

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

2018 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Kern

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2018
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: Circular gap around Edwards Air Force Base.
Additional imagery used: None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2018 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2016 maps)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer (2018) Kern County Base Map Kern County annually permitted crop boundaries (2018): http://www.kernag.com/gis/gis-data.asp

2016-2018 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	21 changes
<p>The majority of these changes occurred in the Shafter, Bakersfield, and Edison areas. The largest conversions occurred in the City of Shafter where approximately 220 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for new homes, a new warehouse, and newly paved areas. Meanwhile, in the City of Bakersfield, approximately 210 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for the Trinity Anglican Church, Derrel's Mini Storage, and new homes. Finally, near the town of Edison, approximately 120 acres of irrigated farmland was converted for a new solar facility.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	122 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 communities of Neenach and Rancho Seco and the City of Bakersfield. The largest conversions occurred adjacent to the town of Neenach where approximately 2,320 acres was converted for new solar facilities.</p> <p>Meanwhile, near the town of Rancho Seco, approximately 1,260 acres was converted for new solar facilities.</p> <p>Lastly, in and adjacent to the City of Bakersfield, approximately 1,210 acres was converted for Direct TV Uplink, All American Self Storage, new solar facilities, Panorama Park, Derrel's mini Storage, Artisan Square at Froehlich Ranch, Eagle Oaks Specialty Care Center, a highway interchange, new apartments, new homes, a new park, and other new businesses.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	123 changes
<p>Conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land uses was primarily due either to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles or the production of nonirrigated crops for three or more update cycles on formerly irrigated land. The largest changes in this category occurred nearby the intersection of State Highway 46 and Kecks Road where approximately 1,390 acres went out of production. This was followed by an area located near the intersection of Copus Road and Old River Road where approximately 640 acres went out of production.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	19 changes
<p>Most of these conversions to Other Land were due to a combination of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles which were too small to be mapped separately as nonirrigated land uses, natural vegetation, vacant and disturbed land, and low-density development. The use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery assisted</p>	

in delineating areas of low-density commercial throughout the county. The largest conversions happened near the intersection of Rosamond Blvd and Astoria Ave with approximately 170 acres going to vacant and disturbed lands. This was followed by an area located southeast of the intersection of Ming Ave and Highgate Park Blvd in the City of Bakersfield where approximately 110 acres converted to vacant and disturbed lands.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

117 changes

The majority of the new irrigated crops this update consisted of the addition of orchards, vineyards, row crops, nurseries, alfalfa, and irrigated pasture. The largest single addition of irrigated farmland was located about near the intersection of State Highway 65 and Famoso Road where approximately 520 acres was converted to a new orchard (tangerines and lemons). This was followed by an area located northeast of the intersection of State Highway 65 and Sherwood Ave with approximately 370 acres converted to a new orchard (tangerines, lemons, and oranges).

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2018 update.)

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 54 conversions totaling approximately 870 acres due to a lack of sufficient infrastructure and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

Conversions between Water and natural vegetation: The water boundaries of Lake Isabella and Lake Woollomes were not very accurate for several updates. This update an effort was made to improve the waterline boundaries of Lake Isabella and Lake Woollomes. The biggest single conversion resulted in approximately 780 acres of Water going to natural vegetation.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2020 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 2018 update.

Image interpretation, start date: June 24, 2019
Image interpretation, number of days: 21
Ground truth dates: September 30 – October 4, 2019
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 3

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