

The growth of speculative development of farming operations, the tendency to concentrate on annual crops, and the development of large tracts are all part of the dominant pattern of Arvin's agriculture, and set it off from the Dinuba pattern and from family farming in general. It is a development which appears elsewhere in the State; the Imperial Valley, the Salinas Valley, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the west side of Fresno County, and in parts of Kern County, especially lands along Highway 99 which have recently been released from stock raising uses for intensive agriculture. In Arvin it overlies older patterns of large operations as well as a pattern of small operations as exemplified by the present descendants of the 1910 colonization.

DINUBA

SETTING

Dinuba lies about 10 miles east of Highway 99, about 32 miles southeast of Fresno and about 20 miles north of Visalia, in the northwestern corner of Tulare County. It is in the southern end of the grape-producing area which centers in Fresno County, and is supplied with water by the Kings River, supplemented with water pumped from a shallow underground basin. Unlike Arvin, Dinuba is surrounded by neighboring communities which rival it in importance and size. The nearest of these, about 7 miles away, is Reedley, a grape-producing community. Next is Kingsburg, a thriving community of comparable size, lying on Highway 99. Smaller in size, though fairly independent of Dinuba, is the town of Orosi, directly to the east. Selma, Parlier, and Sanger are towns of comparable size within a radius of 12 miles. There are numerous subcommunities or neighborhoods near Dinuba, some within the Dinuba boundaries and some outside them. Sultana and North Dinuba are in the former category, while Cutler, Yettum, and Orange Cove are important small centers just outside the boundaries of Dinuba, as delineated.

The soils around Dinuba are generally of good quality. About 6 miles south of Dinuba are some poor salt grasslands which are used almost exclusively for grazing stock. In this area there are few houses. In all other directions from Dinuba, intensive agriculture extends unbroken until the orbit of a neighboring community is reached.

Dinuba, like Arvin, lies on the flat plain of the San Joaquin Valley. It, too, is close to the foothills, being but 3 miles from the nearest promontory. The soils are especially suited for the development of grapes, but appear to be excellent as well for numerous field crops including cotton. The growing season is long and the same general climate as in Arvin prevails except that there is a slightly greater rainfall and shorter growing season. Since crops are irrigated, precipitation is not a direct advantage, while the later spring means that Dinuba growers cannot bring their produce to market as early as Arvin growers can. Early markets are not important to raisin production, and Dinuba is in an area favorable to field-drying grapes because of the dry and warm (but not too hot) season after the grapes are ripe.