

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

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Kings

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture 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 Maps: www.google.com/maps
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	11 changes
Conversions to Urban land were not very common with a few exceptions. The new	

PG&E Guernsey Solar Station, located along Avenue 10 ½, converted 162 acres. Nichols Farms agricultural processing plant impacted approximately 15 acres at the intersection of Idaho and 1st Avenues. The remaining changes were all less than ten acres each.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land

33 changes

The reasons for this conversion vary greatly, ranging from the new Corcoran Solar 2 Project (160 acres), to the Avenal landfill expansion, to new homes. Rural Residential areas with increased structural densities were found that qualify for Urban now as well. Aside from the Corcoran Solar 2 Project, the remaining changes were all less than 50 acres each.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses

88 changes

This is the most significant type of conversion during this update. There are 6 changes that were in excess of 1,000 acres and the largest was over 2,100 acres. Four out of these six changes occurred in the south end of the Tulare Lakebed, near the Blakeley Canal, Utica Avenue, and the Liberty Farms South Canal. The Kettleman Plain was another area of large conversions, one over 1,000 acres and several over 500 acres, where non-irrigated grains have become the predominant crop. A third area south of Lemoore Station and west of Stratford also had several large conversions, one over 1,400 acres and four more over 400 acres each.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land

46 changes

While this conversion type was large in number, none were larger than 20 acres. Most of the changes consist of agricultural land less than ten acres, fallowed for three or more updates and therefore converting to adjacent Other Land. In addition to being too small to qualify for the Grazing Land category, several areas that went fallow also had farmsteads, agricultural equipment storage, riparian areas, and gravel yards. The locations were well spread throughout the county.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

59 changes

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland occurred throughout the county, and most were new orchards. The largest was a new orchard that is almost 1,700 acres in the southeast corner of the county near 6th Avenue and County Line Road. Google Streetview was particularly helpful with that change, the orchard already in the ground according to the May 2013 image. Three changes for new alfalfa were more than 100 acres, but all of the remaining changes were less than 40 acres each.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversions from Urban Land are unusual. The largest change of this nature was due to the abandonment and closure of a portion of the Phoenix Sunrise Golf Course south of Lemoore (60 acres).

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Solar projects are starting in several areas of the county. In particular, the area around the Corcoran Solar Project 2; hundreds of acres are anticipated to be converted for the Cottonwood Solar and CID Solar projects during the next update. Additionally, tens of thousands of acres of Irrigated Farmland are currently noted as fallow for two update cycles. Some will go back into production, but there likely could be several thousand acres that continue to be fallow and converted to another land use.

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: 4/13/2015

Image interpretation, number of days: 21
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Ground truth dates: 6/29/2015 to 7/1/2015

Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 5
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Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

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