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U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
NETWORK BULLETIN
JANUARY - DECEMBER 1994

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Corrections to 1993 Network Bulletin

In Appendix C (page C1) the final units for the two equations for station gains were omitted. The units for the short-period stations are counts/cm/sec, and the units for the FBA's are counts/cm/sec².

Note: The * in front of some station codes indicate that the locations for these sites were determined by a topo map or a hand-held GPS. The topo sites are in NAD-27; all other sites are in NAD-83.

Code	Site Name	Lat.	Long.	Elev.	Date Installed	Instl.	Orientatation
SYL VHZ	Sylmar	34.35360 N	118.45098 W	928	01/20/94	L4	vertical high-gain
SYL VLN		"	"	"			North low-gain
SYL VLE		"	"	"		L4	vertical low-gain
SYL ASN		"	"	"		FBA	vertical
SYL ASE		"	"	"		FBA	East
VRD VHZ	Verdugo Hills	34.21459 N	118.27964 W	897	01/18/94	L4	vertical high-gain
VRD VLN		"	"	"		L4	vertical low-gain
VRD VLE		"	"	"		L4	North low-gain
VRD ASN		"	"	"		FBA	vertical
VRD ASE		"	"	"		FBA	East
VRD ASZ		"	"	"		FBA	North
VRD VLN		"	"	"		L4	vertical low-gain
VRD VLE		"	"	"		L4	North low-gain
VRD ASN		"	"	"		FBA	vertical
VRD ASE		"	"	"		FBA	East
VRD ASZ		"	"	"		FBA	North
VRD VLN		"	"	"		L4	vertical low-gain
VRD VLE		"	"	"		L4	North low-gain
VRD ASN		"	"	"		FBA	vertical
VRD ASE		"	"	"		FBA	East
VRD ASZ		"	"	"		FBA	North
VVD VHZ	Val Verde	34.44350 N	118.66332 W	451	01/29/94	L4	vertical high-gain

INTRODUCTION

The Pasadena Office of the U.S. Geological Survey together with the California Institute of Technology Seismology Laboratory (Caltech Seismo Lab) operates a network of more than 300 remote seismometers in southern California called the Southern California Seismic Network (SCSN). Signals from these sites are telemetered to the central processing site at the Caltech Seismo Lab in Pasadena. These signals are continuously monitored by computers that detect and record thousands of earthquakes each year. Phase arrival times for these events are picked by analysts and archived along with digital seismograms. Data acquisition, processing and archiving is achieved using the CUSP system (*Dollar, 1989*). These data are used to compile the SCSN Catalog of Earthquakes, a list beginning in 1932 that currently contains more than 258,000 events. This data set is critical to the evaluation of earthquake hazards in California and to the advancement of geoscience as a whole.

This and previous Network Bulletins are intended to serve several purposes. The most important goal is to make Network data more accessible to current and potential users. It is also important to document the details of Network operation, because only with a full understanding of the process by which the data are produced can researchers use the data responsibly.

NETWORK CONFIGURATION

New Stations

Many of the new sites added in 1994 were a result of the M6.7 Northridge earthquake on January 17, 1994, and most of them were already posted in the 1993 Network Bulletin (*Wald et al., 1994*). All new stations through December 31, 1994 are included in this list and Table 1. An explanation for the addition of each station is provided, followed by Table 1 which contains information about each station. Figure 1 is a current SCSN station map showing the locations of the stations and the telemetry.

BAL

This vertical station was added at Balcom Canyon Road after the Northridge earthquake.

BL2

This vertical station was added in Black Canyon after the Northridge earthquake.

BR2

This station was relocated in this location after being moved from a nearby site.

CDY

This station was "turned on" again after the telemetry was reinstalled. It went off the air when the telemetry site at Crystal Creek was moved to support the Northridge earthquake.

DGR

This site was installed in cooperation with the Metropolitan Water District for a project to study the site in preparation for building a dam.

GRH

A seven-channel network portable station (*Wald et al., 1991*) was moved to Granada Hills after the Northridge earthquake.

HCM

This is a USC site that is received on a phone line with a number of other USC stations.

MNT

This vertical station was added in Mint Canyon after the Northridge earthquake.

MWC

A three-component FBA was added to this already-existing site.

NHL

A network portable station was installed in Newhall after the Northridge earthquake.

OAK

A three-component station was installed in Oakridge after the Northridge earthquake.

RMM

This site was reinstalled as a permanent station after the network portable station was moved to support the Northridge earthquake. It is a four-channel station with a high and low-gain vertical and two horizontal components.

SIP

Two horizontal components were added to this pre-existing high-gain vertical site at Simi Peak after the Northridge earthquake.

SLD

This is a Department of Water Resources site that is received on a phone line with a number of other USC stations. We do not have information on the elevation.

SME

A network portable station was installed at Santa Monica Field just before the Northridge earthquake after a series of small earthquakes were located in this area. (Correction from the 1993 Network Bulletin, *Wald et al., 1994*)

SXT

A vertical station was installed in Sexton Canyon after the Northridge earthquake.

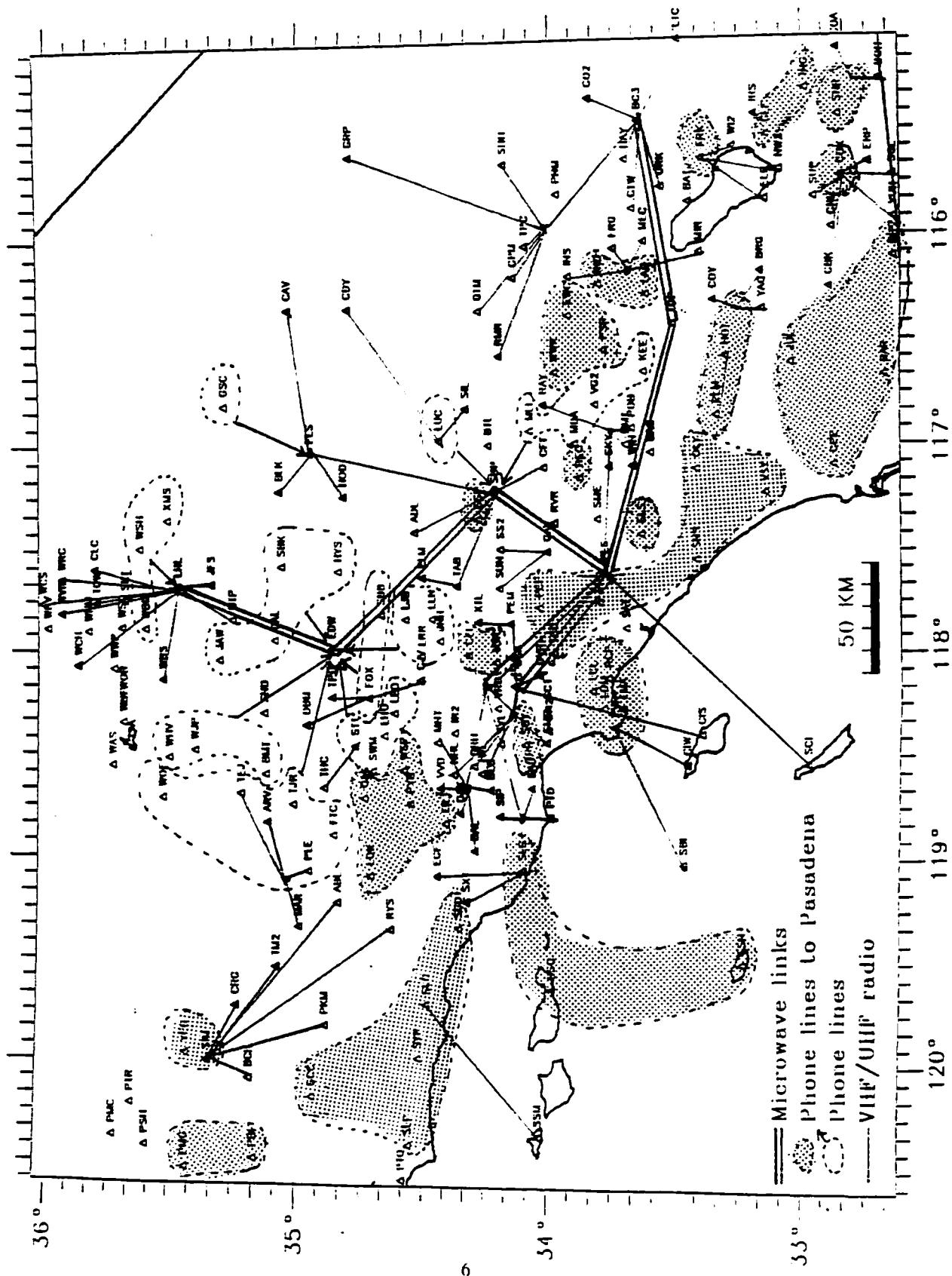


Figure 1. Southern California Seismic Network and telemetry. Map of all stations operated and maintained by the Pasadena Field Office as well as several stations operated by other agencies that are also digitally recorded, and the telemetry network. (courtesy of Jim Mori)

MGUY	34.2488	-118.5187	280	SFPW	34.2990	-118.4380	360
MKDR	34.2173	-118.5235	240	SFYP	34.2369	-118.4391	260
MONT	34.27306	-118.48276	300	SMGC	34.4221	-118.6708	400
MPKP	34.2871	-118.8816	30	SMIP	34.2632	-118.6673	330
NFCN	34.2412	-118.5547	265	SSAP	34.2309	-118.7135	380
NFCS	34.2367	-118.5558	260	TNVC	33.92365	-118.19766	25
NHFS	34.19898	-118.39774	225	WVES	34.00500	-118.27900	50
NWHP	34.3880	-118.5332	380	VANA	34.2461	-118.5482	267
PDAM	34.33413	-118.39796	600	YOLY	34.2368	-118.5393	255
PIRU	34.4127	-118.7963	210	YOLZ	34.2335	-118.5393	250
PWGB	34.33222	-118.71712	520	OVHS	34.3285	-118.4460	457
RESB	34.2968	-118.5507	520	NMHP	34.2315	-118.5507	251
SCFS	34.38573	-118.41365	535	OVHI	34.3290	-118.4460	500
SFMI	34.2708	-118.4612	300				

TERRAscope Stations

In 1994 three broadband stations were added to the TERRAscope network: GLA was installed at Glamis, SNCC was installed on San Nicholas Island, and SMTA was installed at Superstition Mountain. Figure 2 shows the locations of all the stations. Table 4 below contains the installation dates and locations of all currently operating TERRAscope stations. Instrument response parameters can be found on the SCEC Data Center (scec.gps.caltech.edu).

Table 4. TERRAscope Stations

Station	Station Name	Installation Date	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)	Elevation (meters)
BAR	Barrett Dam	10/01/92	32.68005	116.67215	496
*CALB	Calabasas	01/17/94	34.14302	118.62792	276
DGR	Domenegoni Reservoir	06/22/93	33.64996	117.00948	609
GLA	Glamis	04/28/94	33.05107	114.82779	514
GSC	Goldstone	08/08/90	35.30176	116.80572	954
ISA	Isabella	02/07/91	35.66278	118.47403	817
MLAC	Mammoth	11/04/92	37.63014	118.83611	2134
NEE	Needles	04/14/93	34.82482	114.59942	139
PAS	Pasadena	12/87	34.14844	118.17113	257
PFO	Pinyon Flat	10/31/91	33.61151	116.45935	1245
RPV	Rancho Palos Verdes	05/12/93	33.74329	118.40426	64
SBC	Santa Barbara Channel	12/20/90	34.44076	119.71492	61
SNCC	San Nicholas Island	05/27/94	33.24800	119.71492	227
SMTA	Superstition Mountain	**11/94	32.94892	115.72031	3
SVD	Seven Oaks Dam	12/04/90	34.10645	117.09825	574
USC	Univ. of Southern California	02/17/93	34.01916	118.28597	17
VTM	Victorville	04/14/93	34.56058	117.32961	812

Notes: Locations are in NAD-83 coordinate system.

