

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

2010 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Madera

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

IMAGE DATA USED:

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

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
Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com iNest: http://www.internest.com/rylandmerced/rylandmerced33019.asp
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer

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	5 changes
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The majority of these conversions occurred in the cities of Madera and Chowchilla. The largest conversion took place in the City of Madera with a total of approximately 40 acres for the Parkwood Elementary School, Santa Barbara Estates, and other new homes. Meanwhile, conversions were made in the City of Chowchilla with a total of approximately 30 acres for Save Mart, Vintage Walk Community, and small businesses.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	7 changes
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The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the expansion of urban development in the City of Madera and the Bonadelle Ranchos – Madera Ranchos. The largest changes took place in the City of Madera where a total of approximately 20 acres were developed for The Crossroads, McDonalds, San Miguel Market, Store Max, Springhill Suites, Black Bear Diner, and other stores. Meanwhile, in Bonadelle Ranchos – Madera Ranchos approximately 20 acres were for a new school.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	95 changes
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A majority of these conversions were due to plots of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Countywide approximately 3,380 acres was converted to nonirrigated land uses. The largest number of conversions in this category occurred on the Madera quad with approximately 850 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Berenda and Gregg quads, both with approximately 570 acres going out of production.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	29 changes
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A majority of these conversions were due to a combination of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles which has been graded for development, the use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery to delineate areas of rural residential land, and low-density commercial areas throughout the county. The majority of these conversions happened on the Berenda quad, with approximately 210 acres going to vacant or disturbed land, rural residential land, and low-density commercial. This was followed by the Madera quad with approximately 180 acres going to vacant or disturbed land, rural residential land, and low-density commercial.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	64 changes
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This update a total of approximately 5,080 acres was converted to irrigated farmland. The most notable addition of irrigated farmland this update occurred on the Gregg quad with approximately 2,210 acres. This was followed by the Bliss Ranch and Lanes Bridges

quads with approximately 1,020 and 380 acres, respectively, going to irrigated farmland.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversion between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 10 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to either irrigated pasture being replaced by irrigated crops or irrigated crops being replaced by irrigated pasture. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance.

Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: There were 17 conversions of Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land. These changes were due to plots of nonirrigated grain being fallow for 4 or more update cycles. The largest conversions were on the Gregg quad with approximately 200 acres going to Grazing Land. This was followed by the Lanes Bridge quad with approximately 150 acres going to Grazing land.

Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance: There were 2 conversions of Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance. These changes were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. The largest conversions were on the Gregg quad with approximately 490 acres going to Farmland of Local Importance.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

None

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	9/21/2010
Image interpretation, number of days	7

Ground truth dates	11/15/2010 to 11/18/2010
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>