

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

**2014 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Contra Costa

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** C.K. Williams

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: none
Additional imagery used: Google

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:**

*The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2014 mapping.*

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2012 maps)
Community Development Department Planning Division, Antioch CA
Personal Contacts
Websites Used for Reference
Google Map, Google Street View
GIS Data Used for Reference

**2012-2014 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	1 change
There was only one significant change this update due to the addition of the Oaks	

Apartment complex in Oakley approximately 13 acres.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	30 changes
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These conversions were primarily due to new homes, commercial developments, and a park and ride in Antioch.

City of Brentwood: Approximately 150 acres of new homes were added as well as a new interchange in east Brentwood (~30 acres).

City of San Ramon: Approximately 30 acres of new homes were added as well as the Rancho San Ramon Community Park (~30 acres) south east of the city.

City of Oakley: Approximately 60 acres of new homes were added.

City of Pittsburg: Approximately 65 acres of new homes were added.

Town of Danville: Approximately 50 acres of new homes were added.

City of Antioch: Approximately 100 acres of new homes were added, the largest in the Hidden Glenn development (~60 acres), as well as a park and ride station (~15 acres).

City of Richmond: A Whole Foods distribution center was added in the north (~10 acres).

### Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	20 changes
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These conversions were primarily due to plots of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles and the conversion of 3 nurseries in the city of Richmond (~80 acres). The most significant of these changes was south of the city of Brentwood and east of the town of Byron. (~260 acres). The second most significant was the conversion of irrigated pasture to grazing land south of the community of Bethel Island (~60 acres). The other conversions were primarily less than 20 acres.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	4 changes
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These conversions were primarily due to plots of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. All conversions were less than approximately 10 acres.

### Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	17 changes
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Conversions to irrigated farmland were primarily between 10 and 50 acres and involved the addition of row and field crops along with some orchards. The most significant was the addition of irrigated pasture (~160 acres) east of Bethel Island. Finally, the largest conversion was the addition on a new orchard south of the city of Brentwood (~260 acres).

### Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)

Conversions from Urban and Built-up Land: Conversion from Urban and Built-up Land is primarily due to a lack of sufficient infrastructure in the Oakley and Discovery Bay areas, and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

Conversions affecting Grazing Land and Farmland of Local Importance:

This update there were approximately 60 acres of change involving the conversion of Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land. This type of change is due to areas of nonirrigated grain having been fallow for four or more update cycles. Nonirrigated grain is part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in Contra Costa County. Conversely, some areas that had been in Grazing Land were cropped to dry grain. Although this could show as a statistical conversion, the land may have already been mapped as Farmland of Local Importance based on other factors within the County's definition.

**Areas of Concern for Future Updates**

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 update, and reasons.)

In a letter received from Community Development Department states there are 4 housing developments planned in the city of Antioch, so watch for expansion.

**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 2014 update.*

Image interpretation, start date: 1/20/2016
Image interpretation, number of days: 10
Ground truth dates: February 22-23
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 2

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

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