California Department of Conservation

FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Luis Obispo

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)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com Paso Robles Horse Park: http://pasorobleshorsepark.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer (2016) San Luis Obispo 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.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	20 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 Topaz Solar Farm and the Cities of Paso Robles and Atascadero. The largest conversions occurred at the Topaz Solar Farm which is located near Carrisa Highway/Blue Star Memorial Highway (State Highway 58) and Carrisa Elementary School where approximately 390 acres was converted for the expansion of the Topaz Solar Farm. Meanwhile, in and near the City of Paso Robles, approximately 50 acres was converted for the Allegretto Vineyard Resort Paso Robles, a new solar facility, and new homes. Lastly, in and adjacent to the City of Atascadero, approximately 30 acres was converted for Las Lomas Village, Spring Hill Suites Hotel, and other new homes.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland **aside from urbanization**	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	54 changes
There were two primary reasons for the conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated uses: First, 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 along Bitterwater Canyon Road in the San Luis Canyon area where approximately 410 acres went out of production. This was followed by the Twitchell Dam and Nipomo quads with approximately 120 and 60 acres, respectively, going out of production. Second, areas of irrigated farmland were identified that were no longer being irrigated but, instead, were being used for the cultivation of nonirrigated grain crops. Nonirrigated grain crops appear as Farmland of Local Importance on San Luis Obispo County's IFL Map. These areas had not been irrigated for multiple update cycles. The largest changes due to nonirrigated grain production occurred on the La Panza quad (130 acres) followed by the Cholame quad (50 acres).	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	2 changes
These conversions to Other Land were due to the use of high resolution imagery to delineate areas of rural residential, small ponds, and low-density commercial. The majority of these conversions happened on the Creston quad with approximately 20 acres converting to Other Land for small ponds and rural residential. The Shedd Canyon quad had 10 acres of conversions to Other Land for low-density commercial.	

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	142 changes

The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Estrella quad with approximately 670 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for vineyards, row crops, and irrigated pasture. This was followed by the Camatta Canyon and Templeton quads with approximately 580 and 460 acres, respectively, being converted to irrigated farmland for vineyards, orchards, and row crops.

The majority of the new irrigated crops this update consisted of the addition of vineyards with smaller additions of orchards and row crops. The largest single addition of a new vineyard was approximately 310 acres. It was located about 2 miles north of the town of New Cuyama. On the other hand, the largest single addition of new orchards was approximately 190 acres. It was located near the intersection of Cuyama Highway (State Highway 166) and Bull Canyon Road.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversions from Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: These conversions were primarily due to fields of nonirrigated grain having been fallow for four or more update cycles. There were 41 conversions. Most of the changes in this category occurred on the Simmler quad where approximately 370 acres were converted to Grazing Land. This was followed by the Paso Robles and Templeton quads with both quads exhibiting approximately 170 acres of conversion to Grazing Land.

Conversion from Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance: These conversions were primarily due to areas which were Grazing Land and are now being used for the cultivation of nonirrigated grain crops. There were 54 conversions. Most of the changes in this category occurred on the Chimineas Ranch quad where approximately 600 acres were converted to Farmland of Local Importance. This was followed by the Holland Canyon and Nipomo quads with both quads exhibiting approximately 340 acres of conversion to Farmland of Local Importance.

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: December 19, 2017
Image interpretation, number of days: 9
Ground truth dates: January 9–12, 2018
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