

4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation

The mode split for walking and bicycling in the unincorporated areas of Yolo County are each less than one percent, which is less than half of the walking and biking mode split for the entire State based on the 2000 US Census data. Because of the distance to nearby employment and services, walking and biking tend to be higher for residents in the incorporated cities compared to residents in the unincorporated areas.

Bicycle and pedestrian circulation is scored as follows:

- ◆ ⊖⊖ if there is poor circulation today and the development is both 1) significant and 2) would not be able to support bicycle or pedestrian facilities enhancements.
- ◆ ∅ if the circulation today is adequate to serve proposed development, and /or if there is very little development.
- ◆ ⊕ if there is poor circulation today and the development would support bicycle or pedestrian facilities enhancements.

D. Environment

1. Agriculture

The evaluation of effects on agriculture considers both the quality of agricultural soils in the area and the amount of agricultural land to be converted to urban uses. Since there are differing definitions of quality agricultural soils, soil quality in this report is assessed using four different measures. Each of these is described below

a. Important Farmlands

The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program uses classifications of farmlands developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS classifies farmland as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance, according

to soil type and the availability of irrigation (see Figure B-3). Under this system, the following definitions apply:

i. Prime Farmland

Land which has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to current farming methods. Prime Farmland must have been used for the production of irrigated crops within the last three years.

ii. Farmland of Statewide Importance

Land other than Prime Farmland which has a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. It must have been used for the production of irrigated crops within the last three years.

iii. Unique Farmland

Land which does not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance that is currently used for the production of specific high economic value crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high quality or high yields of a specific crop when treated and managed according to current farming methods. Examples of such crops may include oranges, olives, avocados, rice, grapes and cut flowers.

iv. Farmland of Local Importance

Land other than Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland that is either currently producing crops or that has the capability of production. This land may be important to the local economy due to its productivity.

As shown in Figure B-3, the majority of the county's farmland is Prime Farmland, particularly in flat areas east of Dunnigan and Zamora, between Woodland and Knights Landing, between Davis and Woodland, between Winters

