

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-05
<b>Project Title:</b>	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
<b>TN #:</b>	270087
<b>Document Title:</b>	ROC California Department of Conservation
<b>Description:</b>	ROC California Department of Conservation (DOC), Division of Land Resource Protection
<b>Filer:</b>	Renee Longman
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	5/19/2026 3:36:08 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	5/19/2026



*Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental  
Protection Division*

**FILE:**

**PROJECT TITLE: Corby BESS Project**

**Docket: 24-OPT-05**

<b>TECHNICAL AREA(s): Agriculture</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:	
<b>NAME(s):</b>	Tatiana Inouye, Senior Land Use Specialist	<b>DATE:</b> 4/16/26	<b>TIME:</b>
<b>WITH:</b>	<i>Patrick Hennessy, Research Data Specialist 2, Division of Land Resource Protection, California Department of Conservation</i>		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Update Cycle for Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Data</i>		

**COMMENTS:** The California Department of Conservation (DOC) Division of Land Resource Protection prepares and maintains Important Farmland Series Maps as defined in subdivision (f) of Section 65560 of the Government Code, and prepares and maintains an automated map and data base system to record and report changes in the use of agricultural lands every two years on even numbered calendar years. The 2022 Important Farmland Maps are the most recent public dataset.

To support the analysis of Important Farmland conversion in the Land Use Staff Assessment, CEC land use staff (Ms. Tatiana Inouye) contacted the DOC's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) via email on 4/16/26 to inquire when the 2024 update to the Important Farmland Maps would be available. CEC land use staff also inquired if there would be any changes to the Important Farmland designations from the 2022 FMMP dataset for the Corby BESS Project site (APN 0141-030-090). CEC land use staff noted that the project site has been fallow within the last few years.

Mr. Hennessy, DOC Research Data Specialist 2, communicated that the 2024 update cycle for FMMP would begin during Quarter 2 of 2026. No changes to the Important Farmland designations for APN 0141-030-090 would be expected in the 2024 FMMP dataset. Mr. Hennessy explained that the project site was first recorded by DOC as non-irrigated/fallow in 2022. Farmland must remain fallow/non-irrigated for four years prior to the mapping date before there can be a change in its Important Farmland designation.

Attached is the email exchange between CEC land use staff and Mr. Hennessy. CEC land use staff notes that there would be no change to the project site's Important Farmland designations prior to the 2026 FMMP update cycle; staff anticipates that the 2026 FMMP data would not be made public until 2028 per the DOC's typical timelines for implementation of FMMP dataset updates.

**Attachment 1:** Email exchange between Tatiana Inouye, Aspen Environmental Group (CEC consultant), and Patrick Hennessy, California Department of Conservation.

# CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

REPORT OF CONVERSATION

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**cc:** *Eric Knight*  
*Renee Longman*  
*Jared Babula*  
*Negar Vahidi*

**Signed:**

*Tatiana Inouye*

**Name:** Tatiana Inouye

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**From:** Hennessy, Patrick@DOC  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2026 4:17 PM  
**To:** Tatiana Inouye  
**Subject:** Fw: RE: FMMP data for Solano County parcel

You don't often get email from patrick.l.hennessy@conservation.ca.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Tatiana,

The first thing I have to share with you is a caveat from the FMMP main webpage.

*In preparing Maps, the Department of Conservation considers all information collected or received on the amount of land converted to or from agricultural use, and between agricultural categories.*

*The Department shares changes to Maps with counties, which have 90 days to request corrections of discrepancies or errors in the classification of agricultural lands on the maps. The Department makes corrections of discrepancies or errors requested by counties, as required by statute (see Gov. Code, § 65570, subd. (c)). Corrections need to be supported with evidence of land use or irrigation status.*

*Although the Department will always accept and independently consider all information regarding land use and conversion from any source, the Department will not discuss Map designation changes with non-county parties whose interest it is to seek changes to the Maps.*

FMMP uses USDA NAIP imagery as the primary imagery source to update the Important Farmland maps.

