

Quaternary Fault and Fold Database of the United States

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Pisgah-Bullion fault zone, West Bullion (Class A) No. 122d

Last Review Date: 2003-09-01

Compiled in cooperation with the California Geological Survey

citation for this record: Treiman, J.A., compiler, 2003, Fault number 122d, Pisgah-Bullion fault zone, West Bullion, in Quaternary fault and fold database of the United States: U.S. Geological Survey website, <https://earthquakes.usgs.gov/hazards/qfaults>, accessed 12/14/2020 02:16 PM.

Synopsis

General: The Pisgah-Bullion fault zone is a more than 100-km-long, northwest-trending dextral strike-slip fault zone that is part of a complex of similarly oriented dextral faults within the Eastern California (or Mojave) Shear Zone (Dokka and Travis, 1990 #3188). Elements of the fault zone have been recognized since at least the map of Jenkins (1938 #5628) and have been mapped in successively more detail by Kupfer and Bassett (1962 #6697), Dibblee (1966 #1346; 1967 #6688; 1968 #6708) and Hart (1987 #6694). An East and West Bullion fault were distinguished by Bacheller (1978 #6675). In its northern reaches, the fault zone

displaces volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks of Pleistocene age along the Pisgah fault and of Tertiary age along the Bullion fault. Also affected are younger fan deposits, with multiple indicators of late-Pleistocene to Holocene dextral displacement. The southern branches of the fault zone (East and West Bullion faults) are not as well defined and are largely concealed by late-Quaternary deposits, except near their northern juncture where historic ground rupture (1–2 m on each fault) has helped define their location. The East Bullion fault regains definition at its southern end as it approaches the Pinto Mountain fault [118]. Limited paleoseismic studies in the central part of the fault zone (Lindvall and others, 2000 #6698) plus observations of Hart (1987 #6694) suggest there have been several Holocene displacements in the northern sections of the fault zone. The only estimate of slip rate comes from offset lava flows along the Pisgah fault which suggest a dextral rate of 0.8 mm/yr (Hart, 1987 #6695). Slip rate is probably divided to some extent between the two southern sections [122c and 122d].

Sections: This fault has 4 sections. The fault is divided here into sections based strictly on geometry (abrupt change in trend and major branching). Wesnousky (1986 #5305) had four sections (A–D) for the Bullion fault (including the southern part of the Lavic Lake fault [351] as section D), with the Pisgah fault listed separately. Petersen and Wesnousky (1994 #6024) also had four similar, but less clearly delineated, sections of the Bullion fault zone, in addition to the Pisgah fault, but including the Lavic Lake fault [351] as their section A. Both Wesnousky (1986 #5305) and Petersen and Wesnousky (1994 #6024) made two sections of what is considered here the East Bullion section. The West Bullion fault has generally been ignored in these evaluations, but the 1999 Hector Mine earthquake demonstrated the importance of this strand (Treiman and others, 2002 #6692). The Lavic Lake fault [351] is herein listed separately from the Pisgah-Bullion fault zone.

**Name
comments**

General: Parts of the unnamed fault zone were depicted by Jenkins (1938 #5628). Pisgah and Bullion faults (including the present East Bullion fault) were first named and mapped (as separate faults) by Kupfer and Bassett (1962 #6697). Both faults were included, along with the Mesquite Lake fault [123], as the Pisgah-Bullion-Mesquite Lake fault by Petersen and others (1996 #4860). Pisgah and Bullion faults are grouped here, as a zone, based on Dibblee (1966 #1346) who mapped the two faults with a significant overlap, and based on Hart (1987 #6694) who

	<p>identified and mapped a complex zone of interaction between these two faults. Both fault names have been applied to at least some of the traces in the overlap area (Dibblee, 1966 #1346; Morton and others, 1980 #6636). The fault zone extends southward to include two branches of the Bullion fault mapped in different configurations by Kupfer and Bassett (1962 #6697), Dibblee (1967 #6688; 1968 #6708), Bortugno (1986 #6676) and Hart (1987 #6694). Mesquite Lake fault [123] is parallel to Bullion fault and is considered separately.</p> <p>Section: West Bullion fault was named by Bacheller (1978 #6675); includes part of Bullion fault of Hart (1987 #6694). This section extends nearly 38 km from the split with the East Bullion fault [122c] in the Deadman Lake NW quadrangle southeastward to the Twentynine Palms quadrangle.</p> <p>Fault ID: Refers to numbers 378 (Bullion fault) and 418 (Pisgah fault) of Jennings (1994 #2878).</p>
<p>County(s) and State(s)</p>	<p>SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA</p>
<p>Physiographic province(s)</p>	<p>BASIN AND RANGE</p>
<p>Reliability of location</p>	<p>Poor Compiled at 1:62,500 scale.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Northern end is well located based on mapping (1:24,000) by Treiman (2002 #6701), which included historic rupture traces (Treiman and others, 2002 #6692). Central and southern part of the section is poorly located as indicated by concealed and queried trace shown by Dibblee (1967 #6688; 1968 #6647) at 1:62,500.</p>
<p>Geologic setting</p>	<p>The Pisgah-Bullion fault zone is within the Eastern California Shear Zone, within the Mojave Desert (Dokka and Travis, 1990 #3188). It is a continuous zone of Holocene and late Pleistocene dextral faults that extend about 100 km southeastward from the west edge of the Hector quadrangle to the Humbug Mountain quadrangle, southeast of Twentynine Palms, where it intersects the Pinto Mountain fault zone [118]. The fault zone delineates the western margin of the Bullion Mountains and is parallel to other major northwest-trending fault zones in the Eastern California Shear Zone, including the Calico-Hidalgo fault zone [121] and the</p>

