

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

**2010 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Monterey

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Michael Kisko

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date	Summer 2009
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps	none
Additional imagery used	none

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

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

<b>Local Review Comments</b> (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2008 maps)
City of Salinas, Community Development Department
<b>Personal Contacts</b>
None
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b>
Moss Landing Power Plant Project: <a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/mosslanding/index.html">http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/mosslanding/index.html</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b>
California City Boundary Layer Monterey County Base Map

**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.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	10 changes
<p>Conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban Land were due to the construction of new homes, schools, parks, and commercial buildings in the Salinas Valley.</p> <p>In the City of Salinas, the Monte Bella home development was expanded (~20 acres) and the Monte Bella Community Park (~20 acres) was added. Commercial development in the City of Salinas took the form of the Boronda Crossing shopping center (~15 acres)</p>	

with a Babies R Us and BevMo and a new Holiday Inn Express (~5 acres). Meanwhile, nearby Salinas, the community of Spreckels saw the addition of approximately 20 acres of new homes.

Significant development was also seen in King City where approximately 20 acres of new homes and the Chalone Peaks Middle School (~25 acres) were added.

The City of Greenfield also saw the urbanization of farmland in the form of new homes (~10 acres) and the Cesar Chavez Elementary School (~10 acres).

Finally, lesser amounts of development on farmland occurred with the addition of new homes in Soledad (~5 acres) and the Fanoe Vista Apartments (~5 acres) in Gonzales.

**Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land**

8 changes

Conversions from nonirrigated land uses to Urban Land were due to newly paved areas, expanded buildings, an increased density of homes, and high resolution imagery which allowed for improved delineation of homes in rural areas.

In Moss Landing, a newly paved parking area adjacent to the Sea Harvest Fish Market allowed for the addition of this paved area as well as some existing buildings to the Urban Land category (~15 acres) since they now, collectively, meet the 10-acre minimum map unit threshold. Similarly, south of Greenfield along Hwy 101 at Hobson Ave, what looks to be an agricultural processing building was expanded making it, along with some existing structures, big enough to be mapped as Urban Land (~15 acres).

Finally, four groups of homes that were dense enough to qualify for Urban Land either due to increased density or improved delineation due to high resolution imagery were added in the Carmel Valley area (~30 acres) and one in the Sycamore Flat area (~10 acres).

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland  
aside from urbanization**

**Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses**

41 changes

These conversions were primarily due to plots of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles and the use of high resolution digital imagery to improve the delineation of crop boundaries along the margins of the Salinas Valley. The majority of these conversions were for 25 acres or less. Small plots of irrigated farmland went fallow in the Las Lomas and Prunedale areas while the majority of the conversions along the margins of the Salinas Valley were due to improved delineation from the use of high resolution imagery. Notable conversions occurred on the northern edge of King City (~150 acres) and in the Lockwood area (~160 acres) where large plots of irrigated farmland were converted to Grazing Land due to having been fallow for three update cycles.

On the other hand, there were three large conversions of irrigated farmland to Grazing Land due to the presence of dry grains grown on the plots for multiple update cycles, instead of irrigated crops. These three conversions took place in the Paris Valley (~210 acres), Lockwood (~200 acres), and Parkfield areas (~210 acres).

**Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

15 changes

All of these conversions from irrigated farmland to Other Land were for 20 acres or less. These changes were due to either plots of farmland less than 10 acres that had been fallow for three update cycles in the Moss Landing and Salinas Valley areas, the delineation of farmsteads and agricultural staging areas in the Salinas Valley, aggregate mining nearby Castroville and Camp Roberts, or low-density commercial development in Soledad.

### Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland | 74 changes

There was a significant amount of new irrigated farmland added this update, the majority in the Salinas Valley and along its margins in foothill areas. These new croplands primarily consisted of new row crops, such as vineyard plantings, lettuce, and strawberries. Some of the areas added may have been missed last update as the previous mapper lacked aerial photography coverage of Monterey County south of Soledad which is where the majority of the new agriculture was added.

New vineyard plantings were prominent along the margins of the Salinas Valley in the Harlem area (~210 acres) and north and south of Paraiso Springs (~450 acres). Multiple additions of row crops, including lettuce, were also made to the south of King City along the Salinas River (~750 acres) and to the north of San Lucas (~360 acres). Row crops were also added in the Hames Valley (~250 acres). Organic strawberries (~110 acres) were a notable addition nearby Schneider Hill. Finally, the Lockwood area saw the addition of approximately 60 acres of new vineyards.

### Unusual Changes

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

Conversions from Urban and Built-up Land: Conversion from Urban and Built-Up Land was due to the removal of tanks at the Moss Landing Power Plant site, the lack of sufficient infrastructure, and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

The Lockwood area is a mixture of irrigated and nonirrigated cropland which will need monitoring and field visits to ensure mapping accuracy.

#### 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	November 17, 2010
Image interpretation, number of days	12
Ground truth dates	January 3-6, 2011
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>