



California
**Department of
Conservation**
Division of Land Resource
Protection

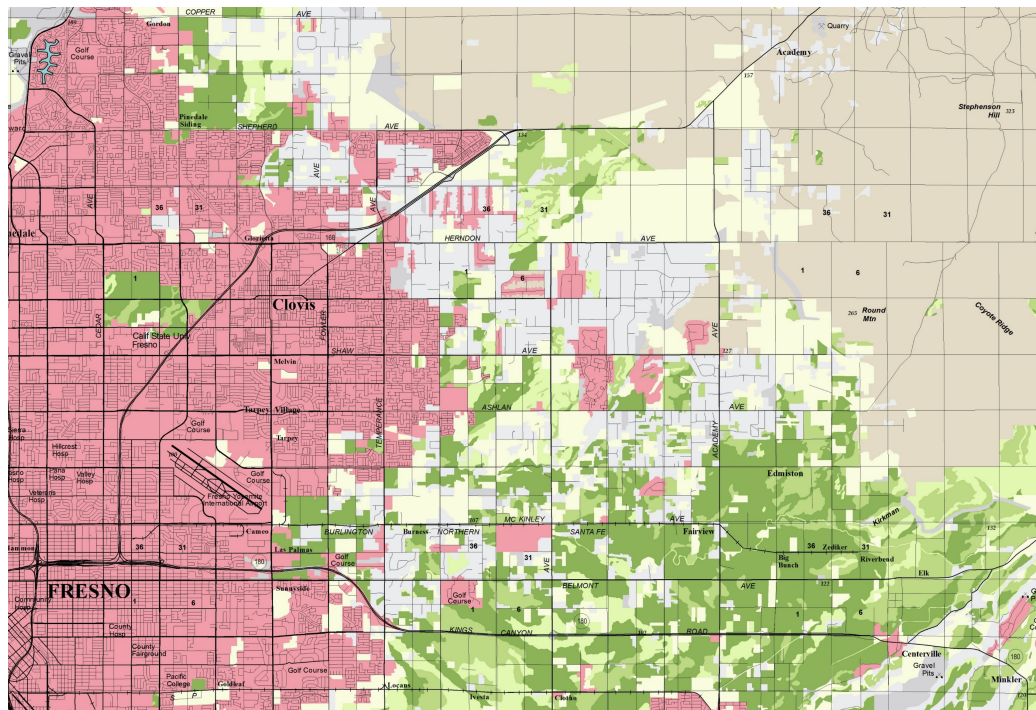
Protecting California's Farmland

Keali'i Bright
Division Director
Division of Land Resource Protection

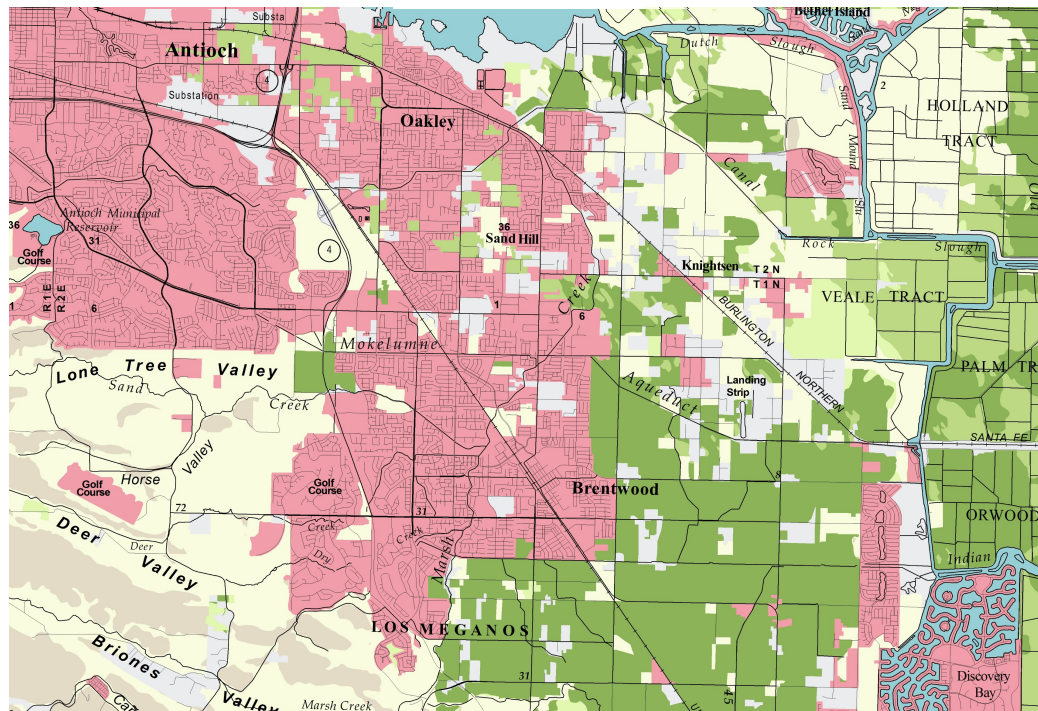
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Clovis, Fresno County

