California Department of Conservation

FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Kings

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)
Westlands Water District
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer (2016) Kings 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.

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	11 changes

The majority of these changes occurred in the Lemoore Naval Air Station, Lemoore, and Corcoran areas. The largest conversions occurred near the Lemoore Naval Air Station where approximately 1,060 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for the Mustang-Orion-Kent South Solar Facility. Meanwhile, near the City of Lemoore, approximately 710 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for the Sun Power Henrietta Solar Facility. Finally, in the City of Corcoran, approximately 150 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for a new solar facility.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	21 changes

The majority of the urbanization of nonirrigated land and Other Land was due to the expansion of urban development in or adjacent to the Cities of Corcoran and Hanford and the community of Kettleman City. The largest conversions occurred in or adjacent to the City of Corcoran where approximately 480 acres was converted to the Corcoran Solar 2 & 3 Project, Corcoran Irrigation Solar Project, new homes, and water control ponds.

Meanwhile, near the community of Kettleman City, approximately 210 acres was converted for the EE Kettleman Land, LLC Solar Facility.

Lastly, in and adjacent to the City of Hanford, approximately 120 acres was converted for Sidonia Estates, Superior Court of California Kings County, Kings County Jail, new homes, apartments, a new park, and a solar facility.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	87 changes

Conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land uses was primarily due either to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles or the production of nonirrigated crops for three or more update cycles on formerly irrigated land. In Kings County nonirrigated crops are classified as Grazing Land.

The majority of these 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 Hacienda Ranch NW quad with approximately 13,850 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Kettleman City and Dudley Ridge quads with approximately 4,400 and 3,710 acres, respectively, going out of production and for conversion to nonirrigated crops.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	12 changes

Most of these conversions to Other Land were due to a combination of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles which were too small to be mapped separately as nonirrigated land uses, the delineation of wetlands, natural vegetation and vacant and disturbed lands, and low density development. The use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery assisted in delineating areas of rural residential land and areas of low-density commercial throughout the county. The largest conversions happened on the Guernsey quad with approximately 330 acres going to vacant and disturbed lands. This was followed by the Burrel quad with approximately 40 acres converting to Other Land for wetlands.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	43 changes

The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Hacienda Ranch quad with approximately 1,850 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for orchards. This was followed by the Pyramid Hills and Kettleman Plain quads with approximately 780 and 340 acres, respectively, being converted to irrigated farmland for orchards and row crops.

Unusual Changes
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)

Conversion between Irrigated Farmland uses: Changes of this type primarily involved conversion from irrigated pasture to irrigated farmland. There were 4 of these changes occurring throughout the county. Depending on the underlying soil type, these changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance and Unique Farmland.

Conversion to Urban due to Solar Facilities: There were 21 conversions to Urban due to solar facilities. Countywide approximately 2,840 acres went to Urban due to the construction of solar facilities.

Conversions from Urban Land: 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.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 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 2016 update.

Image interpretation, start date: March 1, 2017
Image interpretation, number of days: 6
Ground truth dates: April 24 – 27, 2017
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 2

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