

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

**2016 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Tulare

**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)
Southern California Association of Governments Self-Help Enterprises Gatzke Dillion & Ballance LLP
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a>
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer (2016) Tulare 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.](#)

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	27 changes
<p>The majority of these changes occurred in the Alpaugh, Visalia, and Tulare areas. The largest conversions occurred near the town of Alpaugh where approximately 150 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for the White River Solar Project and a groundwater recharge basin. Meanwhile, in and near the City of Visalia, approximately 80 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for the Ridgeview Middle School, Lennar at Vista, other new homes, and a solar facility. Finally, near the City of Tulare, approximately 30 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for new solar facilities.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	54 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 Town of Ducor and the Cities of Visalia and Tulare. The largest conversions occurred in or adjacent to the Town of Ducor where approximately 270 acres was converted to the SR Soils Vestal Herder, LLC Solar Facility and substation.</p> <p>Meanwhile, in and near the City of Visalia, approximately 210 acres was converted for Lennar at Vista, new homes, Medical Imaging Lab, a parking lot, St. Johns Park, and a paved area at the Southern California Edison Rector Substation.</p> <p>Lastly, in and adjacent to the City of Tulare, approximately 150 acres was converted for new homes, UCD Vet School &amp; Research Facility, United States Post Office, TF Tire &amp; Services, and a solar facility.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	189 changes
<p>There were three primary reasons for the conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated uses:</p> <p>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 on the Hacienda Ranch quad with an approximately 390 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Hacienda Ranch NE and Monson quads with approximately 350 and 240 acres, respectively, going out of production.</p> <p>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 Tulare 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 Sausalito School quad (130 acres) followed by the Porterville quad (60 acres).</p> <p>Third, areas of irrigated farmland were identified that are no longer being irrigated</p>	

but, instead, are being used for Confined Livestock. Confined Livestock appears as Farmland of Local Importance on Tulare County's IFL Map. These areas had not been irrigated for three or more update cycles. The largest changes occurred on the Corcoran quad where approximately 40 acres were converted to Confined Livestock. This was followed by the Waukena quad with 40 acres converting to Confined Livestock.

**Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

45 changes

Most of these conversions to Other Land were either due to small areas of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles or the use of high resolution imagery to delineate areas of rural residential, low-density commercial, disturbed land, and natural vegetation. The majority of these conversions happened on the Sausalito School quad with approximately 80 acres converting to low-density commercial. The Exeter quad had 50 acres of similar conversions to rural residential land and low-density commercial.

**Conversions to Irrigated Farmland**

**Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

173 changes

The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Allensworth quad with approximately 1,450 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for pistachios and other orchards. This was followed by the Ducor and Richgrove quads with approximately 810 and 690 acres, respectively, being converted to irrigated farmland for pistachios and other orchards.

**Unusual Changes**

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

Conversion to Urban Land due to Solar Facilities: There were 31 conversions to Urban Land due to solar facilities. Countywide approximately 600 acres went to Urban Land due to the construction of solar facilities.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland (P,S,U) categories: These conversions were primarily due to soil unit changes from the incorporation of the statewide gridded soil survey from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**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: April 7, 2017
Image interpretation, number of days: 17
Ground truth dates: September 18 – 22, 2017
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 4

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