SEISMIC HAZARD ZONE REPORT 087

SEISMIC HAZARD ZONE REPORT FOR THE HI VISTA 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLE, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

2003

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California Geological Survey

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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY v

INTRODUCTION 1

SECTION 1 LIQUEFACTION EVALUATION REPORT 3

SECTION 2 EARTHQUAKE-INDUCED LANDSLIDE EVALUATION REPORT Earthquake-Induced Landslide Zones in the Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California 5

PURPOSE 5

Background 6

METHODS SUMMARY 6

Scope and Limitations 7

PART I 8

PHYSIOGRAPHY 8

GEOLOGY 8

ENGINEERING GEOLOGY 9

PART II 11

EARTHQUAKE-INDUCED LANDSLIDE hazard potential 11

EARTHQUAKE-INDUCED LANDSLIDE Hazard ZONE 14

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 15

REFERENCES 15

AIR PHOTOS 17

APPENDIX A Source of Rock Strength Data 17

SECTION 3 GROUND SHAKING EVALUATION REPORT Potential Ground Shaking in the Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California 19

PURPOSE 19

EARTHQUAKE HAZARD MODEL 20

APPLICATIONS FOR LIQUEFACTION AND LANDSLIDE HAZARD ASSESSMENTS24

USE AND LIMITATIONS.....27

REFERENCES 28

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 2.1. Yield Acceleration vs. Newmark Displacement for the 1992 Landers Earthquake SCE Lucerne Record.....12

Figure 3.1. Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle and portions of adjacent quadrangles, 10 percent exceedance in 50 years peak ground acceleration (g)—Firm rock conditions. 21

Figure 3.2. Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle and portions of adjacent quadrangles, 10 percent exceedance in 50 years peak ground acceleration (g)—Soft rock conditions. 22

Figure 3.3. Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle and portions of adjacent quadrangles, 10 percent exceedance in 50 years peak ground acceleration (g)—Alluvium conditions.....23

Figure 3.4. Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle and portions of adjacent quadrangles, 10 percent exceedance in 50 years peak ground acceleration—Predominant earthquake. 25

Figure 3.5. Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle and portions of adjacent quadrangles, 10 percent exceedance in 50 years magnitude-weighted pseudo-peak acceleration for alluvium - Liquefaction opportunity 26

Table 2.1. Summary of the Shear Strength Statistics for the Hi Vista Quadrangle. 10

Table 2.2. Summary of Shear Strength Groups for the Hi Vista Quadrangle.....10

Table 2.3. Hazard Potential Matrix for Earthquake-Induced Landslides in the Hi Vista Quadrangle.. 14

Plate 2.1. Shear test sample locations, Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, California... 30

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the methods and sources of information used to prepare the Seismic Hazard Zone Map for the Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California. The map displays the boundaries of zones of required investigation for earthquake-induced landslides over an area of approximately 62 square miles at a scale of 1 inch = 2,000 feet.

The Hi Vista Quadrangle is in the Antelope Valley in northeastern Los Angeles County. The center of the area is about 18 miles east of Lancaster and 50 miles northeast of the Los Angeles Civic Center. The area is characterized by typical high desert scrubland and grassland interrupted by several buttes, which are surrounded by aprons of sandy alluvium. One of the channels of intermittent Big Rock Wash cuts across the southwestern corner of the map area. Part or all of the rural communities of Lake Los Angeles, Wilsona Gardens, and Hi Vista occur within the quadrangle, which consists entirely of unincorporated Los Angeles County land. Saddleback Butte State Park is in the center of the area and the Antelope Valley State Indian Museum at Piute Butte is in the southwestern quarter. The highest elevation in the quadrangle is Saddleback Butte at 3,651 feet. The lowest point, about 2,450 feet, is on the western boundary. Access to the region is via a grid of county roads consisting of numbered north-south streets and lettered east-west avenues.

The map is prepared by employing geographic information system (GIS) technology, which allows the manipulation of three-dimensional data. Information considered includes topography, surface and subsurface geology, borehole data, historical ground-water levels, existing landslide features, slope gradient, rock-strength measurements, geologic structure, and probabilistic earthquake shaking estimates. The shaking inputs are based upon probabilistic seismic hazard maps that depict peak ground acceleration, mode magnitude, and mode distance with a 10 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years.

There are no liquefaction zones in the Hi Vista Quadrangle. Steep slopes in crystalline bedrock occur only within the buttes in this mostly alluviated quadrangle. The earthquake-induced landslide zone covers less than one percent of the quadrangle.

How to view or obtain the map

Seismic Hazard Zone Maps, Seismic Hazard Zone Reports and additional information on seismic hazard zone mapping in California are available on the California Geological Survey's Internet page: http://www.conservation.ca.gov/CGS/index.htm

Paper copies of Official Seismic Hazard Zone Maps, released by CGS, which depict zones of required investigation for earthquake-induced landslides, are available for purchase from:

BPS Reprographic Services
945 Bryant Street
San Francisco, California 94105
(415) 512-6550

Seismic Hazard Zone Reports (SHZR) summarize the development of the hazard zone map for each area and contain background documentation for use by site investigators and local government reviewers. These reports are available for reference at CGS offices in Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. **NOTE: The reports are not available through BPS Reprographic Services.**

INTRODUCTION

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (the Act) of 1990 (Public Resources Code, Chapter 7.8, Division 2) directs the California Department of Conservation (DOC), Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) [now called California Geological Survey (CGS)] to delineate seismic hazard zones. The purpose of the Act is to reduce the threat to public health and safety and to minimize the loss of life and property by identifying and mitigating seismic hazards. Cities, counties, and state agencies are directed to use the seismic hazard zone maps in their land-use planning and permitting processes. They must withhold development permits for a site within a zone until the geologic and soil conditions of the project site are investigated and appropriate mitigation measures, if any, are incorporated into development plans. The Act also requires sellers (and their agents) of real property within a mapped hazard zone to disclose at the time of sale that the property lies within such a zone. Evaluation and mitigation of seismic hazards are to be conducted under guidelines adopted by the California State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) (DOC, 1997). The text of this report is on the Internet at http://gmw.consrv.ca.gov/shmp/webdocs/sp117.pdf

The Act also directs SMGB to appoint and consult with the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act Advisory Committee (SHMAAC) in developing criteria for the preparation of the seismic hazard zone maps. SHMAAC consists of geologists, seismologists, civil and structural engineers, representatives of city and county governments, the state insurance commissioner and the insurance industry. In 1991 SMGB adopted initial criteria for delineating seismic hazard zones to promote uniform and effective statewide implementation of the Act. These initial criteria provide detailed standards for mapping regional liquefaction hazards. They also directed CGS to develop a set of probabilistic seismic maps for California and to research methods that might be appropriate for mapping earthquake-induced landslide hazards.

In 1996, working groups established by SHMAAC reviewed the prototype maps and the techniques used to create them. The reviews resulted in recommendations that 1) the process for zoning liquefaction hazards remain unchanged and 2) earthquake-induced landslide zones be delineated using a modified Newmark analysis.

This Seismic Hazard Zone Report summarizes the development of the hazard zone map. The process of zoning for liquefaction uses a combination of Quaternary geologic mapping, historical ground-water information, and subsurface geotechnical data. The process for zoning earthquake-induced landslides incorporates earthquake loading, existing landslide features, slope gradient, rock strength, and geologic structure. Probabilistic seismic hazard maps, which are the underpinning for delineating seismic hazard zones, have been prepared for peak ground acceleration, mode magnitude, and mode distance with a 10 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years (Petersen and others, 1996) in accordance with the mapping criteria.

