

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

**2010 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** San Diego

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)
Acquisition date	Summer 2009 & 2010
Data description	1 meter resolution, true color mosaic
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	Google Maps, Bing 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)

Cities of: San Diego, Escondido, Encinitas, & Carlsbad.

**Personal Contacts**

None.

**Websites Used for Reference**

Fresh Origins Farm:

<http://www.freshorigins.com/about.html>

Albert Court Equestrian Center:

<http://www.albertcourt.com/info.html#>

Welk Resorts San Diego Map:

<http://welkresorts.com/san-diego/resort-map/>

Solar array at Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort in Valley Center:

<http://energycenter.org/index.php/incentive-programs/california-solar-initiative/csi-latest-news/2093-sun-shines-on-harrahs-rincon>

**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.

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
<b>Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land</b>	<b>27 changes</b>
<p>This type of conversion is not very common or significant in size. Only three of the changes are larger than 20 acres and the largest is 65 acres for the Eureka Ranch development along East Valley Parkway in Escondido. Mission Vista High School along highway 76 converted almost 30 acres of Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land. In the Rancho Bernardo area, over 20 acres of Irrigated Farmland was converted for Del Norte High School.</p>	
<b>Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land</b>	<b>401 changes</b>
<p>The number of changes is very large, but surprisingly the individual changes are modest. Only 3 changes are larger than 150 acres and the largest is 193 acres of existing homes in the Rancho Santa Fe area, where the majority of these changes occurred. In the same general area, 160 acres of more existing houses were mapped. The large estate homes, swimming pools, guest houses, tennis courts, manicured lawns and gardens helped justify these changes. The rest of the changes consist of homes, parking lots, athletic fields, commercial buildings and street expansions. Most of the total count are less than 10 acres each; some of these changes could be categorized as adjustments as there were pre-existing homes adjacent to Urban Land. Other notable changes include: La Costa Greens housing development in the San Marcos area, Del Norte High School in Rancho Bernardo, the North Coast Church in Vista, Stone Brewing Company &amp; Palomar Medical Center West in Escondido, solar panels for Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort in Valley Center, and the Otay Mesa transfer yard.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
<b>Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses</b>	<b>322 changes</b>
<p>There are many instances where Irrigated Farmland was changed to nonirrigated uses, but at least 90% of the changes are less than ten acres each. Nearly all of the changes are due to the Irrigated Farmland going fallow for three or more update cycles. Three changes are larger than 100 acres, with the largest being 220 acres of alfalfa that went fallow in the Borrego Valley, south of Henderson Canyon Road. Another large change of 215 acres was tracked as fallow for a fourth update to ensure replanting to irrigated uses did not occur. This was located near Rice Canyon Road in the vicinity of the Interstate 15 and Highway 76 interchange. Lastly, over 130 acres went fallow north of Escondido just off of Valley Center Road.</p>	
<b>Irrigated Farmland to Other Land</b>	<b>330 changes</b>
<p>This change has a large number of instances throughout the county, mostly consisting of areas that went fallow for three or more update cycles, but also had homes and large estates on these areas. Not a single change was over 100 acres; and less than 10 changes exceeded 20 acres in size. It was surprising that so many homes were on Irrigated Farmland, but the improved imagery utilized over several updates has helped</p>	

facilitate the identification and separation of these homes and estates.

### Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland | 110 changes

This change is widely dispersed throughout the county, but modest in size. The largest is only 30 acres and only four of the changes are greater than 20 acres. Most of the changes are new orchards or additions to existing orchards. The website for the Fresh Origins Farm had a photo of their facilities, which helped verify a 16 acre expansion of the operation.

### Unusual Changes

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

There are six instances where Urban Land was converted to another land use, which is unusual. These involved tracking the land for three updates for a lack of buildings or abandoned uses. Another unusual change was the closed Poway landfill which was identified with methane collectors and leachate pond. This is located at the eastern part of Poway adjacent to Poway Road.

### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Tons of activity around Fallbrook, Valley Center, & San Luis Rey Heights. This area has a variety of small areas going fallow, and even some areas graded for agriculture. Activity for new Urban Land is will be found near San Marcos, Rancho Santa Fe, and the Otay Mesa.

#### 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	7/25/2012
Image interpretation, number of days	02
Ground truth dates	10/23 to 10/25 2012
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	12

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