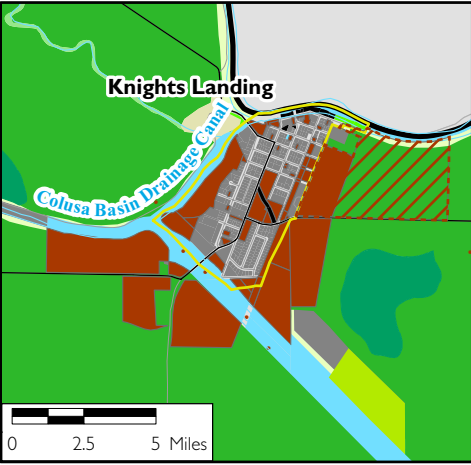
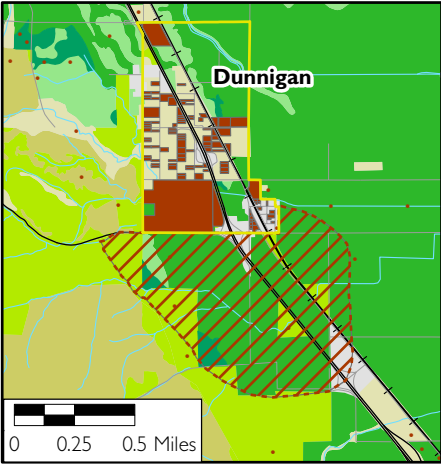
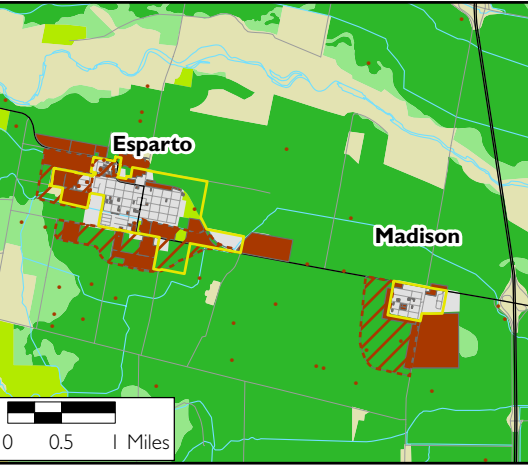
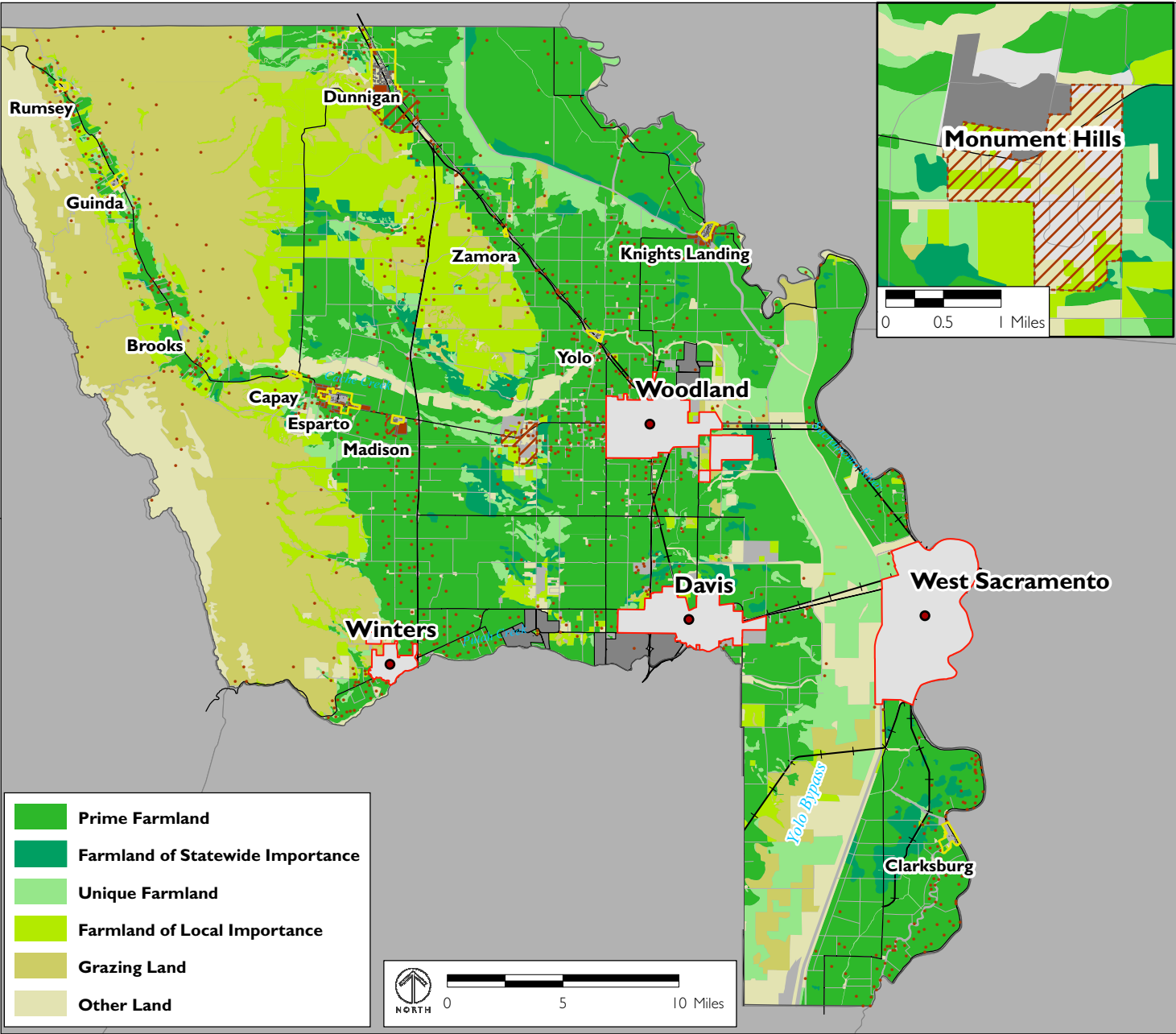


FIGURE B-3

IMPORTANT FARMLANDS

and Esparto, and around Clarksburg. Most of the county's cities and unincorporated communities are surrounded by Prime Farmland. The county's hillier areas are lesser quality farmland, including Farmland of Local Importance in the Dunnigan Hills and a mix of Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance and Other Land around Monument Hills. The Capay Valley contains a mix of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance and Grazing Land. The Yolo Bypass and Colusa Basin are a mix of Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance and Other Land. The western foothills are predominantly classified as Grazing Land.

