

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

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Luis Obispo

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy & Michael 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)
City of Arroyo Grande
Personal Contacts
None.
Websites Used for Reference
Google Earth, Street View: http://maps.google.com Central Coast Soccer League, Ady soccer fields http://www.ccsoccer.org/content/field-status
GIS Data Used for Reference
None.

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.

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	4 changes
<p>There are only four total changes from urban land to irrigated farmland and the largest is only 18 acres. Just south of San Luis Obispo on Los Osos Valley Road, a new Target, Olive Garden, and Dick's Sporting goods are responsible for the 18 acre change. The other three changes were homes and an area where Highway 101 was added to Urban.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	45 changes
<p>The source of this conversion is mostly new homes, businesses, and apartments. Interestingly, three of the four largest changes were solar panels associated with the California Valley Solar Ranch along Highway 58, contributing 132, 81, and 42 acres each. This solar ranch is still expanding and will contribute more Urban Land acreage in future updates.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	146 changes
<p>This change is primarily due to Irrigated Farmland going fallow or cropped as non-irrigated grains for three or more update cycles. The number of changes is significant, but none of the changes exceeded one hundred acres in size. The changes to non-irrigated grains were typically on non-accessible land but clearly had a harvest pattern in the summer imagery. Google streetview provided valuable assistance determining irrigated and fallow status because most of the imagery was dated March and April 2012.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	32 changes
<p>The change from Irrigated Farmland is primarily due to going fallow for three or more updates, but each was too small to change to Grazing Land or had land uses appropriate for Other land. Examples include twelve acres that were converted to horse corrals east of Los Osos, and eleven acres east of Arroyo Grande that were similar to adjacent riparian areas.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	100 changes
<p>This type of change was very active and well dispersed through the county, but the largest is only 60 acres and the rest are less than 40 acres each. Vineyards and orchards were common sources of new agriculture, especially in the northern part of the county near Paso Robles. Google streetview again provided valuable assistance, especially as vines and trees are present in the fields year round. In the southern part of the county near Los Osos and Nipomo, row crops tend to be more common sources of new agriculture.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
<p>(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)</p>	

One small (7 acres) but notable change was for Ady soccer fields of the Central Coast Soccer League, located between Paso Robles and Templeton along the Salinas River. The land was pasture or sod as recently as 2006, but after that point converted to soccer fields. The appearance of irrigated grass fields and lack of accessibility kept the soccer fields undetected until this update. One of the fields converted seven acres adjacent to a farmstead, and therefore was reclassified to Other Land. Another seven acres were adjacent to Grazing Land along the Salinas River.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Watch for more non-irrigated grains in the northern part of the county going fallow for a fourth update cycle.

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: 8/4/2014

Image interpretation, number of days:

Ground truth dates: January 13-14, 2015

Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 5

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>