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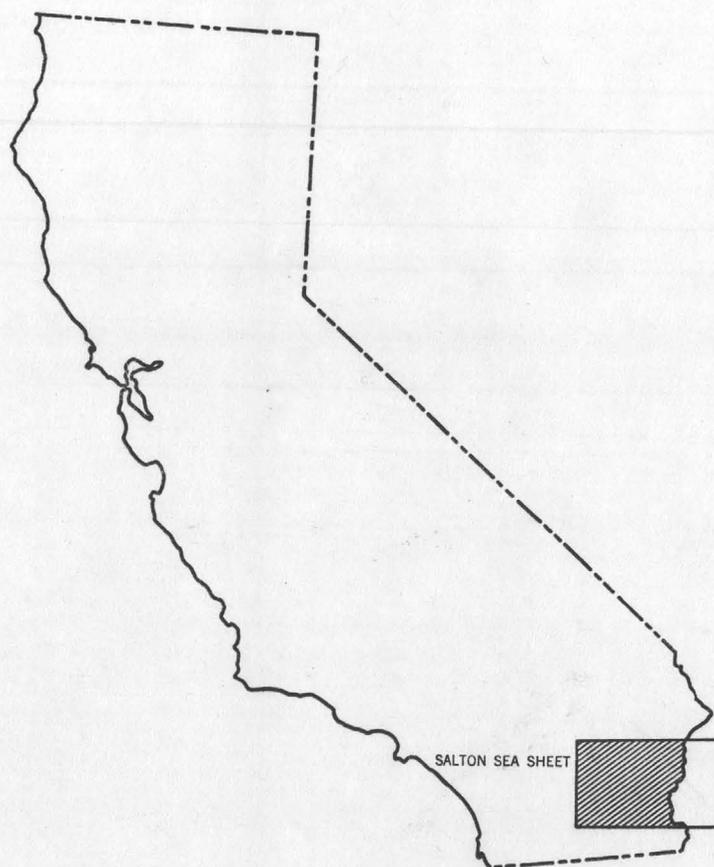
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GEOLOGIC MAP OF CALIFORNIA
SALTON SEA SHEET