* Previously CALA

** Installed 07/07/93, but data not logged until 11/94

TERRAscope STATIONS

JULY 1994

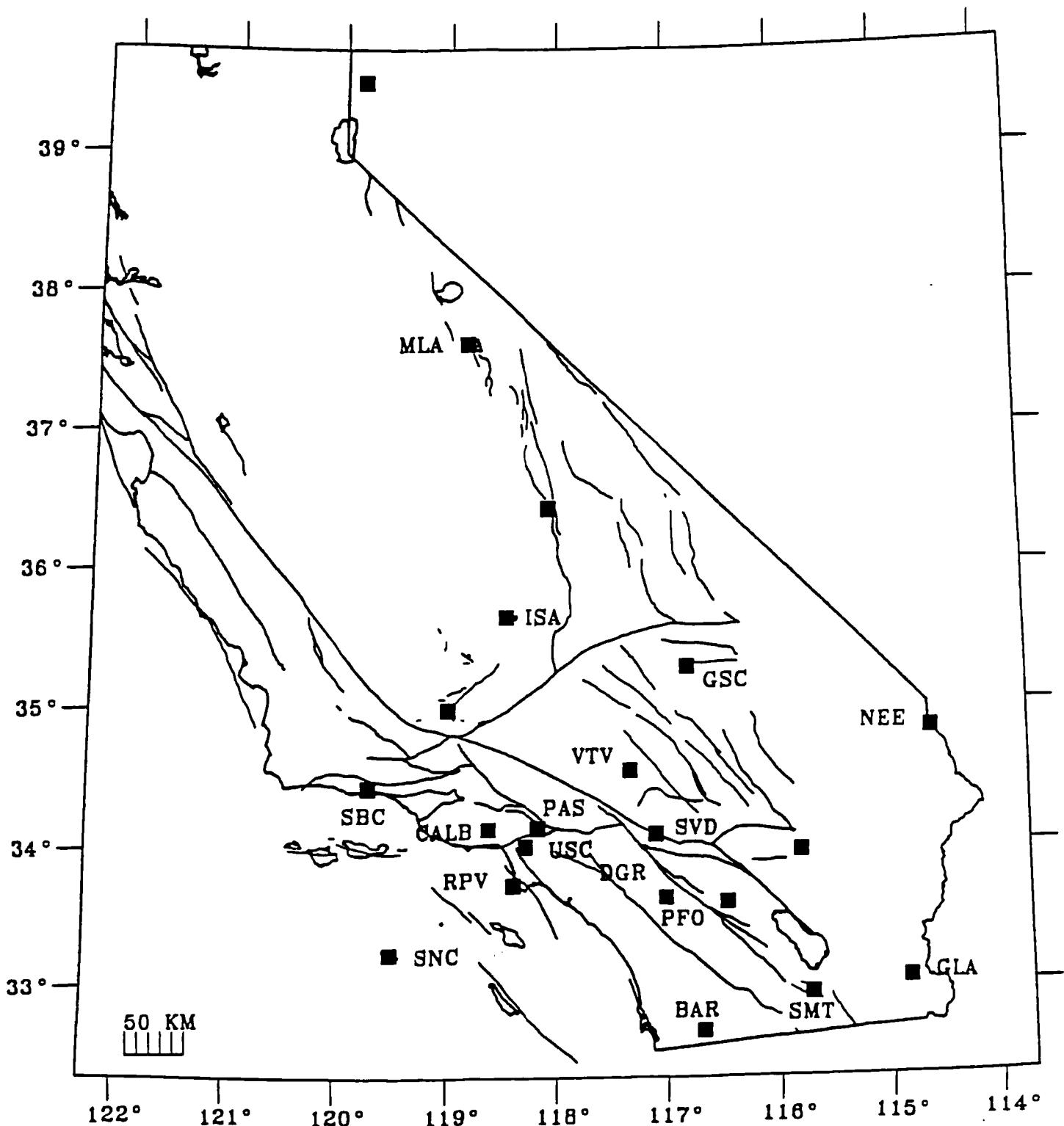


Figure 2. TERRAscope Stations. Squares labeled with three-letter codes represent stations already in operation, squares that are not labeled represent stations to be installed in 1995. (courtesy of Egill Hauksson)

NETWORK OPERATIONS

Status of Processing

The status of each month of the catalog data since the advent of digital recording is described in Table 5. Events for months marked preliminary (P) have been timed but have not yet run the gauntlet of quality checking, addition of helicorder amplitudes and rearchiving necessary to become final (F with shading). For months marked "pinked" (PNK), larger events (~3.0) have only been timed crudely on a few stations and smaller events are absent. A period in 1980-1981 has actually been timed and digital seismograms are available, but the "pinked" version is still used for any purpose requiring good magnitudes or completeness for large earthquakes; some events and magnitudes are missing otherwise. An increased effort has been made in the last couple of years to finalize the backlog of incomplete data. The last three quarters of 1981 are now finalized except for missing magnitude calibrations in the months marked with a "P". All of the 1975-76 data has been finalized. The months marked "P" in 1993-94 are finalized except for missing magnitude calibrations.

In addition to triggered events, an archive of other interesting seismic time periods and teleseisms are kept on continuously-recorded DAT tapes. See Appendix B for a list of these times and/or events for 1994.

Table 5. Processing Status of Network Data

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1932-1974 PRE-DIGITAL RECORDING - COMPLETE FOR M≥3.0												
1975	F	F	F	F	P	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
1976	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
1977	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
1978	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
1979	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
1980	PNK											
1981	PNK	PNK	P	P	P	P	F	F	F	F	F	F
1982	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
1983	P	PNK	PNK	PNK	PNK	PNK	PNK	F	F	F	F	F
1984	F	F	F	F	P	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
1985	F	F	F	F	F	P	F	F	F	F	F	F
1986	F	F	F	F	P	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
1987	F	F	F	F	F	P	F	F	F	F	F	F
1988	F	F	F	F	P	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
1989	F	F	F	F	P	F	P	F	F	F	F	F
1990	F	F	F	F	P	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
1991	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
1992	F	F	F	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
1993	F	F	F	F	F	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
1994	F	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Figure 3 is a flowchart showing the flow of CUSP data starting from the instrument and ending with the SCEC archives.

Pasadena USGS Office WWW Home Page

The Pasadena Office now has a home page on the World Wide Web. It is in the early stages of development, but it currently includes information (or links to information) about staff, seismicity, seismic stations, USGS public information, the most recent Network Bulletin, and lots more. The www address is:

<http://aladdin.gps.caltech.edu/usgs-pas.html>

Public Brochure about Southern California Earthquakes

Lucy Jones of the Pasadena USGS has been heading an effort to produce and distribute a public information brochure with basic earthquake information, and information specific to southern California. The brochure is being prepared by the Pasadena USGS in cooperation with SCEC, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the California Office of Emergency Services (OES). It is being sponsored

CUSP Data Flow

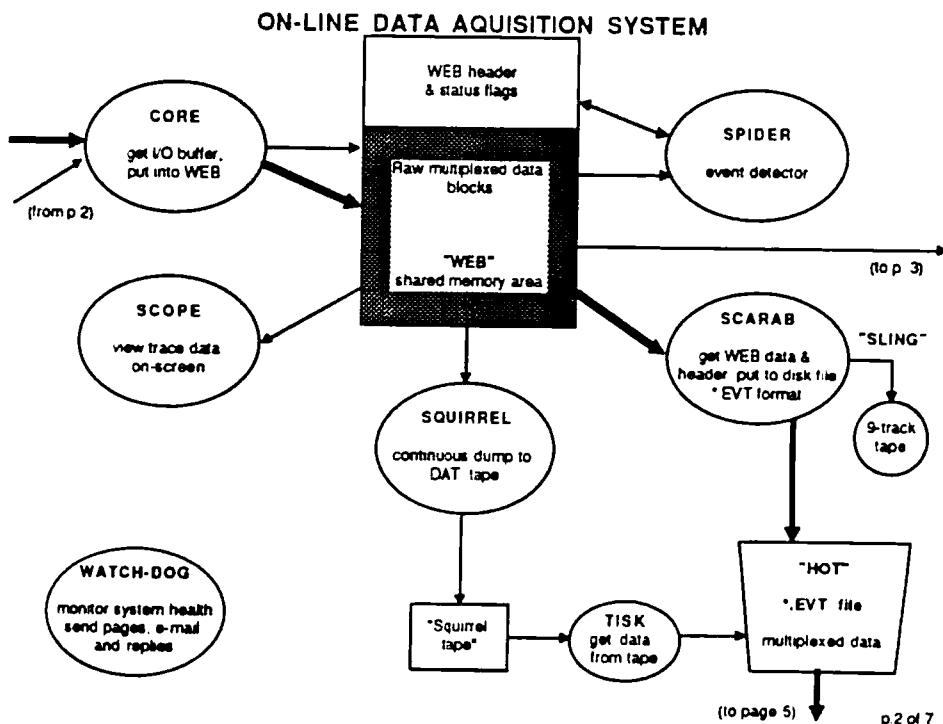
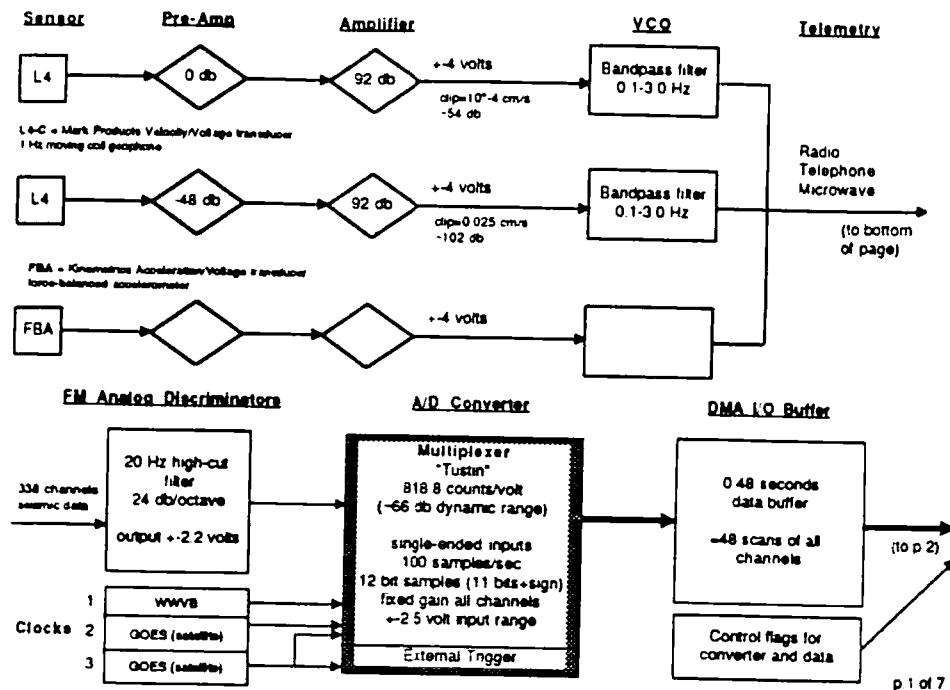
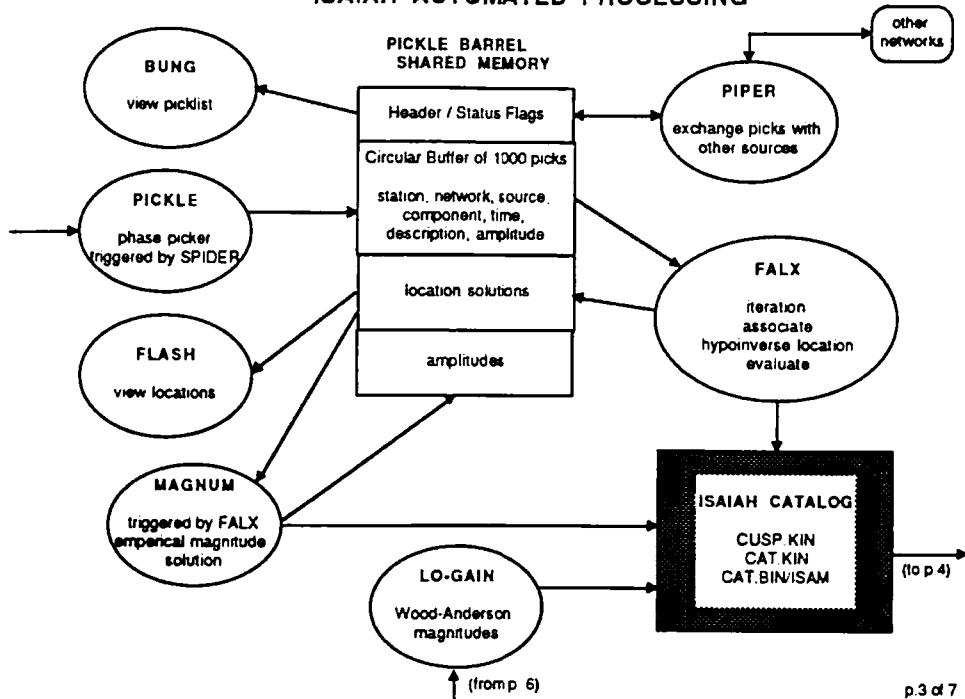