b. Land Capability Classification

Land capability classification shows, in a general way, the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops (see Figure B-4). The soils are grouped according to their limitations for field crops, the risk of damage if they are used for crops, and the way they respond to management. Land capability classes are designated by the numbers 1 through 8. The numbers indicate progressively greater limitations and narrower choices for practical use. The classes are defined as follows:

- ◆ Class 1 soils have slight limitations that restrict their use.
- ◆ Class 2 soils have moderate limitations that restrict the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices.
- ◆ Class 3 soils have severe limitations that restrict the choice of plants or that require special conservation practices, or both.
- ◆ Class 4 soils have very severe limitations that restrict the choice of plants or that require very careful management, or both.
- ◆ Class 5 soils are subject to little or no erosion but have other limitations, impractical to remove, that restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland, or wildlife habitat.
- ◆ Class 6 soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuitable for cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland, or wildlife habitat.

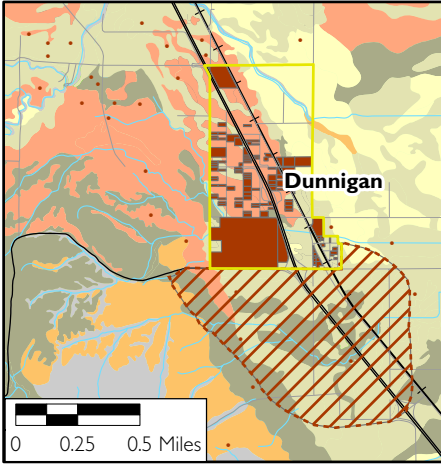
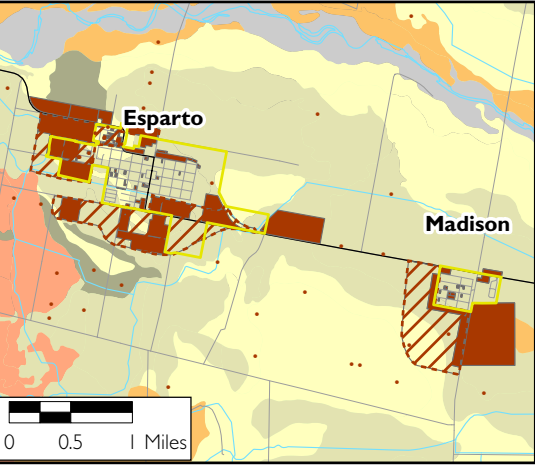
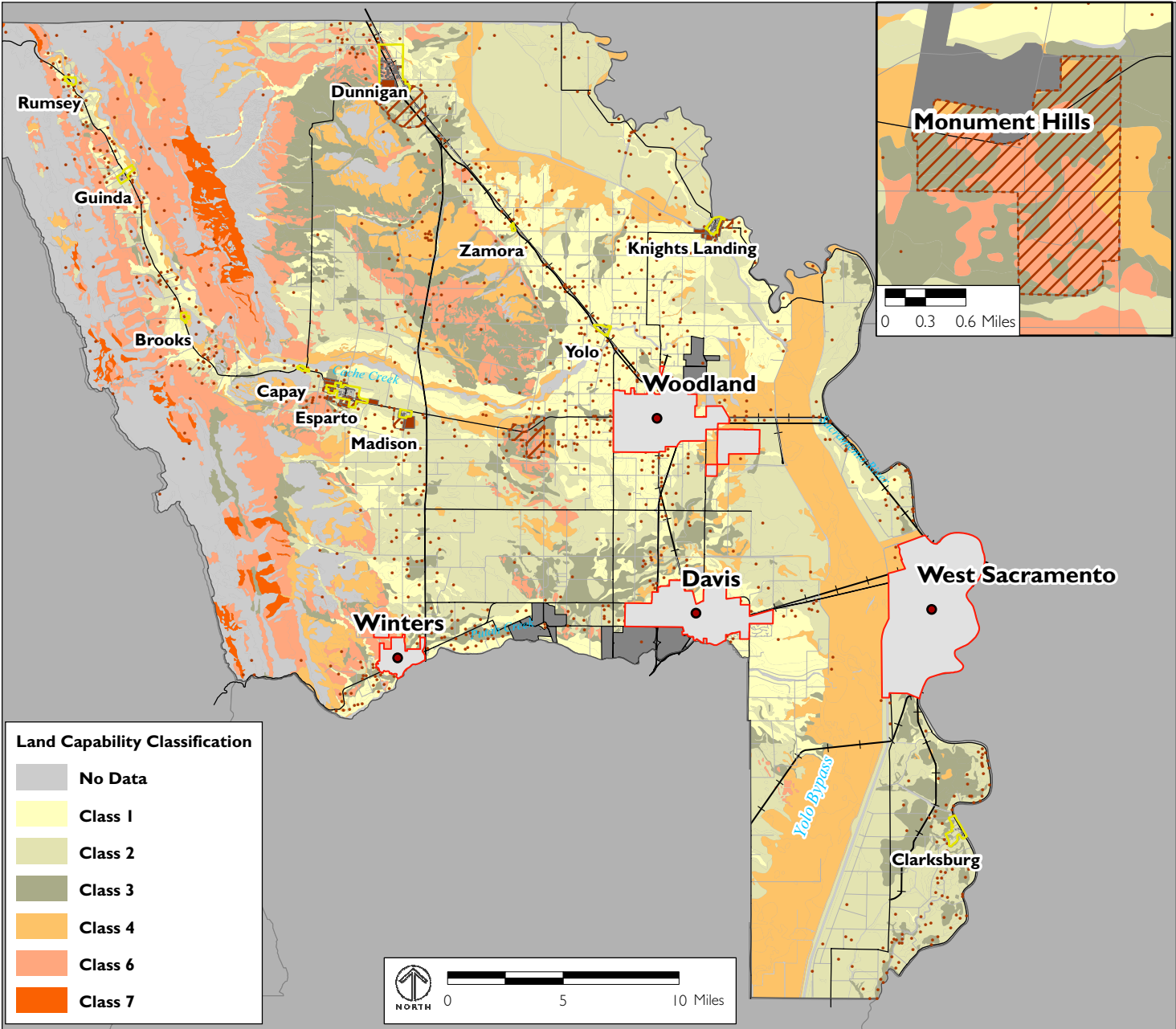


