

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

**2008 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** San Luis Obispo

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Amy Klug

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	June 2007
Data description	true color mosaic, 1 foot resolution
Coverage gaps	
Additional imagery used	NAIP 2009

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:**

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

<b>Local Review Comments</b> (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps)
none
<b>Personal Contacts</b>
none
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b>
Google Earth, Street View <a href="http://maps.google.com/maps?tab=wl">http://maps.google.com/maps?tab=wl</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b>

**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	0 changes
There were no conversions this update.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	33 changes
Grazing Land on Prime or Statewide Importance soils show up as "Farmland of Local Potential" on the San Luis Obispo County IFL Map. There were a few changes from Grazing Land and/or Farmland of Local Potential east of Paso Robles where new homes (≈60 acres) and the Ravine Water Park (≈15 acres) were noted. In the vicinity of	

Atascadero and Templeton, new homes (≈20 acres) including the “Entrancia de Las Lomas” and “El Jardin de Las Lomas” were delineated. The Edna and San Luis Obispo areas had conversions from Grazing Land due to the addition of a sports field (≈15 acres), shopping center (≈25 acres) and the Poly Canyon Village university housing (≈20 acres). The Monarch Dunes Golf Course’s surrounding residential area added ≈25 acres of new homes west of Nipomo.

Conversions from Other Land were mainly due to the addition of either existing homes (due to the use of more detailed imagery) or newly built homes south east of Oceano (≈60 acres), west of San Luis Obispo (≈55 acres), north of Cambria (≈65 acres) and east of Grizzly Bend (≈25 acres). Approximately 215 acres converted to Urban near Atascadero and Templeton including new homes added to the “Dove Creek” development (≈15 acres).

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland  
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	89 changes
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Conversions to Grazing Land or Farmland of Local Potential were due to farmland following for three or more update cycles. Between Biddle Regional Park and Nipomo Regional Park and near Arroyo Grande, Grover City and Oceano, ≈195 acres converted. Near the coast and between Atascadero, Morro Bay, and San Luis Obispo, ≈115 acres were taken out of production. The majority of conversions took place in the upper middle of the county near Paso Robles, Templeton, Atascadero, as far east as Sheldon, and as far north as San Miguel (≈795 acres). There was also ≈65 acres worth of conversions near Cambria.

Conversion to non-irrigated grain (Farmland of Local Importance) accounted for ≈190 acres near Wellsona, Estrella, and Murphy Hill. Other changes occurred near Morro Bay (≈25 acres), Port San Luis (≈60 acres), Arroyo Grande (≈10 acres) and Nipomo (≈35 acres).

It was verified in the field or with imagery that ≈85 acres of orchards, likely olives, were not being irrigated east of Paso Robles and Templeton. Also noted was a small ≈10 acre plot of non-irrigated vines located east of Creston.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	5 changes
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Rural residential housing and agricultural staging areas led to conversions to Other Land in the vicinity of Templeton (≈20 acres), Edna (≈20 acres) and Nipomo (≈20 acres).

**Conversions to Irrigated Farmland**

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	81 changes
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A large amount of non-irrigated grain went into irrigated farmland categories this update from Paso Robles to Shandon and surrounding areas mostly due to the addition of vines

and orchards (≈390 acres). Other conversions occurred near Edna (≈100 acres), Nipomo (≈135 acres) and the south east edge of the county (≈165 acres).

There were conversions from Other Land near Templeton (≈15 acres), Creston (≈10 acres) and along the coast south east of Nipomo (≈65 acres).

In the north central portion of the county near Paso Robles, Templeton and Shandon ≈610 acres of (mostly) orchards and vines were noted on Grazing Land. New orchards occurred near Morro Bay and the Los Osos Valley (≈205 acres). New vines, orchards or row crops occurred south east of San Luis Obispo (≈105 acres) and south east of Nipomo (≈95 acres). A couple of small isolated changes were noted north of San Simeon (≈20 acres). Lastly, ≈20 acres of irrigated pasture was noted and at the far south east corner of the county.

### Unusual Changes

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

Irrigated pasture on poor soils are mapped as Grazing Land in the county. An approximately 165 acre conversion from Grazing Land to Unique Farmland was noted due to the addition of alfalfa slightly north of Creston.

Two large clusters of changes where rural residential housing (Other Land) was built on Grazing Land or Farmland of Local Potential occurred near Edna, Arroyo Grande and Nipomo (≈970 acres), and San Miguel, Shandon, Pozo, Atascadero, and Templeton (≈1,730 acres). Other Land conversions to Farmland of Local Potential were due to the use of detailed imagery to delineate more distinct boundaries (≈110 acres). The addition of non-irrigated grain (Farmland of Local Importance) led to a conversion from Other Land near Estrella (≈190 acres).

There were four conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to the identification of non-irrigated orchards. Potted plant nurseries and non-irrigated orchards are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes may result in Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance being converted to Unique Farmland.

There were seven changes from Grazing Land to Unique Farmland due to the addition of non-irrigated orchards near Creston (≈130 acres), Paso Robles (≈85 acres) and Camp Roberts (≈55 acres). Fallowing of non-irrigated orchards close to Paso Robles led to the conversion to Grazing Land from Unique Farmland (≈65 acres).

**SURVEY AREA ADDITION:** The 585,367 acre addition to the survey area consists primarily of the San Juan Valley, Carrizo Plain, Caliente Range, the lower portion of Temblor Range and Elkhorn Plain and includes the communities of Simmler, California Valley, and La Panza.

### **Summary of Land Use in Survey Area Addition:**

**Irrigated Farmland:** A total of ≈5,010 acres of irrigated farmland was delineated in this

new survey area. Approximately 4,250 of those acres occurred near the San Juan Valley and Camatta Canyon and were largely due to vineyards. Vines were also noted near the Carrizo Plain between La Panza and Simmler (≈760 acres).

**Nonirrigated Farmland:** Grazing Land on soils that would qualify as Prime or Statewide Importance soils if irrigated are classified as “Farmland of Local Potential” on the San Luis Obispo County IFL Map (≈126,760 acres added). Areas of non-irrigated grain, which is classified as “Farmland of Local Importance” on the San Luis Obispo County IFL Map, occurred near Salt Canyon and San Juan Valley (≈2,175 acres), on the Carrizo Plain (≈3,210) and near California Valley (≈475 acres). There was one non-irrigated orchard noted near Camatta Canyon (≈10 acres).

**Urban Land:** The only land meeting Urban criteria was a school on the Carrizo Plain just west of Simmler (≈10 acres).

**Other Land:** Areas of low density housing, mining, agricultural staging and agricultural ponds occurred in the San Juan Valley (≈100 acres), on the Carrizo Plain (≈1,140 acres) and slightly north of the Caliente Range (≈20 acres).

### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

#### 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	3/17/10, Carrizo addition: 7/12/10
Image interpretation, number of days	19 days, Carrizo addition: 4 days
Ground truth dates	5/17/10-5/20/10, Carrizo addition: 7/26/10-7/27/10
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	5 days, Carrizo addition: 1.5 days

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