Scale 1:250,000
1967

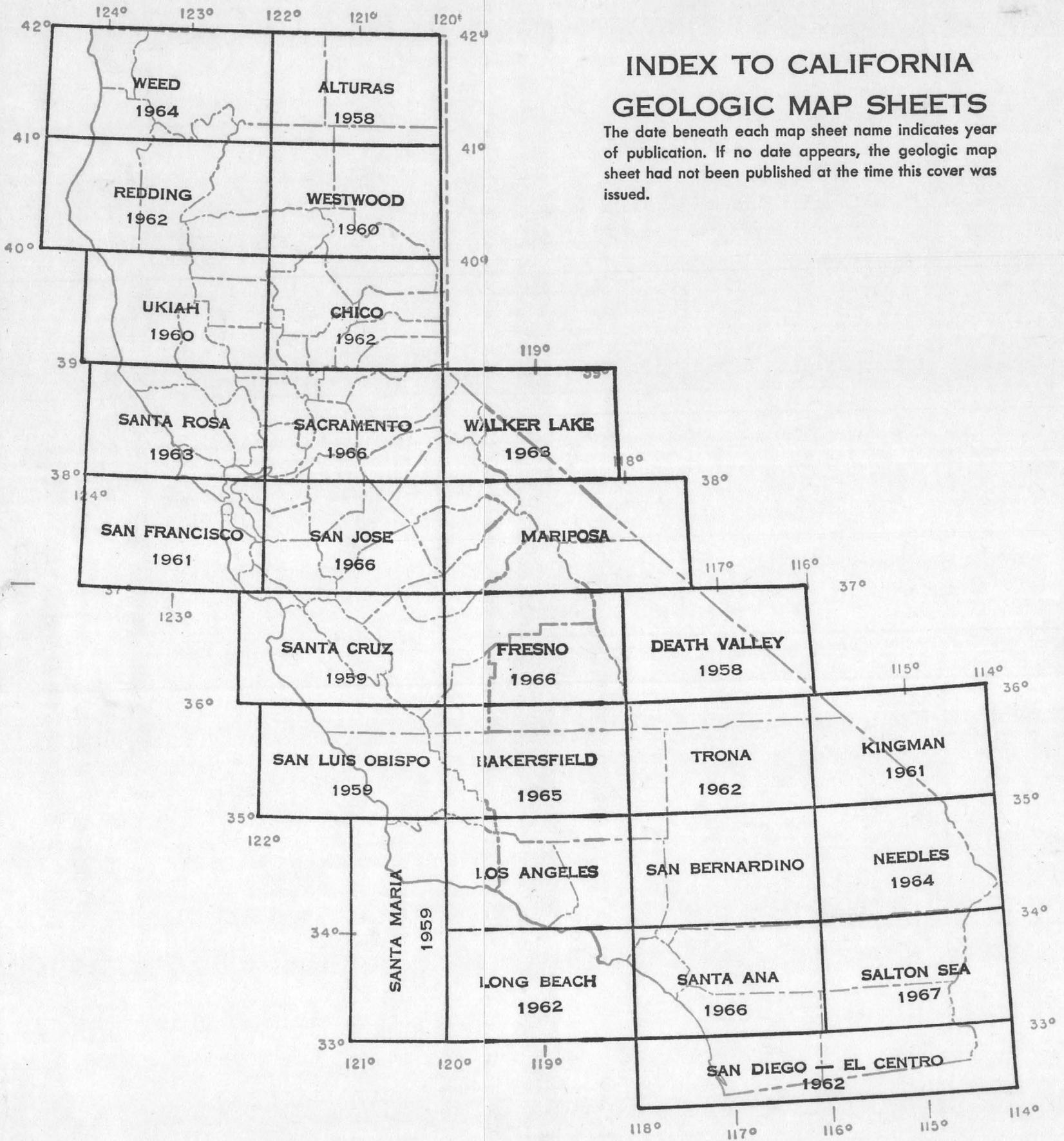


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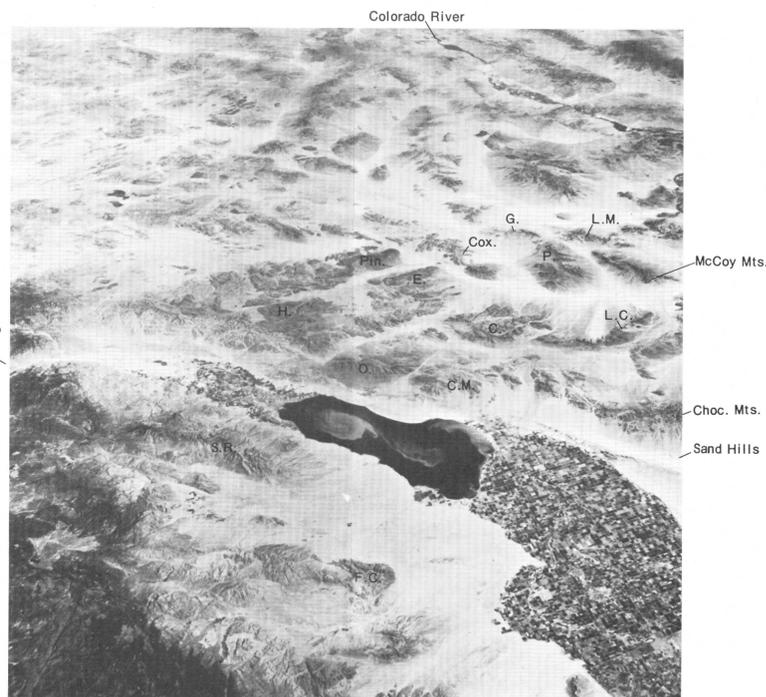
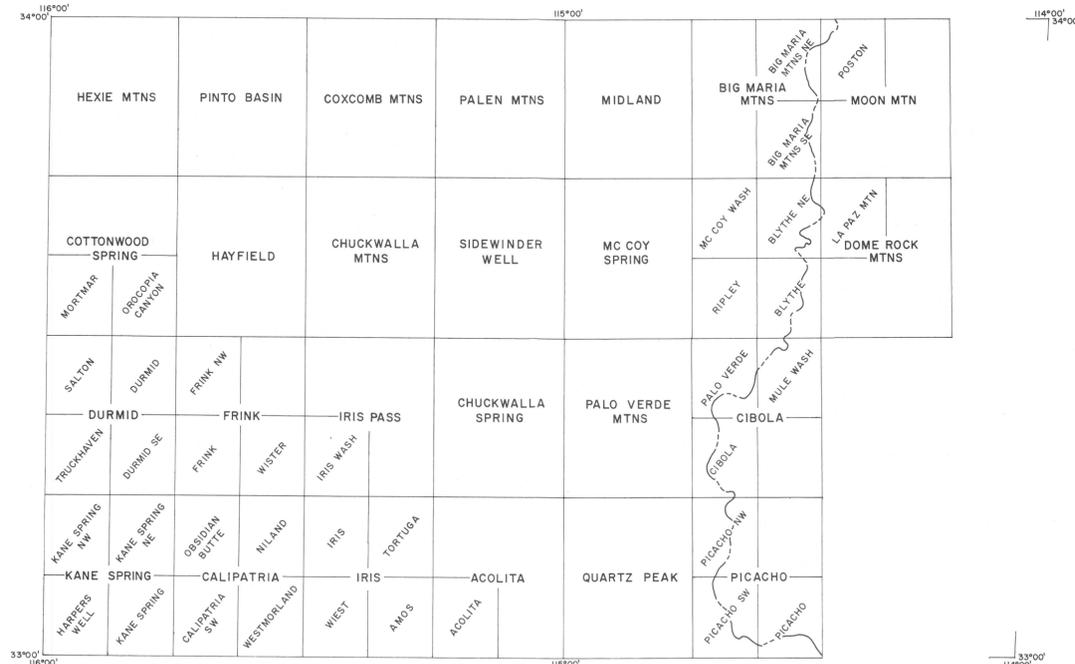
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INDEX TO CALIFORNIA GEOLOGIC MAP SHEETS

