



**EXPLANATION**

MAGNITUDE OF EARTHQUAKE

- <1
- 1=2
- 2=3
- 3=4
- 4=5

Hypocenters projected to cross section from defined boundary (outlined on sheet 1), along a line perpendicular to plane of cross section

HYPOCENTER—The point within the Earth which is the initial rupture site of an earthquake

EPICENTER—The point on the Earth's surface directly above the hypocenter of an earthquake

TABLE 1—Classification of fault activity  
[From seismicity data of Ellsworth and Marks (1980), fig. 141]

Seismically active fault.—Earthquake hypocenters on the geologically defined or inferred fault plane with well-constrained focal-mechanism solutions in agreement with movement on the fault plane. The correlation between earthquake hypocenters and the fault plane solutions must exclude, at a high confidence level, the association of those events with other possible faults.

Probably seismically active fault.—Earthquake hypocenters on the geologically inferred fault plane, probable compatibility of fault plane solutions and movement on the fault, and presence of a regional stress field compatible with the geologic record of fault movement. The correlation between earthquake hypocenters and the fault plane must be the most probable association. The possible association of the events with other faults is permissible.

Possibly seismically active fault.—Earthquake hypocenters in possible association with the fault plane with presence of a regional stress field compatible with the geologic record of fault movement. Available first-motion data must agree with movement on the fault. The association between earthquake hypocenters and the fault plane permits the interpretation that they are related, but it lacks the precision to demonstrate the correlation with reasonable confidence.

Seismic information insufficient to determine fault activity.—Little or no seismicological evidence in direct support of the presence of a proposed fault. Regional stress field may or may not agree with movement on the fault.

TABLE 2.—Historic earthquakes of magnitude 5.0 or greater in or near San Mateo County, Calif.

Date <sup>1</sup>	Time (GMT)	Epicenter location <sup>2</sup> Latitude Longitude	Richter magnitude <sup>3</sup>	Accuracy of epicenter location <sup>4</sup>
1808/6/21	?	37°48'N 122°30'W	6.3	E
1838/6	?	37°36'N 122°24'W	7.0	A
1851/5/15	16:10	37°54'N 122°36'W	5.0	C
1856/1/2	18:15	37°30'N 122°30'W	5.4	C
1856/2/15	13:25	37°36'N 122°24'W	5.9	B
1859/1/05	20:16	37°48'N 122°24'W	5.0	E
1870/2/17	20:12	37°12'N 122°00'W	5.5	B
1895/6/2	07:19	37°48'N 122°36'W	5.5	C
1906/4/18	13:12	37°42'N 122°30'W	8.2	—
1957/3/22	19:44	37°40'N 122°29'W	5.3	—

SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR FAULT LINES AND ZONES

The mapping of fault traces is difficult in an area like San Mateo County where rocks are poorly exposed and where geomorphic features that might provide clues for the location of faults have been extensively modified or destroyed by humans. In many areas, such as from Moss Beach to Pillar Point and along most of the San Andreas fault, different geologists have mapped the same fault and have depicted it with lines that are significantly different in detail. We have selected the lines that we believe best portray the fault, but we readily admit that other interpretations are possible. References for these interpretations are provided, except for some older reports that seem to be in error or have been superseded. The area or zone along a fault that might be potentially hazardous is subjective.

- San Andreas fault zone**  
Lines from Bonilla (1971), Pampeyan (1981a, b, 1975, 1970), D. G. Herd (written commun., 1982), and Brown (1972). See also California Division of Mines and Geology (1974a, b, c, d, 1982c, d), Schlocker and others (1965), and W. R. Dickinson (written commun., 1970, 1971).
- Serra fault zone**  
Lines from Herd (written commun., 1982), and Pampeyan (1981a). See also California Division of Mines and Geology (1982c, d), Brown (1972) and Yancey (1978).
- Stanford fault zone**  
Lines from D. G. Herd (written commun., 1982).
- Hermit fault**  
Lines from Herd (written commun., 1982). See also Brown (1972), Pampeyan (1970), and California Division of Mines and Geology (1974d).
- Montavista fault**  
Lines from D. G. Herd (written commun., 1982). See also Dibbille (1966b), Pampeyan (1970), and McLaughlin (1974).
- Woodhaven and La Honda faults**  
Lines from Brabb and Pampeyan (1972).
- Butano fault zone**  
Lines from Brabb and Pampeyan (1972) and Brabb (1970).
- Pillaritos fault**  
Lines from Brabb and Pampeyan (1972). See also Pampeyan (1981b).
- San Bruno fault**  
Line from Bonilla (1971) and Pampeyan (1981a).
- Hillside fault zone**  
Line from Bonilla (1971).
- San Gregorio fault zone**  
Lines from Weber and Lajoie (1980), Touring (1959), and Brabb and Pampeyan (1972). See also F. Beach Leighton and Associates (1971), Brown (1972), McCulloch and others (1977), and California Division of Mines and Geology (1976, 1982a, b, c).
- Other faults near Point Año Nuevo**  
Lines from Brabb and others (1977) and Weber and Lajoie (1980). See also California Division of Mines and Geology (1982a) and Clark (1981).
- Other faults**  
Lines from Brabb and Pampeyan (1972), Pampeyan (1981a, b), D. G. Herd (written commun., 1982), and McLaughlin (1969).