	<p>Camp Rock-Emerson-Copper Mountain fault zone [114]. Dokka (1983 #6632) reported 6.4–14.4 km of cumulative dextral displacement along the Pisgah-Rodman faults based on offset of Miocene Kane Spring transfer fault. Dokka and Travis (1990 #3188) indicated about 10.5 km of dextral offset. Locally, and with regard to recent tectonic activity, it appears to have a right-stepping relationship between the Lavic Lake fault [351] to the north and the Mesquite Lake fault [123] to the south as it accommodates shear within the Eastern California Shear Zone (Treiman and others, 2002 #6692). Ground rupture in 1999 (Treiman and others, 2002 #6692) affected primarily the middle portion of the fault zone (northern part of the East and West Bullion faults). At least in this historic event the West Bullion fault appears to primarily participate in the stepover to the Mesquite Lake fault [123].</p>
Length (km)	This section is 40 km of a total fault length of 97 km.
Average strike	
Sense of movement	<p>Right lateral</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Sense of movement based on offset features (Hart, 1987 #6694) and historic displacement (Treiman and others, 2002 #6692).</p>
Dip Direction	<p>W</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Fault is depicted as high angle in cross sections by Dibblee (1967 #6688); possible west dip suggested by weak seismicity as shown in cross section by Hauksson and others (2002 #6696).</p>
Paleoseismology studies	
Geomorphic expression	<p>Northernmost part of the section consists of a few low scarps and aligned notches (Morton and others, 1980 #6636; Hart, 1987 #6694; Treiman, 2002 #6701). The rest of the fault in this section generally bounds outliers of Bullion Mountains and has little other geomorphic expression (Dibblee, 1967 #6688). A parallel splay to the east, within these outliers, may be indicated by notches, linear drainage and an offset ridge within bedrock east of Deadman Lake (Treiman, 2002 #6701).</p>

Age of faulted surficial deposits	Hart (1987 #6694) indicated surface expression of faulting is evident within early Pleistocene gravel deposits (as mapped by Dibblee, 1967 #6688) and some younger alluvium, but until 1999 Hector Mine earthquake this fault was mostly concealed by Holocene alluvium.
Historic earthquake	
Most recent prehistoric deformation	latest Quaternary (<15 ka) <i>Comments:</i> Hart (1987 #6694) recognized scarps on possibly young alluvium in one limited area.
Recurrence interval	
Slip-rate category	Between 0.2 and 1.0 mm/yr <i>Comments:</i> Assigned slip-rate category based on assumed continuity with the Pisgah section of the Pisgah fault [122a]; however, it is likely that slip is divided between East and West Bullion faults along the southern extension of the Pisgah fault. Slip rate assigned by Petersen and others (1996 #4860) for combined Pisgah-Bullion fault zone [122] and Mesquite Lake fault for probabilistic seismic hazard assessment for the State of California was 0.6 mm/yr (with minimum and maximum assigned slip rates of 0.2 mm/yr and 1.0 mm/yr, respectively).
Date and Compiler(s)	2003 Jerome A. Treiman, California Geological Survey
References	#6675 Bacheller, J., III, 1978, Quaternary geology of the Mojave Desert-eastern Transverse Ranges boundary in the vicinity of Twentynine Palms, California: Los Angeles, University of California, unpublished M.S. thesis, 157 p., scale 1:24,000. #6676 Bortugno, E.J., 1986, Map showing recency of faulting, San Bernardino quadrangle, California: California Division of Mines and Geology Regional Geologic Map Series San Bernardino quadrangle, Map 3A, sheet 5, scale 1:250,000. #1346 Dibblee, T.W., Jr., 1966, Geologic map of the Lavic quadrangle San Bernardino County, California: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Geologic Investigations Map I-472, 5 p. pamphlet, 1 sheet, scale 1:62,500.

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