2016

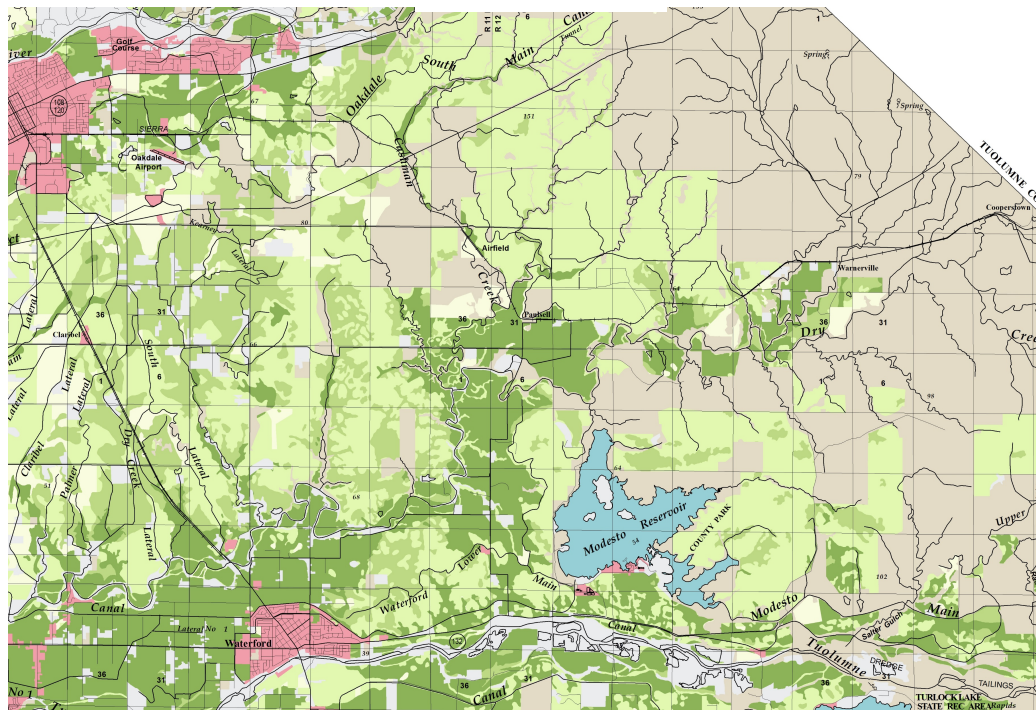


Brentwood, Contra Costa County 2016



New Orchards, Eastern Stanislaus County

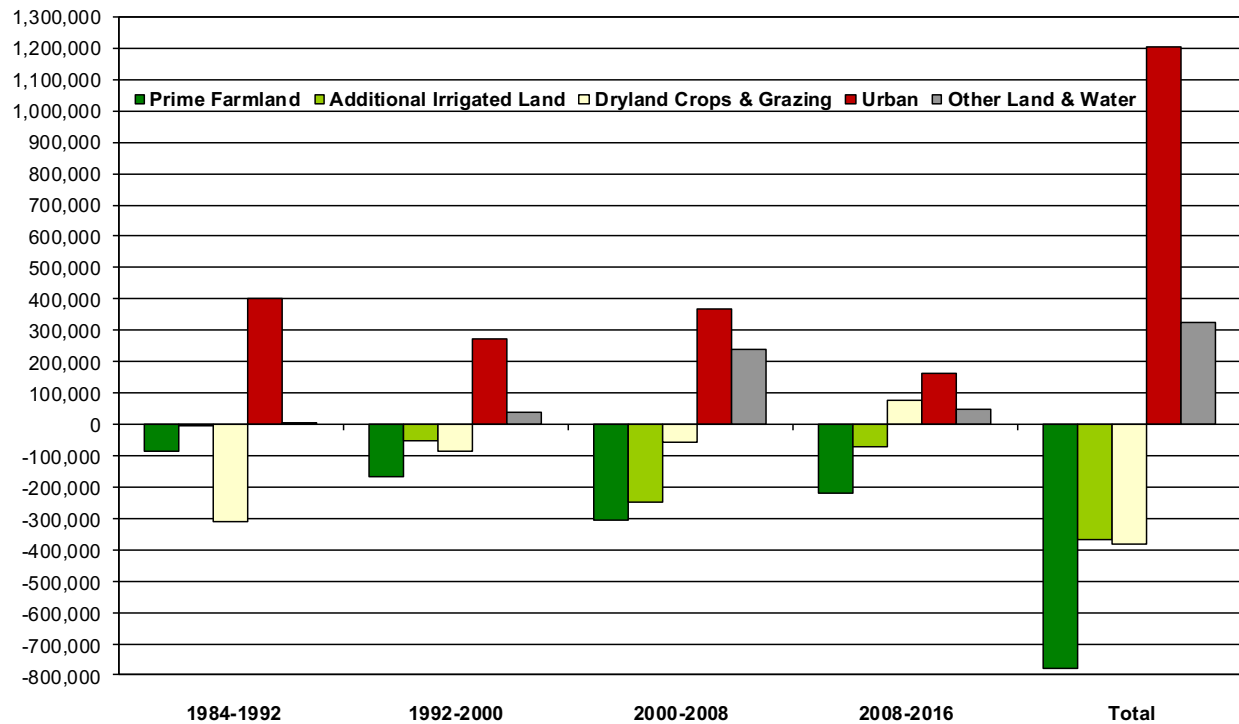
2016



What are we seeing?

- Since 1984 California has lost:
 - 1.5 million acres of total agricultural land (Irrigated and Rangeland).
 - 1.1 million acres of irrigated land . 70% of which was prime
- Since 2004, 422K acres of irrigated land are no longer in production in SJ Valley.
- Between 2014-16, 130,000 acres of grazing lands were converted to orchards or vineyards.

Net Acreage Change 1984-2016



Why is this Happening?

- Population Increase and Change
- Commute Tolerance
- Different Transportation Options
- Changing economies – crop shifts, logistics centers, housing costs
- Generational change

Why we conserve farmland?

- Grow Food and Fiber
- Climate Change
- Farmer-Led Land Stewardship
- Agricultural Economies
- Public health, mental health, and California Culture

What we do

- Help locals with farmland planning
- Protect Farmland Through Conservation Easements
- Map Farmland
- Williamson Act
- Support Resource Conservation Districts and Land Trusts

What have we accomplished?

- 110,000 acres of farmland protected
- 33,000 acres of rangeland protected
- Map farmland since 1982
- Public trust in our staff and programs

New year, new goals...

Goals

- Increase sustainability and permanence of regional agricultural economies
- Increase sequestration of carbon on private lands/improve soil quality and forage production

...and new opportunities

- New Guidelines for Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation – In Public Review
 - ✓ Increased flexibility for planning grants
 - ✓ Funding for carbon farming plans
 - ✓ Fee title option
- Rulemaking for Farmland Mapping Program
- Williamson Act

Thank you!

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