

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

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Ventura

FIELD MAPPER(S): 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) Cities of Ventura, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark and Camarillo
Personal Contacts None
Websites Used for Reference Google Earth, Street View: http://maps.google.com Solid Waste Information System (SWIS): http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/search.aspx
GIS Data Used for Reference California City Boundary Layer Ventura County Base Map 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.

Conversions to Urban Land

Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	5 changes
<p>Conversions of irrigated farmland to Urban Land were seen in the City of Ventura where two additions of new homes (~10 acres) and one addition of new industrial buildings (~5 acres) were added. Also, solar panels (~10 acres) were a new addition next to Oxnard High School. Finally, soccer fields (~10 acres) were delineated in Santa Paula that were not new this update but had been overlooked in the previous update due to the green turf which may look similar to an irrigated crop.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	15 changes
<p>These conversions were due to the construction of new homes, apartments, commercial buildings and sports fields.</p> <p>In and around Thousand Oaks, approximately 40 acres of homes along with the new Belmont Village Senior Living Facility (~5 acres) were added. In Oxnard, a new Target store (~10 acres), some new homes (~5 acres) and new soccer fields (~15 acres) at College Park were in evidence. Moorpark saw the addition of approximately 15 acres of new homes and approximately 10 acres of homes were added nearby due to increased density. Finally, the Valle Naranjal Apartments (~10 acres) were a notable addition in Piru.</p> <p>The Bailard Landfill was delineated near Oxnard which resulted in the conversion of approximately 150 acres of nonirrigated land. This is a closed landfill that didn't show up on the Solid Waste Information System (SWIS) shapefile or on the USGS 24k quads. Confirmation of its land use was determined through Google Streetview and research on the SWIS online database.</p>	
<p align="center">Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	29 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to irrigated farmland or pastureland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The majority of these changes were for 20 acres or less. Larger conversions of 100 acres or more occurred on the Fillmore (~130 acres), Newbury Park (~200 acres) and Simi Valley West (~150 acres) quads. These formerly irrigated lands will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance if they are on high quality soils, as determined by the USDA, or to Grazing Land if on lesser quality soils.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	17 changes
<p>These conversions were primarily due to the delineation of farmsteads, ranchettes and agricultural staging areas throughout the county. The changes occurred throughout the county and were generally 10-20 acres in size. These changes accounted for approximately 220 acres of conversion from irrigated farmland to Other Land.</p>	
<p align="center">Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated	26 changes

Farmland	
<p>Additions of irrigated farmland were primarily due to newly irrigated orchards and row crops and occurred in both valley and hill areas of the county. Areas which showed additions of new irrigated agriculture included the Fillmore, Moorpark, Oxnard, Santa Rosa Valley, Piru, Camarillo and Ventura areas. The majority of these additions were for less than 20 acres in size. However, notable additions of irrigated agriculture were seen in the form of row crops (~70 acres) east of Piru, orchards (~100 acres) in the Camarillo Hills and orchards (~50 acres) to the west of Ventura.</p>	
Unusual Changes (Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)	
<p><u>Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land:</u> There were 15 conversions of Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land. All of these changes were due to areas of nonirrigated grain production having been fallow for four or more update cycles. Large, single conversions of this type occurred on the Ojai (~250, 200 and 140 acres) and Saticoy (~190 acres) quads.</p> <p><u>Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories:</u> There were a couple of instances where areas that had previously cultivated nursery stock in pots were converted to in-ground, irrigated crops. This change in land use caused a conversion from Unique Farmland to Prime Farmland to reflect the soil type underlying the in-ground, irrigated crop. Nurseries with stock grown in pots are always mapped as Unique Farmland, regardless of the underlying soil type.</p> <p><u>Conversions from Urban Land:</u> Conversion from Urban and Built-Up Land was primarily due to the removal of tanks at the Ormond Beach Power Plant and the Willett Tank Farm in Ventura and small areas lacking structures in North Fillmore, Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, and Oxnard.</p>	
Areas of Concern for Future Updates (Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2014 update, and reasons.)	
<p>Definitions:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Nonirrigated land uses include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming,</p>	

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 14, 2014
Image interpretation, number of days: 9
Ground truth dates: None
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 1

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