ALQUIST-PRIOLO SPECIAL STUDIES ZONES

The Alquist-Prerio Special Studies Zones Act, according to Hart (1980), was signed in law December 22, 1972, and went into effect March 7, 1973. The Act, codified in the Public Resource Code as Division 2, Chapter 7.5, has been amended four times. The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the location of most structures for human occupancy across the traces of active faults and to mitigate thereby the hazard of fault-rupture (Section 2621.5). Under the Act, the State Geologist (Chief of the Division of Mines and Geology) is required to delineate "special studies zones" along known active faults in California. Cities and counties affected by the zones must regulate certain development "projects" within the zones. They must withhold development permits for sites within the zones until geologic investigations demonstrate that the sites are not threatened by surface displacement from future faulting. The State Mining and Geology Board provides specific Policies and Criteria to guide cities and counties in their implementation of the law.

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<sup>1</sup>Data for pre-1900 earthquakes are from Topozada and others (1980); Data for post-1900 earthquakes from Real and others (1978). Time is Greenwich Mean Time.

<sup>2</sup>Locations and magnitudes are estimated from their intensity determinations; coordinates are for the reporting station in the general earthquake area.

<sup>3</sup>Accuracy of epicenter locations: A, within 15 km; B, within 30 km; C, within 60 km; E, insufficient data for location.

A brief descriptive summary of these events follows (from Topozada and others, 1980, unless otherwise indicated).

1808.—From June 21 to July 17, 18 earthquakes were felt in the Presidio of San Francisco, cracking houses, destroying an antechamber, and threatening the barracks of the fort with entire ruin.

1838.—From interview with Mr. Charles Brown (Louderback 1947), describes a fissure from near San Francisco to the latitude of Santa Clara (about 60 km), redwood trees broken off, adobe walls cracked, and the earth rising and falling in solid waves. "The fault rupture may have occurred throughout all or most of the line active in 1906, but north and south of the limits indicated by Brown, it lay under water or in wild country uninhabited by whites (except at Fort Ross, from which we have no report). The evidence of greater intensity at Monterey than in 1906 may mean that the fault rupture extended farther south in 1838 than in 1906." Topozada and others (1980) assign an intensity magnitude of 7 to this event, as suggested by a rupture length of 60 km. They indicate that because of the absence of reports north of San Francisco and south of Santa Clara, except at Monterey, this is a minimum magnitude estimate.

1851.—Goods were thrown from shelves in San Francisco. People rushed outside.

1856.—(January) Iron shutters were warped and masonry walls were damaged in San Francisco.

1856.—(February) Cornices were thrown down, brick walls were cracked, and people were thrown from their feet in San Francisco. Several afterwards were felt at San Francisco.

1859.—In San Francisco bells rang, plaster fell walls were cracked in several brick buildings, and objects were knocked from shelves.

1870.—Several chimneys were thrown down in Los Gatos, Santa Clara County.

1899.—In San Francisco chimneys were toppled and several cornices fell.

1906.—A 420-km-long segment of the San Andreas fault ruptured from San Juan Bautista to at least as far north as Point Arena, and probably as far north as Cape Mendocino. Right-lateral surface offsets averaged 4 m (12 ft) north of San Francisco and less than 2 m (6 ft) south of San Francisco. The maximum observed offset was 5 m (15 ft) (Lawson and others, 1908).

1957.—This event was a part of a sequence of 88 earthquakes, M > 2.5. The epicenter of the main event occurred near Mussel Rock and the afterwards were within 6 km (3.7 mi.) Depth of the afterwards ranged from 7 to 11 km (4.3 to 6.8 mi.) (Bolt and Miller, 1975; Teicher, 1959b; Uhrhammer, 1980).

CROSS SECTIONS TO ACCOMPANY  
MAP SHOWING FAULTS AND EARTHQUAKE EPICENTERS IN SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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1986