This report summarizes seismic hazard zone mapping for earthquake-induced landslides in the Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle.

SECTION 1
LIQUEFACTION EVALUATION REPORT

NO ZONES OF REQUIRED INVESTIGATION FOR LIQUEFACTION

Within the Hi Vista Quadrangle, there are no areas designated as zones of required investigation for earthquake-induced liquefaction. The seismic hazard evaluation conducted for this quadrangle indicates low potential for liquefaction because the historically shallowest ground-water levels are deeper than 40 feet. The evaluation was based on first-encountered water noted in water well records and geotechnical borehole logs.

SECTION 2
EARTHQUAKE-INDUCED LANDSLIDE EVALUATION REPORT

Earthquake-Induced Landslide Zones in the Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California

By
Michael A. Silva and Terry A. Jones

California Department of Conservation
California Geological Survey

PURPOSE

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (the Act) of 1990 (Public Resources Code, Chapter 7.8, Division 2) directs the California Department of Conservation (DOC), Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) [now called California Geological Survey (CGS)] to delineate Seismic Hazard Zones. The purpose of the Act is to reduce the threat to public health and safety and to minimize the loss of life and property by identifying and mitigating seismic hazards. Cities, counties, and state agencies are directed to use seismic hazard zone maps prepared by CGS in their land-use planning and permitting processes. The Act requires that site-specific geotechnical investigations be performed prior to permitting most urban development projects within the hazard zones. Evaluation and mitigation of seismic hazards are to be conducted under guidelines established by the California State Mining and Geology Board (DOC, 1997). The text of this report is on the Internet at http://gmw.consrv.ca.gov/shmp/webdocs/sp117.pdf

Following the release of DMG Special Publication 117 (DOC, 1997), agencies in the Los Angeles metropolitan region sought more definitive guidance in the review of geotechnical investigations addressing landslide hazards. The agencies made their

request through the Geotechnical Engineering Group of the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This group convened an implementation committee in 1998 under the auspices of the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC). The committee, which consisted of practicing geotechnical engineers and engineering geologists, released an overview of the practice of landslide analysis, evaluation, and mitigation techniques (SCEC, 2002). This text is also on the Internet at: http://www.scec.org/

This section of the evaluation report summarizes seismic hazard zone mapping for earthquake-induced landslides in the Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle. Section 3 (addressing earthquake shaking), completes the report, which is one of a series that summarizes the preparation of seismic hazard zone maps within the state (Smith, 1996). Additional information on seismic hazard zone mapping in California can be accessed on the California Geological Survey's Internet page:
http://www.conservation.ca.gov/CGS/index.htm

BACKGROUND

Landslides triggered by earthquakes historically have been a significant cause of earthquake damage. In California, large earthquakes such as the 1971 San Fernando, 1989 Loma Prieta, and 1994 Northridge earthquakes triggered landslides that were responsible for destroying or damaging numerous structures, blocking major transportation corridors, and damaging life-line infrastructure. Areas that are most susceptible to earthquake-induced landslides are steep slopes in poorly cemented or highly fractured rocks, areas underlain by loose, weak soils, and areas on or adjacent to existing landslide deposits. These geologic and terrain conditions exist in many parts of California, including numerous hillside areas that have already been developed or are likely to be developed in the future. The opportunity for strong earthquake ground shaking is high in many parts of California because of the presence of numerous active faults. The combination of these factors constitutes a significant seismic hazard throughout much of California, including the hillside areas of the Hi Vista Quadrangle.

METHODS SUMMARY

The mapping of earthquake-induced landslide hazard zones presented in this report is based on the best available terrain, geologic, geotechnical, and seismological data. If unavailable or significantly outdated, new forms of these data were compiled or generated specifically for this project. The following were collected or generated for this evaluation:

- Digital terrain data were used to provide an up-to-date representation of slope gradient and slope aspect in the study area

- Geologic mapping was used to provide an accurate representation of the spatial distribution of geologic materials in the study area. In addition, a map of existing landslides, whether triggered by earthquakes or not, was prepared

- Geotechnical laboratory test data were collected and statistically analyzed to quantitatively characterize the strength properties and dynamic slope stability of geologic materials in the study area

- Seismological data in the form of CGS probabilistic shaking maps and catalogs of strong-motion records were used to characterize future earthquake shaking within the mapped area

The data collected for this evaluation were processed into a series of GIS layers using commercially available software. A slope stability analysis was performed using the Newmark method of analysis (Newmark, 1965), resulting in a map of landslide hazard potential. The earthquake-induced landslide hazard zone was derived from the landslide hazard potential map according to criteria developed in a CGS pilot study (McCrink and Real, 1996; McCrink, 2001) and adopted by the State Mining and Geology Board (DOC, 2000).

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The methodology used to make this map is based on earthquake ground-shaking estimates, geologic material-strength characteristics and slope gradient. These data are gathered from a variety of outside sources. Although the selection of data used in this evaluation was rigorous, the quality of the data is variable. The State of California and the Department of Conservation make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of the data gathered from outside sources.

Earthquake-induced landslide zone maps are intended to prompt more detailed, site-specific geotechnical investigations as required by the Act. As such, these zone maps identify areas where the potential for earthquake-induced landslides is relatively high. Due to limitations in methodology, it should be noted that these zone maps do not necessarily capture all potential earthquake-induced landslide hazards. Earthquake-induced ground failures that are not addressed by this map include those associated with ridge-top spreading and shattered ridges. It should also be noted that no attempt has been made to map potential run-out areas of triggered landslides. It is possible that such run-out areas may extend beyond the zone boundaries. The potential for ground failure resulting from liquefaction-induced lateral spreading of alluvial materials, considered by some to be a form of landsliding, is not specifically addressed by the earthquake-induced landslide zone or this report.

The remainder of this report describes in more detail the mapping data and processes used to prepare the earthquake-induced landslide zone map for the Hi Vista Quadrangle. The information is presented in two parts. Part I covers physiographic, geologic and engineering geologic conditions in the study area. Part II covers the preparation of landslide hazard potential and landslide zone maps.

PART I

PHYSIOGRAPHY

Study Area Location and Physiography

The Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle covers approximately 62 square miles of unincorporated land in the Antelope Valley of northeastern Los Angeles County. The center of the area is about 18 miles east of Lancaster and 50 miles northeast of the Los Angeles Civic Center. Topographically, the area is characterized by typical high desert scrubland and grassland interrupted by several buttes surrounded by aprons of sandy alluvium. One of the channels of intermittent Big Rock Wash cuts across the southwestern corner of the map area. Part or all of the rural communities of Lake Los Angeles, Wilsona Gardens, and Hi Vista occur within the quadrangle. Saddleback Butte State Park covers an area of about 4.5 square miles in the center of the quadrangle. Antelope Valley State Indian Museum, located at Piute Butte in the southwestern quarter, covers an area of about one square mile. The highest elevation in the quadrangle is Saddleback Butte at 3,651 feet. The lowest elevation in the quadrangle 2,460 feet is located above the mid-point along the western boundary. Access to the region is via county roads, consisting of numbered north-south streets and lettered east-west avenues.

Digital Terrain Data

The calculation of slope gradient is an essential part of the evaluation of slope stability under earthquake conditions. An accurate slope gradient calculation begins with an up-to-date map representation of the earth's surface in the form of a digital topographic map. Within the Hi Vista Quadrangle, a Level 2 digital elevation model (DEM) was obtained from the USGS (U.S. Geological Survey, 1993). This DEM, prepared from the 7.5-minute quadrangle topographic contours based on 1955 aerial photography, has a 10-meter horizontal resolution and a 7.5-meter vertical accuracy.

