

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

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Orange

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) Cities of Anaheim, Irvine, Lake Forest, Rancho Santa Margarita, and Yorba Linda Southern California Association of Governments
Personal Contacts None
Websites Used for Reference Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference FRAP California City Boundary Layer (2016) Orange 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
<p>The majority of these changes occurred in the Irvine, Westminster, and Rancho Mission Viejo areas. The largest conversions occurred in the City of Irvine where approximately 360 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for Cypress Village Elementary School, Cypress Grove Park, Eastwood Village, Portola High School, Beacon Park, and new homes. Meanwhile, in the City of Westminster, approximately 10 acres of irrigated farmland was converted to new homes. Finally, in Rancho Mission Viejo, the Citron at Esencia development converted approximately 10 acres of irrigated farmland for new homes.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	35 changes
<p>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 Irvine, Lake Forest, and Rancho Mission Viejo. The largest conversions occurred in or adjacent to the City of Irvine where approximately 600 acres were converted to the Solaira at Pavilion Park, Portola Springs Community, Greenfield Park, Portola High School, Grace Springs Bible Church & Elementary School, Hoag Health Centers, Alturas Townhomes, Hidden Valley Community, new homes, and expansion of the Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill.</p> <p>Meanwhile, in the City of Lake Forest, approximately 210 acres were converted to the Lake Forest Sports Park and Recreation Center, Promenade Park, new homes and apartments.</p> <p>Lastly, in the Rancho Mission Viejo area, approximately 110 acres of nonirrigated land was converted to urban for new homes.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	4 changes
<p>The majority of these changes were due to plots of irrigated land having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The largest changes in this category occurred on State Highway 133, a little north of the State Highway 133 and Interstate 5 Interchange, where approximately 120 acres went out of production. This was followed by an area located along Camino Capistrano just north of the Junipero Serra Road off ramp from Interstate 5 where approximately 30 acres went out of production.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	1 change
<p>This conversion was due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles and was also graded for development. This conversion happened in the City of Lake Forest north of the intersection of Alton Parkway and Catalina with approximately 60 acres going to Other Land.</p>	

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	9 changes
<p>The majority of the new irrigated crops this update consisted of the addition of row crops, nurseries, and irrigated cactus. The largest single addition of irrigated farmland was located north of Perimeter Road at the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station where approximately 70 acres was converted to new row crops. This was followed by an area located nearby the same location with approximately 60 acres converted to new row crops.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)	
<p><u>Conversions between Irrigated Farmland (P, S, U) categories:</u> These conversions were due to one of two reasons. One reason for conversion is due to an area located in the City of Irvine south east of the intersection of Portola Parkway and Jeffrey Road where approximately 90 acres is being converted from a former nursery to row crops. The second reason for conversion is due to soil unit changes from the incorporation of the statewide gridded soil survey from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.</p> <p><u>Conversions from Urban Land:</u> These conversions were due to the identification of irrigated row crops on the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station and to a lack of sufficient infrastructure and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.</p>	
Areas of Concern for Future Updates	
(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 update, and reasons.)	
None	
<p>Definitions:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Other Land includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural</p>	

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: August 6, 2018
Image interpretation, number of days: 6
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>