

1 **Off-fault Focal Mechanisms not Representative of Interseismic Fault Loading**  
2 **Suggest Deep Creep on the Northern San Jacinto Fault**

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6 **Key Points:**

- 7     • Crustal deformation models demonstrate the plausibility of deep creep along the  
8       northern San Jacinto fault to account for nearby enigmatic normal slip mechanisms
- 9     • Microseismicity that records off-fault deformation may record stresses that differ from  
10      interseismic loading of the primary fault surfaces
- 11    • Where faults exhibit creep at any crustal level, caution should be used in the inversion  
12      of nearby focal mechanisms for interseismic fault loading

13

## 14 **Abstract**

15 Within the San Bernardino basin, some focal mechanisms show normal slip that is inconsistent  
16 with the expected interseismic strike-slip loading of the region. The discrepancy may owe to  
17 deep ( $> 10$  km depth), creep along the nearby northern San Jacinto fault. The enigmatic normal  
18 slip microseismicity occurs to the northeast of the fault and primarily below 10 km depth,  
19 consistent with off-fault deformation due to spatially non-uniform on-going slip. Consequently,  
20 if these normal focal mechanisms are included in stress inversions from the seismic catalog, the  
21 results may provide inaccurate information about fault loading. Here, we show that off-fault  
22 loading from models with deep interseismic creep on the northern San Jacinto fault match the  
23 first-order pattern of observed normal slip focal mechanisms in the basin and that this deep creep  
24 cannot be detected with GPS data due to the proximity of the San Andreas fault.

## 25 **Plain Language Summary**

26 Over the past 36 years, seismic stations have recorded the style of deformation from thousands of  
27 small earthquakes in the San Bernardino basin, California. Within this basin, many earthquakes  
28 below 10 km depth show deformation that doesn't match what we expect for this region during  
29 the current period between large damaging earthquakes along the San Jacinto and San Andreas  
30 faults. Rather than showing expected horizontal slip, many of these earthquakes show vertical  
31 movement. We use crustal deformation models to show that vertical movement can be produced  
32 in the basin if the northern portion of the San Jacinto fault creeps at depth; this portion of the  
33 fault is constantly moving rather than locked, like the San Andreas fault. Traditional GPS-based  
34 approaches to detect deep creep don't work here because the faults are too close to one another.  
35 The findings of this study demonstrate that small earthquakes that occur adjacent to and between  
36 faults can have very different style of deformation than the large ground rupturing earthquakes  
37 produced along active faults. This means that scientists should not use the information recorded  
38 by these small earthquakes in the San Bernardino basin to predict loading of the nearby San  
39 Andreas and San Jacinto faults.

## 40 **1 Introduction**

41 Earthquake rupture simulations that can inform regional seismic hazards are sensitive to  
42 estimates of current stress state along active faults (e.g., Harris et al., 2009; Ryan et al., 2015).  
43 Whereas borehole data from some localities can provide stress state information within the near  
44 surface, we rely exclusively on microseismicity data to inform the stress state throughout the  
45 seismogenic crust (e.g., Hardebeck & Hauksson, 2001; Heidbach et al., 2010). One assumption  
46 built into estimates of stress state from microseismicity is that the seismic catalog collected over  
47 the past several decades accurately represents the loading of active faults within California. This  
48 assumption is challenged by the limited duration of the seismic catalog compared to the 100-  
49 1000-year recurrence intervals along most faults within California. For example, in the  
50 earthquake catalog, the San Andreas fault (SAf) south of Cajon Pass has had fewer earthquakes  
51 than nearby faults (e.g. Yang et al., 2012). Although the San Andreas fault has the greatest  
52 potential for large earthquakes in southern California (e.g. Field et al., 2014), it is relatively  
53 under-sampled within the seismic catalog because the fault is locked between the times of large  
54 earthquakes. Furthermore, small earthquakes in the crust may record off-fault deformation rather  
55 than slip along the primary slip planes of active faults (Cheng et al., 2018). Where off fault  
56 deformation differs from loading of the primary faults, the stress state inferred from

57 microseismicity may not accurately reflect the interseismic loading of the major active faults  
58 capable of producing ground rupturing earthquakes.

