

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

**2012 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** San Diego

**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.*

<b>Local Review Comments</b> (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2010 maps) Cities of Carlsbad, San Diego and San Marcos
<b>Personal Contacts</b> None
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b> Google Earth, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a> Hokto-Kinoko Mushrooms: <a href="http://www.hokto-kinoko.com">www.hokto-kinoko.com</a> Miramar National Cemetery: <a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/miramar.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/miramar.asp</a> Rainbow Protea Exotic Cut Flowers: <a href="http://www.rainbowprotea.com">www.rainbowprotea.com</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b> California City Boundary Layer Parcel Database San Diego County Base Map San Diego Digital Soil Surveys 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	9 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to the construction of new homes and school expansions.</p> <p><u>City of San Diego:</u> Approximately 25 acres of new homes were added, including part of the Pacific Highlands Ranch development (7 acres).</p> <p><u>City of Carlsbad:</u> New homes at the Robertson Ranch development (~10 acres) were added and Sage Creek High School was expanded by approximately 15 acres.</p> <p><u>Camp Pendleton:</u> Approximately 40 acres of new homes were added in the Camp Del Mar part of the base near I-5.</p> <p><u>Other Conversions Throughout the County:</u> In San Marcos approximately 10 acres of new buildings and parking were added. A new football stadium (~5 acres) was added at the San Pasqual Academy in San Pasqual.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	300 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to the construction of homes, buildings, infrastructure, and government facilities.</p> <p><u>City of San Diego:</u> Approximately 300 acres of new homes and apartments were added in San Diego this update. Notable additions included approximately 40 acres of new homes at Sycamore Estates, part of the Pacific Highlands Ranch development (~10 acres), new Circa 37 apartments (~15 acres) and the expansion of apartments at Highlands Village (~10 acres). At the new Miramar National Cemetery, approximately 25 acres of manicured lawn area and parking was added. Approximately 145 acres of new buildings and paved parking lots were added throughout the city, including a new parking lot (~10 acres) at SeaWorld. New freeway and interchange construction accounted for approximately 95 acres and the South Chollas Landfill (~150 acres) was added for consistency.</p> <p><u>City of Chula Vista:</u> There were approximately 215 acres of new homes and apartments added. The new home developments of McMillin at Lomas Verdes (~15 acres), Montecito Ridge (~10 acres) and Winding Walk (~10 acres) were added as well as the Rosina Vista apartments (~15 acres). Also, All Seasons Park (~10 acres) and a new parking lot (~10 acres) were added. New freeway construction also accounted for approximately 25 acres and a landfill (~20 acres) was noted.</p> <p><u>City of San Marcos:</u> In the City of San Marcos, approximately 100 acres of new homes and apartments were added, including homes at the Arbor Ranch development (~20 acres). A new sports field was added at CSU San Marcos (~10 acres). Also, new</p>	

businesses and parking areas (~20 acres) were noted.

City of Carlsbad: Approximately 115 acres of new homes and apartments were added, including the Costa Pointe condos (~5 acres) and The Tides homes (~5 acres). Also, approximately 30 acres of new businesses and parking were added, including the new Hilton Resort and Spa (~10 acres). A water control pond (~15 acres) was also noted.

Camp Pendleton: Approximately 55 acres of new buildings were added as well as new sports fields (~15 acres total). Also, approximately 25 acres of new homes and apartments were added. A new solar facility (~10 acres) was also noted, along with water control ponds (~30 acres).

Other Conversions Throughout the County: Near Alpine, a new electrical substation (~40 acres) was added in the Cleveland National Forest. The Arrowood housing development (~30 acres) was added in Oceanside. In Lakeside, the new Lakeside National Little League Baseball Fields (~10 acres) were added. The Vista Sports Park (~15 acres) was added in Vista. In Fallbrook, a new solar facility (~10 acres) was added. Other solar facilities, approximately 10 acres each, were added on the Fallbrook quad near De Luz and on the Valley Center quad, near Turner Lake.

Further changes were due to the increased density of homes in existing housing areas resulting in changes from Other Land to Urban and Built-up Land. These conversions occurred throughout the county, with concentrated changes in the Bonsall, Borrego Springs, Ramona, Rancho Santa Fe, San Luis Rey Heights, and Winterwarm areas.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland  
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses

126 changes

The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were concentrated in the northwestern quarter of the county. The majority of these changes were 30 acres or less. The largest changes (100 acres or larger) occurred on the Rancho Santa Fe quad (~105 and 155 acres).

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain on farmland that had formerly been irrigated. Nonirrigated grain is mapped as Farmland of Local Importance in San Diego County. Most of these changes were 60 acres or less. The largest change occurred on the Aguanga quad (~260 acres).

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land

33 changes

Low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, disturbed land and nonagricultural vegetation areas accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily between 10-30 acres in size. One change of note occurred on the Otay Mesa quad where approximately 40 acres were converted to a gravel yard for semi-truck trailer storage.

## Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

90 changes

The majority of the irrigated farmland additions were 10-40 acres in size and consisted of orchards, row crops, grape vines, irrigated pasture, and nurseries. These changes were concentrated in the northwestern quarter of the county. Some changes of note include the addition of orchards (~65 acres) on the Aguanga quad, row crops (~95 acres) on the Clark Lake quad, irrigated pasture (~40 acres) on the San Vicente Reservoir quad, and the Hokto Kinoko mushroom growing facility (~15 acres) on the San Marcos quad.

## Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)

Nonirrigated Land Uses to Other Land: There were 275 conversions of nonirrigated land uses to Other Land. These changes were primarily due to low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial, mineral extraction areas, disturbed land and nonagricultural vegetation. These changes occurred throughout the county and were primarily 10-30 acres in size.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 24 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to Other 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 (~30 acres) at the former Hercules Gunpowder Company on the National City quad. Urban Land was converted to Unique Farmland due to the identification of small potted plant nurseries. Other small changes were due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 12 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. Seven of these changes were due to potted plant nurseries having been converted to irrigated farmland. The other five changes were due to the identification of potted plant nurseries on former 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.

## Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2014 update, and reasons.)

Watch for more agricultural shifts in the hills due to the drought. Be careful when converting avocado orchards in the Fallbrook area. These orchards are sometimes cut back temporarily and, so, should not be removed from an agricultural category.

## 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: August 12, 2014
Image interpretation, number of days: 24
Ground truth dates: December 8-11, 2014
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 16

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