FIGURE B-4

LAND CAPABILITY CLASSIFICATION

- ◆ Class 7 soils have very severe limitations that make them unsuitable for cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to grazing, forestland, or wildlife habitat.
- ◆ Class 8 soils and miscellaneous areas have limitations that preclude commercial plant production and that restrict their use to recreational purposes, wildlife habitat, watershed, or esthetic purposes.

As seen in Figure B-4, most of the unincorporated county consists of Class 1 and 2 soils, with areas of poorer quality soils in Dunnigan Hills, along the Colusa Basin Drain and the Yolo Bypass, and in the western foothills.

c. Storie Index

The California Storie Index expresses numerically the relative degree of suitability of a soil for general intensive agricultural uses (see Figure B-5). The rating is based on soil characteristics only and is obtained by evaluating such factors as soil depth, texture of the surface soil, subsoil characteristics, and surface relief. Other factors, such as availability of water for irrigation, climate and distance from markets, that might determine the desirability of growing certain plants in a given locality, are not considered. The rating index of 100 is grouped into grades from 1 to 6.

- ◆ Grade 1 (80-100) are excellent or well-suited to intensive agriculture.
- ◆ Grade 2 (60-80) are suitable for most crops but have minor limitations that narrow the choice of crops and create a few special management needs.
- ◆ Grade 3 (40-60) are suited to a few special crops with special management needed.
- ◆ Grade 4 (20-40) are severely limited for crops; special management needed.
- ◆ Grade 5 (10-20) are not suited for crops; used for pasture and range.
- ◆ Grade 6 (<10) are soil and land types not suited to farming.