59         While we might expect the focal mechanisms from recorded microseismicity along the  
60 southern SAf system to reveal that dextral deformation dominates this system, Yang et al. (2013)  
61 show that some regions, such as the San Bernardino basin, produce predominantly normal-slip  
62 microseismicity (Fig. 1a). These focal mechanisms contrast the observations of long-term strike-  
63 slip along the nearby SAf (e.g., McGill et al., 2013, 2015) and San Jacinto fault (SJf) (e.g.,  
64 Anderson et al., 2004; Onderdonk et al., 2015). The normal slip focal mechanisms also disagree  
65 with crustal deformation models of the region that show dextral interseismic loading of the  
66 region (e.g., Johnson, 2013; Loveless & Meade, 2011; Smith-Konter et al., 2011). Because  
67 dipping faults loaded in strike-slip will still produce strike-slip (e.g., Fattaruso et al., 2014), a  
68 non-vertical northern SJf, such as inferred along other portions of the SJf (Ross et al., 2017),  
69 could not explain the normal slip focal mechanisms. The observation of normal slip suggests that  
70 some of the recent microseismicity in the San Bernardino basin is not consistent with the  
71 expected strike-slip interseismic loading of the SAf and SJf flanking the basin.

72         Slip gradients along strike-slip faults, such as near the tips of earthquake ruptures, can  
73 produce off-fault stresses and subsequent aftershocks that differ from the loading of the faults  
74 (e.g., Hardebeck, 2014; Oppenheimer, 1990). Yang et al. (2012) report temporary changes in  
75 focal mechanism slip sense after large magnitude earthquakes in southern California. Cheng et  
76 al. (2018) report off-fault aftershocks that have different slip sense from the earthquakes that  
77 occur along the Anza segment of the San Jacinto fault, to the south of the study area of this  
78 paper. Some of the normal slip earthquakes within the San Bernardino basin have been  
79 associated with secondary normal faults revealed by geophysical imaging of the top of the  
80 basement (Anderson et al., 2004). Small normal faults trend sub-parallel to the SJf and bound the  
81 edges of a local graben that developed where the SJf changes strike (Fig. 1b). While strike-slip  
82 along the San Jacinto and/or San Andreas faults could promote extension of this graben and  
83 normal slip microseismicity in the San Bernardino basin, all faults in the region are presumed to  
84 be locked during the interseismic period of the seismic catalog. Furthermore, the last large slip  
85 event in the region was over 200 years ago in 1812 (e.g., Lozos, 2016), and the current seismic  
86 catalog should be free of effects from that earthquake. Three-dimensional deformation models of  
87 the region can simulate the interseismic accumulation of slip along faults below the seismogenic  
88 crust where the faults are presumed to be locked (Fig. 1c; e.g. Marshall et al., 2009) . Such  
89 models with 20 km locking depth consistent with the base of seismicity in this region (e.g., Yang  
90 et al., 2012) produce off-fault stress tensors at the 3D positions of focal mechanisms that show  
91 the preferred slip sense of off-fault deformation. Because this predicted slip sense assumes the  
92 presence of a preferentially oriented slip surface at each focal mechanism position, we add  
93 random noise to the model predictions equivalent to the  $-45^\circ$  to  $45^\circ$  uncertainty in focal  
94 mechanism rake (Yang et al., 2012). The model predicts overall strike-slip deformation of the  
95 region (Fig. 1d). Consequently, the observation of normal slip microseismicity in the San  
96 Bernardino basin remains enigmatic in this region of dextral interseismic loading.

97 We propose that some degree of unlocking of the San Jacinto fault could account for the  
98 observation of recent normal slip earthquakes in the San Bernardino basin. Spatially non-  
99 uniform creep at depth along the northern SJF may produce some degree of local extension  
100 within the basin. Consequently, the microseismicity in our multi-decadal catalog may record  
101 both interseismic dextral loading of the region as well as off-fault deformation associated with  
102 deep creep on the northern SJF. We use crustal deformation models to show the potential for slip  
103 to produce off-fault microseismicity that obfuscates our interpretation of fault loading from the  
104 seismic catalog.