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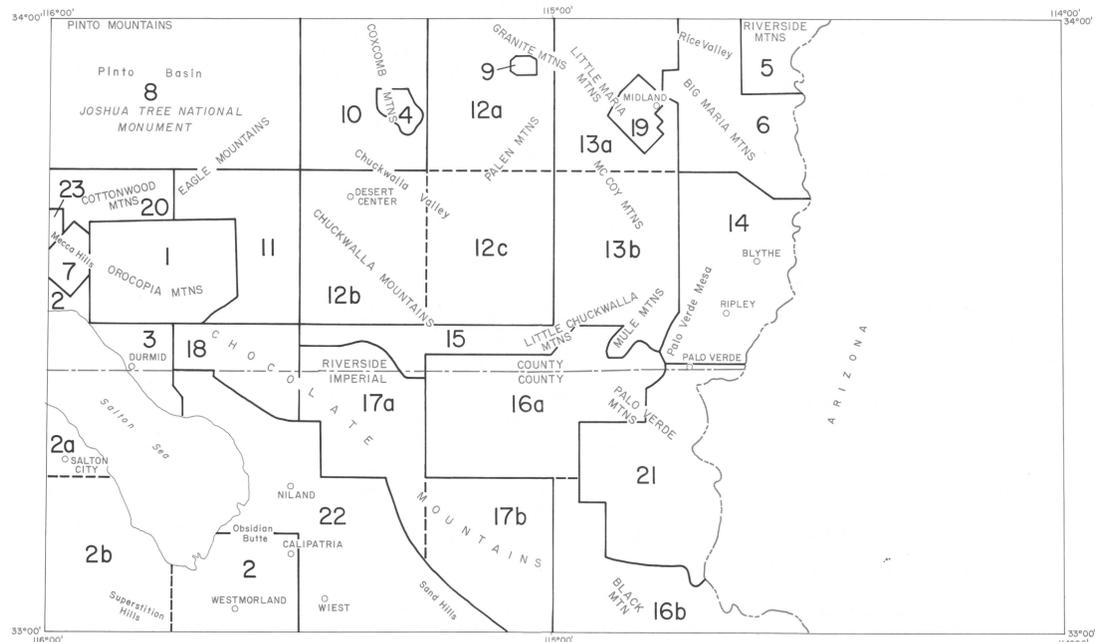
TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES
WITHIN THE SALTON SEA SHEET
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1967