A slope map was made from the DEM using a third-order, finite difference, center-weighted algorithm (Horn, 1981). The manner in which the slope map was used to prepare the zone map will be described in subsequent sections of this report.

GEOLOGY

Bedrock and Surficial Geology

Dibblee (1967) mapped the bedrock geology of Antelope Valley and vicinity, which includes the Hi Vista Quadrangle. Ponti and Burke (1980) mapped the Quaternary geology of eastern Antelope Valley and generalized the exposed crystalline basement rocks on their map. The Ponti and Burke (1980) map was digitized for this study by the Southern California Areal Mapping Project [SCAMP].

Bedrock (map symbol gr-m) exposed in the buttes within the Hi Vista Quadrangle consists of pre-Tertiary medium-grained plutonic rocks that range from granite to hornblende diorite. The predominant rock type is light-colored, massive, quartz monzonite (Dibblee, 1967). Small inclusions of hornblende diorite and biotite schist and abundant pegmatite dikes occur on Piute Butte, Saddleback Butte, and on Blue Rock, located northwest of Saddleback Butte (Dibblee, 1967, Figure 25). Pediment (gr-pediment) surfaces are mapped by Ponti and Burke (1980) on Rocky Buttes, Piute Butte, Saddleback Butte, and Blue Rock.

Quaternary surficial deposits cover most of the Hi Vista Quadrangle (Ponti and Burke, 1980). Aprons of colluvium and slopewash surround the buttes on pediment surfaces. Field inspection revealed small, localized unmapped eolian deposits of fine-grained sand on some pediment slopes and between the rock outcrops on the buttes. Additional discussion the Quaternary deposits can be found in Section 1.

Structural Geology

The entire quadrangle is underlain by a granitic batholith that extends across the western Mojave Desert (Dibblee, 1967). The most significant structural feature influencing slope stability is the occurrence of widely spaced joints and fractures in the granitic rocks. These discontinuities provide the planes of weakness for slope instability in an otherwise extremely hard and competent rock.

Landslide Inventory

As a part of the geologic data compilation, an inventory of existing landslides in the Hi Vista Quadrangle was prepared by field reconnaissance, analysis of stereo-paired aerial photographs (see Air Photos in References) and a review of previously published landslide mapping. No landslides were found in the Hi Vista Quadrangle. A few small rock-falls were found on some butte slopes during field reconnaissance, but these are below the minimum size to be mapped. However, the aprons of coarse-grained colluvial talus and slopewash indicate that rock falls may be the predominant form of slope failure around the buttes.

ENGINEERING GEOLOGY

Geologic Material Strength

To evaluate the stability of geologic materials under earthquake conditions, the geologic map units described above were ranked and grouped on the basis of their shear strength. Generally, the primary source for shear-strength measurements is geotechnical reports prepared by consultants on file with local government permitting departments. Shear-strength data for the units identified on the Hi Vista Quadrangle geologic map were obtained from Los Angeles County (see Appendix A). In the northern Antelope Valley, three shear tests (from a single borehole) were found for the Hi Vista Quadrangle (Plate 2.1). Shear tests used to characterize geologic units in the Hi Vista Quadrangle were

borrowed from Juniper Hills (5 pediment, 3 Qal,1 granitic), Littlerock (24 Qal), and Palmdale (4 colluvium and slopewash, 1 granitic).

The geologic units of the Hi Vista Quadrangle were evaluated in three groups. All shear tests located in Quaternary units were evaluated as one group, Qal. The other two groups are hard rock (gr) and colluvium on pediment surfaces (gr-pediment). Average (mean or median) phi values for each strength group are summarized in Table 2.1. For the geologic strength groups (Table 2.2) in the map area, a single shear strength value was assigned and used in our slope stability analysis. A geologic material strength map was made based on the groupings presented in Table 2.1 and Table 2.2, and this map provides a spatial representation of material strength for use in the slope stability analysis.

	FORMATION NAME	NUMBER OF TESTS	MEAN/MEDIAN PHI (DEGREES)	MEAN/MEDIAN GROUP PHI (DEGREES)	MEAN/MEDIAN GROUP C (PSF)	PHI VALUES USED IN STABILITY ANALYSIS
GROUP 1	gr	2	42	42	350	42
GROUP 2	gr-pediment/ colluvium	9	34/32	34/32	234/203	32
GROUP 3	Qal	30	28	28	185/143	28

Table 2.1. Summary of the Shear Strength Statistics for the Hi Vista Quadrangle.

SHEAR STRENGTH GROUPS FOR THE HI VISTA 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLE		
GROUP 1	**GROUP 2**	**GROUP 3**
gr	gr-pediment/colluvium	Qal

Table 2.2. Summary of Shear Strength Groups for the Hi Vista Quadrangle.

PART II

EARTHQUAKE-INDUCED LANDSLIDE HAZARD POTENTIAL

Design Strong-Motion Record

To evaluate earthquake-induced landslide hazard potential in the study area, a method of dynamic slope stability analysis developed by Newmark (1965) was used. The Newmark method analyzes dynamic slope stability by calculating the cumulative down-slope displacement for a given earthquake strong-motion time history. As implemented for the preparation of earthquake-induced landslide zones, the Newmark method necessitates the selection of a design earthquake strong-motion record to provide the "ground shaking opportunity." For the Hi Vista Quadrangle, selection of a strong motion record was based on an estimation of probabilistic ground motion parameters for modal magnitude, modal distance, and peak ground acceleration (PGA). The parameters were estimated from maps prepared by DMG for a 10 percent probability of being exceeded in 50 years (Petersen and others, 1996). The parameters used in the record selection are:

Modal Magnitude:	7.8
Modal Distance:	16.4 to 35 km
PGA:	0.26g to 0.42g

The strong-motion record selected for the slope stability analysis in the Hi Vista Quadrangle was the Southern California Edison (SCE) Lucerne record from the 1992 magnitude 7.3 Landers, California, earthquake. This record had a source to recording site distance of 1.1 km and a peak ground acceleration (PGA) of 0.80g. Although the Lucerne record parameters are not a perfect match for the probabilistic parameters, this record was considered to be sufficiently conservative to be used in the stability analyses. The selected strong-motion record was not scaled or otherwise modified prior to its use in the analysis.

Displacement Calculation

The design strong-motion record was used to develop a relationship between landslide displacement and yield acceleration (a_y), defined as the earthquake horizontal ground acceleration above which landslide displacements take place. This relationship was prepared by integrating the design strong-motion record twice for a given acceleration value to find the corresponding displacement, and the process was repeated for a range of acceleration values (Jibson, 1993). The resulting curve in Figure 2.1 represents the full spectrum of displacements that can be expected for the design strong-motion record. This curve provides the required link between anticipated earthquake shaking and

estimates of displacement for different combinations of geologic materials and slope gradient, as described in the Slope Stability Analysis section below.

The amount of displacement predicted by the Newmark analysis provides an indication of the relative amount of damage that could be caused by earthquake-induced landsliding. Displacements of 30, 15 and 5 cm are used as criteria for rating levels of earthquake-induced landslide hazard potential based on the work of Youd (1980), Wilson and Keefer (1983), and the CGS pilot study for earthquake-induced landslides (McCrink and Real, 1996; McCrink, 2001). Applied to the curve in Figure 2.1, these displacements correspond to yield accelerations of 0.14, 0.18, and 0.24 g. Because these yield acceleration values are derived from the design strong-motion record, they represent the ground shaking opportunity thresholds that are significant to the Hi Vista Quadrangle.

