

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

**2016 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Fresno

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Kerri Kisko

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2016
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 2016 mapping.*

<b>Local Review Comments</b> (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2014 maps)
Westlands Water District: Jose Gutierrez, PE, Deputy General Manager of Resources Contact: Debra Dunn (559) 241-6242
<b>Personal Contacts</b>
None
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b>
Google Maps, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a> Clovis Community Medical Center: <a href="https://www.communitymedical.org/hospitals-facilities/Clovis-Community-Medical-Center">https://www.communitymedical.org/hospitals-facilities/Clovis-Community-Medical-Center</a> Eagle Field Drags: <a href="http://www.eaglefielddrags.com">www.eaglefielddrags.com</a> Fresno Agricultural Commissioner: <a href="https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/agricultural-commissioner">https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/agricultural-commissioner</a> Signal Energy, Tranquillity Solar Project: <a href="http://www.signal-energy.com/project/tranquillity-solar-project">http://www.signal-energy.com/project/tranquillity-solar-project</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b>
California City Boundary Layer (2016) Fresno County Base Map (2016) Fresno County Digital Soil Survey (2016) Westlands Water District: Lands Converted to Non-irrigated Agriculture Westlands Water District: Solar Developments

## 2014-2016 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	37 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to the construction of new infrastructure in the form of solar facilities, expansions of businesses and new homes.</p> <p>Approximately 135 acres of new solar facilities were added throughout the county this update. Most of these were small installations (5 to 15 acres) that occurred primarily at agricultural processing facilities. A larger 25-acre stand-alone solar facility was added in Fowler.</p> <p><u>City of Clovis:</u> There were three new home developments added, including Loma Vista (~30 acres), Ellingsworth (~10 acres), and Windsor (~10 acres). Also, part of the expansion at the Clovis Community Medical Center (~45 acres) was added on former irrigated farmland.</p> <p><u>City of Fresno:</u> Approximately 20 acres of new buildings were added at Fresno State, as well as Carriage House homes (~10 acres) and an expansion at the St. Peters Cemetery (~10 acres).</p> <p><u>Other Conversions Throughout the County:</u> A new pond and a paved airstrip (~20 acres) were added in Caruthers. Fowler Packing was expanded by approximately 10 acres in Fowler. The Diamond West Farming processing facility (~10 acres) was added in Kerman and Vista homes (~15 acres) were added in Parlier. Finally, the R &amp; D Farms processing facility (~10 acres) was added in Reedley.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	140 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to the construction of homes, buildings, infrastructure, and solar facilities.</p> <p><u>City of Clovis:</u> There were approximately 380 acres of new homes added throughout the City of Clovis, including The Grove at Bonadelle (~40 acres), Harlan Ranch (~30 acres), Ellingsworth (~30 acres), and Loma Vista (~30 acres). Further developments include part of the Clovis Community Medical Center expansion (~25 acres) and four groundwater recharge ponds (~80, 30, 15, and 10 acres).</p>	

City of Fresno: Approximately 350 acres of new homes were added throughout the City of Fresno, including Ivywood (~40 acres), the Laurels (~35 acres), Via Fiore (~35 acres), and Elderberry on the Bluff (~25 acres). The Park Crossing shopping center (~20 acres) was added along with new warehouses (~20 acres total). Two new schools were added: Virginia R. Boris Elementary School (~25 acres) and Hanh Phan Tilley Elementary School (~10 acres). Also, some groundwater recharge ponds were noted (~175 acres total in eight ponds).

City of Mendota: New solar facilities were built in and near the City of Mendota. These include: Citizen Solar B (~40 acres), R E Adams East (~150 acres), Northlight (~475 acres), and Tranquillity (~1,560 acres total in five plots). Also, approximately 15 acres of new homes were built and 5 acres of new businesses. Finally, three new water storage ponds were added (~75, 20, and 15 acres).

Other Conversions Throughout the County: In Kerman, the American Avenue Landfill was expanded by approximately 90 acres and La Vina homes and Katey's Kids Park (~35 acres total) were added. The Coalinga Landfill was expanded by approximately 35 acres and some new homes (~10 acres) were added. In Sanger, groundwater recharge ponds (~275 acres) were added. In Fowler, the South and Highland Basin Project recharge ponds (~85 acres) were added, as well as Kensington Estates (~20 acres) and the Donny Wright Park (~10 acres). Near Five Points, an approximately 475-acre solar facility was added.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland  
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses

227 changes

The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Fallow farmland is mapped as Farmland of Local Importance in Fresno County. These conversions were primarily located on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. These changes ranged in size from 10 acres to 800 acres. The largest changes (100 acres or larger) occurred on the Chaney Ranch (~475 acres), Chounet Ranch (~ 175 and 160 acres), Firebaugh (~100 acres), Fresno South (~100 acres), Gujarral Hills (~110 acres), Monocline Ridge (~255, 165, and 100 acres), San Joaquin (~330 and 315 acres), Tres Pecos Farms (~400 acres), and Westside (~800, 315, and 100 acres) quads.