View of Salton Sea area from Gemini 5, 100 miles high. Salton Sea, 35 miles long, lies in the Salton trough, bounded by the cultivated fields of Imperial Valley to the south (right) and the Coachella Valley to the northwest (left). L.M. = Little Maria Mountains, P = Palen Mountains, G = Granite Mountains, Cox = Coxcomb Mountains, Pin = Pinto Mountains, E = Eagle Mountains, H = Hexie Mountains, C = Chuckwalla Mountains, L.C. = Little Chuckwalla Mountains, C.M. = Chocolate Mountains, O = Orocoopia Mountains, S.R. = Santa Rosa Mountains, F.C. = Fish Creek Mountains. Photo by NASA, 1965.

EXPLANATORY DATA
SALTON SEA SHEET
GEOLOGIC MAP OF CALIFORNIA
OLAF P. JENKINS EDITION
Compiled by Charles W. Jennings, 1967

INDEX TO GEOLOGIC MAPPING
USED IN THE COMPILATION OF THE
SALTON SEA SHEET



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For a complete list of published geologic maps of this area see Division of Mines and Geology Special Reports 52 and 52-A.

STRATIGRAPHIC NOMENCLATURE— SALTON SEA SHEET

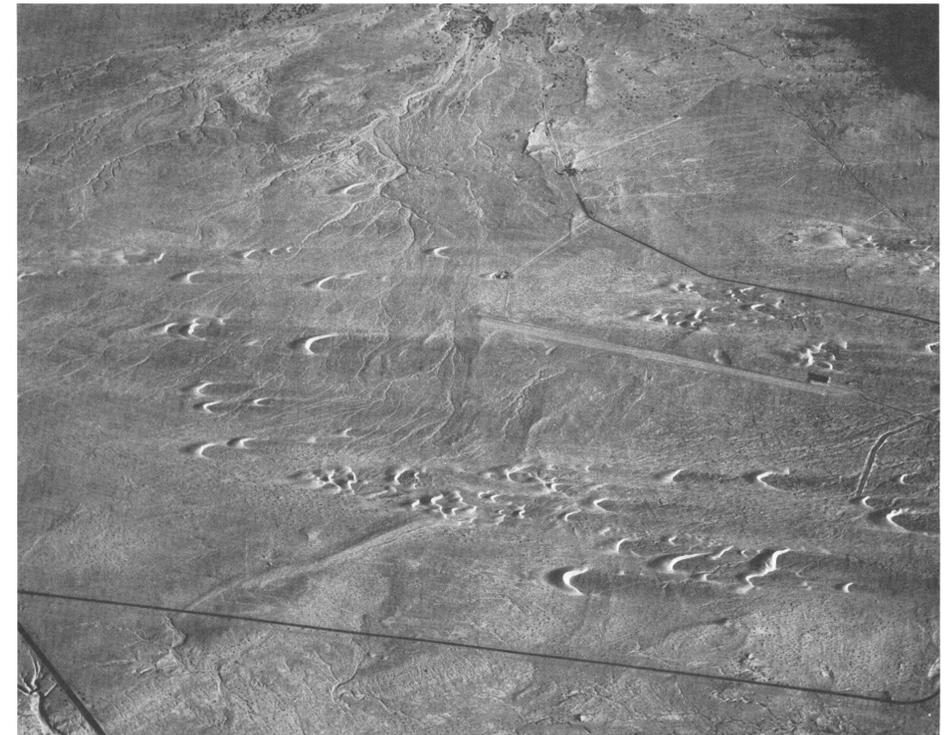
AGE	STATE MAP SYMBOL	STATE MAP UNIT <small>State Map Units listed here are not necessarily in stratigraphic sequence; the sequence used has been standardized for all sheets of the Geologic Map of California</small>	STRATIGRAPHIC UNITS AND CHARACTERISTIC LITHOLOGIES <small>Formally named formations grouped in sequence (separated by semicolons) are listed from youngest to oldest.</small>	
QUATERNARY	Recent	Qs	RECENT DUNE SAND Wind-blown sand, mostly in the form of dunes.	
		Qal	RECENT ALLUVIUM Alluvial sand, silt, clay, and gravel, including locally some older alluvium. Recent floodplain silt, sand, and clay of the Colorado River.	
		Qrv ^r	RECENT VOLCANIC ROCKS: RHYOLITIC Quaternary obsidian, rhyolite, and pumice composing the volcanic domes on the southeast shore of Salton Sea; locally obsidian flows interbedded with Quaternary lake beds; age less than 10,000 years according to Kistler and Obradovich. ¹	
	Pleistocene	Ql	QUATERNARY LAKE DEPOSITS Playa deposits. Lake Coahuila (Cahuilla) Deposits— <i>claystone, sand, and beach gravel deposited in former extensive lake in Salton trough (locally undifferentiated from Qal); contains abundant nonmarine fossils.</i> Older lake beds and alluvial deposits above high shoreline of Lake Coahuila. Pinto Formation of Scharf— <i>coarse boulder conglomerate and lacustrine clay underlying basalt flows in the Eagle and Pinto Mountains (contains vertebrate fossils of probable Pleistocene age).</i>	
		Qc	PLEISTOCENE NONMARINE SEDIMENTARY DEPOSITS Qc ¹ : older alluvium and fanglomerate, mostly dissected or with well-developed desert pavement and desert varnish. Brawley Formation— <i>red-gray clay, siltstone, sandstone, and pebble gravel of partly lacustrine and partly terrestrial origin (shown as Ql where intimately associated with Lake Coahuila Deposits).</i> Silt, sand and clay beds of Pleistocene age exposed in terrace west of Blythe. Qc ² : older folded or uplifted fan deposits, extensively dissected. Ocotillo Conglomerate— <i>gray boulder conglomerate, grading basinward into pink sand and clay.</i>	
		Qpv ^r	PLEISTOCENE VOLCANIC ROCKS: RHYOLITIC Quaternary (?) rhyolite plugs in Salton Wash.	
		Qpv ^b	BASALTIC Highly vesicular olivine basalt flows in the Eagle, Cottonwood, and Pinto Mountains.	
		QP	PLIOCENE-PLEISTOCENE NONMARINE SEDIMENTARY DEPOSITS Conglomerate, schist breccia, arkose, and siltstone in the Mecca Hills area, containing vertebrate fossils of Pliocene or Pleistocene age (correlated by some geologists with the Palm Springs Formation). High alluvial fans with surface clasts much disintegrated (Big Maria Mtns. area). Moderately deformed fanglomerate in the northern Chocolate Mountains consisting of unsorted, poorly consolidated, pale gray-yellow sediments containing mostly angular volcanic clasts.	
		Pc	UNDIVIDED PLIOCENE NONMARINE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS Palm Spring Formation (Pc ¹)— <i>pink-gray laminated sandstones and red clay containing Pliocene and/or Pleistocene vertebrate fossils (west side Salton Sea).</i> Mecca Formation (Pc ²)— <i>grayish-red to yellowish-brown basal conglomerate overlain by yellowish-gray arkose and arkosic conglomerate with Pliocene or Pleistocene vertebrate fossils.</i>	
		Pu	UPPER PLIOCENE MARINE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS Travertine containing brackish water fossils of Pliocene or Pleistocene age (Big Maria Mtns. area). ² Estuarine deposits consisting of interbedded siltstone, fine-grained sandstone, marl, and calcarenite (Palo Verde Mtns. area). ²	
Mc	MIOCENE NONMARINE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS Fanglomerate (Miocene?) composed chiefly of cemented gravel, gray where pebbles are from granitic and metamorphic basement rocks, brown or reddish brown where from Tertiary volcanic rocks (southern Chocolate Mtns. and Palo Verde Mtns.).			
CENOZOIC	Pliocene	Qc	OLIGOCENE NONMARINE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS Unnamed nonmarine conglomerate, sandstone, breccia, mudstone and evaporite rocks of probable Oligocene or possible early Miocene age (Orocopia Mtns.).	
		Miocene	Pu	UPPER PLIOCENE MARINE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS
			Mc	MIOCENE NONMARINE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS
	Eocene	Qc	OLIGOCENE NONMARINE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS	
		E	EOCENE MARINE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS Maniobra Formation— <i>marine siltstone, sandstone, conglomerate, and breccia with some sandy limestone; lower and middle Eocene (Orocopia Mtns.).</i>	
	TERTIARY	Undivided	Tv	TERTIARY VOLCANIC ROCKS: UNDIFFERENTIATED Undivided volcanic rocks of various compositions. Age of some uncertain; may be Quaternary in places.
			Tv ^r	RHYOLITIC Rhyolite porphyry dikes in the Eagle Mountains Metropolitan Water District aqueduct tunnel route. Rhyolitic rocks (Chocolate Mtns. and Palo Verde Mtns.). Dacite flows (Riverside Mtns.).
			Tv ^a	ANDESITIC Andesite flows (So. Chocolate Mtns.).
			Tv ^b	BASALTIC Basalt flows of uncertain age in the northern Chocolate Mtns. and Palo Verde Mtns. Vesicular basalt flows forming flat-top ridges in the southern Chocolate Mountains (Oligocene? according to F. H. Olmsted, personal communication 11/30/66).
