

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

**2016 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Ventura

**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)
City of Camarillo Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Office Southern California Association of Governments
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
FRAP California City Boundary Layer (2016)

**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	2 changes
<p>There were only two significant conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban Land. The first was the addition of the Rancho Campana High School (~30 acres) in Camarillo. Second, was the addition of housing (15 acres) to the southwest of Santa Paula, at the intersection of Foothill and Pine Roads.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	18 changes
<p>Conversions from nonirrigated land uses and Other Land to Urban Land were primarily due to the addition of new homes. Leading the way was Moorpark with six additions of new homes, totaling 70 acres. Next was Oxnard which saw the addition of approximately 50 acres of new homes in the Riverpark development. Similarly, Camarillo added approximately 50 acres of new homes this update. Lesser additions of new homes were seen in Ventura (~20 acres), Simi Valley (~15 acres), Fillmore (~15 acres), and Thousand Oaks (~10 acres).</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	28 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to irrigated farmland or nurseries having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The areas that showed the most conversion from irrigated farmland were the Moorpark (6 changes) and Santa Paula (6 changes) quads. The majority of the conversions were for 20 acres or less. The largest conversion to nonirrigated land uses was for 60 acres and occurred nearby Moorpark. These formerly irrigated lands will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance if they are on high quality soils, as determined by the USDA, or to Grazing Land if on lesser quality soils.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	6 changes
<p>These conversions were primarily due to the delineation of rural commercial uses, ranchettes, and farmsteads. Further, one conversion was due to an area of former irrigated farmland that had been fallow for three updates and had been graded for development. These changes were generally between 10-20 acres in size.</p>	
<b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	30 changes
<p>Additions of irrigated farmland were primarily due to new irrigated orchards such as citrus and avocados along with a few additions of row crops and nurseries. The most numerous additions of irrigated farmland were seen on the Moorpark (11 changes) and Piru (7 changes) quads. The majority of the additions of irrigated farmland made this</p>	

update were for less than 20 acres. However, there were three notable additions that were for 50 acres or more. First, an addition of orchards (~90 acres), likely citrus or avocado, was made to the northeast of Santa Paula. Next, approximately 70 acres of citrus orchards were an addition in the Upper Ojai Valley. Finally, new orchards (~50 acres), likely citrus or avocado, were in evidence to the east of Fillmore near Sulphur Mountain.

### Unusual Changes

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

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland (P, S, U) categories: There were a few instances where areas that had previously cultivated nursery stock in pots were converted to in-ground, irrigated crops or vice versa. This type of change in land use causes shifts between irrigated farmland categories since nursery stock grown in pots is always mapped as Unique Farmland, regardless of the underlying soil type.

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

### 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: February 3, 2017
Image interpretation, number of days: 6
Ground truth dates: 4/18/17
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 1

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