## 105 **2. Methods**

### 106 2.1 Reliable catalog of focal mechanisms in the San Bernardino basin

107 We analyze the three-dimensional distribution of focal mechanisms in the San  
108 Bernardino basin to assess the spatial pattern of the enigmatic normal slip microseismicity. A  
109 catalog of relocated southern California focal mechanisms from January 1981 through  
110 September 2016 are available from the Southern California Earthquake Center database  
111 (Hauksson et al., 2012; Yang et al., 2012). We limit the analysis to focal mechanisms described  
112 by Yang et al. (2012) to have nodal plane uncertainty  $< 45^\circ$ . Figure 2a shows the 6108 focal  
113 mechanisms between Easting 455000 and 500000 meters UTM zone 11 and Northing 3740000  
114 and 3795000 meters. In this region, the mean slip sense assessed with a 600-earthquake moving  
115 window remains around 1.2 during the time period of the seismic catalog, indicating overall  
116 normal and strike-slip focal mechanisms (black line on Fig. 2a).

117 Excluding earthquakes smaller than the magnitude completeness limit eliminates bias of  
118 including small earthquakes that are recorded because they occur close to seismic instruments.  
119 The completeness limit of the San Bernardino basin subset of the seismic catalog improves with  
120 time as seismic stations are added to the network. We calculate the evolving magnitude  
121 completeness limit using the maximum curvature method (Wiemer & Wyss, 2000) for a moving  
122 window of 600 earthquakes advanced in increments of 100 earthquakes. The magnitude  
123 completeness reduces around 2002 and 2011 so that we can define three epochs of magnitude  
124 completeness limits (red line on Fig. 2b). To determine a reliable focal mechanism catalog that  
125 exceed completeness, we exclude earthquakes smaller than M1.9 for epoch1 (1981 – 2001),  
126 smaller than M1.5 for epoch2 (2002-2010), and smaller than M1.1 for epoch3 (2011 –  
127 September 2016). The resulting catalog of 4304 reliable focal mechanisms shows consistent slip  
128 sense (1.2) throughout the 37-year catalog, suggesting that the catalog is not significantly  
129 impacted by transient changes, such as stress changes from nearby large earthquakes or  
130 anomalous periods of enhanced normal faulting (Fig. 2c).

### 131 2.2 Steady-state and interseismic crustal models of the region

132 To simulate the stresses in the San Bernardino basin that drive interseismic  
133 microseismicity, we have developed 3D Boundary Element Method stressing rate models that  
134 simulate interseismic loading between earthquakes using a two-step approach. For the first step,

135 multiple earthquake cycles are simulated in a steady-state model where all portions of the fault  
136 surfaces slip. The second step of the approach implements a back-slip approach to simulate the  
137 interseismic loading of the faults, where the slip distribution from the steady-state model is  
138 applied to faults below the prescribed locking depth (e.g., Marshall et al., 2009).

139 For the first stage of interseismic model development, we produce a steady-state model of  
140 crustal deformation over many earthquake cycles. The model incorporates active fault surfaces  
141 of the region based on the SCEC Community Fault Model v. 4.0 (Nicholson et al., 2013; Plesch  
142 et al., 2007) and re-meshed for more uniform triangular element size and coincident nodes along  
143 fault intersections (Fig. 1c). While based on version 4.0 of the CFM, the fault model includes  
144 revised fault surfaces in the Eastern California Shear Zone and elsewhere that give better match  
145 to geologic slip rates (e.g., Fattaruso et al., 2014; Justin W. Herbert et al., 2014) and honors the  
146 mapped active fault traces of the USGS fault and fold database (USGS & CGS, 2006). The fault  
147 geometry used in this study follows that of the preferred model of Beyer et al. (in press) with  
148 revised resolution of the San Jacinto fault (average element length  $\sim 2.6$  km). Within the 3D  
149 models, faults are extended to 35 km depth, where they merge with a horizontal crack.  
150 Deformation along this crack simulates distributed deformation below the seismogenic crust.  
151 Following Beyer et al. (in press), this study applies a plate tectonic movement equivalent to 47.5  
152 mm/yr at  $322.5^\circ$  (e.g., DeMets et al., 2010) to the sides of the model that parallel plate velocity  
153 and a velocity gradient along the sides of the model perpendicular to plate velocity. Where faults  
154 meet the lateral edges of the model, the applied velocity has a step and corresponding slip rates  
155 are applied to the endmost patch of the fault to avoid slip rates going to zero at these artificial  
156 fault tips (Fig. 1c). The shear traction-free faults in the center of the model slip in response to  
157 tectonic loading and interaction with each other. This low shear traction simulates dynamic  
158 conditions when most of the fault slip occurs.