			Tv ^p	PYROCLASTIC Pyroclastic rocks, largely tuff, welded tuff, tuff breccia, agglomerate, and minor interbedded flows (Chocolate Mtns., Palo Verde Mtns.).
Differentiated			Ti	TERTIARY INTRUSIVE (HYPABYSSAL) ROCKS: UNDIFFERENTIATED Tertiary hypabyssal rocks largely acidic in composition (Chocolate Mtns.). Dike rocks in the Eagle Mtns. Dioritic rocks (hypabyssal?) in the Frink quadrangle (northwestern part of Chocolate Mtns.) with a great number of related diabasic dikes and numerous later (Tertiary?) deuterically altered dikes or flows.
		Ti ^r	RHYOLITIC Rhyolitic dikes and other intrusive rocks.	
		Ti ^a	ANDESITIC Volcanic plugs and intrusive masses, dominantly andesite.	
		Tl	TERTIARY LAKE DEPOSITS Borrego Formation (Tl-Ql?)— <i>lacustrine tan-gray shales and buff to gray sandstones, containing lenses of sodium sulfate near Bertram (N.E. side of Salton Sea); contains undiagenetic fossils of presumably Pliocene or Pleistocene age (considered by T. W. Dibblee, Jr., 1954 to be the lacustrine equivalent of the Palm Spring Formation and also locally to overlie the Palm Spring Formation).</i> Tertiary lacustrine sedimentary rocks, mostly well-bedded, white to gray, flaggy tufts and thin beds of gray to brown limestone (southern Chocolate Mtns.).	
Tc		TERTIARY NONMARINE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS Tertiary (?) well-indurated red fanglomerate of predominantly volcanic fragments with lesser amounts of schist and gneiss fragments, mineralized with manganese ore deposits along fault fissures and fractures (Paymaster Mining District, easternmost Imperial County). Megaconglomerate containing 10-foot blocks; monolithologic breccia consisting of clasts of marble, metadolomite, metachert or quartzite in solid matrix of their own composition pink, maroon, gray-green, and yellow-brown clay and siltstone, and brick red sandstone and conglomerate (Riverside Mountains).		
MESOZOIC	Mesozoic	gr	MESOZOIC GRANITIC ROCKS: UNDIFFERENTIATED Granitic rocks of several types and ages, mostly Mesozoic but may include pre-Mesozoic; includes granite, quartz monzonite, alkali, syenite porphyry, diorite, granodiorite, gr? = granitic porphyry of uncertain age at the north end of the McCoy Mountains containing manganese ore in brecciated zones.	
		gr ^a	ADAMELLITE (QUARTZ MONZONITE) Quartz monzonite of the Pinto Mtns., Hesse Mtns., and Eagle Mtns. Leucogranite, alkali and aplite in the Little Maria Mtns.	
		gr ^b	GRANODIORITE Coxcomb Granodiorite— <i>granodiorite of the Coxcomb, Hesse, and Eagle Mtns.</i>	
		gr ^t	TONALITE (QUARTZ DIORITE) Metadiorite in the Little Maria Mtns. (may be Precambrian). Dioritic rocks in the southern Eagle Mtns.	
	bi	MESOZOIC BASIC INTRUSIVE ROCKS Gold Park Gabbro-Diorite— <i>hornblende diorite porphyry in the Pinto Mountains (may be Precambrian).</i> Hornblende gabbro, gabbro-diorite, and related basic intrusive rocks.		
gr-m	PRE-CENOZOIC GRANITIC AND METAMORPHIC ROCKS Mixed rocks consisting mostly of Mesozoic (?) granitic rocks which have intruded older (Precambrian?) gneisses and schists.			