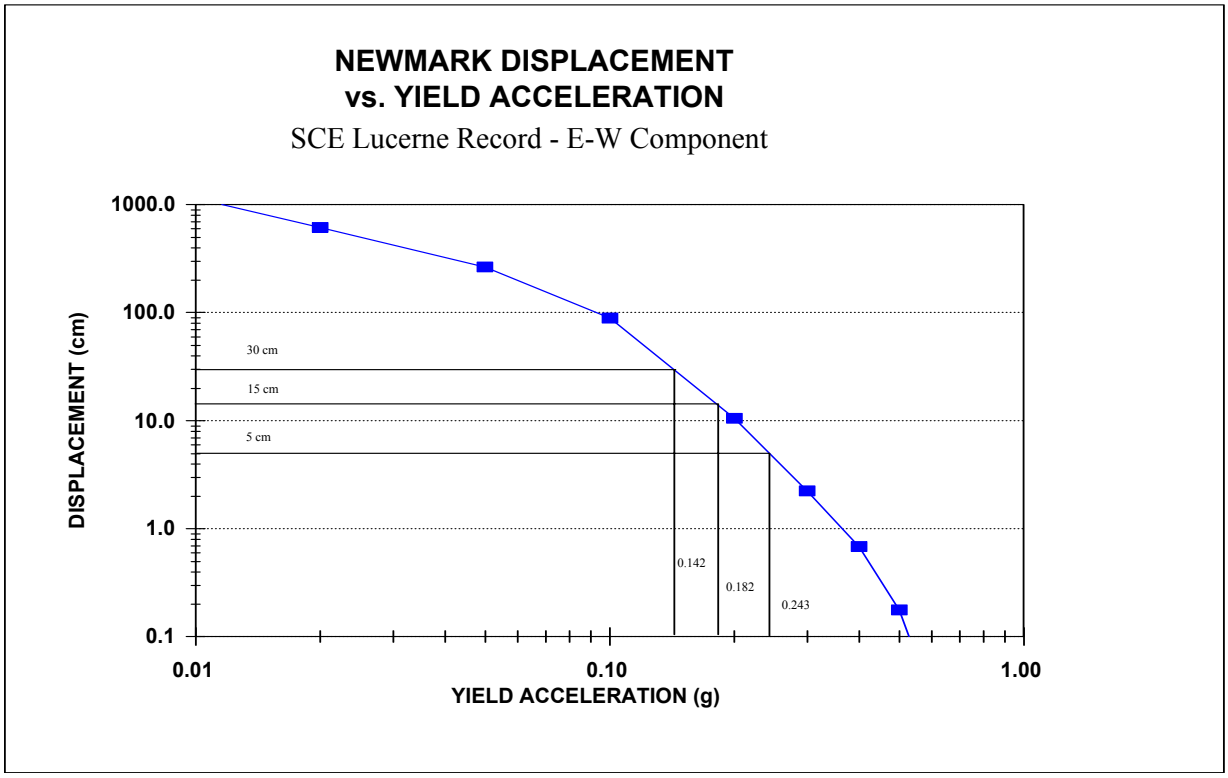

Figure 2.1. Yield Acceleration vs. Newmark Displacement for the 1992 Landers Earthquake SCE Lucerne Record.

Slope Stability Analysis

A slope stability analysis was performed for each geologic material strength group at slope increments of 1 degree. An infinite-slope failure model under unsaturated slope

conditions was assumed. A factor of safety was calculated first, followed by calculation of yield acceleration from Newmark's equation:

$$a_y = (FS - 1)g \sin \alpha$$

where FS is the Factor of Safety, g is the acceleration due to gravity, and α is the direction of movement of the slide mass, in degrees measured from the horizontal, when displacement is initiated (Newmark, 1965). For an infinite slope failure, α is the same as the slope angle.

The yield accelerations resulting from Newmark's equations represent the susceptibility to earthquake-induced failure of each geologic material strength group for a range of slope gradients. Based on the relationship between yield acceleration and Newmark displacement shown in Figure 2.1, hazard potentials were assigned as follows:

1. If the calculated yield acceleration was less than 0.14g, Newmark displacement greater than 30 cm is indicated, and a HIGH hazard potential was assigned.

2. Likewise, if the calculated yield acceleration fell between 0.14g and 0.18g, Newmark displacement between 15 cm and 30 cm is indicated, and a MODERATE hazard potential was assigned.

3. If the calculated yield acceleration fell between 0.18g and 0.24g, Newmark displacement between 5 cm and 15 cm is indicated, and a LOW hazard potential was assigned.

4. If the calculated yield acceleration was greater than 0.24g, Newmark displacement of less than 5 cm is indicated, and a VERY LOW potential was assigned.

Table 2.3 summarizes the results of the stability analyses. The earthquake-induced landslide hazard potential map was prepared by combining the geologic material-strength map and the slope map according to this table.

HI VISTA QUADRANGLE HAZARD POTENTIAL MATRIX				
Geologic Material Strength Group (Average Phi)	HAZARD POTENTIAL (Percent Slope)			
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High
1 (42)	0 to 62%	62 to 70%	70 to 72%	>72%
2 (32)	0 to 38%	38 to 44%	44 to 48%	>48%
3 (28)	0 to 30%	30 to 34%	34 to 38%	>38%

Table 2.3. Hazard Potential Matrix for Earthquake-Induced Landslides in the Hi Vista Quadrangle. Values in the table show the range of slope gradient (expressed as percent slope) corresponding to calculated Newmark displacement ranges from the design earthquake for each material strength group.

EARTHQUAKE-INDUCED LANDSLIDE HAZARD ZONE

Criteria for Zoning

Earthquake-induced landslide zones were delineated using criteria adopted by the California State Mining and Geology Board (DOC, 2000). Under these criteria, earthquake-induced landslide hazard zones are defined as areas that meet one or both of the following conditions:

1. Areas that have been identified as having experienced landslide movement in the past, including all mappable landslide deposits and source areas as well as any landslide that is known to have been triggered by historic earthquake activity.

2. Areas where the geologic and geotechnical data and analyses indicate that the earth materials may be susceptible to earthquake-induced slope failure.

These conditions are discussed in further detail in the following sections.

Existing Landslides

As previously mentioned, only minor rock falls were identified in the Hi Vista Quadrangle. However, the presence of colluvial aprons around the steep sides of the buttes indicates that rock falls, possibly caused by earthquake shaking, are an ongoing geologic process around the buttes. The areas most susceptible to rock fall were identified in the geologic and geotechnical analyses, described below.

Geologic and Geotechnical Analysis

Based on the conclusions of a pilot study performed by CGS (McCrink and Real, 1996; McCrink, 2001), it has been concluded that earthquake-induced landslide hazard zones should encompass all areas that have a High, Moderate or Low level of hazard potential (see Table 2.3). This would include all areas where the analyses indicate earthquake displacements of 5 centimeters or greater. Areas with a Very Low hazard potential, indicating less than 5 centimeters displacement, are excluded from the zone.

As summarized in Table 2.3, all areas characterized by the following geologic strength group and slope gradient conditions are included in the earthquake-induced landslide hazard zone:

1. Geologic Strength Group 3 is included for all slopes steeper than 30 percent.

2. Geologic Strength Group 2 is included for all slopes steeper than 38 percent.

3. Geologic Strength Group 1 is included for all slopes steeper than 62 percent.

This results in less than one percent of the quadrangle lying within the earthquake-induced landslide hazard zone for the Hi Vista Quadrangle.

