

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

**2012 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Monterey

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

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2012
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 2012 mapping.*

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2010 maps)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Gills Onions: <a href="http://www.gillsonions.com">http://www.gillsonions.com</a> Golden State Bulb Grower: <a href="http://goldenstatebulb.com/">http://goldenstatebulb.com/</a> Google Earth, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a> Pure Pacific Organic: <a href="http://www.pim4u.com/company_purePacific.html">http://www.pim4u.com/company_purePacific.html</a> Vision Quest Ranch: <a href="http://visionquestranch.com/html/-welcome_to_our_jungle-.html">http://visionquestranch.com/html/-welcome_to_our_jungle-.html</a>
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Monterey County Base Map Monterey County Digital Soil Survey Parcel database Solid Waste Information System data

## 2010-2012 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	7 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to the construction of new sports fields, buildings and homes. In the City of Greenfield, the new Central Coast Youth Sports Organization soccer field (~20 acres) was added. The Pure Pacific Organic processing facility and a water control pond (~5 acres each) were added in Gonzales. In Salinas, approximately 15 acres of new homes were added in the Monte Bella community and a sports field (~5 acres) was added at Bolsa Knolls Middle School.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	62 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to the construction of homes, buildings, infrastructure and a school.</p> <p>In the Prunedale area and neighboring communities, approximately 40 acres of new homes were added and approximately 250 acres of homes were added due to increased density in formerly low-density housing areas. Carmel Valley (~100 acres), Corral de Tierra (~45 acres), San Benancio (~45 acres) and Baronet Estates (~30 acres) communities also added homes due to increased density.</p> <p>In the City of Salinas, the Bolsa Knolls Middle School (~10 acres) was added, the Vision Quest Ranch expanded some parking areas and added a few buildings (~10 acres), and another new building was added (~10 acres). In Seaside, General Jim Moore Blvd was repositioned adding approximately 50 acres of new urban. Also, the Greenfield Civic Center (~5 acres) was added in Greenfield.</p> <p>New buildings and infrastructure (~30 acres) were added at Fort Hunter Liggett, new water ponds (~40 acres) were added at the San Ardo oil field, and at Camp Roberts a new solar facility (~10 acres) was added. Two older landfills were also identified; Old Fort Ord Sanitary and Demolition landfill (~110 acres) and Rancho Los Lobos landfill (~85 acres).</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	55 changes
<p>The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were primarily located in the Salinas Valley. The majority of these changes were 50 acres or less. The largest changes (100 acres or larger) occurred on the Marina (~265 acres) and Paraiso Springs (~130 acres) quads.</p> <p>Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is mapped as Grazing Land in Monterey County. These changes primarily occurred in the Salinas Valley as well. All of these changes were 60 acres or less.</p>	

<b>Irrigated Farmland to Other Land</b>	<b>25 changes</b>
<p>Farmsteads, rural commercial, agricultural equipment storage areas and disturbed land accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily between 10-30 acres in size.</p>	
<b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b>	
<b>Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland</b>	<b>103 changes</b>
<p>The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the Salinas and Hames Valleys. Most of the changes were 10-75 acres in size and consisted of row crops, grape vines, orchards and field crops. Some changes of note include the addition of row crops (~125 acres) on the Bradley quad, a vineyard (~435 acres) on the Hames Valley quad, field crops (~110 acres) on the Parkfield quad, row crops (~115 acres) on the San Lucas quad, and field crops (~105 acres) on the Williams Hill quad.</p>	
<b>Unusual Changes</b>	
<p>(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)</p>	
<p><u>Grazing Land to Other Land:</u> There were 102 conversions of Grazing Land to Other Land. These changes were primarily due to low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial, agricultural equipment storage areas, mining expansions, disturbed land and nonagricultural vegetation. These changes occurred throughout the county and were primarily 10-40 acres in size. Two changes of note include the addition of approximately 110 acres of low-density buildings, towers and bunkers at Fort hunter Liggett and the Hidden Canyon Quarry (~50 acres total) near Greenfield.</p>	
<p><u>Conversions from Urban Land:</u> There were 16 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to Other Land and Grazing Land due to the removal of buildings in some areas and the identification of open space in others. The most significant change was the removal of buildings (~90 acres) at Camp Roberts. Other small changes were due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.</p>	
<p><u>Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories:</u> There were 3 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. Two of these changes were due to the identification of potted plant nurseries. The other change was due to a potted plant nursery having been converted to irrigated farmland. 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.</p>	
<p><u>Fort Ord Redevelopment:</u> In Marina, on the old Fort Ord Military Reservation, buildings have been demolished and replaced with new development. This new construction will not show in our statistics since the area was already mapped as Urban Land. New development in this area includes the Doe Park housing area (~95 acres), Irajin Office Park (~5 acres), Marina Education Center (~10 acres) and the Peninsula Wellness Center (~10 acres).</p>	

**Areas of Concern for Future Updates**

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2014 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 2012 update.*

Image interpretation, start date: February 21, 2014

Image interpretation, number of days: 15

Ground truth dates: April 1-4, 2014

Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 9

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