

BAY AREA CHAPTER
**Northern California Association
To Preserve Bodega Head and Harbor**
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Executive Secretary

November 5, 1964

Mr. Harold L. Price, Director
Division of Licensing and Regulation
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Price:

When the Pacific Gas and Electric Company announced that it had abandoned plans for a nuclear power plant on Bodega Head, it was clear that the company's management had been surprised by the findings of the Division of Reactor Licensing. In that one respect our organization's reaction was identical to PG&E's.

On reflection the finest surprise was that the staff's findings were essentially philosophical in content. And for this reason the October 26, 1964, Summary Analysis by the Division of Reactor Licensing in Docket 50-205 should be enshrined in the archives of the atomic age as a testament to human control of this potentially mindless technical marvel. The staff observed, for example, that the matter of the company's proposed a-seismic design was one "on which reasonable men may differ." And the accompanying discussion of the meaning of "reasonable assurance" confirmed that these were reasonable men. Dr. J. B. Neillands at the University of California--long an opponent of the Bodega installation and a frequently bitter critic of the AEC--observed after the analysis was released last week: "We can never be cynical again." This may be an overstatement; but there is no doubt that great courage was required to disagree with the ACRS and the sanguine tenor of certain references to Bodega in the Commission's 1962 report on "Civilian Nuclear Power."

We should like to offer our apologies for any harsh words in the past, our appreciation for a brilliant definition of the dilemma of nuclear power, and our gratitude for the staff's careful and sober assessment of the merits of the Bodega site. The entire performance was in the best tradition of the public trust. I hope that our feelings can be conveyed to each member of the staff who participated in the analysis.

Sincerely,

David E. Pesonen

David E. Pesonen
Executive Secretary

Rec'd OFF. DIR.
Date 11-9-64
Time 2:45
Beth.

Purpose: To work for preservation of the scenic and historic headlands of Bodega Bay and to insure the ecological integrity of the surrounding marine environment.

A California Non-profit Corporation

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TO (Name and unit) Joe Fouchard, DPI, HQ Harold Price, REG, HQ	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS <i>[Signature]</i> Attached is clip from Los Angeles Times, 11/1/64 "Scientists Plan Study of San Andreas Fault"		
TO (Name and unit) <i>[Signature]</i> Robert Lowe Stein, REG, HQ Richard L. Doan, REG, HQ	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS		
TO (Name and unit) R. W. Smith, Compl. V., SAN	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS		
FROM (Name and unit) Rodney L. Southwick Asst. to the Mgr. for Public Information SAN	REMARKS			
PHONE NO.	DATE 11/4/64			

USE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS

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Los Angeles Times
11/1/64



EARTHQUAKE FAULTS—Map shows the San Andreas and other earthquake faults of California and the dates of principal temblors of the last 107 years.
Times map

Scientists Plan Study of San Andreas Fault

Caltech Group Will Use It as 'Window' to
Lock Deep Inside Earth, Gauge Hazards

BY GEORGE GETZE
Times Staff Writer

The San Andreas Fault—in relation to that part of California east of the fault, "potentially the most dangerous geologic structure in North America"—will be used as a "window" to look deep into the inside of the earth.

Obviously, something's got to give, and it does so every once in a while. The last major movement on the fault was in 1906.

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A team of Caltech geologists, seismologists and geophysicists will use several different kinds of special instruments for the 2-year study sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Some of the information obtained, it is hoped, will be useful in predicting earthquakes. Scientists know the general location of future earthquakes, but they cannot tell when they will occur.

Understanding Needed

"We need to understand the San Andreas Fault, which slices along 75% of the length of California," said Robert Sharp, chairman of the Caltech division of geological sciences.

"Many quakes have occurred along this fault, and we need to understand its nature, mechanics and even its past history better than we do now," he said.

Sharp said the fault can be considered a window in the earth's crust.

"It's true that it is a dirty and cracked window, but with skill and patience we'll be able to see more deeply and clearly into the earth than ever before."

650 Miles Long

The fault itself is more than 650 miles long, reaching from the coast in Mendocino County to the Gulf of California in Imperial County. The fault passes about 30 miles east of Los Angeles, just on the other side of the San Gabriel mountains.

Its fracture zone is 6 miles wide in some places, and is nowhere less than a mile wide. The exact depth of the fracture is not known, but it probably is about 30 miles.

According to Caltech geologists, that part of California west of the fault—that is, all the coastal counties as far north as San Francisco County—is continuously moving north at a speed of about 2 inches a year, or more than 16 ft. in a century.

Like the big quakes, most such movements are sudden and jerky. But at Hollister, in San Benito County south of San Jose, creeping has been detected by instruments.

The creeping has occurred directly along the fault, the land on one side moving almost continuously in a direction opposite to that on the other side. One of the purposes of the new study is to find out if creeping is going on at any other place on the great fault.

Stewart Smith, associate professor of geophysics, will set up a bank of a dozen stations to measure the strain along the fault. The stations will probably be installed in the Lake Hughes area, 45 mi. north of Los Angeles, where the fracture zone is from 2 to 4 mi. across.

Smith's first station probably will be completed by the end of the year.

Measurements Goal

Barclay Kamb, professor of geology, will try to measure the distortion of the ground by using a triangle of mirrors anchored in the rock about half a mile apart. The mirrors will reflect light into an "interferometer," and any movement of a mirror in relation to others will be recorded.

It is hoped thus to measure distortion and strain patterns for 10 mi. on each side of the fault, possibly in the Wrightwood, Hughes Lake, Anza and Hollister districts.

G. J. Wasserburg, professor of geology; Robert Kovach, assistant professor of planetary science, and Leon Knopoff, professor of geophysics at UCLA, will investigate the possibility that earthquakes release heat from the earth's interior.

D. L. Anderson, associate professor of geophysics, will measure changes in the elasticity of rocks, and this information could be useful in anticipating earthquakes.

Other scientists taking part in the two-year study of the famous fault are Clarence Allen, professor of geology, and Frank Press, professor of geophysics and director of the Caltech seismological lab.