

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Imperial

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: USDA Farm Services office
date: 1998
scale: unknown
film type: true color slides
coverage gaps: east and west edges of irrigated farmland

SATELLITE DATA:

source: Thematic Mapper (TM)
date: May 3, 2000
coverage: Imperial Valley & Palo Verde Valley
source: SPOT
date: 2000 test data
coverage: Imperial Valley, Palo Verde Valley & Bard

WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities:
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:* Rosa Perez, USDA Farm Services, El Centro field office

➤ *websites:*

1998-2000 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ P, S, U → D

Only eight changes from farmland to urban land. Three small sites had new

homes (Heber x1, Calexico x2), one had a large building (Bard) and another was a portion of a water treatment plant (Brawley quad). There were three changes that involved water control structures and reservoirs for irrigation. The Louise Willey Reservoir was 51 acres on the Westmorland West quad. The other two were much smaller (Kane Spring NE, Westmorland).

➤ L, X → D

Two changes, one is on Plaster City where the line work was corrected for the Centinela State Prison. The other change is on the El Centro quad where new homes were built.

➤ P, S, U → L,

There are fifteen changes of this type. The most common reason for the change is the field going fallow for three cycles (Mt. Signal x1, Heber x1, Calexico x2, Holtville West x1, El Centro x3, Brawley x1, Alamorio x1, Wister x1, Westmorland x1). The remaining changes involved line corrections, and one area on the Kane Spring NE quad severely fallow and resembling the desert.

➤ P, S, U → X

This was a very common change in this county. Twenty six total changes. A vast majority (21) are changes to ranchettes, buildings or riparian habitat. Three of the changes were feedlot expansions (Seeley, Weist, Niland) and two are line corrections (Tortuga, Iris).

➤ L, X → P, S, U

This is the other common change taking place in Imperial county. There are twenty four total changes. Most of the changes have new agriculture (Bard x1, Yuma East x1, Brawley x1, Alamorio x1, Tortuga x1, Wister x1, Iris x7, Westmorland West x2, Borrego Mtn x4) and the remainders are line corrections. Two major line corrections should be noted. One polygon on the Iris quad was out of place and moved, and a cluster of farmland polygons on the Borrego Mtn quad were corrected utilizing the 2000 SPOT and TM data as a backdrop for proper placement of the fields.

➤ X → L

There are three of these changes, all of them are line corrections (Borrego Mtn SE x1, Plaster City x2)

➤ L → X

Only one change on land that did not look like it was going to be farmed, instead the condition and appearance resembled the waterfowl management area adjacent to the change.

➤ D → L

One line correction on the Centinela State Prison (Plaster City quad).

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance*

definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.

➤ W → D, S

This is an unusual change, but warranted. On the Holtville West quad, a 70 acre water control reservoir was labeled W, but the purpose is for irrigation, so I decided to change it to D. Additionally, a small corner of the reservoir is now farmland.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

I did encounter a few problems on my trip. The first problem will always be the lack of AAA street map coverage, especially in the rural areas. Many of the streets on the quads are named incorrectly too.

OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS: *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

Several quads are out of date because change rarely occurs in the barren parts of the desert. The problem is not that serious because the quads are not really being marked or utilized.

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

photo interpretation, start date: January 9, 2001

photo interpretation, number of days: 2

ground truthing dates: January 11-12, 2001

days for map compilation and clean up: many, including a second look at the county using the 2000 SPOT and TM data as interpretation tools.

* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp