

# 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](#).

## Red Mountain fault zone (Class A) No. 90

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<b>Synopsis</b>	The Red Mountain fault zone is a north-dipping reverse fault within the western Transverse Ranges. At least three sub-parallel surface traces (Woodward-Clyde Consultants, Inc., 1979; Jackson and Yeats, 1982; Grigsby, 1988) show Quaternary late Quaternary displacement (Smith, 1977; Lajoie and others 1982; Sarna-Wojcicki and others, 1987) with some indication of Holocene surface rupture (Smith, 1977; Anderson and O'Connell, 1998). Activity is also suggested by historic seismicity (Smith and others, 1979; Yerkes and Lee, 1979; Yeats and others, 1987). The surface trace swings northward at its eastern end and disappears within the contact between the Tertiary Sisquoc and Pico formations (Yeats and others, 1987; Dibblee, 1988). Slip is poorly constrained at 1–3 mm/yr based on offset of the 45 ka Punta Gorda terrace (Clark and others, 1984) but may be as high as 5.9 mm/yr at seismogenic depths (Huftile and others, 1997).
<b>Name comments</b>	First mapped and named (onshore) by Putnam (1942) and offshore extension depicted by Ziony and others (1974).

	<b>Fault ID:</b> Refers to number 331 (Red Mountain fault) of Jennings (1994) and number 52 (Red Mountain fault) and 53 (fault Y) of Ziony and Yerkes (1985).
<b>County(s) and State(s)</b>	VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
<b>Physiographic province(s)</b>	PACIFIC BORDER
<b>Reliability of location</b>	Good Compiled at 1:1:24,000 scale.  <i>Comments:</i> Location of fault from Qt_ft_ver_3-0_Final_WGS84_polyline.shp (Bryant, W.A., written communication to K.Haller, August 15, 2017). Offshore traces are poorly located and generally are based on unpublished industry seismic data and well interpretation (Jackson and Yeats, 1982; Kamerling, 2000). Onshore fault traces are better located but are largely obscured by widespread slope movement (Smith 1977; Tan and others, 2003a, 2003b). They are locally well constrained by mapped scarps (Smith, 1977), borings (Woodward-Clyde Consultants, Inc., 1979), trenches (Huftile and others, 1997) and limited exposures (Smith, 1977; Woodward-Clyde Consultants, Inc., 1979); other traces from Sarna-Wojcicki and others (1987), Dittman (1988), Tan and others (2003a, 2003b) and Weber and others (1976), locally modified to match geomorphic observations of Smith (1977).
<b>Geologic setting</b>	The north-dipping Red Mountain fault lies within the western Transverse Ranges and is one of several reverse and thrust faults accommodating late-Quaternary north-south contraction of the western Ventura basin and its offshore extension (Jackson and others, 1982; Huftile and Yeats, 1995). Maximum stratigraphic separation (top of Oligocene) is in excess of 5500 m (Yeats and others, 1987). Horizontal shortening of 0.2–2.9 km is estimated for the late Quaternary (500–975 ka) (Huftile and Yeats, 1995).
<b>Length (km)</b>	73 km.
<b>Average strike</b>	
<b>Sense of movement</b>	Reverse  <i>Comments:</i> Reverse sense of movement based on stratigraphic separation (Jackson and Yeats, 1982; Yeats and others, 1987); dominant reverse motion with possible small sinistral component suggested by earthquake focal mechanisms (Yerkes and Lee, 1987; Yeats and others, 1987).
<b>Dip</b>	~60° (onshore); 40–80° (offshore)  <i>Comments:</i> Onshore dip at seismogenic depths from hypocenters (57° from Yerkes and Lee, 1987), focal mechanisms (63° from Yerkes and Lee, 1979) and well control (

	from Huftile and Yeats, 1995); shallower dips near surface (Huftile and Yeats, 1995); offshore dip of 40–50° for south branch (Kamerling and others, 2003) and about 30° for north branch (Jackson and Yeats, 1982)
<b>Paleoseismology studies</b>	Site 90-1 Punta Gorda terrace by Huftile and others (1997) and Anderson and O’Connell (1998). One fault-normal trench exposed faulted Pleistocene terrace. Fine-grained marine sand on the 45 ka Punta Gorda terrace has 34 m vertical separation. Probable Holocene fan deposits are deformed and overridden by Pleistocene terrace deposits. A possible colluvial wedge within the Holocene deposits appears associated with faulting. Faults that show a minimum of 1.7 m cumulative thrust displacement within the Pleistocene deposits. Near surface dip of the fault is 20–26°, which is averaged with dip at depth to develop a slip rate. Trench exposures showed significant folding of the late-Quaternary terrace deposits and Holocene fan; also evidence of multiple events. Age of individual events was not controlled.
<b>Geomorphic expression</b>	saddles in some steeper terrain; scarps (varying freshness) visible on late Quaternary terrace surfaces; gross expression in the uplift of Red and Rincon mountains; largely obscured by landslides
<b>Age of faulted surficial deposits</b>	deposits probable Holocene fan (Anderson and O’Connell, 1998); possible Holocene (but undated) offset topsoil (cited by Smith, 1977; Ziony and others, 1974); 40–60 ka Punta Gorda marine terrace platform and associated marine and non-marine cove deposits offset (Lajoie and others, 1982; Huftile and others, 1997)
<b>Historic earthquake</b>	
<b>Most recent prehistoric deformation</b>	latest Quaternary (<15 ka)  <i>Comments:</i> Presumed Holocene fan deposits (possibly <2 ka) are deformed and overlain by older Pleistocene terrace deposits (Anderson and O’Connell, 1998). Age inferred by authors based on weak soil development. Seismicity associated with the eastern part of the fault zone is suggestive of activity (Yeats and others, 1987). High strain across the fault zone was also suggested by leveling surveys (Buchanan-Baughman and others, 1975), but according to Yeats (p.c., 2006) they did not consider the contribution of subsidence due to groundwater withdrawal which could account for the reported relative uplift of Red Mountain.
<b>Recurrence interval</b>	
<b>Slip-rate category</b>	Between 1.0 and 5.0 mm/yr  <i>Comments:</i> Slip rate of 1.5 mm/yr is based on vertical separation of the ~45 ka Punta Gorda marine abrasion platform and an assumed average dip of 30°, but this may

minimum if there are other active strands (Huftile and others, 1997). 1–2 mm/yr is estimated by Anderson and O’Connell (1998) based on offset of the 45 ka Punta Gorda terrace. Further discussion by Huftile and others (1997) suggests total uplift of the Punta Gorda terrace may reflect a slip rate as high as 5.9 mm/yr on the Red Mountain fault at seismogenic depths. Clark and others (1984) cited rates on several strands cumulatively range from 1 to 3 mm/yr (also based on displaced late Quaternary terraces), and was the basis for the PSHA rate (Petersen and others, 1996).

**Date and Compiler(s)**

2006  
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