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APPENDIX A
SOURCE OF ROCK STRENGTH DATA

SOURCE	NUMBER OF TESTS SELECTED
Los Angeles County	**3**
Juniper Hills Quadrangle	**9**
Palmdale Quadrangle	**5**
Littlerock Quadrangle	**24**
Total Number of Shear Tests	**41**

SECTION 3
GROUND SHAKING EVALUATION REPORT

Potential Ground Shaking in the Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California

By

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California Department of Conservation
California Geological Survey
***Formerly with CGS, now with U.S. Geological Survey**

PURPOSE

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (the Act) of 1990 (Public Resources Code, Chapter 7.8, Division 2) directs the California Department of Conservation (DOC), Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) [now called California Geological Survey (CGS)] to delineate Seismic Hazard Zones. The purpose of the Act is to reduce the threat to public health and safety and to minimize the loss of life and property by identifying and mitigating seismic hazards. Cities, counties, and state agencies are directed to use the Seismic Hazard Zone Maps in their land-use planning and permitting processes. The Act requires that site-specific geotechnical investigations be performed prior to permitting most urban development projects within the hazard zones. Evaluation and mitigation of seismic hazards are to be conducted under guidelines established by the California State Mining and Geology Board (DOC, 1997). The text of this report is on the Internet at http://gmw.consrv.ca.gov/shmp/webdocs/sp117.pdf

This section of the evaluation report summarizes the ground motions used to evaluate liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslide potential for zoning purposes. Included are ground motion and related maps, a brief overview on how these maps were prepared, precautionary notes concerning their use, and related references. The maps provided

herein are presented at a scale of approximately 1:150,000 (scale bar provided on maps), and show the full 7.5-minute quadrangle and portions of the adjacent eight quadrangles. They can be used to assist in the specification of earthquake loading conditions ***for the analysis of ground failure*** according to the "Simple Prescribed Parameter Value" method (SPPV) described in the site investigation guidelines (DOC, 1997). Alternatively, they can be used as a basis for comparing levels of ground motion determined by other methods with the statewide standard.

This section and Section 2 (addressing earthquake-induced landslide hazards) constitute a report series that summarizes development of seismic hazard zone maps in the state. Additional information on seismic hazard zone mapping in California can be accessed on the California Geological Survey's Internet page:
http://www.conservation.ca.gov/CGS/index.htm

EARTHQUAKE HAZARD MODEL

The estimated ground shaking is derived from the statewide probabilistic seismic hazard evaluation released cooperatively by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology [California Geological Survey], and the U.S. Geological Survey (Petersen and others, 1996). That report documents an extensive 3-year effort to obtain consensus within the scientific community regarding fault parameters that characterize the seismic hazard in California. Fault sources included in the model were evaluated for long-term slip rate, maximum earthquake magnitude, and rupture geometry. These fault parameters, along with historical seismicity, were used to estimate return times of moderate to large earthquakes that contribute to the hazard.

The ground shaking levels are estimated for each of the sources included in the seismic source model using attenuation relations that relate earthquake shaking with magnitude, distance from the earthquake, and type of fault rupture (strike-slip, reverse, normal, or subduction). The published hazard evaluation of Petersen and others (1996) only considers uniform firm-rock site conditions. In this report, however, we extend the hazard analysis to include the hazard of exceeding peak horizontal ground acceleration (PGA) at 10 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years on spatially uniform conditions of rock, soft rock, and alluvium. These soil and rock conditions approximately correspond to site categories defined in Chapter 16 of the Uniform Building Code (ICBO, 1997), which are commonly found in California. We use the attenuation relations of Boore and others (1997), Campbell (1997), Sadigh and others (1997), and Youngs and others (1997) to calculate the ground motions.

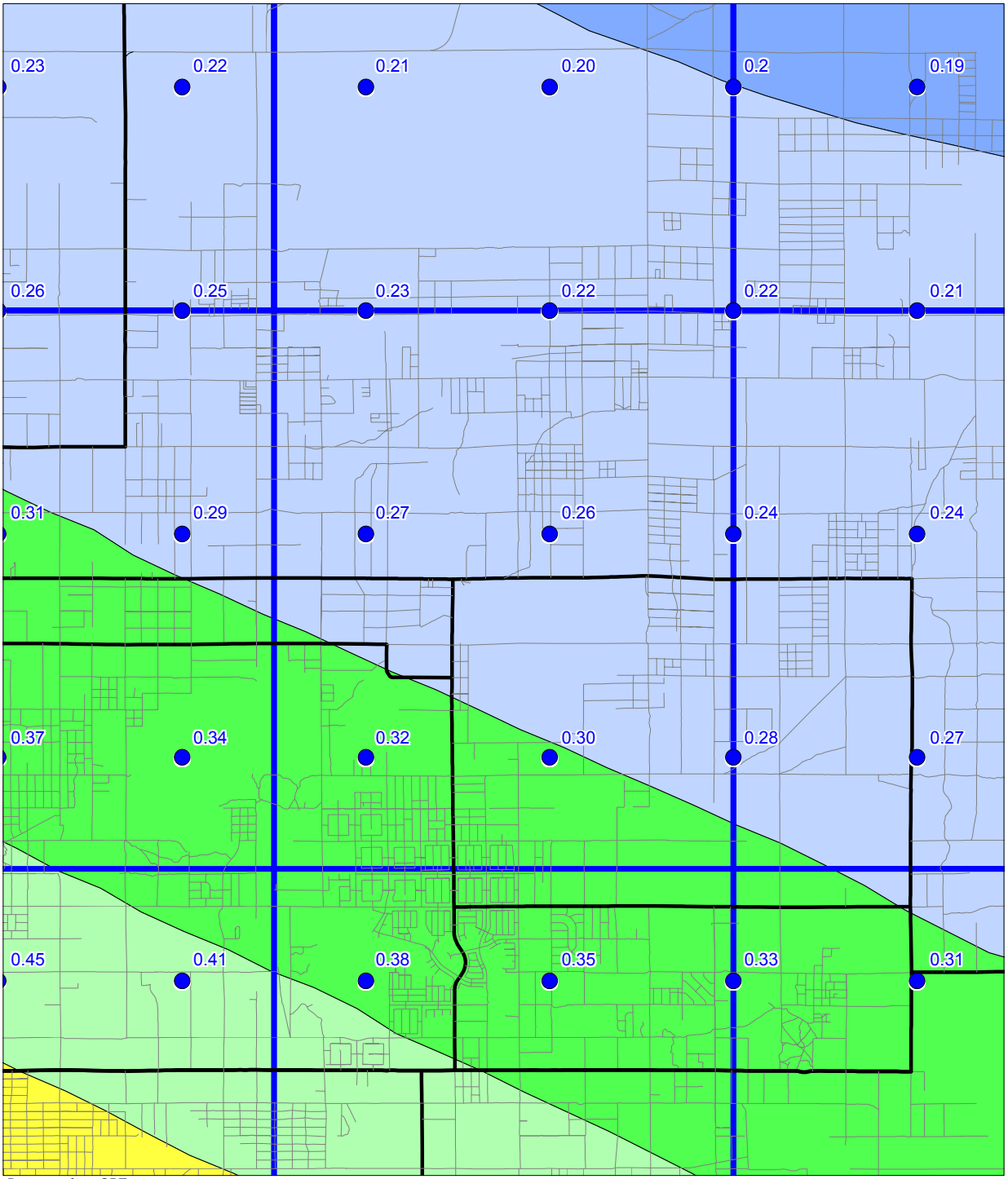
The seismic hazard maps for ground shaking are produced by calculating the hazard at sites separated by about 5 km. Figures 3.1 through 3.3 show the hazard for PGA at 10 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years assuming the entire map area is firm rock, soft rock, or alluvial site conditions respectively. The sites where the hazard is calculated are represented as dots and ground motion contours as shaded regions. The quadrangle of interest is outlined by bold lines and centered on the map. Portions of the eight

HI VISTA 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE AND PORTIONS OF ADJACENT QUADRANGLES

10% EXCEEDANCE IN 50 YEARS PEAK GROUND ACCELERATION (g)

1998

FIRM ROCK CONDITIONS



Base map from GDT

0 1.5 3
Miles

Department of Conservation
California Geological Survey

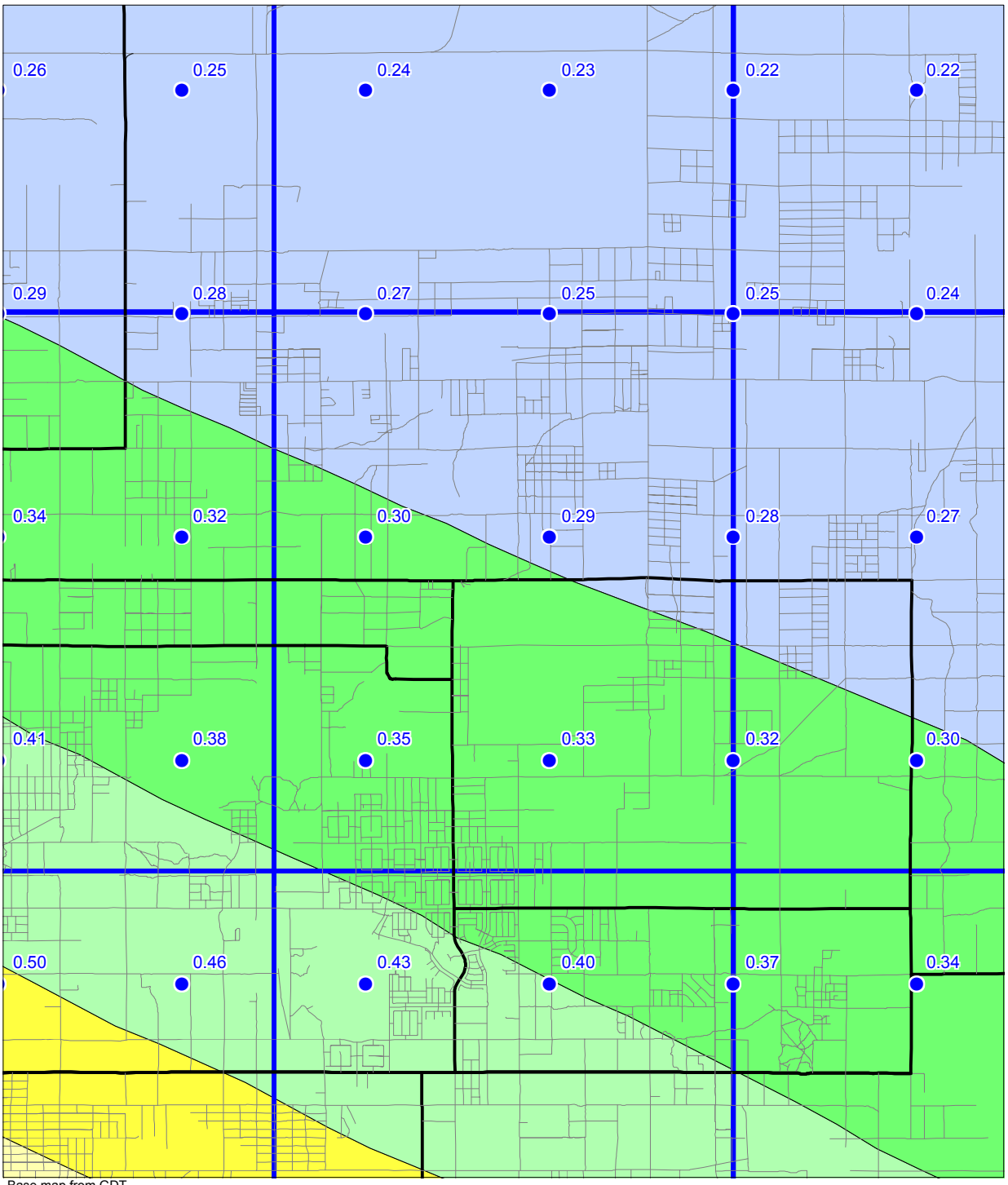
Figure 3.1

HI VISTA 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE AND PORTIONS OF ADJACENT QUADRANGLES

10% EXCEEDANCE IN 50 YEARS PEAK GROUND ACCELERATION (g)

1998

SOFT ROCK CONDITIONS



Base map from GDT

0 1.5 3
Miles

Department of Conservation
California Geological Survey

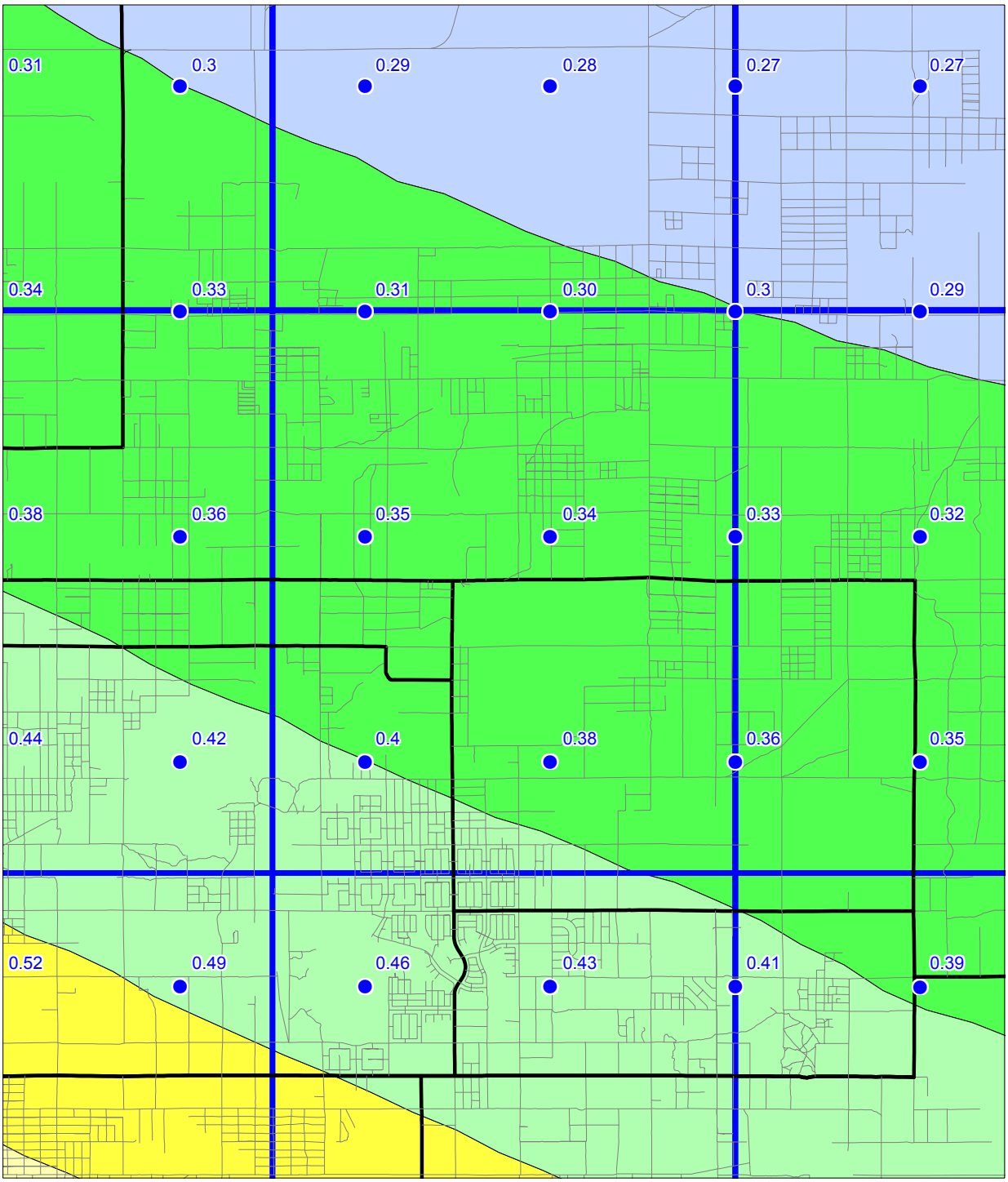
Figure 3.2

HI VISTA 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE AND PORTIONS OF
ADJACENT QUADRANGLES

10% EXCEEDANCE IN 50 YEARS PEAK GROUND ACCELERATION (g)

