

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

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Stanislaus

FIELD MAPPER(S): C.K. Williams

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: 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)
None
Personal Contacts
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com San Luis National Wildlife Refuge: http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=81654
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer (2014)

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	3 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to new schools such as the Patricia Kay Beaver Elementary School south of the city of Ceres (~15 acres) and the Walnut Grove Elementary School (~8 acres) located in the city of Patterson. There was also increased density of the Alpine Pacific Nut facility (~10 acres) located north of the City of Turlock.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	10 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to commercial buildings, new homes and a sports field. The most significant of these are the addition of the Amazon fulfillment center and a new Walmart store in the City of Patterson (~50 acres and ~20 acres) and the addition of new homes in the community of Hughson (~30 acres). A few changes were due to increased density of structures primarily on the Escalon and Denair quads.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	19 changes
<p>The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of these changes were less than 50 acres and primarily occurred in the San Joaquin Valley. Two significant changes (~60 acres) were south of the Tuolumne River and south west of the City of Modesto. Also an irrigated pasture was fallow three or more update cycles (~60 acres) in the community of Riverbank.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	8 changes
<p>Low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial facilities, disturbed land that is graded for development and small plots that were irrigated having been fallow for three or more update cycles accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 10-40 acres in size.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	139 changes
<p>The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the San Joaquin Valley and along the eastern foothills. Most of the changes consisted of orchards (primarily almonds), field crops, and vineyards. The most significant addition of irrigated farmland this update occurred on the Knights Ferry quad with a total of approximately 3,500 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for new orchards and vineyards. This was followed by the Paulsell quad with approximately 2,500 acres converting to irrigated farmland also mostly orchards.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
<p>(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)</p>	
<p><u>Conversion between Irrigated Farmland categories:</u> There were 64 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to either irrigated pasture being</p>	

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. The most significant change (~660 acres) took place to the west of the community of Denair. Also Prime Farmland was converted to Unique Farmland as a result of the expansion of a potted plant nursery near the City of Ceres.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 5 conversions from Urban Land. Small to moderate units within Urban Land boundaries were converted to Other Land. This was due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries. Some of these areas had been prematurely converted to urban and remained that way for three or more update cycles. In other instances, areas of vacant land, undisturbed land, riparian corridors, or low-density areas were delineated throughout the county. The largest example was on the Solyo quad (~50 acres).

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

None

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: 2/9/2015
Image interpretation, number of days: 20
Ground truth dates: 4/21 to 4/24/2015
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 4

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

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