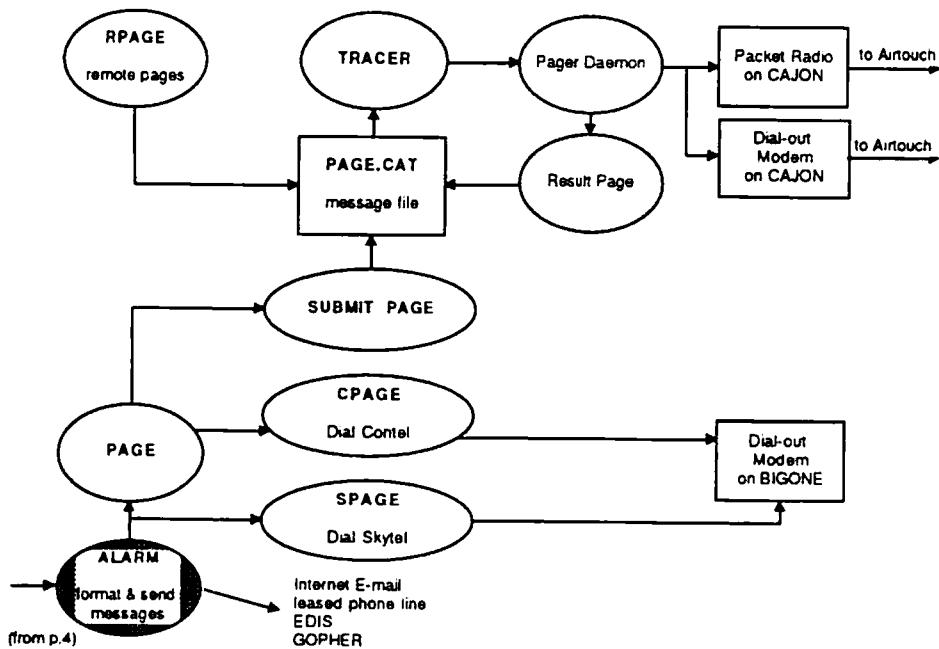
Figure 3. CUSP Data Flow. Flow chart showing the flow of data from the instrument in the field through the CUSP processing system and finally into the SCEC archives (4 pages).

ISAIAH AUTOMATED PROCESSING

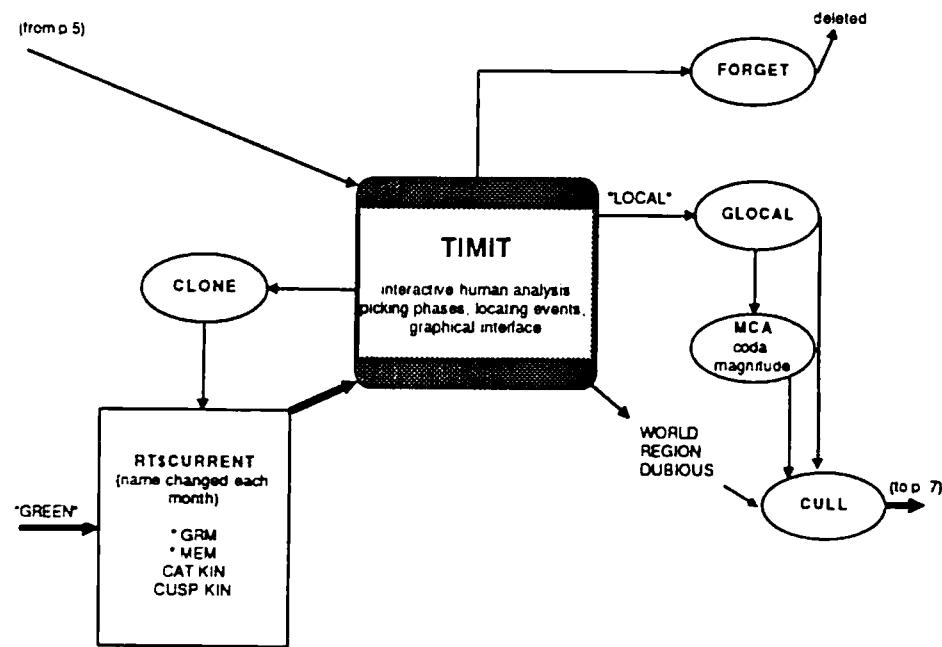
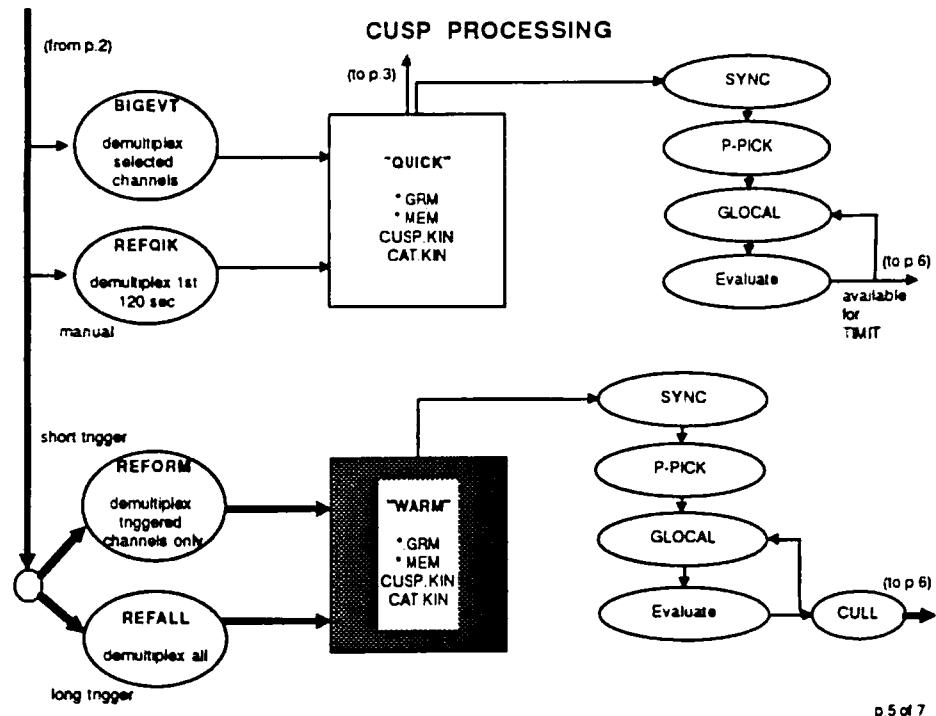


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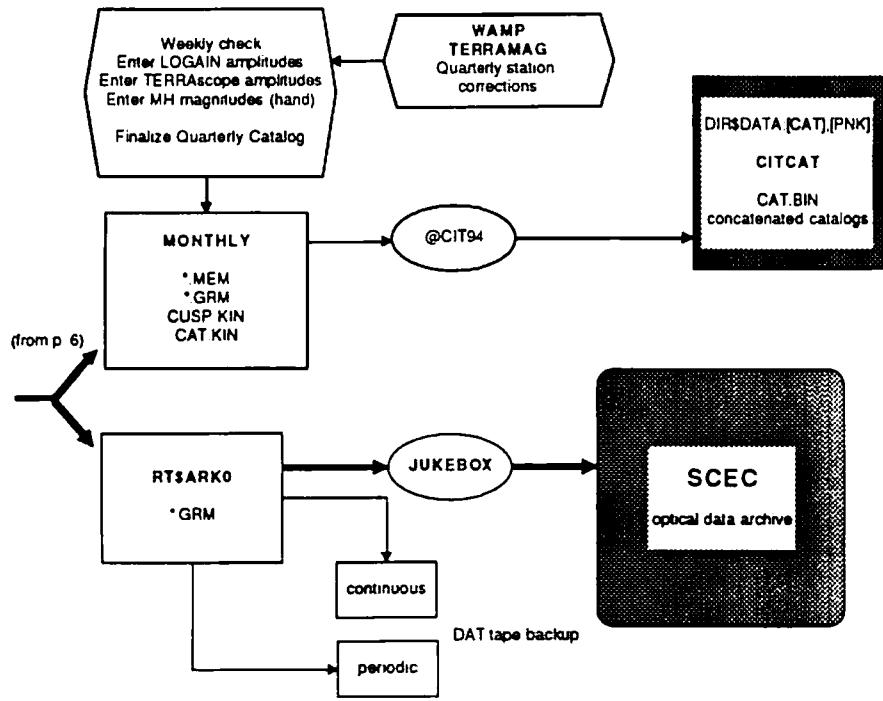
MESSAGE BROADCAST SYSTEM



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by many different private companies and will be distributed inside newpapers in southern California during Earthquake Preparedness Month, April 1995.

The brochure, entitled *Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country*, will include information about the basics of earthquake science, new advances in hazard assessment in southern California, and what the individual can do to help make their home and office safer in case of an earthquake. It is filled with eye-catching graphics and easy-to-understand text.

LARSE Experiment

After a year delay spent seeking permits from various agencies, an important experiment took place to enhance our understanding of the earthquake hazard potential in the southern California area. In October of 1994, the USGS and SCEC conducted a seismic imaging survey of the Los Angeles region as part of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), calling it the LARSE (Los Angeles Regional Seismic Experiment). The goal of the project is to create a subsurface map of geologic structures, including faults, sediment thicknesses, and subcrustal velocities.

The first part of the experiment consisted of firing airguns offshore and recording with 200 on-shore portable seismographs installed along three linear arrays (Figure 4): Seal Beach to Barstow, Topanga Canyon to the Mojave Desert, and Redondo Beach to San Bernardino. These linear arrays were extended out into the Pacific Ocean using sensors in a 3 km streamer towed by the R.V. Ewing research ship, which was operating the airgun array. Also, several ocean bottom seismographs (OBS) were deployed. Beginning October 12 the Ewing sailed along the three lines for six days firing bursts of compressed air every 20-60 seconds (Figure 5).

For the second part of the experimental study on October 26, the original 200 seismographs and an additional 300 more instruments were deployed on the single line from Seal Beach to Barstow. A series of 60 explosions were set off along the line during the nights of October 26, 27 and 28. Each blast used 50 to 4000 lbs. of ammonium nitrate, which produced the maximum equivalent of a magnitude 2.5 earthquake.

It will take up to three years to fully process and analyze the data which will give us a detailed look at the area under southern California. The results will help future planning for earthquake hazards in many different sectors.

The CalREN Project

Currently, about 95% of the seismic data recorded by the SCSN is transmitted from remote sites as analog FM modulated data on analog phone lines. The data are then digitized at a central site. Although this is adequate for smaller seismic signals, this type of transmission during a large earthquake is inadequate because of the distortion of the large earthquake signals by the analog equipment. The objective of the CalREN project is the demonstrate the

increased speed and accuracy of earthquake information that can be provided with a fully digital network.

The participants in the CalREN project include the USGS office in Pasadena, Caltech, PacBell, Kinematics Inc. in Pasadena, Quanterra Inc., in Harvard, MA, and GTE. The project sponsors include the L.K. Whittier Foundation, CUBE, USGS, and SCEC. CalREN was initiated by a PacBell request for proposals to stimulate the development of new applications for high-speed data communications services. Caltech and USGS responded to the request and were successful in getting the project funded. The project is called "Pilot Study for Use of Digital Data Communications for Real-Time Earthquake Monitoring". The acronym CalREN stands for California Research and Education Network.

The project utilizes a state-of-the-art communication called Frame Relay Service (FRS). FRS is a method of transmitting and receiving digital data over commercially available telephone lines that allows telemetry of real-time seismic data. The packet technology provides a permanent virtual circuit (PVC) that operates at speeds from 56 kbits/sec (bps) to 1.5 M bps and appears to the user as a point to point communications link. It is part of something called Wide Area Networking (WAN) technology that can carry a wide variety of digital formats such as asynchronous, TCP/IP, HDLC, and SDLC. The digital signal is encapsulated and then carried within the Frame Relay packets.

The Frame Relay System is attractive for telemetry of digital seismic signals because it meets all the requirements of our present data communications and software, and it offers the following additional benefits. The high-speed technology means faster and more accurate data. The service is available from most phone companies and the cost is not based on distance. The cost is further reduced since many station data lines can be carried on a single high-speed data line. The Frame Relay Access Devices (FRAD's) can encapsulate IP packets which will allow us to use TCP/IP when our instruments support it in the future.