159 To simulate interseismic loading between large earthquakes, the interseismic models  
160 apply slip rates from the long-term model below a prescribed locking depth. Using this  
161 approach, these interseismic models can simulate deep creep. To avoid a sharp step between  
162 slipping and locked regions, fault elements within a 2.5 km high transitional band above the  
163 locking depth are prescribed 50% of the slip rate values of the long-term model. We explore the  
164 impact of varying locking depth from 7.5 to 20 km along the San Jacinto fault while all other  
165 faults have a 20 km locking depth. In all the models, stress tensors are sampled at points in the  
166 model corresponding to the three-dimensional locations of reliable focal mechanisms. This  
167 allows the model results to be directly compared to the observed seismicity.

### 168 **3. Focal mechanism distribution supports deep creep along the northern San Jacinto fault**

169 Three aspects of the three-dimensional distribution of interseismic microseismicity in the  
170 San Bernardino basin are consistent with some degree of deep on-going interseismic slip along  
171 the northern SJf. Firstly, the contrast of high rate of microseismicity along the SJf compared to  
172 the quiet nearby SAF (Fig. 3a). Observations of abundant microseismicity adjacent to creeping  
173 faults (e.g., Harris, 2017) support the inference that the SJf could have active creep whereas the  
174 SAF is currently locked. Secondly, projecting the focal mechanisms of the reliable catalog into a

175 north-south profile reveals that most of the normal slip focal mechanisms of the San Bernardino  
176 basin occur below  $\sim 7.5$  km depth (Fig. 3b). If the on-going SJf slip is contributing to the off-fault  
177 normal slip microseismicity, then the fault below this depth may be creeping. Along the Anza  
178 section of the San Jacinto fault, south of this study area, normal slip microseismicity also occurs  
179 near the SJf at depths of 10-13 km (Cheng et al., 2018). The discrepancy between locking depth  
180 of the Anza section of the SJf inferred from geodesy ( $11 \pm 3$  km; Fialko, 2006) and the base of  
181 seismicity in this region ( $17 \pm 3$  km) led to the inference of local creep below 10 km (Wdowinski,  
182 2009), which is consistent with the depths of off-fault normal microseismicity along this section  
183 of the SJf (Cheng et al., 2018).

184 The third aspect of the focal mechanism distribution that supports deep on-going  
185 interseismic slip is that the normal slip focal mechanisms are primarily located northeast, and not  
186 southwest, of the SJf (Fig. 3a). Regional extension should produce normal slip microseismicity  
187 on both sides of interseismic locked faults. However, this pattern is consistent with the results of  
188 steady-state crustal deformation models of the region that simulate deformation over multiple  
189 earthquake cycles (Resor et al., 2018; Fig. 4b). This model shows a southward increasing dextral  
190 slip rate along the northern San Jacinto fault that produces a region of positive dilation (increased  
191 mean normal tension) within the San Bernardino basin. This long-term dilation can promote  
192 normal slip microseismicity at distances far from the fault by unclamping potential slip surfaces  
193 relative to those outside of the basin. The location of off-fault dilation correlates to the location  
194 of slip rate gradient along the SJf (Fig. 4b). Consequently, deep dilation consistent with the  
195 occurrence of normal slip microseismicity below  $\sim 7.5$  km in the San Bernardino basin may be  
196 associated with on-going slip along the SJf below  $\sim 7.5$  km. Deep on-going slip on the San  
197 Andreas fault could also produce dilation in the San Bernardino basin but the lack of  
198 microseismicity along the SAF suggests that this fault is locked. Taken together, the three-  
199 dimensional distribution of focal mechanisms within the San Bernardino basin is consistent with  
200 southward increasing creep rate along the northern SJf at depth.

#### 201 **4. Simulating deep creep on the northern San Jacinto fault**

202 To investigate the impact of deep interseismic creep on the northern San Jacinto fault, we  
203 investigate the sensitivity of focal mechanism slip sense within the San Bernardino basin to  
204 locking depth along the northern SJf (San Bernardino and San Jacinto Valley segments). The  
205 interseismic models apply 20 km locking depth on all other faults, consistent with the general  
206 base of seismicity of the region (e.g. Yang et al., 2012; Fig. 3b). The overall slip sense of  
207 microseismicity within the San Bernardino basin (grey region in Fig. 5a) is best matched by  
208 interseismic models with locking depth  $< 12.5$  km along the northern SJf (Fig. 5b). Results for  
209 locking depths of 7.5 and 10 km show similar fit within  $1\sigma$ . The interseismic model with 10 km  
210 locking depth produces normal slip that is spatially consistent with the observed enigmatic  
211 normal slip focal mechanisms within the San Bernardino basin (Fig. 5a). The normal slip in the  
212 interseismic model occurs to the northeast of the San Jacinto fault near the gradient in dextral  
213 slip rate along the fault.

214 While creep below 10-13 km has been inferred along the southern San Jacinto fault from  
215 geodetic evidence of shallow locking depths (Fialko, 2006; Smith-Konter et al., 2011;  
216 Wdowinski, 2009), geodetic inversions for the northern San Jacinto fault suggest a deep (~20  
217 km) locking depth (Smith-Konter et al., 2011). Because the San Jacinto and San Andreas faults  
218 approach within 10 km of each other at the San Bernardino basin, the inversions of geodetic data  
219 for locking depth in this region may not distinguish the locking depths of the SJf and SAF. To  
220 explore this, we compare the interseismic velocities at GPS sties from two models: one that has  
221 20 km locking depth on all faults and another that has 10 km locking depth on the northern SJf  
222 and 20 km on all other faults. The station velocities from the two models cannot be distinguished  
223 from the observed GPS station velocities determined by Herbert et al. (2014) (Fig. 5c).  
224 Consequently, geodetic data cannot eliminate deep creep on the northern San Jacinto fault as a  
225 potential mechanism for the off-fault normal slip microseismicity within the San Bernardino  
226 basin.

## 227 **5. Discussion**

228 Both the observed focal mechanisms and the model predicted slip show both normal and  
229 strike-slip microseismicity in the San Bernardino basin. Some differences in the predicted  
230 interseismic slip sense at locations of microseismicity and observed slip sense reveal aspects of  
231 the model that may not adequately capture the 3D complexity of active deformation along the  
232 San Jacinto fault. Within the model, normal slip microseismicity occurs within a narrow band  
233 adjacent to the SJf with strike- and reverse slip outside of this band where the catalog records a  
234 combination of normal and strike-slip focal mechanisms. The model may over-predict the  
235 proportion of normal focal mechanisms for several potential reasons. Firstly, the model  
236 calculates the slip sense on the most preferentially oriented slip plane off of the fault but, if  
237 instead, the microseismicity occurs on preexisting structures, the observed slip sense may differ  
238 from the model prediction. Similarly, the model does not consider interaction between  
239 earthquakes such as local normal microseismicity after small strike-slip earthquakes (Cheng et  
240 al., 2018). Another consideration is that the model may over-predict normal slip because the  
241 model incorporates complete unlocking of the SJf below the locking depth whereas partial  
242 unlocking may provide an off-fault stress state between that of dilation and interseismic strike-  
243 slip loading of the region.

244 Within the model, faults that may have damage zones and complex secondary structures  
245 are modeled as single slip surfaces discretized into elements with constant slip. The nature of  
246 fault surface discretization within the model leads to artificially linear and abrupt transitions  
247 from slipping to transitional (1/2 long term slip rate) to locked portions of the fault. These abrupt  
248 transitions may produce a more localized pattern of normal slip microseismicity than observed.  
249 Furthermore, the model does not consider host rock heterogeneities and deformation along  
250 secondary faults (e.g. Anderson et al., 2004) that could act to promote interseismic normal slip  
251 microseismicity over a wider region. For example, deep creep along strands parallel to the  
252 modeled San Jacinto fault would broaden the predicted zone of off-fault normal faulting. Our  
253 analysis does not distinguish between localized creep on a single plane and a narrow zone of  
254 distributed creep, and either of these scenarios may be occurring at depth along the SJf.

255 A rich aftershock catalog from the recent Borrego Springs 2016 earthquake shows  
256 evidence for a distributed zone of on-going deformation along southern San Jacinto fault where it  
257 splits into three sub-parallel strands (Ross et al., 2017). A similar investigation for the northern  
258 San Jacinto fault may yield further insight into the detailed structure of the fault. For example,  
259 such a study might confirm secondary structures that were interpreted from early seismic  
260 catalogs by Nicholson et al. (1986).

261 Deep creep along the northern San Jacinto fault may impact seismic hazard estimates on  
262 this fault. Both the accommodation of slip along the fault and the accommodation of off-fault  
263 deformation within the adjacent crust via microseismicity and aseismic pervasive deformation  
264 mechanisms may reduce the interseismic loading on the deeper portion of the northern SJf,  
265 thereby reducing seismic hazard. We might also expect moderate or large earthquakes to  
266 nucleate at the transition between creeping and locked portions (Harris, 2017). Shallow sections  
267 of the northern SJf may have increased loading due to deep creep and greater potential for large  
268 earthquakes.

269 The correlation between the slip sense of focal mechanisms in the San Bernardino basin  
270 and patterns of off-fault stressing rate from interseismic models with ~10 km locking depth on  
271 the San Jacinto fault suggests that the interseismic microseismicity of the basin records a  
272 component of permanent distributed off-fault deformation in the basin. This result is consistent  
273 with a recent study of normal slip focal mechanisms along the Anza section of the SJf (Cheng et  
274 al., 2018). If the focal mechanisms of the basin were inverted to estimate interseismic stresses on  
275 the SJf and SAf, they would predict normal loading contrary to the long-term slip record of these  
276 faults. Using microseismicity that records this off-fault deformation may produce erroneous  
277 estimates of interseismic fault loading. Within the San Bernardino basin, the errors of focal  
278 mechanism inversions for fault stressing rate are compounded by the under-sampling of strike-  
279 slip earthquakes along the relatively quiet SAf. This study suggests that where faults creep,  
280 spatially non-uniform creep rates may produce heterogeneous off-fault deformation. Geodesy  
281 around the juncture of the creeping section of the San Andreas fault with the locked Carrizo  
282 section show off-fault dilation due to similar spatial gradient in creep rate as proposed here  
283 (Titus et al., 2011). Where faults exhibit creep at any crustal level, caution should be used when  
284 incorporating off-fault focal mechanisms to infer interseismic fault loading.

285

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291 executable code and many insightful discussions. Model results of slip sense sampled at  
292 locations of microseismicity for the interseismic models with various locking depth are available  
293 on figshare (Cooke, 2018).

294



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410

411

412 **Figure Captions**

413 **Figure 1.** a) Focal mechanisms with nodal plane uncertainty 10°-45° from 1981 through  
414 September of 2016 in the relocated catalog of (Yang et al., 2012 and subsequent updates

415 available from SCEC) with surface traces of faults active within the last 15 ka (USGS & CGS,  
 416 2006). Colors show slip sense as rake scaled to the 0-3 slip sense range of  $A\phi$  (Simpson, 1997).  
 417 b). Basement depth inverted from gravity data shows secondary normal faults that flank the San  
 418 Jacinto fault (taken from Anderson et al., 2004). The normal slip focal mechanisms extend  
 419 beyond the interpreted graben. c) Model of 63 active faults in the region used to build the steady  
 420 state and interseismic models of crustal deformation. The lateral edges of the horizontal crack are  
 421 loaded with plate velocities to simulate the regional tectonic loading (taken from Beyer et al., in  
 422 press). d) Slip sense predicted by interseismic crustal deformation model of c at locations of the  
 423 earthquakes recorded in the catalog. Traces of modeled faults shown in black. Insets of a) and d)  
 424 show histograms of slip sense. The normal slip focal mechanisms within the San Bernardino  
 425 basin are not expected from interseismic loading of completely locked San Andreas and San  
 426 Jacinto faults.

427

428 **Figure 2.** a) Focal mechanisms within the region of Figure 1. The average slip sense for a  
 429 moving window of 600 earthquakes shown with black line. Warm colors are normal, cool colors  
 430 are reverse, and green are strike-slip earthquakes b) Magnitude completeness limit for a moving  
 431 window of 600 earthquakes advanced in 100 earthquake increments shown in blue. The stepped  
 432 red line shows the three estimated stages of magnitude completeness during the record. C) The  
 433 4304 focal mechanisms that exceed the three-phased magnitude completeness limit have mean  
 434 slip sense of  $1.2 \pm 0.04$ , indicating limited variation in slip sense during the record. These  
 435 earthquakes range in magnitude from 1 to 4.8 and depths from 1.2-20 km. (d-e) The log of  
 436 frequency demonstrates the completeness of the catalog for each epoch: 1981 through 2001 (d),  
 437 2002 through 2010 (e) and after 2011 (f). The completeness limit (red dashed line) decreases in  
 438 each successive epoch.

