

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

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Stanislaus

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date	Spring 2012
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA; summer 2010, Google

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
Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer

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	14 changes
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The majority of these changes occurred adjacent to the City of Riverbank where approximately 160 acres was converted for the McHenry Solar Farm, a house, and some buildings. Meanwhile in the City of Patterson approximately 60 acres was converted for the Grainger Distribution Center, Power Substations, and some new homes. Adjacent to the City of Ceres approximately 40 acres was converted for Cesar Chaves junior high school, a new electrical substation, and the Stanislaus County animal shelter.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	2 changes
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The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the expansion of urban development in or adjacent to the cities of Hughson and Waterford. The largest conversions occurred in the City of Hughson where approximately 10 acres was added for Fontana Ranch Estates. Meanwhile, adjacent to the City of Waterford approximately 5 acres was added for a Church with a sports field.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	105 changes
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There were two primary reasons for the conversion of irrigated farmland:

First, the majority of these changes were due to plots of irrigated and having been fallow for three or more update cycles. County wide approximately 1,780 acres went out of production. The majority of the changes in this category occurred on the Riverbank quad with a total of approximately 310 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Solyo and Crows Lands quads with a total of approximately 180 and 120 acres, respectively, going out of production.

Second, areas of irrigated farmland were identified that are no longer being irrigated but, instead, are being used for the cultivation of nonirrigated grain crops. These areas had not been irrigated for multiple update cycles. The largest changes occurred in the City of Patterson and South of Patterson, West of Interstate 5 with a total of approximately 620 acres going to nonirrigated grain crops. This was followed by the Montpelier quad with a total of approximately 370 acres going to nonirrigated grain crops.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	50 changes
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A majority of these conversions were due to a combination of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles which were too small to be mapped as nonirrigated land uses, as well as areas of vacant or disturbed land, or natural vegetation. The use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery assisted in delineating areas of rural residential land, and low-density commercial areas throughout the county. The majority of these conversions happened on the Ceres quad with approximately 80 acres going to vacant or disturbed land, rural residential land, and low-density commercial. This was followed by the Paulsell quad with approximately 70 acres going to natural vegetation

and vacant or disturbed land.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland | 107 changes

This update a total of approximately 8,620 acres was converted to irrigated farmland. The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the San Joaquin Valley and along the eastern foothills. The most notable addition of irrigated farmland this update occurred on the Paulsell quad with a total of approximately 3,470 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for new orchards and vineyards. This was followed by the Knights Ferry and Oakdale quads with approximately 1,400 and 1,230 acres, respectively, converting to irrigated farmland.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversion between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 63 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to either irrigated pasture being replaced by irrigated crops or irrigated crops being replaced by irrigated pasture. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance.

Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance: There were 10 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. The largest conversions were on the Paulsell quad with approximately 250 acres being reclassified to Farmland of Local Importance.

Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: There were 2 conversions of Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land. These changes were due to plots of nonirrigated grain being fallow for 4 or more update cycles.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 5 conversions from Urban Land. Small units within Urban Land boundaries were converted to irrigated farmland or to Other Land. This was possible 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 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	April 23, 2013
Image interpretation, number of days	16
Ground truth dates	June 24 – 26, 2013
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	7

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