1998

ALLUVIUM CONDITIONS



Base map from GDT

0 1.5 3
Miles

Department of Conservation
California Geological Survey

Figure 3.3

adjacent quadrangles are also shown so that the trends in the ground motion may be more apparent. We recommend estimating ground motion values by selecting the map that matches the actual site conditions, and interpolating from the calculated values of PGA rather than the contours, since the points are more accurate.

APPLICATIONS FOR LIQUEFACTION AND LANDSLIDE HAZARD ASSESSMENTS

Deaggregation of the seismic hazard identifies the contribution of each of the earthquakes (various magnitudes and distances) in the model to the ground motion hazard for a particular exposure period (see Cramer and Petersen, 1996). The map in Figure 3.4 identifies the magnitude and the distance (value in parentheses) of the earthquake that contributes most to the hazard at 10 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years on alluvial site conditions (*predominant earthquake*). This information gives a rationale for selecting a seismic record or ground motion level in evaluating ground failure. However, it is important to keep in mind that more than one earthquake may contribute significantly to the hazard at a site, and those events can have markedly different magnitudes and distances. For liquefaction hazard the predominant earthquake magnitude from Figure 3.4 and PGA from Figure 3.3 (alluvium conditions) can be used with the Youd and Idriss (1997) approach to estimate cyclic stress ratio demand. For landslide hazard the predominant earthquake magnitude and distance can be used to select a seismic record that is consistent with the hazard for calculating the Newmark displacement (Wilson and Keefer, 1983). When selecting the predominant earthquake magnitude and distance, it is advisable to consider the range of values in the vicinity of the site and perform the ground failure analysis accordingly. This would yield a range in ground failure hazard from which recommendations appropriate to the specific project can be made. Grid values for predominant earthquake magnitude and distance should **not** be interpolated at the site location, because these parameters are not continuous functions.

A preferred method of using the probabilistic seismic hazard model and the "simplified Seed-Idriss method" of assessing liquefaction hazard is to apply magnitude scaling probabilistically while calculating peak ground acceleration for alluvium. The result is a "magnitude-weighted" ground motion (liquefaction opportunity) map that can be used directly in the calculation of the cyclic stress ratio threshold for liquefaction and for estimating the factor of safety against liquefaction (Youd and Idriss, 1997). This can provide a better estimate of liquefaction hazard than use of predominate magnitude described above, because all magnitudes contributing to the estimate are used to weight the probabilistic calculation of peak ground acceleration (Real and others, 2000). Thus, large distant earthquakes that occur less frequently but contribute *more* to the liquefaction hazard are appropriately accounted for.

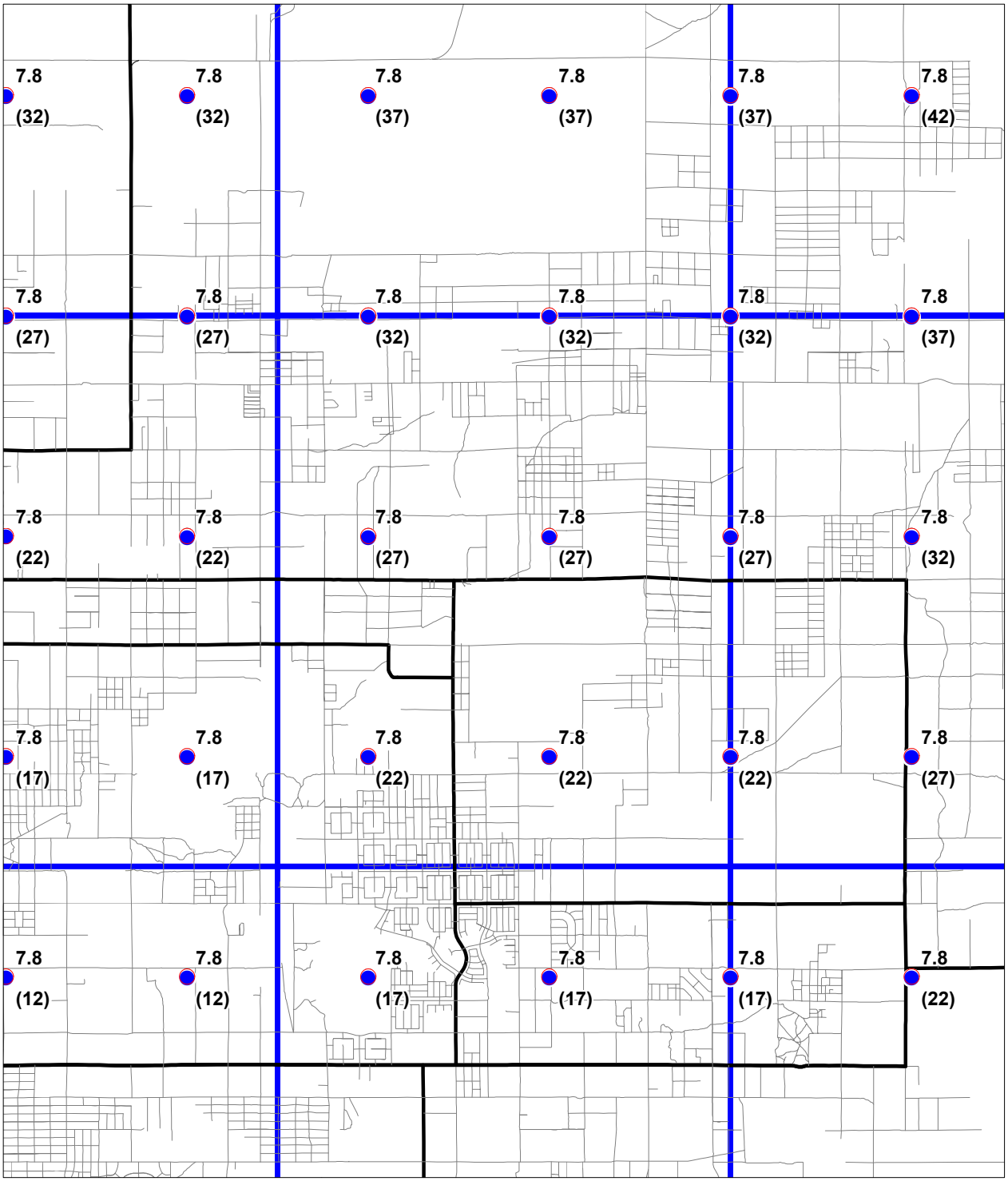
Figure 3.5 shows the magnitude-weighted alluvial PGA based on Idriss' weighting function (Youd and Idriss, 1997). It is important to note that the values obtained from this map are pseudo-accelerations and should be used in the formula for factor of safety without any magnitude-scaling (a factor of 1) applied.

