

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

**2014 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Fresno

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Troy Dick

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2014
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 2014 mapping.*

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2012 maps)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Earth, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a>
Granville Homes: <a href="http://www.gvhomes.com/">http://www.gvhomes.com/</a>
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Fresno County Base Map

**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.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	18 changes
<p>The majority of these changes occurred in the Huron, Fresno and Del Rey areas. The largest conversions occurred adjacent to the City of Huron where approximately 250 acres were converted for the expansion of the PG&amp;E Huron Solar Station, the Westlands Solar Farm and a new solar facility. Meanwhile, in and adjacent to the City of Fresno, approximately 70 acres were converted for 3 new solar facilities, Ingram: Lightning Source, Fed Ex Warehouse, Rio Belleze Granville community, other new homes, buildings, and a water storage pond. In and adjacent to the town of Del Rey, approximately 20 acres were converted for a water storage pond, a new landing strip, and a parking lot.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	53 changes
<p>The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the expansion of urban development in or adjacent to the cities of Fresno and Clovis and near Table Mountain Casino. The largest conversions occurred in or adjacent to the City of Fresno where approximately 410 acres were converted for new homes, businesses, and apartments. Meanwhile, in the City of Clovis, approximately 320 acres were converted for the Clovis Crossing Shopping Center, Sierra Meadows Park, Clovis Community Medical Center, Central Valley Indian Health Inc., new homes and businesses. Lastly, near Table Mountain Casino approximately 40 acres were converted for the Bella Vista Community.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	296 changes
<p>Conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land uses was primarily due to either irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles or the production of nonirrigated crops on formerly irrigated land. Many of these converted area will be classified as Farmland of Local Importance due to the presence of high quality soils or their use for nonirrigated crop production. The remainder will be converted to Grazing Land.</p> <p>The majority of these changes were due to plots of irrigated land having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of the changes in this category occurred on the Levis quad with approximately 1,010 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Selma quad with approximately 680 acres going out of production.</p> <p>Finally areas of irrigated farmland were identified that were no longer being irrigated but, instead, were being used for the cultivation of nonirrigated crops. The largest changes due to nonirrigated crop production occurred on the Westside quad (5,810 acres) followed by the Levis quad (2,250 acres).</p>	

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	42 changes
<p>Most of these conversions to Other Land were due to a combination of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles, which were too small to be mapped separately as nonirrigated land uses, small bodies of water, wetlands, natural vegetation, and low density development. The use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery assisted in delineating areas of rural residential land and areas of low-density commercial throughout the county. The largest conversions happened on the Reedley quad with approximately 230 acres going to rural residential and for irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles, which were too small to be mapped separately as nonirrigated land uses. This was followed by the Tranquility quad with approximately 170 acres converting to Other Land.</p>	
<b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	206 changes
<p>The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Dos Palos quad with approximately 1,150 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for new row crops. This was followed by the Coalinga and San Joaquin quads with approximately 1,090 and 1,020 acres, respectively, being converted to irrigated farmland.</p>	
<b>Unusual Changes</b>	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)	
<p><u>Conversion between Irrigated Farmland categories:</u> There were 13 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.</p>	
<p><u>Conversions from Urban Land:</u> Conversion from Urban and Built-up Land is primarily the result of the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.</p>	
<b>Areas of Concern for Future Updates</b>	
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 update, and reasons.)	
<p>Water deliveries in 2015 continued to decrease compared to, many more acres have been described as fallow subsequent to the FMMP 2014 update. Look for status changes current to 2016 water conditions for the next update.</p>	
<b>Definitions:</b>	
<p><b>Irrigated Farmland</b> includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL)</p>	

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: May 5, 2015
Image interpretation, number of days: 25
Ground truth dates: August 31 – September 4, 2015
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 6

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