This pilot study is intended to be a precursor to an extensive upgrade of the present analog network to a digital network. See <http://www.gps.caltech.edu/calren> for further information.

CUBE Update

In the past six months a number of enhancements have been made to the CUBE system. Most of the improvements have resulted from the work of Doug Given of the Pasadena USGS. The major areas of improvement have been in accuracy and performance of ISAIAH (Information on Seismic Activity In A Hurry). Much of the effort has been focused on reducing the number of earthquakes that are split; resulting in two or more events being broadcast for only one real earthquake. At this time, on average, only 2 to 3 percent of events result in multiple broadcasts for the same event.

Magnitude determination for larger events has taken a step forward with the introduction of real-time synthetic Wood-Anderson M_L magnitude determination using a program developed by Jim Mori of the Pasadena USGS. This allows for rapid determination of magnitudes for larger events using data from the SCSN low gain instruments and force balance

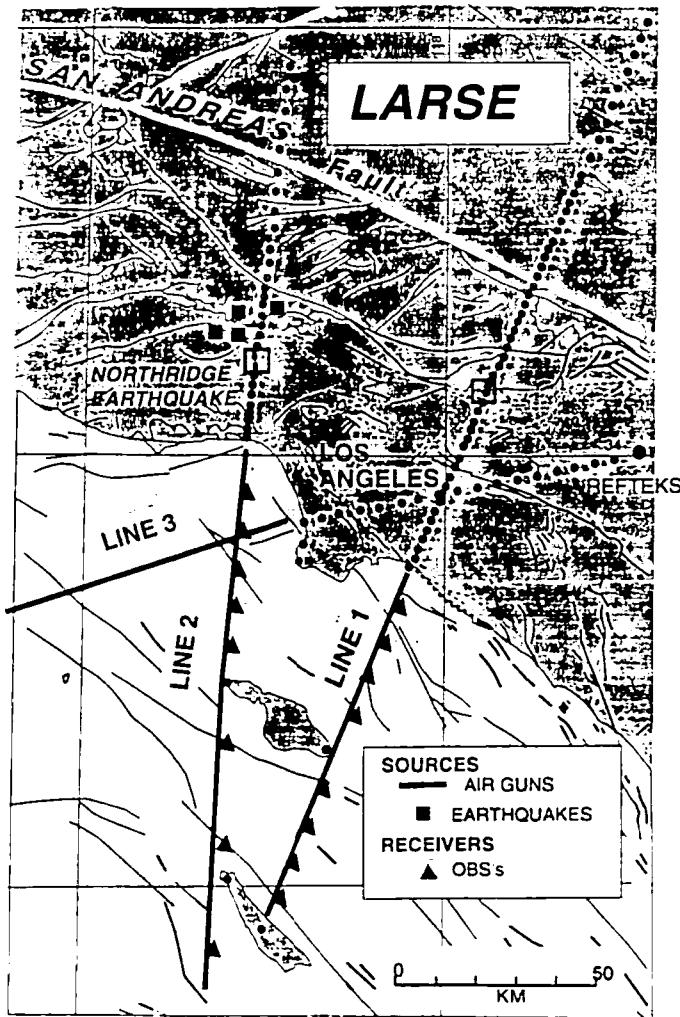


Figure 4. Los Angeles Regional Seismic Experiment (LARSE). Map showing the linear arrays during LARSE to image the Los Angeles Basin. (courtesy of Gary Fuis)

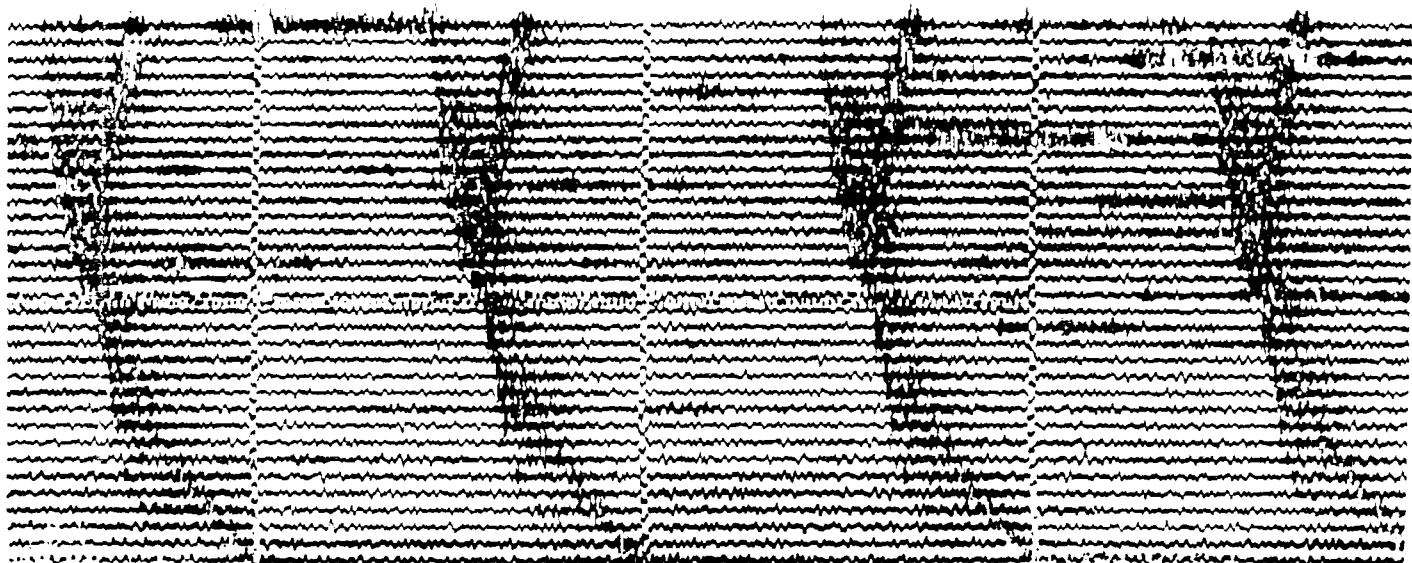


Figure 5. Recording of air gun shots at station CIS (Catalina Island) on October 13, 1994.

accelerometers (FBA's). In conjunction with this work, Phil Maechling of Caltech has developed programs to automatically analyze data from the TERRAscope stations to calculate M_L magnitudes for events above 4.0, and energy magnitudes for events greater than 6.0. This is based on the work of Hiroo Kanamori of the Caltech Seismo Lab. This work is performed on a Sun workstation and the data is automatically incorporated into the real-time data stream.

Another area of work is the speed at which notification is made to interested parties. This has resulted in an average notification send time of just 18 seconds for all users. Also, in an effort to speed up receipt of earthquake data to end users, Steve Bryant of Caltech has rewritten the software used to send pages to Airtouch paging. This rewrite resulted in a 10 to 15 second reduction in the time messages are received by the users. The average time from origin to reception is now 143 seconds.

Another improvement has been with software to quickly review earthquake information following a significant event. Doug Given has been instrumental in this area also. Using data recorded by the CUSP system, Doug designed a graphical review program to examine waveform data on any Tektronics compatible screen. In addition, Doug designed and wrote a screen-oriented catalog editor. These two tools in combination give duty personnel a quick and easy way to review and update information disseminated to users.

SCEC Data Center Update

The main activities of the SCEC Data Center (SCEC_DC) during 1994 were focused on: 1) expanding online data storage capacity, 2) increasing the accessibility of seismological data to users (including those outside of the immediate research community), and 3) designing and implementing a relational database which allows users to extract a variety of seismological data types correlated to a particular earthquake.

As of March 23rd, a second mass storage device was added to the Data Center's exiting one-jukebox system. This included an upgrade of the operating system, the front-end machine, and the archival data management software. The online storage capacity has now doubled to 600 Gbytes. This new configuration has been completely transparent to users accustomed to the previous one-Jukebox system.

Means of Accessing Data

Accessibility to seismological data at the SCEC_DC has been expanded beyond individual user accounts (currently totaling 318) to include anonymous ftp, a bulletin board system, a mosaic interface and a "finger quake" utility (Figure 6):

"scec.gps.caltech.edu"

- 1) Bulletin Board System (username "bulletin")
- 2) Individual Research Accounts (requested via the Bulletin Board)
- 3) Anonymous FTP (username "anonymous")
- 4) Mosaic Interface (<http://scec.gps.caltech.edu>)
- 5) finger quake.scec.gps.caltech.edu (or e-mail quake)

The "bulletin board" system, implemented in April of 1994, allows users to request accounts, and obtain

information regarding data stored at the SCEC_DC, as well as the availability and methods of accessing GPS and Strong Motion Data. Weekly earthquake reports, catalog data, and specially compiled data sets (e.g. data from Northridge aftershocks > M4.0) have been made available via anonymous ftp. A World Wide Web interface to the SCEC_DC was implemented in June. In addition to information regarding SCEC and data types stored at the various core institutions, weekly earthquake reports and information regarding current seismic activity are available through this interface.

SCEC_DC Database

The SCEC_DC recently developed and implemented a relational database system, which allows users with individual user accounts to sort and access archived triggered seismological waveform data. All data are associated with an earthquake (i.e. an event) recorded by the SCSN. The "indexes" into the database are the event ID's associated with individual earthquakes. A binary version of the database was developed from ASCII files which store earthquake and seismogram attributes, as well as indices into the waveform archives. The format of these ASCII files is identical to the system used at the Northern California Data Center. Triggered TERRAscope and portable data (Joshua Tree and Landers earthquake sequences) have been associated with the events recorded by the SCSN and merged into this binary database (Figure 7). Users can now retrieve and sort parametric data (e.g. hypocenters, magnitudes and phase information) via a database searching program DBSORT, and waveform data can be retrieved and converted from the archived format to such formats as SAC, SEGY and AH via the program SCECGRAM (Figure 8).

Current Archive

The *online* SCEC_DC archive currently consists of approximately 350 Gbytes of seismological and geodetic data. SCSN hypocenter, phase and waveform data is available for May 1981 through January 1983, and August 1983 to the present. Since the Northridge earthquake, the SCSN is now routinely archiving waveforms directly onto the SCEC_DC jukebox system, thereby making SCSN data available within a day or so of data collection. The remainder of the archive consists of GPS data, triggered TERRAscope data for local and regional events since September of 1990, and portable instrument data for selected events in the Joshua Tree and Landers earthquake sequences.

Processing of aftershocks (except for magnitude calibrations) from the January 17th Northridge earthquake was completed as of the middle of October. Work is now resuming on processing the approximately 10,000 events still backlogged from the Joshua Tree-Landers-Big Bear earthquake sequence (Figure 9).

Further Information

Further information regarding the SCEC_DC is available by contacting Katrin Hafner at the Seismological Laboratory, Mail Code 252-21, Caltech, Pasadena, CA 91125, (katrin@scec.gps.caltech.edu) or (818)395-2106.

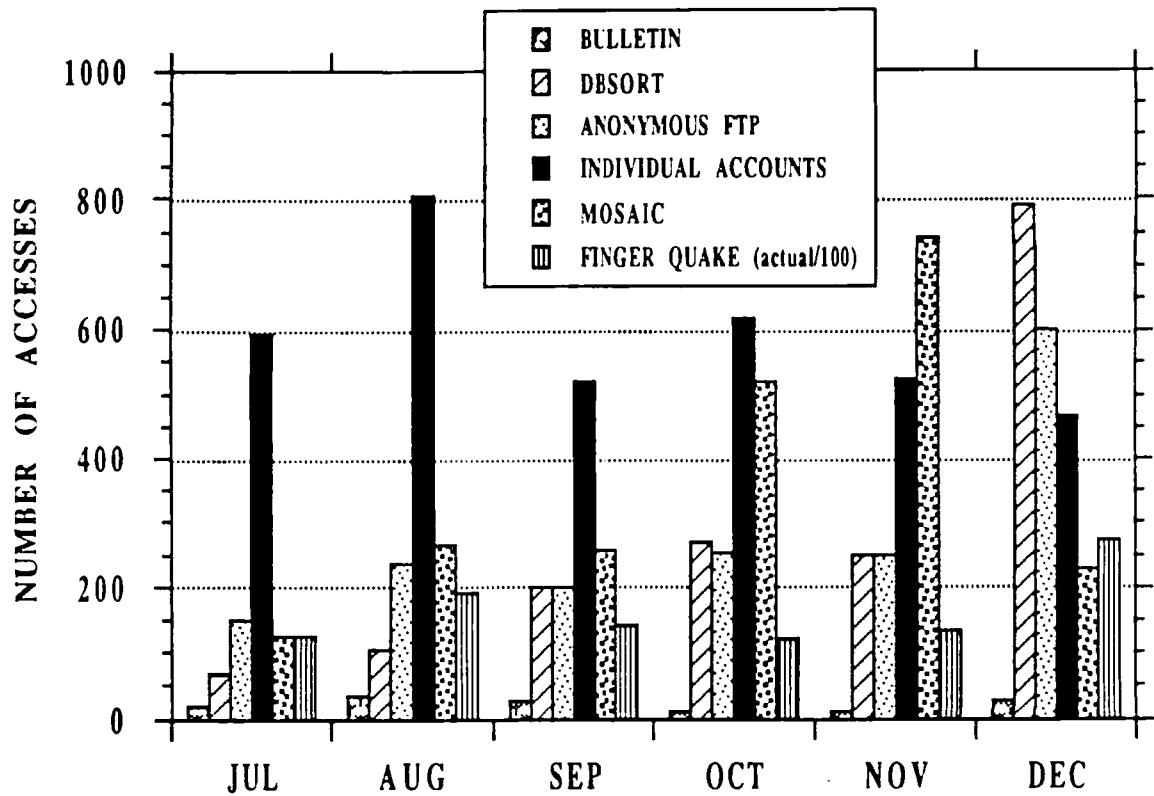


Figure 6. Distribution and number of accesses to the SCEC_DC via various user interfaces between July and December of 1994. Note that the finger quake utility is divided by one hundred.

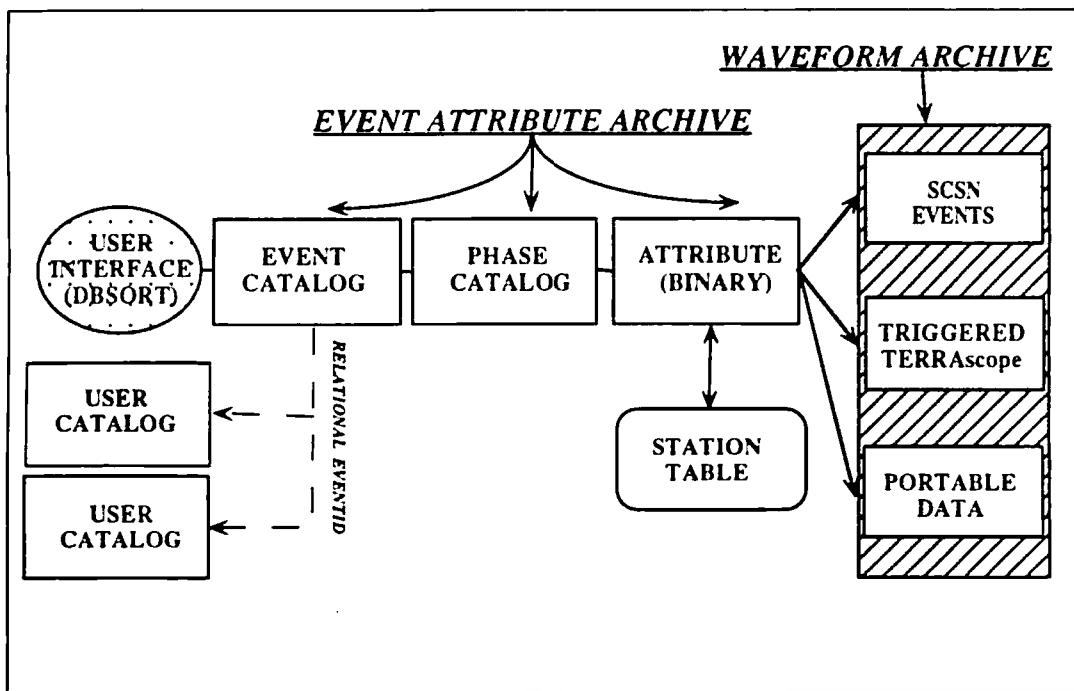


Figure 7. Schematic diagram of the SCEC_DC database, illustrating the connections from the user interface into various portions of the archive.

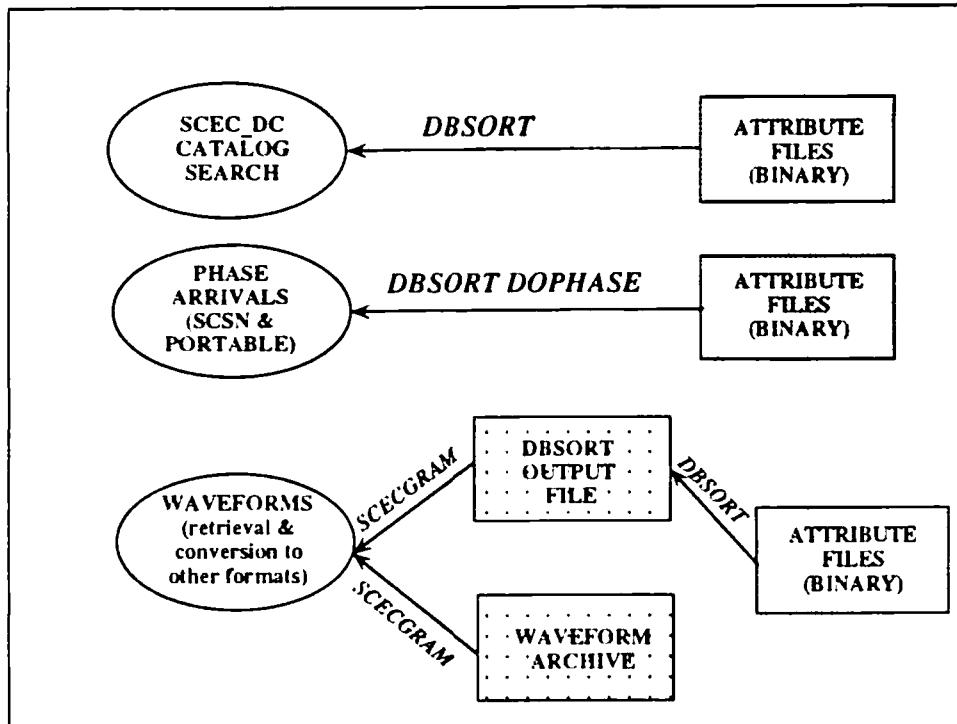


Figure 8. Schematic diagram illustrating the methods for retrieving hypocentral, phase and waveform data from the SCEC_DC archive using "dbsort" and "scecgram".

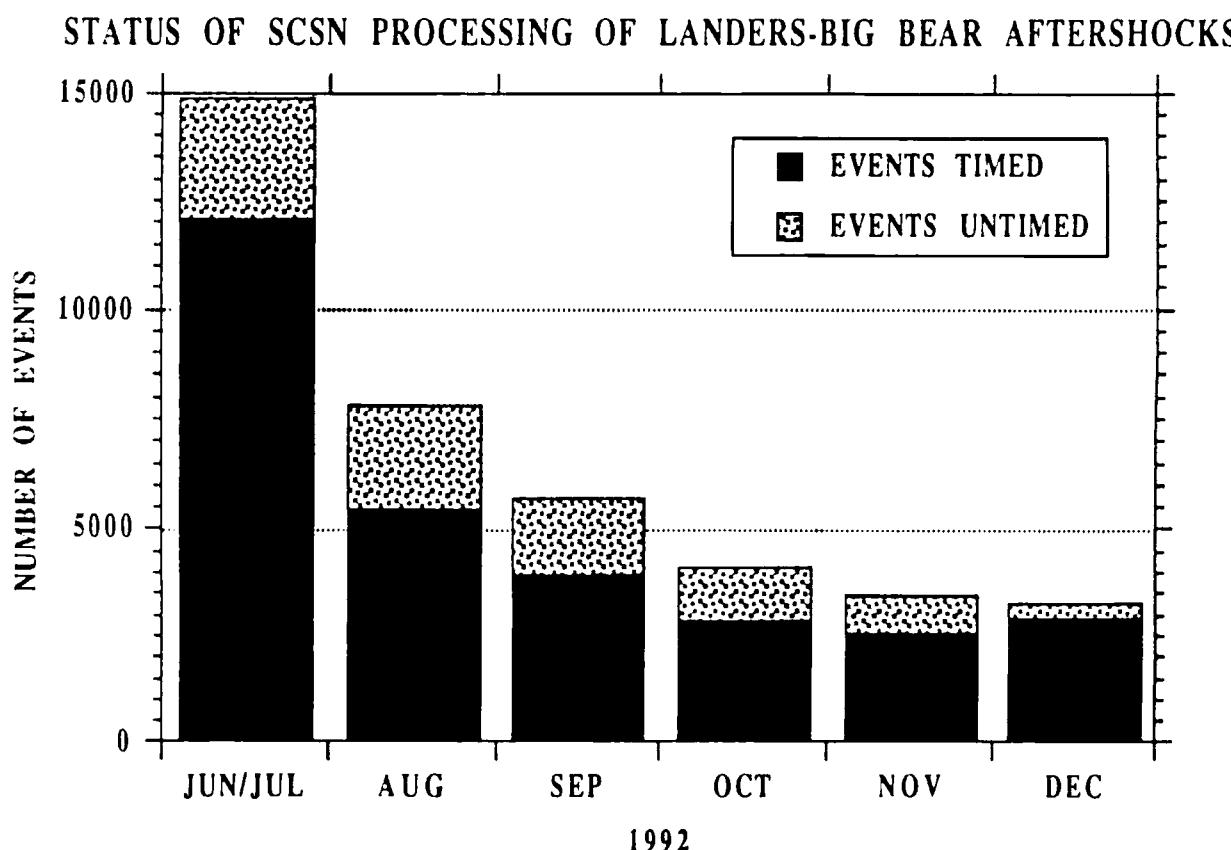


Figure 9. Status of SCSN processing of earthquakes since the June 28th, Landers earthquake sequence. The bar graph show the number of events triggered the network versus the number of those triggered events that have been processed.

RESEARCH NOTES

The January 17, 1994 Northridge Earthquake

(This is a copy of a report that was written by Jim Mori and Lisa Wald for the 1994 USGS Yearbook.)

On the morning of January 17 at 04:30 (PST) a magnitude 6.7 earthquake severely shook the San Fernando Valley and other regions of Los Angeles area in southern California. The Northridge earthquake was the most costly earthquake in U.S. history causing estimated losses of \$20 billion. There were 57 deaths and over 9000 injuries to people in the region attributed to the earthquake, as well as 20,000 people displaced from their homes. It was a moderate earthquake in size, but since it occurred directly under the populated San Fernando Valley, it had an immense impact on the people and structures of the Los Angeles area. There was significant damage to thousands of buildings, with over 1600 "red-tagged" as unsafe to enter. Another 7300 buildings were restricted to limited entry (yellow-tagged) and minor damage was incurred on many thousands of other structures. The 10 to 20 seconds of strong shaking collapsed buildings, brought down freeway interchanges, and ruptured gas lines that exploded into fires. But the early morning occurrence was a fortuitous life saver, because there were only a few people in many of the large buildings and parking structures that collapsed and traffic was very light on the freeway overpasses that fell.

Scientists of the USGS responded quickly to the Northridge earthquake, investigating and reporting on the geological and societal effects. The work of USGS personnel during the month following the earthquake focused on efforts to:

- Monitor the current seismic activity and provide information about seismic hazards to local government, media, and the public.
- Collect data to study the problem of seismic hazards in southern California leading to information that will mitigate damage from future earthquakes.

Early on January 17 the USGS/Caltech offices in Pasadena became the center for seismic information. The large seismic network that monitors the earthquakes in southern California is operated from this location, and within minutes of the Northridge earthquake scientists began analyzing data from the network and broadcasting the location and magnitude to the public. USGS and Caltech scientists kept a steady flow of information to the public over the next few days as details about the earthquake and its damaging effects were inferred from seismic data and observed by the field crews. To maintain good communications with emergency response groups, a USGS liaison was stationed at the FEMA headquarters a few miles away in Pasadena and a California Office of Emergency Services liaison was stationed at the USGS operations in Pasadena. These efforts to provide information about earthquakes continued throughout the next few months as the Los Angeles area was rocked by hundreds of felt aftershocks.

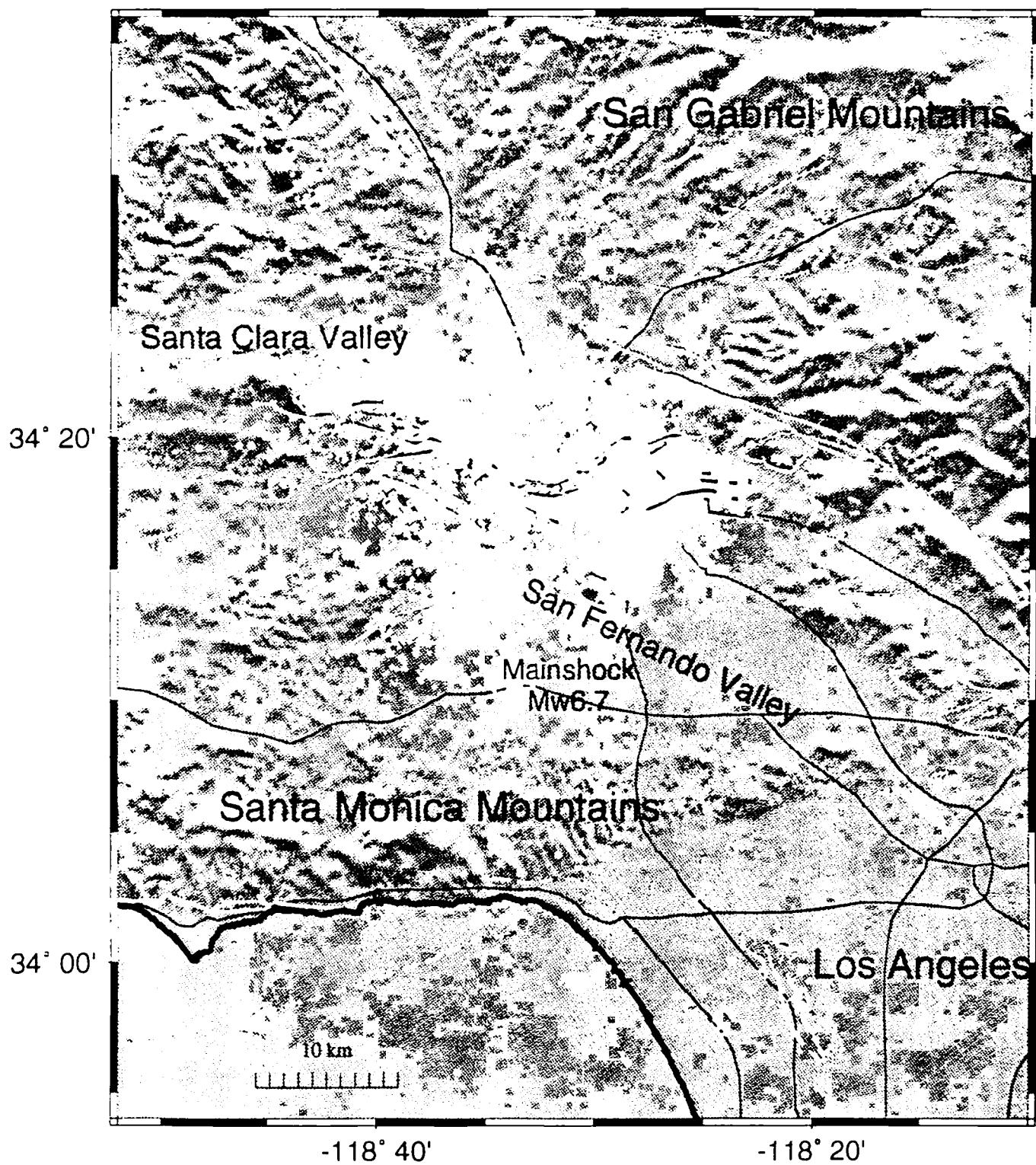
Seismological Observations

Thousands of aftershocks occurred during the following months including 5 magnitude 5, 44 magnitude 4 and 287 magnitude 3 events. The locations of the aftershocks are distributed across an area about 30 x 20 km (Figure 10) and map out the extent and orientation of the fault plane. These locations clearly show a plane dipping toward the southwest, which is interpreted to be the rupture surface of the thrust fault that produced the earthquake. This plane extends from the mainshock hypocenter at 18 km upward toward (but not reaching) the surface. Preliminary analyses indicate that most of the slip on the fault plane occurred at depths below 5 km and there was relatively little slip on the shallow portions of the fault.

The location of the fault plane as inferred from the aftershock distribution does not correspond to any mapped geologic fault. The earthquake did occur, however, within a system of known thrust faults that extends along the northern edge of the San Fernando Valley. Like the fault that produced the Northridge earthquake, many of these faults are "blind thrusts" which do not extend to the surface and, therefore, are difficult to recognize prior to large earthquakes.

The extensive damage from the earthquakes was mainly a result of the intense shaking produced by earthquake. The large amplitude motions from the Northridge earthquake were recorded on many strong-motion instruments within the Los Angles area, producing one of the best data sets of strong ground motions. The recordings showed peak accelerations of 0.5 to 1.0 g in the aftershock area and decreasing to 0.1 g at distances of about 50 km. Several sites close to the epicenter area recorded accelerations over 1 g. These high levels of ground motion and the resultant wide-spread damage emphasized the need for a better understanding of how the local geology effects the levels of ground shaking. A coordinated effort of USGS and university seismologists deployed more than 75 portable seismographs to record aftershocks and study the complicated wave propagation and local site effects that are controlled by the local geology. Instruments placed in many severely damaged areas of Northridge, Sherman Oaks, and Santa Monica, as well as the collapsed freeway sites at the I5-highway 14 interchange, highway 118 near Woodley, and 110 near La Cienega.

Real-time information about the mainshock and aftershocks was broadcast to 15 members of the Caltech-USGS Broadcast of Earthquakes (CUBE) program. This project is a cooperative effort to develop a system of quick earthquake information in southern California. Contributing members that make immediate use of this information include governmental emergency response agencies, water and power utilities, railroads, and other private companies. Earthquake locations and magnitudes are sent to pagers and computer displays throughout southern California and other parts of the country. Generally, information is sent within about 5 minutes of the earthquake occurrence. Because of various problems encountered at the time of the Northridge earthquake, actual information about the mainshock was relatively slow in getting out, however messages about the



GMT Dec 28 Figure 10. Northridge aftershock zone and faults in the area overlayed on a relief map. (courtesy of Egill Hauksson)

first aftershocks were being sent within about 15 minutes after the mainshock.

Geological Observations

There was no evidence of tectonic surface ruptures suggesting that the Northridge fault did not appear to extend to the surface. This is consistent with the seismologic and geodetic data indicating that all slip occurred at depths below 5 km. However, there were regions of surface cracking and deformations that were thought to be the result of strong shaking rather than direct fault ruptures. The most extensive area of ground deformation was in Portrero Canyon on the north side of the Santa Susana mountains where a series of discontinuous tension cracks and normal faults had displacements of up to 60 cm. None of the deformation was associated with any previously mapped surface fault. Another system of small cracks was studied in Granada Hills, where ground deformations caused numerous water and gas main rupture at the time of the earthquake. These features were also caused by ground shaking rather than tectonic faulting.

Extensive landslides occurred in the younger sediments of the western Santa Susana Mountains, Oak Ridge and Big Mountain areas. Over 1000 landslides Rock falls have choked the ravine bottoms of many canyons in the Santa Susana Mountains. Had heavy rains fallen, they have could saturate the material, causing it to mobilize into debris flows that threaten structures near the mouths of the canyons.

The extent of liquefaction caused by this earthquake was much less than expected, given the historical ground water levels and the strong levels of ground shaking that occurred. The reason was probably the lower than average water table levels in the San Fernando valley. There were localized instances of liquefaction and lateral spreading in the San Fernando Valley (primarily settling basins along the Los Angeles River) and other areas in Simi Valley, Santa Monica, and Redondo Beach.

Conclusions

Scientists have often warned about seismic hazards in the western U.S., and this earthquake tested the preparedness of southern California. There were successes that had been learned from past experiences and failures that need to be corrected. On the positive side, information gained from scientific efforts of the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP), combined with some of the better seismic building practices in the US, helped to limit the loss of life. In other parts of the world where these types of programs do not exist, similar sized earthquakes, for example in India (1993) and Armenia (1988), have caused thousands of deaths. On the negative side, poorer building construction was not adequate to prevent wide-spread structural failures in many communities, such as Northridge, Simi Valley, Sherman Oaks, North Hollywood and Santa Monica. The famous Los Angeles freeways suffered collapses at 7 sites and another 170 bridges had varying amounts of observable damage. Road construction to repair the bridges caused traffic problems for many months following the earthquake.

The large amount of damage that was caused by the Northridge earthquake is a consequence of an active geologic structure within an urban environment. The type of fault that produced the Northridge earthquake is not unique to the San Fernando valley. Similar structures exist throughout the area and there is geologic evidence for several blind thrusts in the Los Angles basin that are capable of producing events even

larger than Northridge. Large earthquakes on these faults could present serious problems for densely populated areas, including the high rise buildings in downtown Los Angeles. Furthermore, the problem of populated areas in close proximity to earthquakes is not limited to Los Angeles. Portions of the San Andreas fault are adjacent to San Bernardino and San Francisco. The Hayward fault passes through densely populated areas of Oakland and East Bay communities. Portland, Seattle, and Memphis all are located in earthquake prone areas. The lessons learned from the Northridge earthquake about the levels of strong ground shaking produced by a moderate earthquake and the subsequent damage to populated areas, should be applied to the practices in building construction and earthquake preparedness in all of these cities.

Re-surveys of benchmarks, using the Global Positioning System (GPS), showed there were significant static displacements due to the earthquake. In the aftershock region, there were vertical uplifts of 40 to 50 cm and horizontal movements of 2 to 20 cm. These movements are consistent with the fault geometry derived from the seismological observations. Preliminary modeling of the data indicate that there was slip of 2.5 to 3.5 meters on a 10 x 10 km patch of the fault. The motion was primarily thrust faulting, and most of the slip occurred at depths greater than 6 km. Following the Northridge earthquake, GPS receivers were permanently installed to provide continuous monitoring of deformations in the San Fernando valley and Los Angeles basin.

(This report was compiled from information gathered by many scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey, (Pasadena CA, Menlo Park CA, Golden CO offices) California Institute of Technology, Southern California Earthquake Center, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.)

SYNOPSIS OF SEISMICITY

A total of 27,996 earthquakes and 1607 blasts were cataloged for 1994 (Figure 11) at the time of this writing. Of the cataloged events, 526 were greater than or equal to $M_L \geq 3.0$ (Appendix A, Figure 12). The largest earthquake within the SCSN network in 1994 had a magnitude of 6.7 and was located in Northridge. Focal mechanisms for 16 events ($M_L \geq 4.0$) are shown in Figure 13.

For the following discussion southern California has been divided into eleven sub-regions (Figure 14). These regions are arbitrary, but useful for discussing characteristics of seismicity in a manageable context. Figure 15 summarizes the activity of each sub-region over the past ten years. A separate discussion section follows for those regions with notable activity. The dates mentioned in the text are based on Pacific time, however those in Appendix A are based on GMT, thus the discrepancy in a few dates.

Imperial Valley - Region 1

Obsidian Butte experienced several swarms throughout the year, as is normal for this area. This area is very seismically active because it is the transition zone between the East Pacific Rise spreading ridge and the south end of the San Andreas fault. The first swarm started on March 6 and lasted about two weeks with a maximum magnitude of M3.0. The second one occurred in mid-July and included an M3.2. On December 12 an M3.6 was the largest event in the last swarm of the year.

Several earthquakes were felt in this region that actually occurred in Mexico. On Feb. 11 and M3.3 south of the border was felt in the El Centro area. An M4.6 in northern Baja shook the area on August 11 (Figure 13, No.13), and two months later on October 4 an M4.6 in northern Baja was also felt in the Imperial Valley area.

South San Jacinto - Region 2

The only seismic activity in this region included two earthquakes in the vicinity of Borrego Springs. The first on February 9 was an M3.4 on the Anza segment of the San Jacinto fault. The second was an M3.9 in the Ocotillo Wells area south of Borrego Springs that was felt in the area.

South Elsinore - Region 3

This region experienced no significant seismic activity in 1994.

San Diego - Region 4

The only notable event in this region was an M3.8 in August just south of San Clemente Island.

Los Angeles Coast - Region 5

The Los Angeles and South Coast areas experienced quite a few small earthquakes in 1994, perhaps as a result of the nearby M6.7 Northridge earthquake on January 17. An M3.7 offshore of Venice Beach on January 9 (before the Northridge earthquake) was widely felt in west Los Angeles

and the San Fernando Valley. It was accompanied by one foreshock and a few small aftershocks.

On February 3-9 there were several wide-spread small events in Malibu, the Los Angeles Basin, and in the Monrovia/Baldwin Park area. None were felt. They were probably due to crustal readjustment after the Northridge earthquake. These small events throughout the Los Angeles area continued throughout the year. An M2.9 in the Watts/Lynwood area was felt on March 3, and a small M2.7 was felt later on March 31 in Monterey Park.

April 7-13 there were a few small events that went unnoticed by the public; an M2.0 near Mt. Wilson, an M2.0 near the La Brea Tar Pits, and an M1.5 in South Pasadena. Then south of Los Angeles offshore between Dockweiler and Manhattan Beaches there was a cluster of events on May 13. The largest two, an M2.5 and M3.2, were felt. On June 7 one person called in response to an M2.5 near Loma Linda. The Lakewood area had a small cluster of earthquakes on June 21 (except for one on June 20), including an M2.5 and M2.6 that were felt in the epicentral area. Lastly, Marina del Rey residents felt an M3.4 earthquake on December 11.

North Elsinore - Region 6

The Palomar Observatory was the epicentral location of an M3.2 that was felt on April 3. A large swarm of earthquakes occurred in the Fontana area beginning in mid-July and tapering off in mid-August. The largest event in the swarm was an M3.5.

San Bernardino - Region 7

This region was very seismically active, as usual. Landers/Big Bear aftershocks continued throughout the year, many being felt. They included an M5.0 strike-slip event on June 15 in the Landers area (Figure 13, No.11), an M4.9 on August 1 (Figure 13, No.12), an M4.2 on November 20 (Figure 13, No.15), and a swarm of 27 events on August 15 at the south end of the Landers aftershock zone just 2 miles from the San Andreas fault. The largest was an M3.8 that was felt in Palm Desert. The mechanisms were mostly normal faulting.

In the southernmost tip of the region near Bombay Beach, there were four small earthquakes (largest M2.0) February 24 - March 2. Earthquakes in this area cause a little concern

since it is the south end of the locked section of the San Andreas fault where it connects to the active Brawley Seismic Zone.

An M4.8 oblique thrust earthquake occurred on April 6 in the Lake Arrowhead area (Figure 13, No.10). It was widely felt.

On May 26 an unusually deep (18km) M3.3 was felt on the San Jacinto fault near San Bernardino. One focal plane was almost horizontal; this type of mechanism has been seen in this area in the past. An M3.5 event on September 11 on the north San Jacinto fault was felt in Hemet. An M2.8 was felt on October 11 near Idyllwild, and then on November 7 and 8 there were an M3.8 and an M3.7, respectively, near Idyllwild on the San Jacinto fault that were both felt in the Palm Springs area. Residents in the Redlands area felt an M3.2 earthquake on November 15.

North Mojave - Region 8

Seismic activity was experienced in the usual areas within this region in 1994. An M3.5 occurred near Barstow on June 27. An M3.5 was also the largest of a cluster of events (several >M3.0) outside of Baker (northeast of the Landers aftershock zone) that began in late August and continued into September.

On October 18 southeast of Ridgecrest on the Garlock fault on M4.3 (Figure 13, No.14), followed later by an M3.5, shook the area. It was part of a swarm of earthquakes that began in mid-October and continued through almost the end of the month. Both the larger events were strike-slip, which is consistent with the left-lateral Garlock fault. The Garlock fault is not considered to be an active fault, but it does experience such events occasionally.

South Sierra Nevada - Region 9

The Furnace Creek area of Death Valley was the location of an M4.0 on February 3 (Figure 13, No.7). Later in the year on October 23 there was a cluster of events in Death Valley, M3.4 being the largest.

In the vicinity of Ridgecrest there was an M3.7 on July 25 (in Trona) and an M3.6 on December 12.

Kern County - Region 10

This area had some seismic activity late in the year starting with an M3.4 on October 21 in the south San Joaquin Valley. Then on November 10 an M3.0 was felt near Bakersfield. About two weeks later on November 23 just west of Bakersfield, along the east edge of the Coast Ranges near Taft, an M3.5 was also felt.

Santa Barbara - Region 11

The largest earthquake of 1994, and M6.7, occurred in Northridge on January 17 (Figures 8 & 13; Nos.1-6,8). This earthquake caused widespread damage in the San Fernando Valley and parts of the Los Angeles Basin, and produced many aftershocks that were felt throughout the

year. On December 5 there was an M4.5 aftershock, the largest since an M5.2 on March 20 (and an M4.4 on May 25). See the article entitled "the January 17 Northridge Earthquake" in the *Research Notes* section for details.

An unusual sequence of 22 earthquakes occurred in Ventura County that began on February 17 and continued through March 2. These events (all <M2.0 with normal 2-16km depths) were located along a 50km-long lineation parallel to the east-striking Ventura Basin.

An M3.6 thrust event happened near Fillmore (northwest of the Northridge aftershock zone) on April 8 that may have been on the San Cayatano fault. Offshore near Santa Barbara Island on August 13 there was an M3.4. An M3.6 was felt on December 9 near Ojai.

Southern California Earthquakes 1994

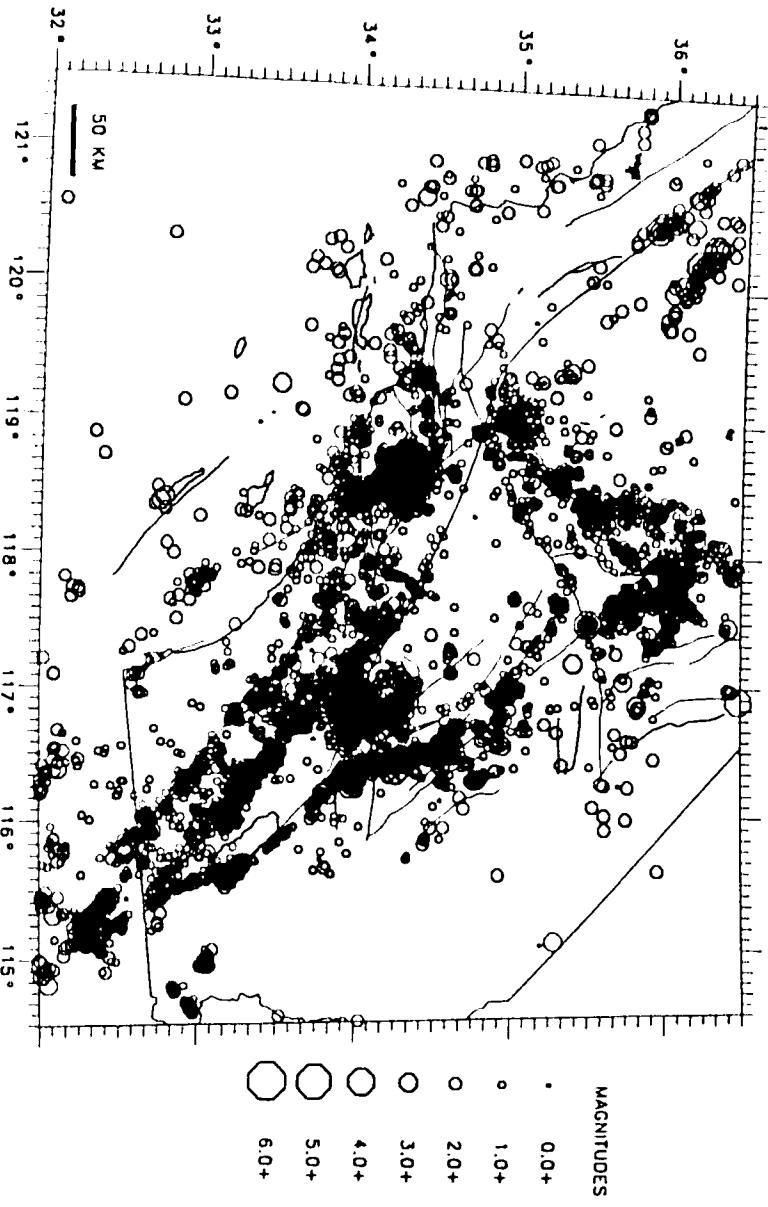


Figure 11. Map of all located earthquakes in southern California for the period of January through December 1994.

Southern California Earthquakes 1994 M3.0+

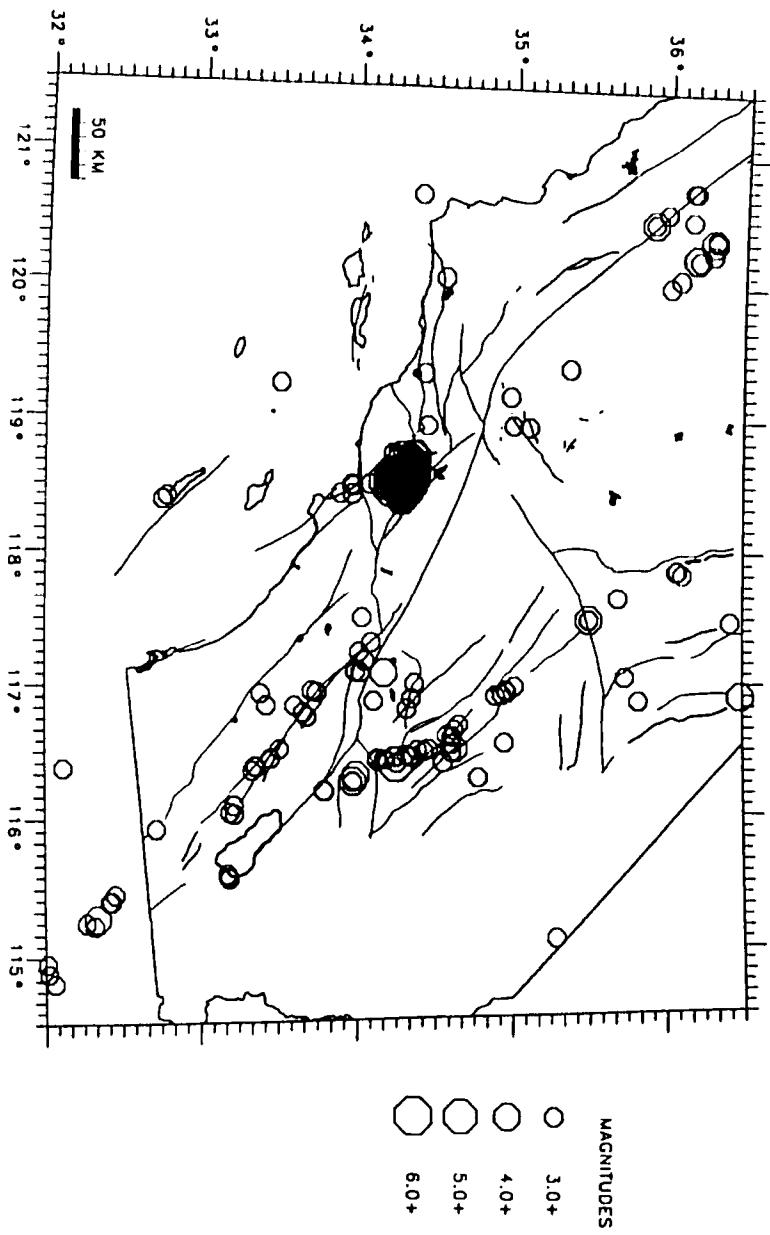


Figure 12. Map of located earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 and larger in southern California for the period of January through December 1994.