STRATIGRAPHIC NOMENCLATURE— Continued

AGE	STATE MAP SYMBOL	STATE MAP UNIT <small>State Map Units listed here are not necessarily in stratigraphic sequence; the sequence used has been standardized for all sheets of the Geologic Map of California</small>	STRATIGRAPHIC UNITS AND CHARACTERISTIC LITHOLOGIES <small>Formally named formations grouped in sequence (separated by semicolons) are listed from youngest to oldest.</small>
PALEOZOIC	Mesozoic	m	PRE-CRETACEOUS METAMORPHIC ROCKS, UNDIFFERENTIATED McCoy Mountain Formation (undifferentiated)— <i>predominantly metasedimentary rocks (slate, schist, phyllite, metaconglomerate), with lesser amounts of metavolcanic rocks (metatuff and other metapsyllite rocks); subdivided into ms and mv in most areas. Metasandstone, metaconglomerate, phyllite, meta-andesite and other volcanic rocks of basic composition in the Chocolate Mtns. (tentatively correlated with McCoy Mountain Formation). Albite-quartz-biotite schist in the Palen Pass area. Metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks undivided, in the Big Maria Mtns. (age uncertain, although younger than Middle Permian).</i>
		ls	LIMESTONE AND/OR DOLOMITE Dolomite and marble in the Eagle Mtns., locally replaced by iron ore (hematite and magnetite) and in part metamorphosed to rock containing actinolite, tremolite, garnet, serpentine, diopside, and muscovite.
		ms	PRE-CRETACEOUS METASEDIMENTARY ROCKS McCoy Mountains Formation (metasedimentary rocks)— <i>predominantly metaandstone, phyllite, metaconglomerate, quartzite, argillite with minor amounts of metavolcanic rocks (areas predominantly metavolcanic shown as mv), age uncertain (possibly Paleozoic or Triassic). Orocopia Schist—<i>albite-chlorite-sericite schist (age uncertain, considered to be Mesozoic by some geologists, Precambrian by others).</i> Low grade Upper Permian (?) and Mesozoic metasedimentary rocks in the Riverside Mountains consisting of sandstone and slate, phyllite, white calcareous schist, calcareous metaandstone, metaconglomerate, and some calcite and dolomite marble. Quartzite, hornfels, schist, metaconglomerate, marble and dolomite in the Eagle and Pinto Mountains.</i>
	Paleozoic	mv	PRE-CRETACEOUS METAVOLCANIC ROCKS McCoy Mountains Formation (metavolcanic rocks)— <i>greenish gray-brownish gray, well bedded, fine-grained metatuff (southern parts of the Coxcomb, Palen, and McCoy Mountains. Piemontite metatuff in the central Palen Mountains. Metatuff, greenstone, and greenschist in the Riverside Mountains.</i>
		lp	PALEOZOIC MARINE SEDIMENTARY AND METASEDIMENTARY ROCKS, LIMESTONE AND/OR DOLOMITE Maria Formation— <i>quartzite, schist, wollastonite hornfels, and metaandstone with thick beds of gypsum and anhydrite (Palen Pass area and Little Maria Mountains).</i> Marine metasedimentary rocks including calcite and dolomite marble, quartzite, calc-silicate rocks, and schist (Big Maria Mtns.). ² Marble, siliceous marble, and dolomitic marble (Palen Pass area and Little Maria Mtns.). ³
	Precambrian	p-cg	UNDIVIDED PRECAMBRIAN METAMORPHIC ROCKS: GNEISS Pinto Gneiss— <i>quartz biotite gneiss and some quartzite.</i> Predominantly gneissic parts of the Chuckwalla Complex (shown elsewhere as p-c). Gneiss, augen gneiss, granitic gneiss, some amphibolite, migmatite, hornblende and quartzite. Precambrian age of these rocks is uncertain and is based largely on lithologic comparison with similar rocks in the Marble Mountains to the north which underlie fossiliferous Cambrian strata, and one radiometric age date of 2,400 million years from a migmatite gneiss in the Orocopia Mountains. ⁴
		p-c	UNDIFFERENTIATED White and gray quartzite with minor schist underlying the Pinto Gneiss in the southern Eagle Mountains.
		p-cgr	UNDIVIDED PRECAMBRIAN GRANITIC ROCKS Gabbro, diorite, anorthosite, syenite and related rocks (Orocopia Mtns.). Metagranite and granite gneiss (Big Maria and Riverside Mtns.). Elsewhere foliated granitic rocks, some gneissic. Precambrian age of some of these rocks is uncertain.
		p-c	PRECAMBRIAN IGNEOUS AND METAMORPHIC ROCK COMPLEX Chuckwalla Complex— <i>undivided gneiss and schist with intrusive metaigneous rocks.</i> Gneiss complex in the Riverside and Big Maria Mountains. The Precambrian age of some of these rocks is uncertain.