439

440 **Figure 3.** a) Map view of reliable focal mechanisms that pass the completeness test, colored by  
 441 slip sense. Normal slip focal mechanisms occur within the San Bernardino basin, between the  
 442 San Andreas and San Jacinto faults. Dashed fault traces are the graben bounding normal faults  
 443 imaged by Anderson (2004) in Fig. 1c. b) Focal mechanisms of the San Bernardino basin (grey  
 444 region of a) projected into the A-A' profile perpendicular to the San Jacinto fault. Slip sense  
 445 color same as in a). The normal slip focal mechanisms within the San Bernardino basin occur  
 446 predominantly below 7.5 km depth.

447

448 **Figure 4.** Green arrows show the velocities from the steady state model that simulates many  
 449 earthquake cycles. The divergence of this velocity field reveals regions of overall contraction  
 450 (negative dilation blue) and extension (positive dilation red) due to slip distribution along the  
 451 faults. Inset cartoon shows the set-up of the steady-state model.

452

453 **Figure 5:** a) Slip sense at locations of microseismicity from the interseismic model with locking  
 454 depth of 10 km on the San Jacinto fault to simulate deep creep. The locking depth on all other  
 455 faults is 20 km. Color indicates slip sense with random  $-45^\circ$  to  $45^\circ$  noise added to the model  
 456 results (distribution in top inset). Inset cartoon shows the set-up of the interseismic model.  
 457 Normal loading occurs at focal mechanism sites within the San Bernardino basin. GPS stations  
 458 shown with labeled triangles. b) Mean interseismic loading within light grey region of A shown  
 459 with  $1\sigma$  vertical bars. Models with SJf locking depth  $< 12.5$  km better match the mean slip sense  
 460 of focal mechanisms in the San Bernardino Basin. c) Transect along A-A' (shown in A) of GPS

461 station velocity parallel to the San Jacinto fault (J.W. Herbert et al., 2014), and velocity  
462 predictions from the interseismic model with a shallow locking depth on the SJf (pink star, same  
463 as results shown in A) and interseismic model with a 20 km locking depth on all faults (blue  
464 circle). The surface velocities cannot resolve deep slip on the SJf because of its proximity to the  
465 SAf.

figure 1.

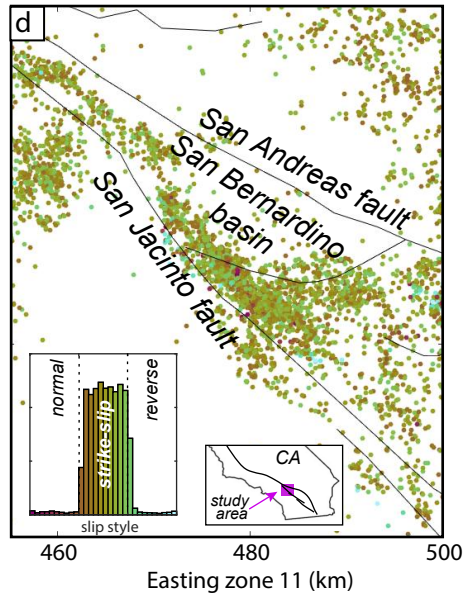
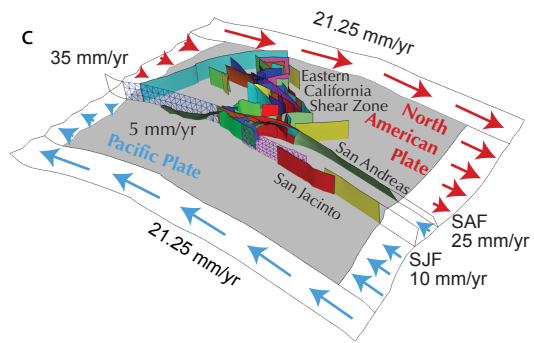
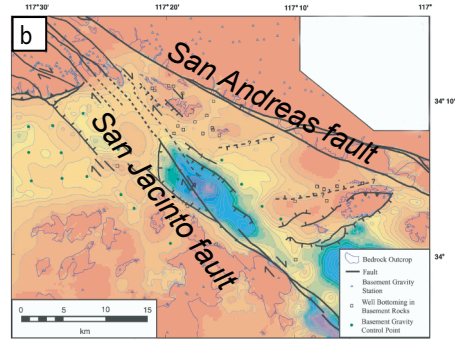
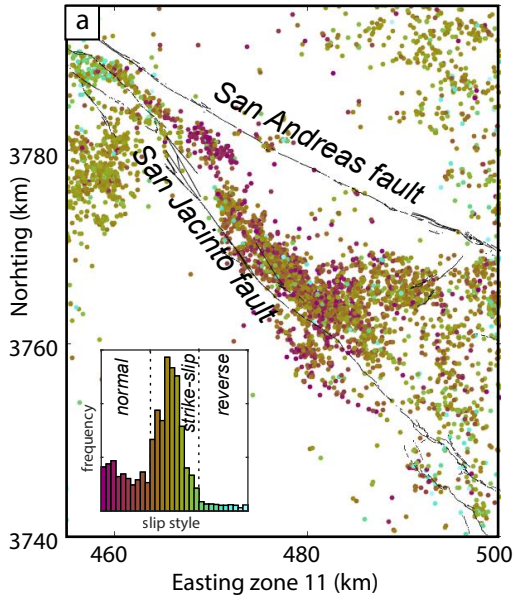


