

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](#).

Great Valley thrust fault system, Kettleman Hills-North Dome (GV 14) section (Class A) No. 28n

Last Review Date: 2017-06-08

citation for this record: Bryant, W.A., compiler, 2017, Fault number 28n, Great Valley thrust fault system, Kettleman Hills-North Dome (GV 14) 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 02:51 PM.

Synopsis

General: The Great Valley thrust fault system is a seismically active blind thrust fault and fold belt that marks the boundary between the Coast Ranges and the Great Valley. The Great Valley thrust fault system can be described as a complex system of east vergent, shallow-dipping blind thrust faults and associated west-vergent shallow to moderately dipping backthrust faults. Quaternary deformation in the western Sacramento Valley is characterized by uplift, tilting, asymmetric folding, and, locally, by both west and east-vergent thrust faulting (Unruh and Moores, 1992). Significant seismic events associated with the Great Valley thrust fault system include: 1892 earthquake series (up to Mw6.5 based on shaking intensities) that probably occurred along the

Gordon Valley thrust [28d2] (O’Connell and others 2001); 1982 Mw5.5 New Idria earthquake that occurred along the Great Valley 12 section [28l] (Ekström and others 1992); 1985 Mw6.5 Coalinga earthquake that occurred along the Coalinga section [28m] (Ekström and others 1992); and the 1985 Mw6.1 Kettleman Hills-North Dome earthquake that occurred along the Kettleman Hills-North Dome section [28n] (Ekström and others 1992). Wong and others (1988) summarized these events and additional seismicity along the Great Valley thrust fault system. Slip rate estimates for the thrust fault system generally are based on uplift rates of specific stratigraphic horizons and fault dips, which are sometimes measured from deep seismic reflection lines, and sometimes from structural modeling. A paleoseismic study at the Lone Tree Creek site (403-1) involving trench excavations exposed deformed terraces deposits, but did not expose faulting along the San Joaquin fault [403], which may be the near surface expression of the Orestimba section [28g]. Estimated late Quaternary dip-slip rates along the Great Valley thrust fault system range from about 0.1 mm/yr for the Great Valley 01 section, 1–3 mm/yr for the Mysterious Ridge [28c] section, 0.4–0.6 mm/yr for the Orestimba [28g] section, and about 3 mm/yr for the Kettleman Hills-North Dome [28n] section.

Sections: This fault has 14 sections. From north to south the section names are: Great Valley 01 [28a], Great Valley 02 [28b], Mysterious Ridge (GV 03) [28c], Trout Creek (GV 04a) [28d1], Gordon Valley (GV 04b [28d2], Orestimba (GV 07) [28g], Quinto (GV 08) [28h], Laguna Seca (GV 09) [28i], Panoche Hills (GV 10) [28j], Great Valley 11 [28k], Great Valley 12 [28l], Coalinga (GV 13) [28m], and Kettleman Hills-North Dome (GV 14) [28n]. The blind Great Valley thrust fault system originally was divided into 14 sections by WGNCEP (Working Group on Northern California Earthquake Potential, 1996) and Petersen and others (1996) in order to model the fault system for purposes of seismic hazard assessment. Subsequent probabilistic seismic hazard assessment models (UCERF 2-Wills and others 2008) revised the sections, replacing GV 05 [028e] with the Mt. Diablo thrust (blind) [353] and GV 06 [028f] with the Midland fault [506] and Pittsburg-Kirby Hills fault zone [246]. Wakabayashi and Smith (1994) first proposed dividing the Great Valley thrust fault system into between 18 and 25 segments, based on structural geology, geomorphology, and historical seismicity.