Selected CA Focal Mechanisms 1994 M4.0+

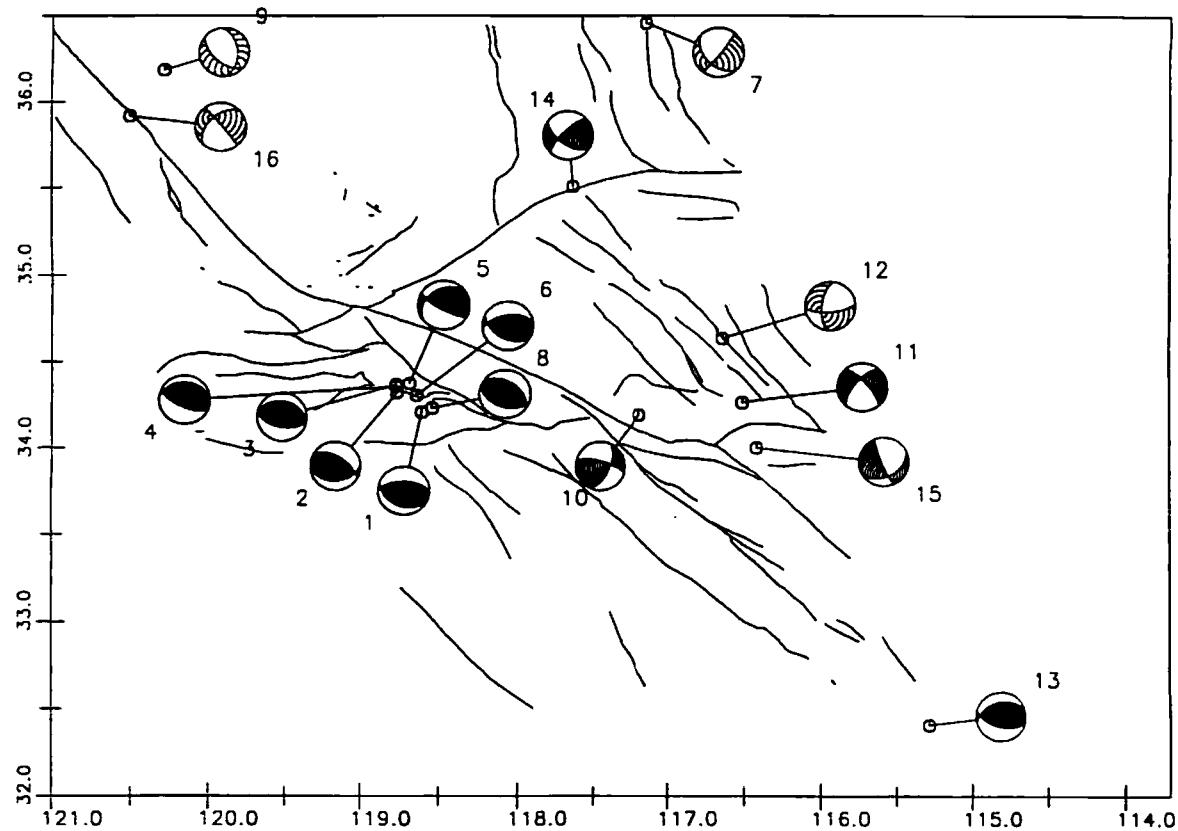


Figure 13. Lower hemisphere focal mechanisms for selected events for the period January through December 1994. Event numbers correspond to numbers in FM column of Appendix A.

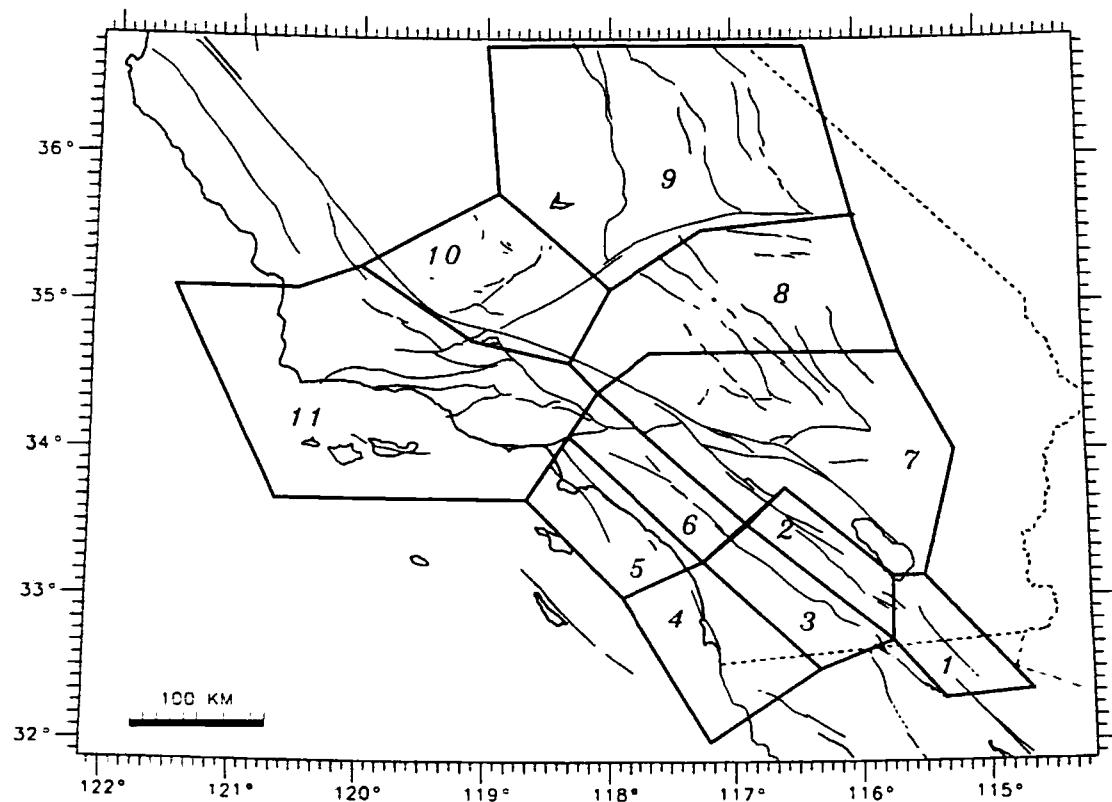


Figure 14. Map of sub-regions used in Figure 15. The geographic name of each sub-region, as used in the text, can be found in the headings of Figure 15.

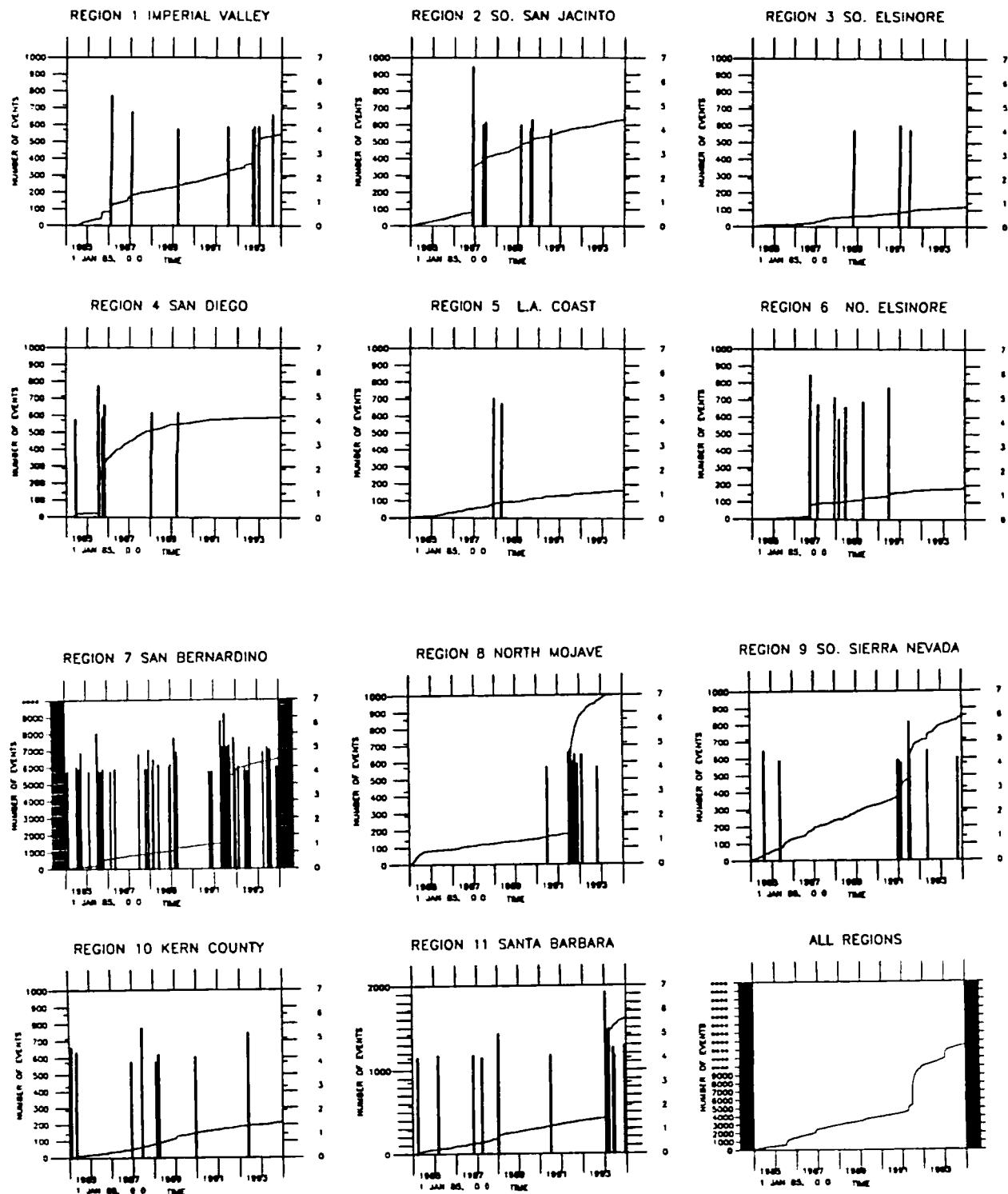


Figure 15. Cumulative number of events ($M_L \geq 2.5$) in all sub-regions over the ten year period ending December 1994. The boundaries of the sub-regions are shown in Figure 14. Vertical bars represent time and magnitude (scale on right) of large events ($M_L \geq 4.0$). Note that the vertical scales of the plots may not be the same.

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	DATE		TIME		LOCATION		Q	M	Z	PH	RMS	ID	F		
1994	12	12	19	48	30.80	35	41.93	-117	39.52	A	3.4	11.82	103	0.18	3196479
1994	12	13	17	51	44.41	34	7.57	-116	52.99	A	3.2	10.60	99	0.16	3196638
1994	12	20	10	27	47.79	35	54.70	-120	28.55	B	4.8	14.00	98	0.35	3197468
1994	12	20	12	55	7.26	35	54.56	-120	28.72	B	3.3	12.95	82	0.30	3197475
1994	12	25	7	59	38.74	36	6.82	-117	50.40	A	3.4	3.11	63	0.24	3198017
1994	12	28	12	49	5.54	36	18.43	-120	22.24	C	3.3	0.00	58	0.31	3198348
1994	12	30	10	3	24.52	34	19.08	-118	24.30	A	3.3	5.34	84	0.28	3198585
1994	12	30	16	22	56.45	36	7.64	-117	50.30	A	3.0	3.44	28	0.21	3198611
1994	12	31	0	7	23.09	32	21.93	-115	21.63	C	3.6	6.00	27	0.44	3198651

02MAR94	16:38-22:58	02MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
02MAR94	23:01-23:04	02MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
02MAR94	23:31-10:24	03MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
03MAR94	23:32-18:05	04MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
04MAR94	18:12-18:44	05MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
06MAR94	02:09-16:20	07MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
07MAR94	16:24-22:36	07MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
07MAR94	22:39-18:13	08MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
08MAR94	19:44-22:56	08MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
08MAR94	23:23-08:29	09MAR94	NORTHRIDGE (POSSIBLE GAPS)
09MAR94	19:16-17:26	10MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
10MAR94	17:32-01:56	13MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
13MAR94	02:20-22:04	15MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
15MAR94	22:07-05:03	16MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
16MAR94	05:33-03:14	17MAR94	NORTHRIDGE
17MAR94	03:17-23:56	17MAR94	NORTHRIDGE

Miscellaneous Events

DATE	TIME OF EVENT OR TAPE	DESCRIPTION		
12MAY94	00:00.??			QUESTIONABLE SONIC
13MAY94	00:00.??			SONIC
18MAY94	07:00.09	33.5N	114.6W	ARIZONA (EXPLOSION) M3.5
09JUN94	18:45.09	32.5N	120.3W	OFFSHOREPALOSVERDE 2.5 MC (BLAST)
10JUN94	06:25.00	14.5N	88.7E	XINJIANGCHINA 5.7 (EXPLOSION)
27JUN94	18:33.10	32.1N	120.3W	OFFSHORE PALOS VERDES 2.8MC (BLAST)
07JUL94	14:55.??			SR-71 SONIC BOOM
20SEP94	22:08.??			SPACE SHUTTLE SONIC
07OCT94	03:25.58	41.7N	88.8E	S. XINJIANG, CHINA M5.9 (NUCLEAR)
13OCT94	00:00-18:53 14OCT94			LARSE EXPERIMENT
15OCT92	00:55-00:34 28OCT94			LARSE EXPERIMENT (POSSIBLE GAPS)
29OCT94	00:51-05:06 31OCT94			LARSE EXPERIMENT
14NOV94	15:30.??			SPACE SHUTTLE SONIC

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