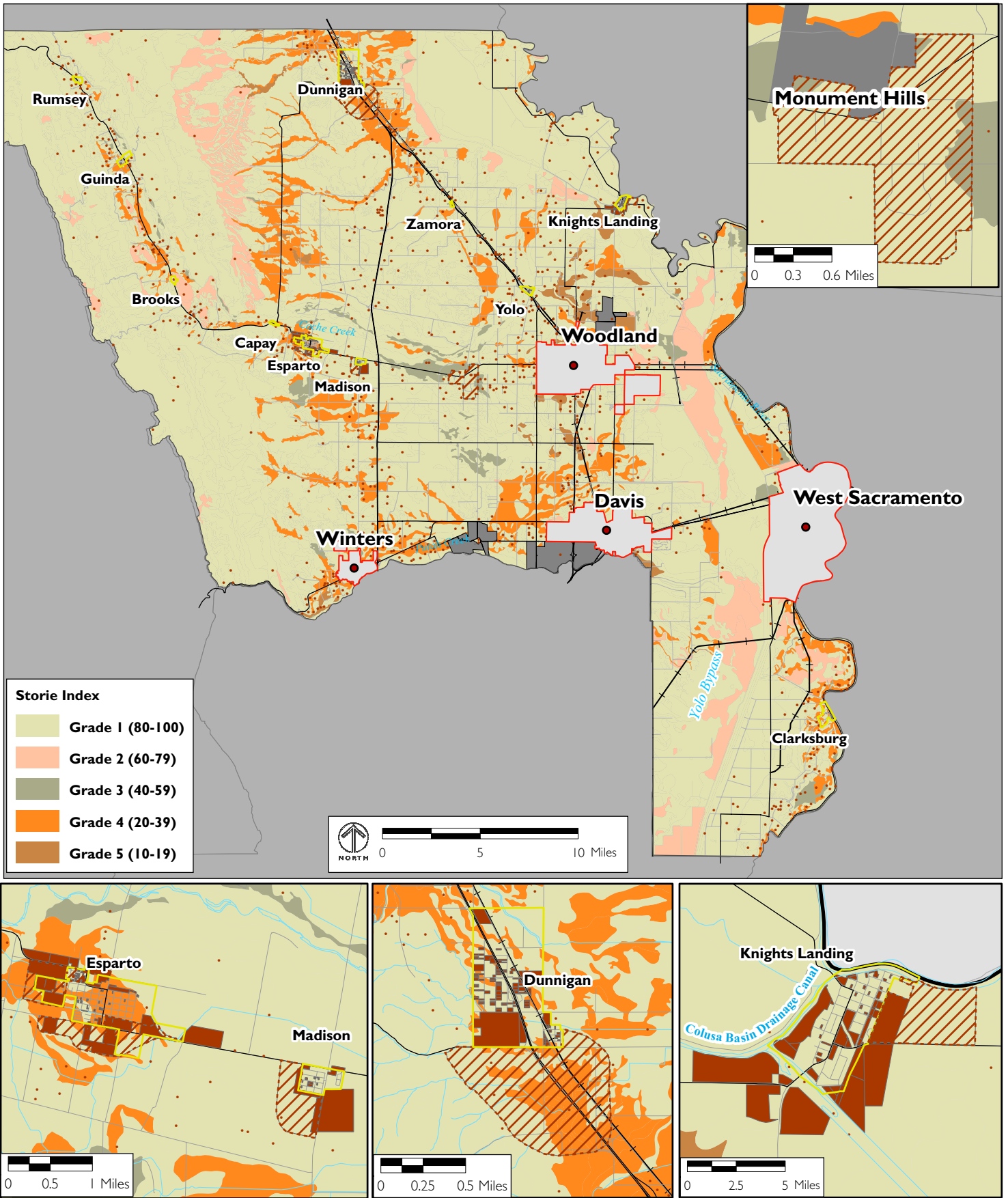


FIGURE B-5

STORIE INDEX

As seen in Figure B-5, most of the county's Storie Index ratings are Grade 1, with Grade 2, 3 and 4 soils scattered throughout.

d. High Value Crops Grown on Poorer Soils

Consideration of prime farmland and better soil classes would not provide a complete picture of the effect of the alternatives on the county's agricultural resources and economy. Several crops that are important to the county can be grown on poorer soils and non-prime farmland. Rice, for example, can be grown on very heavy clayey soils with poor drainage, such as around the Yolo Bypass. Wine grapes can be grown on highly drained, steeply sloped soils, such as in the Dunnigan Hills.

Figure B-6 maps the County's top 10 agricultural commodities in 2005: tomatoes, wine grapes, alfalfa, almonds, rice, walnuts, seed crops, rangeland, wheat and organic crops.¹⁹ In addition to being leading agricultural commodities, many of these crops, such as organic crops, seed crops and wine grapes, are also important to the county's economy as a foundation for related value-added processing and support businesses, as well as agricultural tourism. As shown, these leading commodities are grown throughout the county, including in some cases on non-prime farmland, and in every location where development is being considered in the General Plan Update.

e. Scoring the Alternatives

In this chapter, the following scores are used:

- ◆ ⊖⊖ A large amount of Prime Farmland, soils with a Class 1 or 2 Land Capability Classification, soils with high Storie Index ratings and/or areas that grow wine grapes or almonds would be converted to urban uses.