Name

General: Refers to the blind thrust fault and fold belt that is

comments	<p>located along the west side of the Great Valley. Has been referred to as the Coast Range-Sierra Nevada boundary zone by Wong and others (1988), Coast Range-Central Valley boundary zone by Wakabayashi and Smith (1994) (they also refer to this structure as the Coast Range-Central Valley thrust system in their Figure 1), and the Great Valley thrust fault system by WGNCEP (Working Group on Northern California Earthquake Potential, 1996). Great Valley thrust fault system will be used in this compilation.</p> <p>Section: Kettleman Hills-North Dome (GV 14) section corresponds with Wakabayashi and Smith's (1994) segment 17 and section GV 14 of WGNCEP (Working Group on Northern California Earthquake Potential, 1996). The section extends for about 25 km from the distinct right step with the Coalinga (GV 13) section [28m] southeast to about 3 km southeast of Kettleman City. Kettleman Hills-North Dome earthquake, a Mw6.1 event, occurred August 4, 1985, along the northern part of this section near the boundary between this section and the Coalinga section [28m] (Ekström and others, 1992).</p> <p>Fault ID: Refers to numbers GV 01 to GV 14 of WGNCEP (Working Group on Northern California Earthquake Potential, 1996).</p>
County(s) and State(s)	FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
Physiographic province(s)	PACIFIC BORDER
Reliability of location	<p>Poor Compiled at 1: scale.</p> <p><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) attributed to Plesch and others (2007).</p>
Geologic setting	<p>The Great Valley thrust fault system delineates the boundary between the Coast Ranges and the Great Valley (also referred to as the Central Valley). The Great Valley thrust fault system as defined in this compilation extends for about 475 km along the west side of the Great Valley. The fault system is complex and consists of both shallow west-dipping blind thrust faults and associated east-dipping shallow to moderate dipping thrust and</p>

	<p>reverse faults. Both fault-bend folding and fault-propagation folding have been hypothesized for the Great Valley thrust fault system and it is likely that one or the other model best explains the data for any specific fault section. For example, the Coalinga section [28m] is best explained by the fault-bend fold model (Namson and Davis, 1990; Guzowski and others 2007), while O'Connell and others (2001) consider that the fault-propagation fold model best explains deformation along the Mysterious Ridge [28c], Trout Creek [28d1], and Gordon Valley [28d2] sections. Maximum structural relief is about 7–10 km for the fault sections along the west side of the Sacramento Valley (sections [28c], [28d1 and 28d2]; O'Connell and others 2001).</p>
Length (km)	This section is 30 km of a total fault length of km.
Average strike	120
Sense of movement	<p>Thrust</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Plesch and others (2007)</p>
Dip	<p>22° W.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Plesch and others (2007)</p>
Paleoseismology studies	
Geomorphic expression	Kettleman Hills-North Dome section is expressed at the surface by a doubly plunging anticlinal structure that delineates at the surface a complex zone of southwest-dipping blind thrust faults and northeast-dipping high angle reverse faults.
Age of faulted surficial deposits	Fault is blind and does not directly offset late Quaternary deposits. Fold deformation affects strata of the Corcoran Clay Member of the Tulare Formation. The top of Tulare Formation correlates approximately with 0.6 Ma Friant Ash Member of Turlock Lake Formation (Atwater and others, 1990; Marchand and Allwardt, 1981).
Historic earthquake	Kettleman Hills North Dome earthquake 1985
Most recent prehistoric deformation	<p>middle and late Quaternary (<750 ka)</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Fold deformation affects strata of the Tulare</p>

	Formation. The top of Tulare Formation correlates approximately with 0.6 Ma Friant Ash Member of Turlock Lake Formation (Atwater and others, 1990; Marchand and Allwardt, 1981).
Recurrence interval	
Slip-rate category	Between 1.0 and 5.0 mm/yr <i>Comments:</i> Slip rate inferred to be similar to slip rate determined for Coalinga (GV 13) section. Ekström and others (1992) reported a long-term uplift rate of 0.43 ± 0.24 mm/yr based on at least 1250 m of relief along the center of Kettleman North Dome and the inference that fold growth occurred after deposition of the Tulare Formation began and age of fold can be no more than 2.5 Ma. Coseismic uplift of 7 cm was produced by 0.47 ± 0.24 m of slip associated with the 1985 Mw 6.1 Kettleman Hills North Dome earthquake. Ekström and others (1992) inferred a long-term slip rate of 2.9 ± 0.6 mm/yr.
Date and Compiler(s)	2017 William A. Bryant, California Geological Survey
References	#8411 Atwater, B.F., Trumm, D.A., Tinsley, J.C., III, Stein, R.S., Tucker, A.B., Donahue, D.J., Jull, A.J.T., and Payen, L.A., 1990, Alluvial plains and earthquake recurrence at the Coalinga anticline, <i>in</i> Rymer, M.J., And Ellsworth, W.L., eds., The Coalinga, California, earthquake of May 2, 1983: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1487, p. 273–297. #8413 Ekström, G., Stein, R.S., Eaton, J.P., and Eberhart-Phillips, D., 1992, Seismicity and geometry of a 110-km-long blind thrust fault—2. The 1985 Kettleman Hills, California, earthquake: <i>Journal of Geophysical Research</i> , v. 97, p. 4843–4864. #8414 Guzowski, C.A., Shaw, J.H., Lin, G., and Shearer, P.M., 2007, Seismically active wedge structure beneath the Coalinga anticline, San Joaquin basin, California: <i>Journal of Geophysical Research</i> , v. 112, B03S05, doi:10.1029/2006JB00446. #2878 Jennings, C.W., 1994, Fault activity map of California and adjacent areas, with locations of recent volcanic eruptions: California Division of Mines and Geology Geologic Data Map 6, 92 p., 2 pls., scale 1:750,000.

