

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

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Marin

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)
Acquisition date: Summer 2014
Data description: 1 meter resolution, true color mosaic
Coverage gaps: None
Additional imagery used: Google maps

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
Hamilton/Bel Marin Keys Wetlands Restoration http://hamiltonwetlands.scc.ca.gov/about/images-and-figures/ Lawson's Landing http://www.lawsonslanding.com/MAP.aspx Marin Conservation League, Lawson's Landing http://www.conservationleague.org/about-us/228-lawsons.html Marin Audubon Society, Bahia Wetlands Restoration http://marinaudubon.aviandesign.net/properties-bahia-history.php Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District http://www.lgvsd.org/facilities/reclamation/
GIS Data Used for Reference
None.

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	2 changes
There were two small boundary adjustments of Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land. Both were less than 10 acres.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	70 changes
This type of change was primarily due to homes and commercial buildings. The largest was 24 acres of homes located near Sir Francis Drake Boulevard along Tomales Bay. Home densities under the dense tree cover were easier to determine with improved imagery. Only eight of the total changes were greater than 10 acres. Examples included a new Target store and parking lot north of Interstate 580 near San Quentin (13 acres). A skate park and the Helen Vine Detox Center on Smith Ranch Road converted eight acres to Urban.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	5 changes
Only five changes and four of them were less than 10 acres. There was one conversion of irrigated pasture to non-irrigated grains that was slightly more than 100 acres, however, due to the underlying soil units there was no effective change on the map—both uses qualify for Farmland of Local Importance. That single large change occurred just north of Gallinas, along the railroad tracks east of Highway 101.	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	3 changes
Only three total changes and the largest was 20 acres of irrigated pasture flooded by the Hamilton / Bel Marin Keys Wetland Restoration.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	3 changes
Three total changes and the largest was 11 acres of Irrigated Farmland where Novato Blvd ends at Point Reyes-Petaluma Road. Imagery indicated new agriculture and during the site visit, irrigation pipes and post-harvest crop residue were still in the field.	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)	
The Hamilton / Bel Marin Keys Wetland Restoration was responsible for approximately 640	

acres of Urban Land converting to Other Land. Hamilton Air Force Base has been decommissioned since 1974 but much of the infrastructure existed for many years. Eventually structures were demolished or repurposed. The runways were removed and in 2014, a levee on San Pablo Bay was breached subjecting the area tidal flooding. This single large removal of Urban Land opened the door to deal with some additional Urban boundary adjustments. In the Woodacre area, 37 acres of Urban Land were removed, and at Lawson's Landing, 30 acres of Urban were also removed due to lack of structures, sensitive sand dune habitat, and land use restrictions from a California Coastal Commission ruling.

Another unusual change involved the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District (LGVSD). A few acres of solar panels were found near three large ponds that have been historically mapped as Water. After thorough internet research, two of the three ponds were determined to be water treatment ponds, which are mapped as Urban Land (45 acres combined). The third pond is a wildlife marsh maintained by LGVSD and was changed to Other Land (26 acres).

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Non-irrigated grains are active in the Two Rock area in the north part of the county.

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: 9/17/2015
Image interpretation, number of days:15
Ground truth dates: 2/22/2016
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>