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is also mapped as Farmland of Local Importance in Fresno County. These conversions primarily occurred in the San Joaquin Valley. These changes ranged between 10 to 1,300 acres in size. The largest conversions (300 acres or larger) occurred on the Avenal (~310 acres), Broadview Farms (~640 acres), Cantua Creek (~325 acres), Coalinga (~375 acres), San Joaquin (~315 acres), and Westside (~1,300; 1,285; 1,060; and 400 acres) quads.

<b>Irrigated Farmland to Other Land</b>	<b>95 changes</b>
<p>Low-density housing (ranchettes), disturbed land, farmsteads, rural commercial, agricultural equipment storage areas, and nonagricultural vegetation accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily between 10-30 acres in size. A couple changes of note include: on the Kerman quad approximately 60 acres of irrigated farmland was changed to Other Land due to a new compost facility and an expansion of active mining (~60 acres) occurred on the Sanger quad.</p>	
<b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b>	
<b>Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland</b>	<b>297 changes</b>
<p>The majority of the irrigated farmland was added on the eastern side of the San Joaquin Valley. Most of the changes were 10-60 acres in size and consisted of orchards, row crops, field crops, grape vines, and irrigated pasture. Some changes of note include new row crops (~630 acres) on the Tres Pecos Farms quad, (~425 and 200 acres) on the Avenal quad, (~485 acres) on the Cantua Creek quad, and approximately 315 acres of row crops on the Levis quad. Orchards, probably almonds, pistachios, or citrus, were added (~415 and 100 acres) on the Herndon quad, (~325 acres) on the Tranquility quad, (~220, 125, and 120 acres) on the Round Mountain quad, (~150 acres) on the Coit Ranch quad, and approximately 110 acres on the Fresno South quad. Further, alfalfa was added on the Jamesan (~160 acres) and Oxalis (~115 acres) quads. Finally, approximately 300 acres of grapevines were added on the Monocline Ridge quad.</p>	
<b>Unusual Changes</b>	
<p>(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)</p>	
<p><u>Nonirrigated Land Uses to Other Land</u>: There were 257 conversions of nonirrigated land uses to Other Land. These changes were primarily due to low-density housing (ranchettes), disturbed land, earthen water structures, farmsteads, rural commercial, agricultural storage areas, and nonagricultural vegetation. Low-density housing was primarily delineated in the eastern foothills and the rest of the changes occurred throughout the county. The conversions were primarily 10-60 acres in size. The largest change occurred on the Levis quad where approximately 400 acres was converted to Vacant and Disturbed Land surrounding the Tranquillity LLC solar power plant.</p>	
<p><u>Conversions from Urban Land</u>: There were 65 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to Other Land, Farmland of Local Importance, irrigated farmland, and Grazing Land. The conversions to Other Land, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land were primarily due to the abandonment or removal of infrastructure for three or more update cycles and occurred throughout the county. There were 5 conversions to irrigated farmland, primarily due to new crops being grown on former, now defunct, urban land such as empty lots. The remaining changes were due to</p>	

improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Water Conversions: There were 4 conversions of Water to Other Land. These changes were due to the continued lack of water for four update cycles at Lost Lake (~45 acres) and a debris dam (~70 acres) on the Friant quad, a former lake (~35 acres) on the Wahtoke quad, and a dry area along Fresno Slough (~20 acres) on the Tranquillity quad. Other changes are due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct water boundaries, primarily around Millerton Lake, Woodward Lake, and Fresno Slough.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 5 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to irrigated farmland having been converted to nonirrigated orchards and potted plant nurseries. Nonirrigated orchards and potted plant nurseries are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes were small (5 to 15 acres each) and converted a total of 55 acres of Prime Farmland to Unique Farmland. Other changes are due to soil unit changes from the incorporation of the statewide gridded soil survey and resulted in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.

#### **Areas of Concern for Future Updates**

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 update, and reasons.)

Watch for more solar facilities being built near Mendota and elsewhere in 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 2016 update.*

Image interpretation, start date: March 12, 2018
Image interpretation, number of days: 14
Ground truth dates: April 30-May 4, 2018
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 30

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