#8416 Marchand, D.E, and Allwardt, A., 1981, Late Cenozoic stratigraphic units, northeastern San Joaquin Valley, California: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1470, 70 p.

#8418 Namson, J.S., Davis, T.L., and Lagoe, M.B., 1990, Tectonic history and thrust-fold deformation style of seismically active structures near Coalinga, *in* Rymer, M.J., And Ellsworth, W.L., eds., The Coalinga, California, earthquake of May 2, 1983: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1487, p. 79–96.

#8420 O'Connell, D.R.H., Unruh, J.R., and Block, L.V., 2001, Source characterization and ground-motion modeling of the 1892 Vacaville-Winters earthquake sequence, California: Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, v. 91, p. 1471–1497.

#4860 Petersen, M.D., Bryant, W.A., Cramer, C.H., Cao, T., Reichle, M.S., Frankel, A.D., Lienkaemper, J.J., McCrory, P.A., and Schwartz, D.P., 1996, Probabilistic seismic hazard assessment for the State of California: California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology Open-File Report 96-08 (also U.S. Geological Open-File Report 96-706), 33 p.

#8407 Plesch, A., Shaw, J.H., Benson, C., Bryant, W.A., Carena, S., Cooke, M., Dolan, J., Fuis, G., Gath, E., Grant, L., Hauksson, E., Jordan, T., Kamerling, M., Legg, M., Lindvall, S., Magistrale, H., Nicholson, C., Niemi, N., Oskin, M., Perry, S., Planansky, G., Rockwell, T., Shearer, P., Sorlien, C., Süß, M.P., Suppe, J., Treiman, J., and Yeats, R., 2007, Community Fault Model (CFM) for southern California: Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, v. 97, p. 1793–1802.

#8424 Unruh, J.R., Loewen, Bradley. A., and Moores, E.M., 1995, Progressive arcward contraction of a Mesozoic–Tertiary fore-arc basin, southwestern Sacramento Valley, California: Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 107, p. 38–53.

#7001 Wakabayashi, J., and Smith, D.L., 1994, Evaluation of recurrence intervals, characteristic earthquakes, and slip rates associated with thrusting along the Coast Range-Central Valley geomorphic boundary, California: Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, v. 84, p. 1960–1970.

#8427 Wong, I.G., Ely, R.W., and Kollmann, A.C., 1988, Contemporary seismicity and tectonics of the northern and central

Coast Ranges-Sierran Block boundary zone, California: Journal of Geophysical Research, v. 93, p. 7813–7833.

#1216 Working Group on Northern California Earthquake Potential (WGNCEP), 1996, Database of potential sources for earthquakes larger than magnitude 6 in northern California: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 96-705, 40 p.

[Questions or comments?](#)

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google](#) [Email](#)

[Hazards](#)

[Design Ground Motions](#)[Seismic Hazard Maps & Site-Specific Data](#)[Faults](#)[Scenarios](#)

[Earthquakes](#)[Hazards](#)[Data](#)[Education](#)[Monitoring](#)[Research](#)

[Home](#)[About Us](#)[Contacts](#)[Legal](#)