

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

**2010 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Stanislaus

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

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date	Summer 2010
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA; summer 2009

**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 Ceres, Development Services Department, Planning Division
<b>Personal Contacts</b>
None
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b>
Google Maps, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a>
NuCal Foods, Inc.: <a href="http://www.nucalfoods.com/default.aspx#">http://www.nucalfoods.com/default.aspx#</a>
San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=81654">http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=81654</a>
Welcome to Stanislaus County: <a href="http://www.co.stanislaus.ca.us/">http://www.co.stanislaus.ca.us/</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b>
California City Boundary Layer Public Conservation Trust Lands Legacy Program (August 2009) Layer Stanislaus County Base Map Stanislaus County Digital Soil Surveys

## 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	19 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to new schools, commercial buildings, homes, and solar facilities.</p> <p><b>City of Modesto:</b> The Joseph A. Gregori High School (~80 acres) was added, along with a new Savemart (~10 acres).</p> <p><b>City of Ceres:</b> Approximately 25 acres of new buildings were added at Miller Industrial Park as well as approximately 5 acres of new homes.</p> <p><b>City of Turlock:</b> United States Cold Storage (~15 acres) was added as well as approximately 15 acres of new homes.</p> <p><b>City of Newman:</b> The Cebro Frozen Foods and Stewart and Jasper processing facilities each added a new solar farm (~10 acres each).</p> <p><b>City of Patterson:</b> The Walnut Grove School (~25 acres) was added.</p> <p><b>Community of Denair:</b> The Denair Middle School (~20 acres) was added.</p> <p>Other changes were due to a new water storage pond (~20 acres) north of Oakdale and an expansion of a compost facility (~15 acres) near Solyo.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	15 changes
<p>These changes were due to new construction of homes and a school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>City of Oakdale:</b> Approximately 15 acres of new homes were added.</li><li>• <b>City of Riverbank:</b> Mesa Verde Elementary School (~ 10 acres) was added.</li><li>• <b>City of Turlock:</b> Approximately 10 acres of new homes were added.</li></ul> <p>A few changes were due to increased infrastructure. A campground was expanded and a small sewage disposal facility (~15 acres total) was added at the Modesto Reservoir. The Fink Road Landfill was expanded by approximately 20 acres nearby Crows Landing. Near Westley, an electrical substation was noted (~10 acres).</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	130 changes
<p>The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of these changes were less than 50 acres and primarily occurred in the San Joaquin Valley. Larger conversions occurred on the Brush Lake (~130 acres), Newman (~150 acres), and the Patterson (~180 acres) quads.</p> <p>Further conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in Stanislaus County. These changes primarily occurred along the edges of the San Joaquin Valley. Most of the changes were less than 60 acres. The largest conversions occurred on the Farmington (~235 acres) and Patterson (~140 and 325 acres) quads.</p>	

Finally, other conversions were due to the identification of irrigated pasture on poor soils. Irrigated pasture on poor soils (as determined by the USDA) is part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in Stanislaus County. These changes primarily occurred in the San Joaquin Valley. Most of the changes were less than 50 acres. The largest conversions occurred on the Escalon (~100, 140, 140, 195 and 235 acres) quad.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	69 changes
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Low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial facilities, and disturbed land that is graded for development accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 10-30 acres in size.

### Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	116 changes
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The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the San Joaquin Valley and along the eastern foothills. Most of the changes were 10-50 acres in size and consisted of orchards (primarily almonds), field crops, and vineyards. Some changes of note included an area of field crops (~435 acres) on the Gustine quad, an orchard (~1,370 acres) on the Oakdale quad, and an area of orchards and vineyards (~1,500 acres) on the Paulsell quad.

### Unusual Changes

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

Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance: There were 32 conversions of Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance. These changes were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in Stanislaus County. These changes primarily occurred along the eastern edge of the San Joaquin Valley. Most of the changes were less than 60 acres. The largest conversions occurred on the Cooperstown (~160 acres), Farmington (~100 acres), Knights Ferry (~110 acres), Oakdale (~900 acres), and Paulsell (~300 acres) quads.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 4 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to irrigated farmland having been converted to a nonirrigated orchard and potted plant nurseries. Nonirrigated orchards and potted plant nurseries are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 5 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to irrigated farmland, Grazing Land, and Other Land due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Farmland adjacent to the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge will need careful monitoring for continued conversion to wetlands.

**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	August 16, 2010
Image interpretation, number of days	14
Ground truth dates	November 15-19, 2010
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	11

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