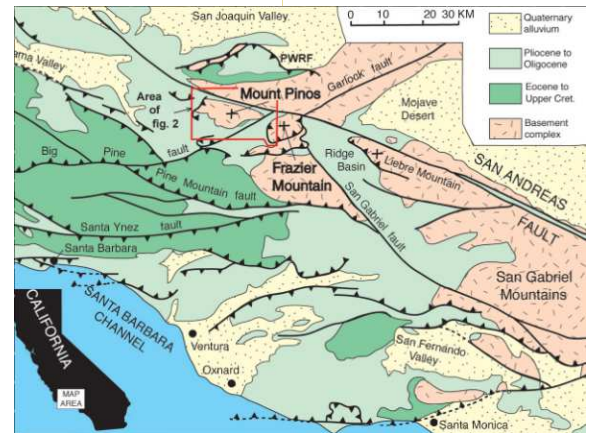


San Andreas Fault, Part 3: Frazier Park, Tejon Pass, Gorman

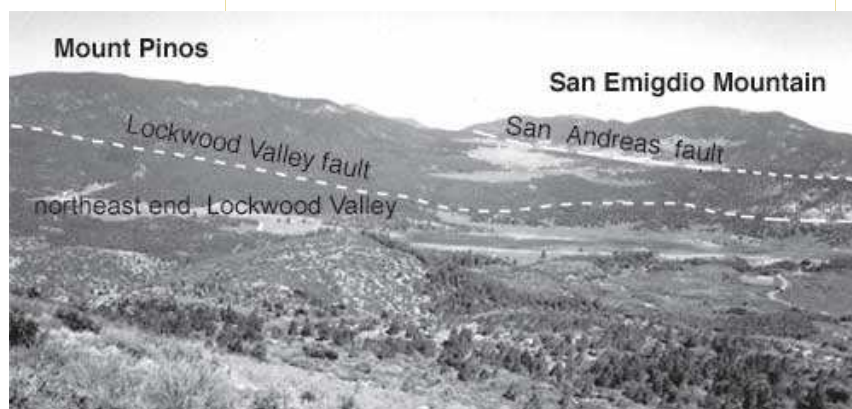
By Dan Robinson from stormhighway.com



Soda Lake Rd continues south all the way to CA-166. A short 'jog' finds Hudson Ranch Road. That's a long way to go to see the area around Frazier Park and Gorman? One can see Part 1 & Part 2 out of San Luis Obispo County. Being from Los Angeles, I'd make a separate road trip to this Part 3. Just take the I-5 past 6 Flags Magic Mountain!



As we descend off of the high ridges into the valley on Hudson Ranch road, the fault zone finally becomes accessible again, crossing and/or running along with the road several times. It is here that two major features are encountered: the intersection with the Garlock fault, and the San Andreas' prominent turn to a more easterly direction. This "Big Bend" region of the San Andreas creates a broad zone of complex faults for miles around that shape the surrounding landscape. Again, the trace of the fault lies mostly invisible and dormant underneath these locations, but will one day rip the surface in two during the next major earthquake.



Cuddy Valley view of invisible fault traces

Gorman, California (Tejon Pass)

As we arrive at Interstate 5 and turn southeast on the frontage road at Gorman, one of the most detailed visible expressions of the San Andreas can be seen in the road cut as it makes its first of three crossings of I-5. The fault divides two different types of rocks/soil on either side, North American Plate (white) vs Pacific Plate (brown):



The San Andreas generally follows the valley on the south side of Tejon Pass. The surface trace is not visible in most places, with the 1857 earthquake surface rupture long erased by 160 years of erosion and road construction. Nonetheless, several sag ponds are apparent along with the relatively straight "linear valley" created by the fault.



View toward the Grapevine Summit. Notice the SAF (red line) passing under the freeway a couple of times in the distant curve. Photo Credit: Roc Doc Travel