

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Diego

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) Cities of Carlsbad and Encinitas
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) San Diego 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

4 changes

The conversion of irrigated farmland to Urban Land was primarily due to the construction of new homes. There were two additions of new homes in Encinitas in the One Channel Island (~10 acres) and Insignia Mainhouse (~15 acres) developments. Next, approximately 40 acres of new homes were added in the Rancho Santa Fe area. Further, the RV Resort Pala Casino (~10 acres) was a final, notable addition.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land

118 changes

These changes were primarily due to the construction of new homes, commercial and industrial buildings, schools, sports facilities, and solar facilities.

City of San Diego: There were approximately 550 acres of new residential development in the City of San Diego this update. Notable additions included new homes and apartments in the Pacific Highlands Ranch (~90 acres), Del Sur (~70 acres), Casa Mira View Community (~50 acres), and Avino and Cielo Carmel (~30 acres for both) developments. Also notable in San Diego were new commercial developments such as the Del Sur Town Center (~25 acres) and the Village at Pacific Highlands Ranch (~15 acres). Finally, the Jonas Salk Elementary School (~10 acres) was in evidence.

City of Oceanside: There were only approximately 20 acres of new homes added in Oceanside this update. However, the SoCal Sports Complex (~75 acres) was a substantial addition. Further, a Fed Ex Ground facility (~30 acres) was added along with medical and industrial buildings (~30 acres) for Kaiser Permanente, Olli Salumeria, Brixton, Suja Life, and Coca-Cola vending. Finally, solar panels (~10 acres) were added on Genentech property.

City of Chula Vista: Additions of new homes in Chula Vista totaled approximately 80 acres this update, including new homes and apartments in Otay Ranch (~20 acres), Montecito Village (~20 acres), and Millenia (15 acres).

Otay Mesa: The Otay Mesa Detention Center (~30 acres) was added, along with new structures (~30 acres) at the nearby Richard Donovan Correctional Facility. A couple of other large industrial buildings and associated parking accounted for another 50 acres of conversion.

City of Carlsbad: Approximately 60 acres of new homes were added this update, including approximately 20 acres in the Southern Preserve development. Further, two office buildings and two hotels (Holiday Inn and Staybridge Suites), totaling approximately 20 acres, were added just east of the McClellan-Palomar Airport.

Other Conversions Throughout the County: San Marcos saw the addition of approximately 40 acres of new homes, along with the Double Peak K8 School (~20 acres). New homes were added in evidence in Vista, including at the Laurel Pointe development and Skye Apartments (~35 acres). Further, Encinitas saw the addition of approximately 35 acres of new homes. Escondido converted approximately 30 acres for new homes, mostly in Harmony Grove Village (~20 acres). On the other hand, Glenview added homes (~30 acres) in the Boulder Point and Ridgeline developments. Meanwhile, Rancho Santa Fe and Pala added their share of new homes to the tally (~20 and 10 acres, respectively). Lastly, notable additions of Urban Land that were seen outside the major cities included the Kitchen Creek Helibase Heliport (~10 acres) nearby Boulder Oaks, the San Vicente Reservoir Vessel Launching Facility (~15 acres), and a solar array (45 acres) just north of the Borrego Valley Airport.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses

123 changes

The majority of the conversions from irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land uses were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were concentrated in the northwest portion of the county, especially on the Bonsall (26 changes) and Pala (27 changes) quads, and most of the changes were under 30 acres in size. Two large conversions to nonirrigated land, equal or greater than 100 acres, occurred near Stuart (~290 acres) and to the northeast of Valley Center (~100 acres).

On the other hand, there were also three conversions made due to the production of nonirrigated grain for three updates on land that had formerly been irrigated farmland.

In the case of both of these types of conversions involving fallow, formerly irrigated land or land producing nonirrigated grains, these areas will be shifted to Farmland of Local Importance as per the county definition.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land

14 changes

Conversions from irrigated farmland to Other Land were generally due to small areas of farmland that had been fallow for three updates, were too small to map as Farmland of Local Importance, were disturbed, or had low-density buildings present. These changes were spread throughout the county and were typically around 10 acres in size.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

36 changes

Conversions to irrigated farmland were primarily due to the addition of new orchards, row crops, vineyards, and nursery stock. The majority of the new irrigated farmland was added in the northwest portion of the county and was between 10 to 30 acres in size. However, one larger (>50 acres) addition of irrigated farmland took place in Moosa Canyon nearby Bonsall where grapevines (~70 acres) were added. Next, new row crops

(~60 acres) were in evidence in the San Pasqual Valley, nearby the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. A final, sizable addition of irrigated farmland involved the addition of row crops (~50 acres) near Los Monos Canyon in the Carlsbad area.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversions from Urban Land: There were multiple conversions due to a lack of sufficient infrastructure and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

Conversions from Water: There were multiple conversions due primarily to boundary improvements to Lake Cuyamaca and Buena Vista Lagoon.

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: November 2, 2017
Image interpretation, number of days: 20
Ground truth dates: March 12-16, 2018
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 5

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

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