, however, were row or field crops and occurred in the Borrego Springs (~130 acres) and Jacumba (~150 acres) areas.

Unusual Changes

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

Other Land to Grazing Land: Due to a comment from the San Diego-Imperial Cattleman's Association, SanGIS vegetation data and current imagery was used as a guide to more accurately depict the extent of rangeland suitable for grazing in the county. This caused the extent of Grazing Land in San Diego County to be increased by 20,731 acres.

Other Land to Farmland of Local Importance: In making the addition of Grazing Land mentioned above, Farmland of Local Importance was also increased by 20,482 acres as a consequence. This is due to the San Diego County Farmland of Local Importance definition. Our analysts initially mapped these 20,482 acres as Grazing Land but due to the presence of high quality soils in these areas they qualify as Farmland of Local Importance.

Farmland of Local Importance to Other Land: These changes were primarily due to the delineation of low-density housing (ranchettes) throughout the county due to the use of detailed digital imagery.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: These changes were due to the identification of irrigated farmland growing under high tunnels that had previously been mapped as potted plant nurseries since they had that appearance in the imagery. A field visit to these sites confirmed their land use. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.

Conversions from Urban Land: Land was removed from the Urban Land category due to the use of detailed digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

The Fallbrook and Bonsall areas will need careful scrutiny every update due to their mixed land use of orchards and low-density housing.

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	March 23, 2010
Image interpretation, number of days	16
Ground truth dates	April 26-30, 2010
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	14

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