

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

2010 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Amador

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)
Acquisition date	Summer 2009
Data description	1 meter resolution, true color mosaic
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	Google Maps, Landsat

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2010 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2008 maps)
None.
Personal Contacts
None.
Websites Used for Reference
Amador Flower Farm http://www.amadorflowerfarm.com/map.htm
Mill closure data, Martell http://www.pprc.info/html/millclosures.htm
GIS Data Used for Reference
None.

2008-2010 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	0 changes
None.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	15 changes
There are a total of 15 changes, but only three of them are greater than 10 acres. All of the	

changes involved new homes, commercial buildings or areas that have increased the building density, thus qualifying for Urban land. The two largest changes are 90 and 65 acres of homes that experienced an increased density of structures around them. Both changes are in the vicinity of Barton near Highway 88, in the eastern part of Amador County. A 22 acre change occurred west of Jackson, along Highway 88, where commercial buildings also experienced an increase in structural density.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	46 changes
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Only six of these changes are greater than 20 acres. Three of these changes were just south of Lone, near the Union Pacific railroad tracks and Old Stockton Road. The agriculture there was tracked as fallow, but had non-irrigated grains this update in the photo. Unfortunately the sites were not accessible for a field check. Over on Highway 16 by Waits Station, 77 acres of Irrigated Farmland went fallow for three updates, and was verified with a field check. Many changes occurred in the Shenandoah Valley. Although the valley had most of the activity, they were very small, often less than 10 acres. The largest changes in the valley were 50 and 35 acres.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	9 changes
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Irrigated Farmland going to Other Land occurred when farmland went fallow for three or more updates but combined small sizes with farmsteads and riparian areas. The two largest changes are only 20 acres each and the rest are less than 15 acres. Both of the 20 acre changes were in the Shenandoah Valley, one along Plymouth Shenandoah Road and the other near the Amador Flower Farm.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	4 changes
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The addition of Irrigated Farmland was almost completely absent this update. Three of the changes are around 2 acres each, consisting of new grape vines in the Shenandoah Valley. The fourth change was 20 acres of irrigated pasture that was verified with a site visit at Buena Vista Road and Coal Mine Road, not far from Lake Amador.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2010 update.)

There were about a half dozen changes where Urban Land was removed. Most were very small and due to improvements to imagery over the course of several updates. There are two instances that stand out from the rest, however:

Approximately 120 acres of Urban was reclassified to Other Land in Martell, near the Highway 88 and 104 eastbound split. This area was historically a Georgia Pacific lumber mill which closed in 1997; it has been tracked for several updates as vacant. The land appeared disturbed in imagery but has no structures; it had been mapped as Urban since the first map was released in 1984.

The other relevant change was in Lone. Homes for the Castle Oaks Homes development west of Castle Oaks Drive and South of Highway 104 were prematurely added four

updates ago based on published plans for the homes and land disturbance. This area resulted in a 50 acre change to Other Land.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2012 update, and reasons.)

The Shenandoah Valley seems to be the most active agriculturally. Watch the valley for small additions to existing vineyards as well as small areas going fallow for several updates. Farmland in the lone area seems to have an increase in fallow status.

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 2010 update.

Image interpretation, start date	7/26/2010
Image interpretation, number of days	7
Ground truth dates	8/24/2010
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	2

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>