figure 2.



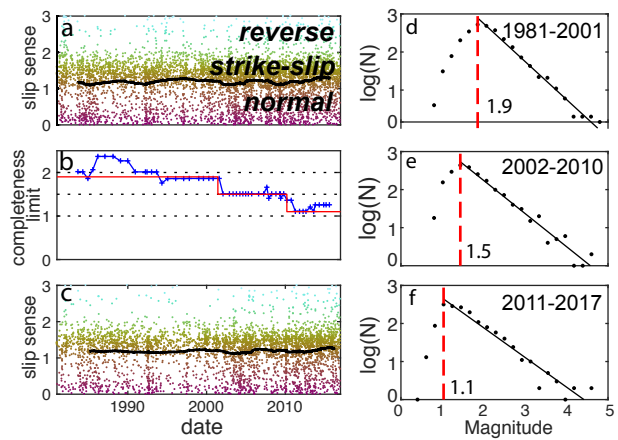


figure 3.

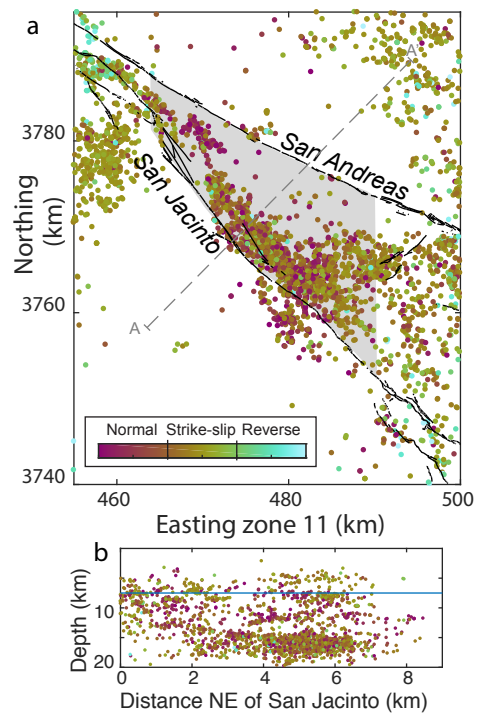


figure 4.

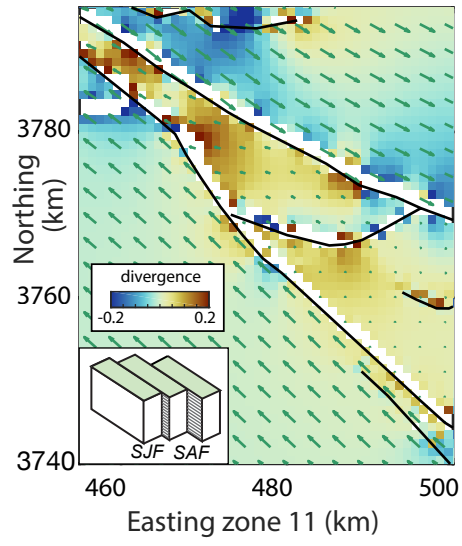


figure 5.

