

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Marin

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)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com Hamilton/Bel Marin Keys Wetlands Restoration Project: https://hamiltonwetlands.scc.ca.gov/ Marin Audubon Society, Bahia Wetlands: http://www.marinaudubon.org/properties-bahia.php
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer (2016) Marin 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	0 changes
There were no significant conversions of irrigated farmland to Urban Land this update.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	9 changes
Three of these changes were due to small additions of new homes in Novato, Fairfax, and the San Geronimo area, totaling approximately 6 acres. The remaining additions of homes and buildings were due to the use of high resolution imagery to better identify small clusters of existing structures that were dense enough to qualify as Urban Land.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	2 changes
These conversions were simply due to the more accurate delineation of an irrigated crop boundary and the identification of an irrigated pasture that had previously been mapped as irrigated crops. The identification of this irrigated pasture resulted in one acre of land being shifted from Unique Farmland to Farmland of Local Importance since irrigated pasture cannot be mapped as Unique Farmland under FMMP mapping conventions.	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	3 changes
Two of these changes were simply due to the more accurate delineation of an irrigated crop boundary while the third change was due to the addition of a small water control pond on an area of former cropland.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	1 change
There was one addition of irrigated pasture (~10 acres) adjacent to Laguna Lake. However, the majority of the soils at this location were lower quality. Since irrigated pasture cannot be mapped as Unique Farmland per FMMP mapping conventions, most of the area was classified as Farmland of Local Importance. However, there was approximately 1 acre of higher quality soils in this addition of irrigated pasture that was mapped as Prime Farmland.	

Unusual Changes

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

Conversions between Water and Urban Land or Other Land: The boundary of the San Francisco Bay and San Pablo Bay shorelines and their associated sloughs was not very accurate for many updates. This update an effort was made to improve all of the county shoreline boundaries throughout the bay area. In Marin County, improvements in delineation were made to the bay shoreline, Angel Island, and Belvedere Lagoon. Further, there were two conversions from Other Land to Water due to the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project (~400 acres) and the Bahia Wetlands restoration (~300 acres). These restoration projects and shoreline linework improvements resulted in significant conversions out of Urban Land or Other Land and into Water, resulting in negative net acreages for these two land use types during the 2016 update cycle.

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 9, 2018
Image interpretation, number of days: 3
Ground truth dates: April 2, 2018
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 3

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

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