<https://naip-usdaonline.hub.arcgis.com/>

I have looked at your project site for the APN that you provided. During the 2020 Solano County Important Farmland map update, the 2020 NAIP imagery indicates the site is active irrigated agriculture. The imagery is captured in the summer, and green healthy vegetation indicates irrigation. The land use designation is irrigated agriculture, and underlying soil ratings by the USDA-NRCS put the land into Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland on the Important Farmland map.



During the 2022 Solano County Important Farmland map update, the site was noted as non-irrigated or fallow for the first time, but the land use designation remains in irrigated agriculture, and the Important Farmland designation remains Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.



The last portion of the Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland definitions state that the land must have been used for irrigated agriculture at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date. This also means the land can be fallow or non-irrigated for up to four years before it doesn't qualify.

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Documents/Farmland%20Mapping%20and%20Monitoring%20Program%20Ag%20Removal%20protocol.pdf>

Assuming the land remains fallow or non-irrigated during the future 2024 Solano County Important Farmland map update, the land would be noted as fallow or non-irrigated for a second update, but will remain in Prime, Statewide and Unique. If the land continues to be fallow or non-irrigated during the future 2026 update, FMMP staff will attempt to make a windshield site visit via a public road. If FMMP staff determine the land is fallow or non-irrigated during the site visit, the fallow/non-irrigated land use status is further confirmed, and the land can be removed from irrigated farmland. The four year period is from the 2022 update, which was the zero year mark, to the 2026 update, the four year mark.

FMMP expects to begin the 2024 update cycle in approximately 2 months. We don't know what order the counties will be mapped or when Solano will be completed and released. I hope this information will help you with your project planning.



**Patrick Hennessy**

Research Data Specialist 2

Division of Land Resource Protection

California Department of Conservation

715 P Street, MS 1904, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 617-0659  
Patrick.L.Hennessy@conservation.ca.gov

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**From:** Grundy, Farl@DOC <[Farl.Grundy@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:Farl.Grundy@conservation.ca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 9:24 AM  
**To:** Tatiana Inouye <[Tinouye@aspeneg.com](mailto:Tinouye@aspeneg.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: FMMP data for Solano County parcel

Tatiana,

Although I do help out with the FMMP program, I am going to forward your question to the FMMP staff who can provide you with a more detailed answer than I can.

Sincerely,



**Farl Grundy**

Associate Environmental Planner  
Division of Land Resource Protection  
Williamson Act / CEQA

**California Department of Conservation**

715 P Street, MS 1904  
Sacramento, CA, 95814  
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**From:** Tatiana Inouye <[Tinouye@aspeneg.com](mailto:Tinouye@aspeneg.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 9:19 AM  
**To:** Grundy, Farl@DOC <[Farl.Grundy@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:Farl.Grundy@conservation.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** FMMP data for Solano County parcel

You don't often get email from [tinouye@aspeneq.com](mailto:tinouye@aspeneq.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Farl,

I hope you are well, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the DLRP Open Office hours. I am currently working with the California Energy Commission to prepare a CEQA Agricultural Resources analysis for a proposed battery storage project in Solano County. I am reaching out to you with a question about potential updates to FMMP data for the project parcel.

This is the parcel's APN: 0141-030-090

According to the 2022 FMMP data that is available online, the site's Important Farmland acreages include 12.8 acres of Prime Farmland, 9.1 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 18.4 acres of Unique Farmland.

The site was formerly maintained as an orchard, but it appears that the trees were removed around 2019/2020 based on Google Earth imagery. The applicant has stated that the site has remained uncultivated since the orchard was removed, but I believe that it is still irrigated.

Can you tell me when the updated FMMP data will be publicly available?

Do you have any information you can share about possible changes to the Important Farmland designations for this particular site with the updated FMMP datasets?

Thank you in advance for your time. If you prefer to discuss this over the phone, you are welcome to call me at (818) 338-6762.

Regards,

**Tatiana Inouye**

Senior Planner

Planning & Public Policy

Office: (818) 338-6762

[www.aspeneg.com](http://www.aspeneg.com)



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