

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

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Tulare

FIELD MAPPER(S): Larelle Burkham-Greydanus

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center
date: August 8-11, 2003
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR Transparencies
coverage gaps: none
additional imagery: Spot 2000 satellite image

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2004 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities: *none available*
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:* David Hardt and Nick Stanley
 Pixley National Wildlife Refuge
 (661) 725-2767

Kevin Couch
Alpaugh Irrigation District
(559) 949-8323

Keller Wegley, Manager
Atwell Island Water District
(559) 732-7938

Steve Laymon, Ph.D.
Atwell Island Project Manager
BLM-Bakersfield Field Office
(661) 391-6117

➤ **websites:** Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park
http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=583

Pixley National Wildlife Refuge
http://pacific.fws.gov/refuges/field/CA_Pixley.htm

Central Valley Project Improvement Act
<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpiia/>

➤ **GIS data referenced:** SWIS Landfill/waste Facility reference file: SWIS.dgn

2002-2004 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.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

Sixty changes from Irrigated Farmland to Urban land were found with the majority occurring in or near the city of Visalia (~560 ac) and Tulare (~390 ac.). The City of Porterville also had approximately 70 ac. of new home development. Countywide, the majority of changes to urban were because of new homes, but another noteworthy addition was because of the Packwood Creek retail complex (35 ac).

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

Twenty-seven changes in this category, mostly because of increased residential density in or near the cities of Tulare and Visalia. There was also an addition of ~32 ac for homes (West Breeze Homes) in Porterville.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

Ninety-six changes were found in this category. Seventeen changes were due to the expansion of existing livestock facilities, or the development of new ones, especially on the Tipton Quad. The largest and newest confined livestock addition was the Stanley Vanderbrink Dairy #2 at 50 acres.

The bulk of the acreage reclassified from Irrigated to Local or Grazing was due to land identified as growing dry grains for 6 years on the Ducor Quad (~1865 ac) and on the Porterville Quad (305 ac).

The remainder of this type of change was due to land going fallow 6 years. Some of these old fields appear to be prepared for grading for urban uses, especially on the Allensworth Quad (~700 ac).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were sixty-one changes overall in this category. The largest acreage occurred on the Alpaugh Quad because of farmland being fallow for a minimum of 6 years (778 ac). The second largest amount was on the Hacienda Ranch, North-east quad for a total of 538 ac, also because of the fallowing farmland for a minimum of 6 years.

Rural residential uses expanded on the Lindsay Quad by ~170 ac and by ~130 ac

near the City of Porterville.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

Only seven conversions to irrigated farmland occurred in this update. The largest was on the Porterville quad, at approximately 115 ac.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2004.*

One unusual change was seen with the conversion of a water storage pond to a large dairy on the Cairns Corner quad—this will result in a shift from urban (water control structure) to Farmland of Local Importance (confined livestock facility).

The other large unusual change was the reclassification of ~4680 ac. from Other to Farmland of Local Importance on several portions of the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge. Rotational grazing occurs on these areas as part of the refuge management practices and the underlying soil units on these grazed areas qualify this land for the Local classification.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2006? Why?*

Continued monitoring of the Allensworth, Hacienda Ranch, and Alpaugh Quads for land being retired and some acreage being converted to BLM reserves in conjunction with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. Also continued monitoring for dairy additions or expansions.

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

<i>photo interpretation, start date:</i>	7/15/04
<i>photo interpretation, number of days:</i>	6
<i>ground truthing dates:</i>	8/2/04 to 8/6/04
<i># days for map compilation and clean up:</i>	6

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp