

# Quaternary Fault and Fold Database of the United States

As of January 12, 2017, the USGS maintains a limited number of metadata fields that characterize the Quaternary faults and folds of the United States. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the [interactive fault map](#).

## Monterey Bay- Tularcitos fault zone, Seaside-Monterey section (Class A) No. 62b

Last Review Date: 2001-06-08

*citation for this record:* Bryant, W.A., compiler, 2001, Fault number 62b, Monterey Bay- Tularcitos fault zone, Seaside-Monterey section, 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 03:03 PM.

### Synopsis

**General:** Monterey Bay-Tularcitos fault zone is a complex, generally northwest-striking zone up to 15 km wide of dextral, dextral-reverse, and thrust faults (Greene and others, 1973 #1323; Dibblee, 1974 #4829; Clark and others, 1974 #6136; Rosenberg, 1993 #6158; Rosenberg and Clark, 1994 #6144). Detailed reconnaissance level mapping is by Greene and others (1973 #1323), Dibblee (1974 #4829), Clark and others (1974 #6136), McCulloch and Greene (1990 #5406), Rosenberg (1993 #6158), Rosenberg and Clark (1994 #6144), and Clark and others (1997 #6137). Rosenberg and Clark (1994 #6144) documented evidence of Holocene displacement along the Hatton Canyon, Sylvan Thrust, and Tularcitos faults. McCulloch and Greene (1990 #5406) mapped Holocene alluvium as offset along offshore traces of the of the Monterey Bay fault zone. Monterey Bay-Tularcitos fault zone lacks detailed studies and evidence of late Pleistocene

	<p>and Holocene slip rates is poorly constrained. Dextral slip rates are not known. Rosenberg and Clark (1994 #6144) reported vertical slip rates that ranged from 0.02 mm/yr for the Navy fault (late Pleistocene vertical rate), to 0.4 mm/yr for the Sylvan Thrust fault (Holocene vertical rate). Post-Middle Miocene dextral slip rate of 0.3-1.5 mm/yr can be inferred for Tularcitos fault zone based on postulated dextral displacement by Graham (1976 #6155). However, timing of total dextral displacement is poorly constrained.</p> <p><b>Sections:</b> This fault has 3 sections.</p>
<p><b>Name comments</b></p>	<p><b>General:</b></p> <p><b>Section:</b> Section name is proposed in this compilation. Seaside-Monterey section includes the Navy, Berwick Canyon, Hatton Canyon, and Sylvan faults comprising a zone as much as 5 km wide. Section extends from the postulated on-shore extension of the Monterey Bay fault zone at the southern side of Monterey Bay southeast to about 1 km north of Snivleys Ridge where the Navy, Berwick Canyon, and Hatton Canyon faults branch from the Tularcitos fault.</p> <p><b>Fault ID:</b> Refers to numbers 229 (Monterey Bay fault zone), 232 (Navy fault), and 236 (Tularcitos fault) of Jennings (1994 #2878) and number LO4 (Monterey Bay-Tularcitos fault zone) of Working Group on Northern California Earthquake Potential (1996 #1216).</p>
<p><b>County(s) and State(s)</b></p>	<p>MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA</p>
<p><b>Physiographic province(s)</b></p>	<p>PACIFIC BORDER</p>
<p><b>Reliability of location</b></p>	<p>Good Compiled at 1:100,000 scale.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Locations based on digital revisions to Jennings (1994 #2878)) using original mapping by Dibblee (1974 #4829) at 1:62,500; original mapping by Clark and others (1974 #6136), Bryant (1985 #6135), Rosenberg (1993 #6158), Rosenberg and Clark (1994 #6144), and Clark and others (1997 #6137) at 1:24,000.</p>
<p><b>Geologic setting</b></p>	<p>Generally northwest-striking zone of discontinuous faults located</p>

	<p>in the complexly deformed Salinian block bounded by the San Andreas [1] fault zone to the northeast and the San Gregorio [60] fault zone to the southwest. Monterey Bay-Tularcitos fault zone extends for about 84 km from about 6 km southwest of Santa Cruz, near the San Gregorio [60] fault, across Monterey Bay southeast to the Monterey Peninsula to near the crest of the Sierra de Salinas. Cumulative dextral and vertical displacement are not known. Graham (1976 #6155) postulated between 3.2 km and 16 km of dextral strike-slip displacement may have occurred along the Tularcitos fault zone, based on apparent dextral separation of distinctive beds in the Miocene Monterey Formation. Fiedler (1944 #6140) reported 380 m of post-Miocene up-to-north vertical displacement along the Tularcitos fault zone.</p>
<b>Length (km)</b>	This section is 25 km of a total fault length of 84 km.
<b>Average strike</b>	N48°W (for section) versus N44°W (for whole fault)
<b>Sense of movement</b>	<p>Right lateral</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Navy fault is primarily dextral strike-slip fault, based on geomorphic expression (Rosenberg, 1994 #6144) and first-motion studies (Cockerham and others, 1990 #6152). Berwick Canyon fault is considered to be a dextral reverse fault. Younse (1980 #6162) considered the Berwick Canyon fault to be predominantly normal (down-to-north), but his cross-section C-C' suggests thickness changes of Tertiary sedimentary rocks across the fault which would indicate a strike-slip component. Both Hatton Canyon and Sylvan Thrust faults are predominantly up-to-north reverse faults. Road-cut exposure of Sylvan Thrust indicates fault is thrust fault (Rosenberg and Clark, 1994 #6144).</p>
<b>Dip Direction</b>	<p>S; SW</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Navy, Berwick Canyon, and Hatton Canyon faults identified as steeply dipping. Exposures of Sylvan Thrust show fault planes dipping 38° to 47° SW (Rosenberg and Clark, 1994 #6144).</p>
<b>Paleoseismology studies</b>	
<b>Geomorphic expression</b>	Navy fault is delineated by geomorphic features indicating late Pleistocene and possible Holocene dextral strike-slip displacement such as aligned linear drainages, aligned benches

	<p>and saddles, springs, and southwest-facing bedrock scarps (Clark and others, 1974 #6136; Rosenberg and Clark, 1994 #6144). Well-defined scarps, closed depressions, and dextrally offset drainages were not observed by Bryant (1985 #6135). Berwick Canyon fault delineated by aligned linear drainages and poorly defined benches and saddles (Rosenberg and Clark, 1994 #6144).</p>
<b>Age of faulted surficial deposits</b>	<p>Fault strands in this section offset Mesozoic crystalline basement rocks, Tertiary sedimentary rocks, Quaternary to late Pleistocene marine and fluvial terrace deposits, and, locally, Holocene colluvium (Clark and others, 1974 #6136; Dupre, 1990 #6153; Vaughn and others, 1991 #6147; Rosenberg and Clark, 1994 #6144).</p>
<b>Historic earthquake</b>	
<b>Most recent prehistoric deformation</b>	<p>latest Quaternary (&lt;15 ka)</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Timing of the most recent paleoevent is not well constrained. Traces of the Sylvan Thrust fault offset colluvium that has 14C age of 4,890±90 yr B.P. and traces of the Hatton Canyon fault offset colluvium that has 14C age of 2,080±40 yr B.P. (Rosenberg and Clark, 1994 #6144). Most recent displacement on Navy fault has not been established, but Clark and others (1974 #6136) considered fault as possibly active, based on geomorphic expression and association with offshore faults that offset seafloor (McCulloch and Greene, 1990 #5406). Rosenberg and Clark (1994 #6144) mapped folded late Pleistocene terrace deposits adjacent to the Navy fault which suggest post-late Pleistocene displacement.</p>
<b>Recurrence interval</b>	
<b>Slip-rate category</b>	<p>Between 0.2 and 1.0 mm/yr</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> There are no data for total slip along the Seaside-Monterey section. Rosenberg and Clark (1994 #6144) reported late Quaternary and Holocene vertical slip-rates for the faults of the Seaside-Monterey section. Late Quaternary vertical slip rate for Navy fault is 0.02 mm/yr, based on 10 m vertical offset of 600 ka fluvial terrace (Wright and others, 1990 #6161). Rosenberg (1993 #6158) reported a Quaternary vertical slip-rate of 0.03 mm/yr for the Hatton Canyon fault, based on 30 m vertical offset</p>

of 1.1 Ma fluvial terrace. Rosenberg and Clark (1994 #6144) calculated a Holocene vertical slip-rate of 0.07-0.14 mm/yr for the Hatton Canyon fault, based on 0.15-0.3 m vertical offset of 2.08 ka colluvium (14C age). Late Pleistocene vertical slip-rate of 0.04-0.05 mm/yr for Sylvan Thrust reported by Rosenberg and Clark (1994 #6144), based on 15-20 m vertical offset of 415 ka coastal terrace. Holocene vertical slip-rate of 0.2-0.4 mm/yr was calculated for the Sylvan Thrust fault by Rosenberg and Clark (1994 #6144), based on 1-2 m vertical offset of 4.89 ka colluvium (14C age). Poorly constrained slip rate assigned to the entire fault by Petersen and others (1996 #4860) for probabilistic seismic hazard assessment for the State of California was 0.5 mm/yr (with minimum and maximum assigned slip rates of 0.1 mm/yr and 0.9 mm/yr, respectively).

**Date and  
Compiler(s)**

2001  
William A. Bryant, California Geological Survey

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