

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

**2016 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Imperial

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

**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.*

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2014 maps) Southern California Association of Governments
Personal Contacts None
Websites Used for Reference Google Maps, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a>  Keithly-Williams Seeds: <a href="http://www.keithlywilliams.com">http://www.keithlywilliams.com</a>
GIS Data Used for Reference California City Boundary Layer (2016) Imperial County Base Map

**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.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	4 changes
<p>The majority of these changes occurred in the Calipatria, Niland and Ocotillo Wells areas. The largest conversions occurred near the City of Calipatria where approximately 160 acres were converted for the Calipatria Solar Farm I. Meanwhile, near the town of Niland, approximately 130 acres were converted for the Imperial Valley Solar Company II. Finally, near the town of Ocotillo Wells, approximately 60 acres were converted for the Seville Solar Farm Complex.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	17 changes
<p>The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the expansion of urban development near the community of Dixieland, near the town of Ocotillo Wells and in the City of Imperial. The largest conversions occurred near the community of Dixieland where approximately 1,150 acres were converted for Imperial Solar West.</p> <p>Meanwhile, near the town of Ocotillo, approximately 320 acres were converted for the Seville Solar Farm Complex. Lastly, in the City of Imperial, approximately 40 acres were converted for the Victoria Ranch neighborhood, Soleado neighborhood, and other new homes.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	37 changes
<p>The majority of the 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 Wister quad with approximately 390 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Niland and Harpers Well quads with approximately 150 and 110 acres, respectively, going out of production.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	9 changes
<p>Most of these conversions to Other Land were due to a combination of vacant or disturbed land and confined livestock. The use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery assisted in delineating areas of low-density commercial throughout the county. The largest conversion happened on the Mount Signal quad with approximately 60 acres going to vacant and disturbed lands. This was followed by the Holtville West quad with approximately 20 acres converting to Other Land.</p>	

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	29 changes
<p>The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Glamis SE quad with approximately 530 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for center pivot irrigation crops. This was followed by the Brawley and Holtville East quads with approximately 120 and 100 acres, respectively, being converted to irrigated farmland.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)	
<p><u>Conversion to Urban due to Solar Facilities:</u> There were 5 conversions to Urban Land due to solar facilities. Countywide approximately 1,820 acres were converted to Urban due to the construction of solar facilities.</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 or a lack of sufficient infrastructure.</p>	
Areas of Concern for Future Updates	
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 update, and reasons.)	
<p>Solar facilities are also proposed or approved that will convert a significant number of farmland acres in future updates.</p>	
<p><b>Definitions:</b></p> <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) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance &amp; 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.</p> <p><b>Nonirrigated land uses</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Other Land</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Urban Land</b> includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.</p>	

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: December 28, 2016
Image interpretation, number of days: 9
Ground truth dates: None
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: None

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

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