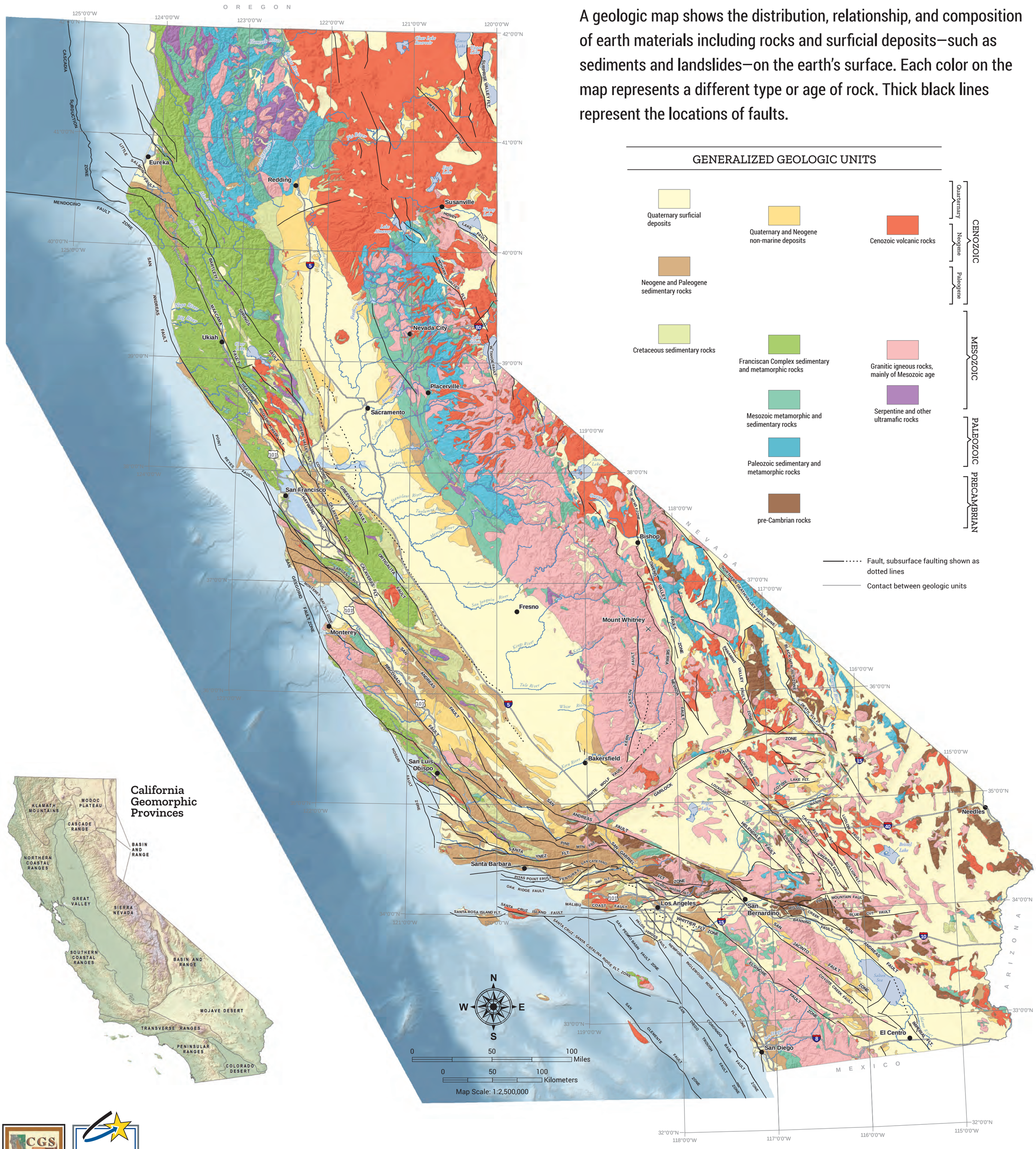
Geology of California



A geologic map shows the distribution, relationship, and composition of earth materials including rocks and surficial deposits—such as sediments and landslides—on the earth's surface. Each color on the map represents a different type or age of rock. Thick black lines represent the locations of faults.

GENERALIZED GEOLOGIC UNITS

CENOZOIC

- Quaternary: Quaternary surficial deposits
- Quaternary and Neogene non-marine deposits
- Cenozoic volcanic rocks
- Neogene: Neogene and Paleogene sedimentary rocks
- Paleogene: Cretaceous sedimentary rocks

MESOZOIC

- Franciscan Complex sedimentary and metamorphic rocks
- Granitic igneous rocks, mainly of Mesozoic age
- Mesozoic metamorphic and sedimentary rocks
- Serpentine and other ultramafic rocks

PALEOZOIC

- Paleozoic sedimentary and metamorphic rocks

PRECAMBRIAN

- pre-Cambrian rocks

Fault, subsurface faulting shown as dotted lines

Contact between geologic units

California Geomorphic Provinces

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Base Map Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Transportation