NOTES

- ¹ Oral communication, 1964, cited in B. R. Doe, C. E. Hedge, and D. E. White, 1966, Preliminary investigation of the source of lead and strontium in deep geothermal brines underlying the Salton Sea geothermal area: Econ. Geol., v. 61, pp. 462-483.
- ² Mecca Formation as defined and mapped by W. H. Hays (1917, unpublished) in the Mecca Hills area. This differs from the Mecca Formation as defined and mapped by T. W. Dibblee, Jr., 1954.
- ³ Hamilton, Warren, 1960, Pliocene(?) sediments of salt water origin near Blythe, southeastern California: U. S. Geol. Survey Prof. Paper 400-B, p. B276-277 and written communication from Patsy Smith, U.S.G.S. 12/12/66.
- ⁴ The Orocopia Schist was considered to be probably Precambrian by W. J. Miller, 1944, Geology of the Palm Springs-Blythe strip, Riverside County, California: California Jour. Mines and Geol., v. 40, no. 1, p. 21, and subsequently by T. W. Dibblee, Jr., 1954, and others. Recently J. C. Crowell and John W. R. Walker, 1962, (map 1) indicated a Mesozoic age for these rocks.
- ⁵ The age of these rocks was considered to be Paleozoic by Miller (1944, p. 28) based on the tentative identification of crinoid remains. Hamilton (personal communication, 1966), has correlated these rocks lithologically with Permian and older rocks in the Plomosa Mountains, Arizona, 35 miles east of the Big Maria Mountains.
- ⁶ Bushee, Jonathan, and others, 1963, Lead-alpha dates for some basement rocks of southwestern California: Geol. Soc. America Bull., v. 74, no. 6, pp. 803-806.



Crescent dunes or barchans near the southwest shore of Salton Sea. View toward the north with the edge of Salton Sea in the upper right hand corner of photograph. The horns of these graceful barchan dunes point eastward in the direction of the wind (left to right), while the upwind surface presents a streamlined form to the wind. The dunes are migrating gradually toward Salton Sea. Photo by R. C. Frampton, 1956.

