

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Los Angeles

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael 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.

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: http://maps.google.com AVEK Water Supply Stabilization Project No. 2: http://www.avek.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=news_item&news_id=5 http://www.ladpw.org/wwd/avirwmp/docs/AV_Grant_complete_document.pdf Solar Star PV Facility: https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/Solar-Star-Largest-PV-Power-Plant-in-the-World-Now-Operational
GIS Data Used for Reference FRAP California City Boundary Layer (2016)

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	4 changes
<p>All of the conversion of irrigated farmland to Urban Land was due to the construction of solar facilities and groundwater recharge basins in the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita areas. By far the largest conversion occurred to the north of Fairmont Butte along the county line where the Solar Star I facility (~700 acres) was added and adjacent groundwater recharge basins (~400 acres) were constructed over a number of years for the AVEK Water Supply Stabilization Project No. 2. Finally, two small additions of solar panels (~50 acres) were seen just to the west of the Solar Star 1 facility and a small addition of solar panels (~20 acres) was made in Santa Clarita.</p> <p>The total conversion from irrigated farmland to Urban Land due to the construction of solar facilities was approximately 770 acres.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	52 changes
<p>Conversions from nonirrigated land uses and Other Land to Urban Land were primarily due to the construction of new homes and businesses (32 changes) and solar facilities (16 changes).</p> <p>The City of Santa Clarita exhibited the largest addition of new homes totaling approximately 250 acres, including additions to the River Village and Villa Metro developments. Other cities that showed significant additions of new homes and businesses included Palmdale (~70 acres), Lancaster (~40 acres), and Los Angeles (~30 acres).</p> <p>Meanwhile, new solar facilities were added on former nonirrigated and Other Land throughout the Antelope Valley area, totaling approximately 1,300 acres. The largest conversion was, once again, due to the Solar Star 1 facility (~300 acres) located to the north of Fairmont Butte along the county border. Further additions of solar facilities were clustered to the west of Lancaster (~620 acres), north of the Palmdale Regional Airport (210 acres), and north of Antelope Center (~170 acres).</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	54 changes
<p>Conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land uses was primarily due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The majority of the conversions were for less than 30 acres and occurred in the Greater Antelope Valley</p>	

area. Large changes of one hundred acres or more occurred on the Fairmont Butte (~100 acres and ~160 acres), Lancaster East (~110 acres), Little Buttes (~230 acres), Littlerock (~120 acres and ~320 acres), and Neenach School (~150 acres and ~100 acres) quads. Lastly, a number of small conversions from irrigated farmland were also seen in the Santa Clarita area.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land

5 changes

Conversion of irrigated farmland to Other Land was primarily due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three update cycles that was too small to be mapped as Grazing Land or the fallowed area was sufficiently disturbed to qualify for the Other Land category.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

16 changes

The most significant addition of irrigated farmland occurred to the east and southeast of Lancaster where approximately 570 acres of irrigated hay and row crops were added on the Lancaster East quad. Further additions of irrigated farmland were seen on the Lovejoy Buttes (~70 acres), Neenach School (~60 acres), and Alpine Butte (~50 acres) quads. Finally, new orchards (30 acres), likely pistachios, were a notable addition nearby Redman.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversion from Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: There were approximately 1,000 acres of change involving the conversion of Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land. This type of change is due to areas of nonirrigated grain having been fallow for four or more update cycles. The largest conversion this update was for approximately 570 acres and occurred on the La Liebre Ranch quad.

Conversions from Urban Land: These conversions were due to the defunct Cascades Golf Course in Sylmar (~35 acres), a lack of sufficient infrastructure, and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

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: February 15, 2017
Image interpretation, number of days: 5
Ground truth dates: April 19-21, 2017
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 1

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