



## Urban Dynamics: California's Central Valley

California is one of the Nation's most populated and rapidly urbanizing states. Its 400-mile-long Central Valley ranks among the most productive and diverse farming regions in the world. Urbanization of agricultural lands in the Central Valley is occurring at an alarming rate. If current trends continue, more than a million acres of prime farmland will be lost to urban sprawl by 2040. Both policy makers and the public are becoming increasingly concerned about unchecked urbanization in this region.

This project will provide information and tools that will help residents and officials better understand urban growth and its impact on people, the environment, and the economy of the Central Valley.

Project participants have put together an historical overview of land-use change in the Central Valley and conducted a statistical analysis of spatial changes as well as in-depth discussions regarding the impacts of change. Computer models can help illustrate potential urban expansion throughout the Valley. Ultimately, all data related to this issue will be consolidated in a user-friendly format and made available to the general public and to those who will make decisions regarding the region's future development.

This project is a joint activity between USGS, Great Valley Center, New Valley Connexions, California Department of Conservation, California State University Stanislaus, NASA Ames Research Center,

California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES), and California Land Science Information Partnership (CaLSIP).

Customers include Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission, Fresno County Planning and Resource Management Office, and Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture with Ducks Unlimited.

For more information:  
<http://ceres.ca.gov/calsip/cv/index.html>