

Table 1.--Geologic history of the San Joaquin Valley and bordering mountains

(Adapted from Davis and others, 1959, p. 38-39.)

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Epoch	Coast Ranges	San Joaquin Valley	Sierra Nevada
Recent	<p>Subaerial erosion forms present topography.</p> <p>Minor structural movements continuing to present time.</p>	<p>Deposition of stream-channel, alluvial-fan, overflow, and lacustrine deposits contemporaneous with mild dissection of tilted alluvial fans on east side of valley. Deposition of broad coalescing alluvial fans on west side of valley.</p>	<p>Subaerial erosion at high altitude.</p>
Pleistocene	<p>Major faulting and folding developed present relief and form of existing structures reflected by Lost Hills, Buttonwillow Ridge, and Semitropic Ridge, and probably eastern area of dissected uplands.</p>	<p>Deposition of coarse alluvial deposits by streams draining Sierra Nevada contemporaneous with dissection of tilted older alluvial-fan deposits. Alluvial fans on east side tilted with Sierra block.</p>	<p>Several stages of glaciation in higher parts of range. Last major uplift of range along faults on eastern margin with additional westward tilting of Sierra block.</p>
Pliocene	<p>Folding and faulting on regional scale in late Pliocene outlines present form of ranges.</p>	<p>Extensive lake occupied western part of valley for a time in late Pliocene. Most of the valley was above sea level in late Pliocene. Streams from Sierra Nevada deposited generally fine-grained alluvium on the east side, including coarse-grained volcanic detritus.</p>	<p>Relative structural stability.</p>