¹⁹ Yolo County 2005 Crop Report.

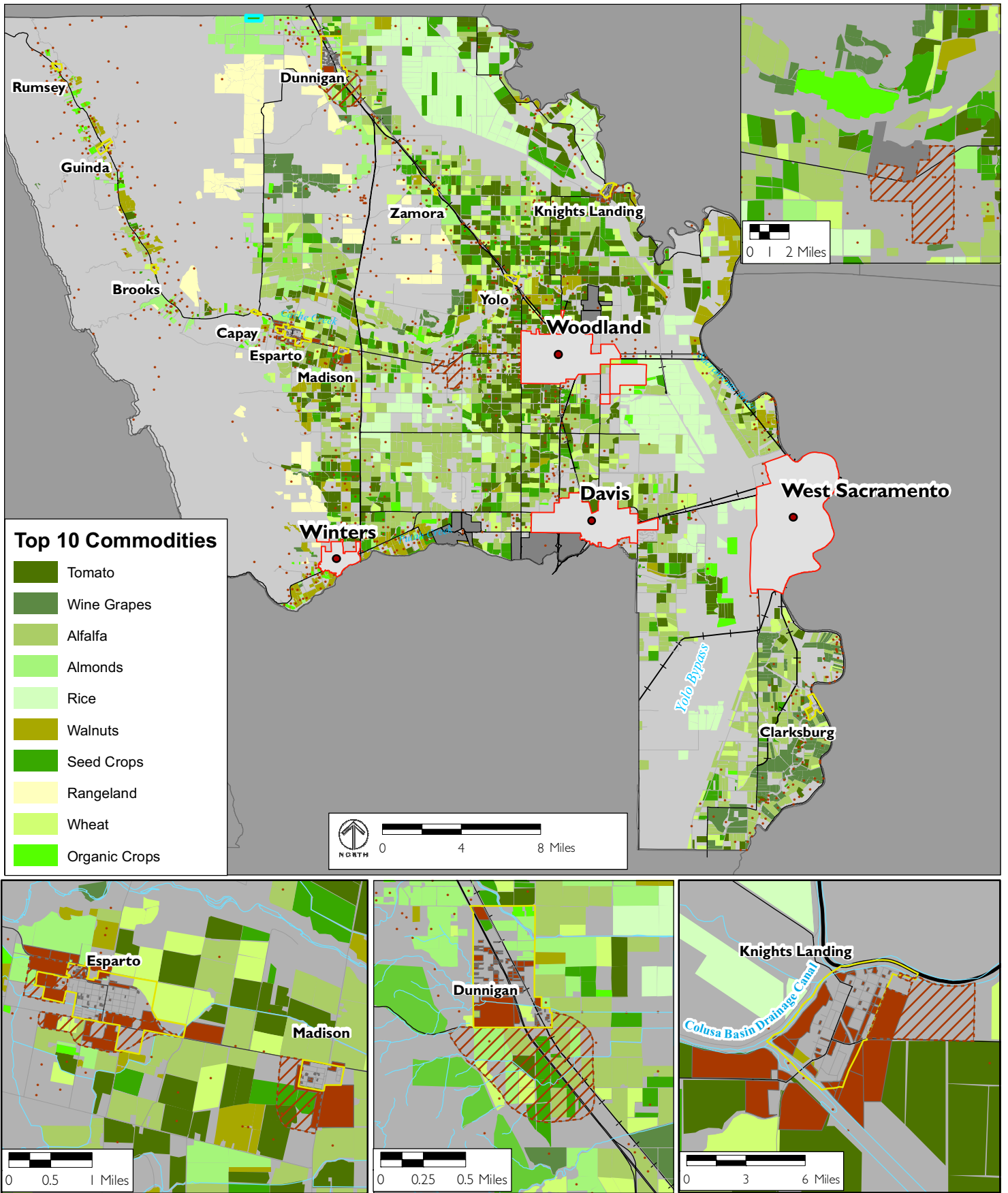


FIGURE B-6

TOP TEN COMMODITIES