HI VISTA 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE AND PORTIONS OF
ADJACENT QUADRANGLES

10% EXCEEDANCE IN 50 YEARS PEAK GROUND ACCELERATION

1998

PREDOMINANT EARTHQUAKE
Magnitude (Mw)
(Distance (km))



Base map from GDT

0 1.5 3
Miles

Department of Conservation
California Geological Survey

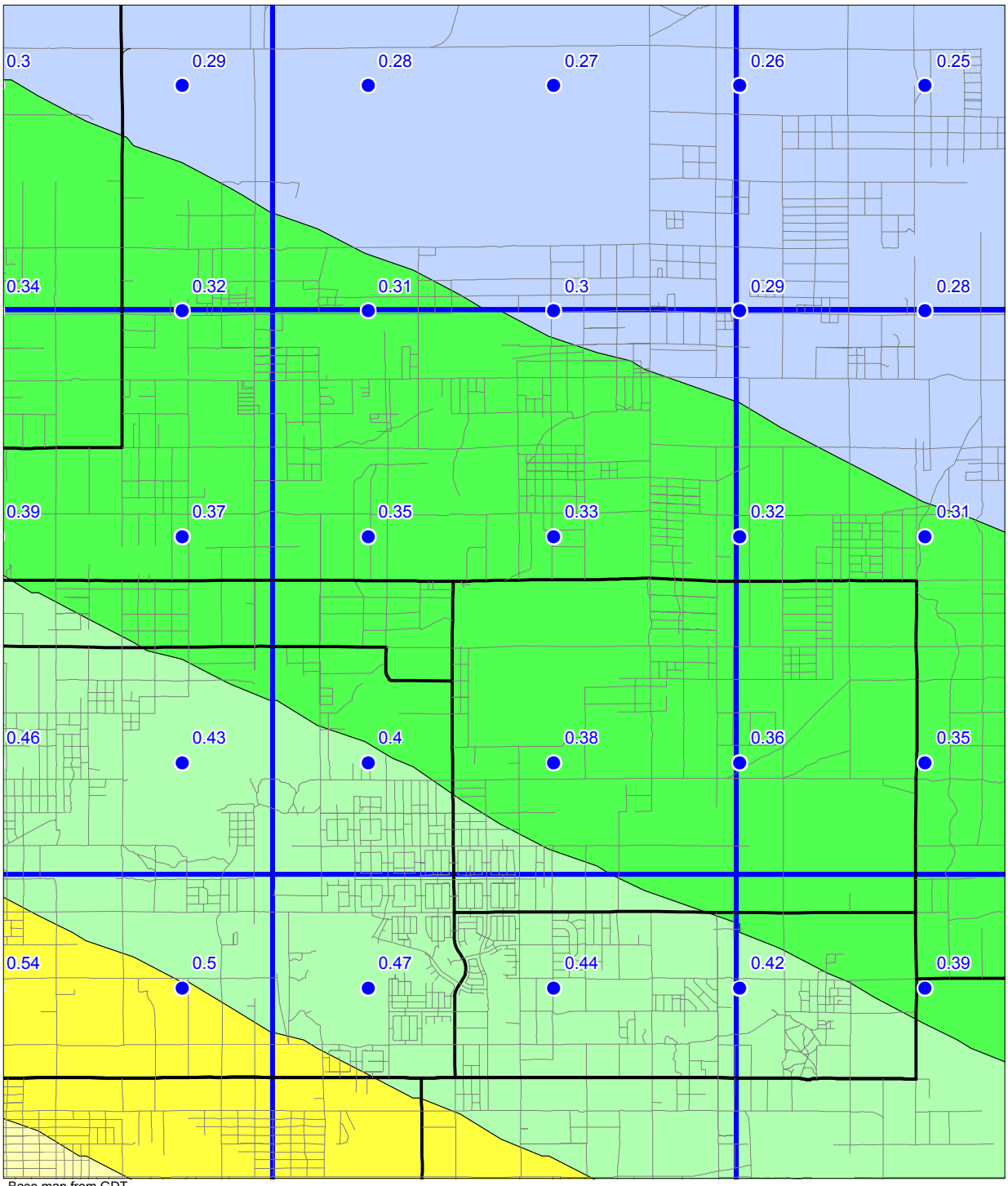
Figure 3.4

HI VISTA 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE AND PORTIONS OF ADJACENT QUADRANGLES

10% EXCEEDANCE IN 50 YEARS MAGNITUDE-WEIGHTED PSEUDO-PEAK ACCELERATION (g) FOR ALLUVIUM

1998

LIQUEFACTION OPPORTUNITY



Base map from GDT

0 1.5 3
Miles

Department of Conservation
California Geological Survey

Figure 3.5

USE AND LIMITATIONS

The statewide map of seismic hazard has been developed using regional information and is ***not appropriate for site specific structural design applications***. Use of the ground motion maps prepared at larger scale is limited to estimating earthquake loading conditions for preliminary assessment of ground failure at a specific location. We recommend consideration of site-specific analyses before deciding on the sole use of these maps for several reasons.

1. The seismogenic sources used to generate the peak ground accelerations were digitized from the 1:750,000-scale fault activity map of Jennings (1994). Uncertainties in fault location are estimated to be about 1 to 2 kilometers (Petersen and others, 1996). Therefore, differences in the location of calculated hazard values may also differ by a similar amount. At a specific location, however, the log-linear attenuation of ground motion with distance renders hazard estimates less sensitive to uncertainties in source location.

2. The hazard was calculated on a grid at sites separated by about 5 km (0.05 degrees). Therefore, the calculated hazard may be located a couple kilometers away from the site. We have provided shaded contours on the maps to indicate regional trends of the hazard model. However, the contours only show regional trends that may not be apparent from points on a single map. Differences of up to 2 km have been observed between contours and individual ground acceleration values. *We recommend that the user interpolate PGA between the grid point values rather than simply using the shaded contours*.

3. Uncertainties in the hazard values have been estimated to be about +/- 50 percent of the ground motion value at two standard deviations (Cramer and others, 1996).

4. Not all active faults in California are included in this model. For example, faults that do not have documented slip rates are not included in the source model. Scientific research may identify active faults that have not been previously recognized. Therefore, future versions of the hazard model may include other faults and omit faults that are currently considered.

5. A map of the predominant earthquake magnitude and distance is provided from the deaggregation of the probabilistic seismic hazard model. However, it is important to recognize that a site may have more than one earthquake that contributes significantly to the hazard. Therefore, in some cases earthquakes other than the predominant earthquake should also be considered.

Because of its simplicity, it is likely that the SPPV method (DOC, 1997) will be widely used to estimate earthquake shaking loading conditions for the evaluation of ground failure hazards. It should be kept in mind that ground motions at a given distance from an earthquake will vary depending on site-specific characteristics such as geology, soil properties, and topography, which may not have been adequately accounted for in the regional hazard analysis. Although this variance is represented to some degree by the

recorded ground motions that form the basis of the hazard model used to produce Figures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, extreme deviations can occur. More sophisticated methods that take into account other factors that may be present at the site (site amplification, basin effects, near source effects, etc.) should be employed as warranted. The decision to use the SPPV method with ground motions derived from Figures 3.1, 3.2, or 3.3 should be based on careful consideration of the above limitations, the geotechnical and seismological aspects of the project setting, and the "importance" or sensitivity of the proposed building with regard to occupant safety.

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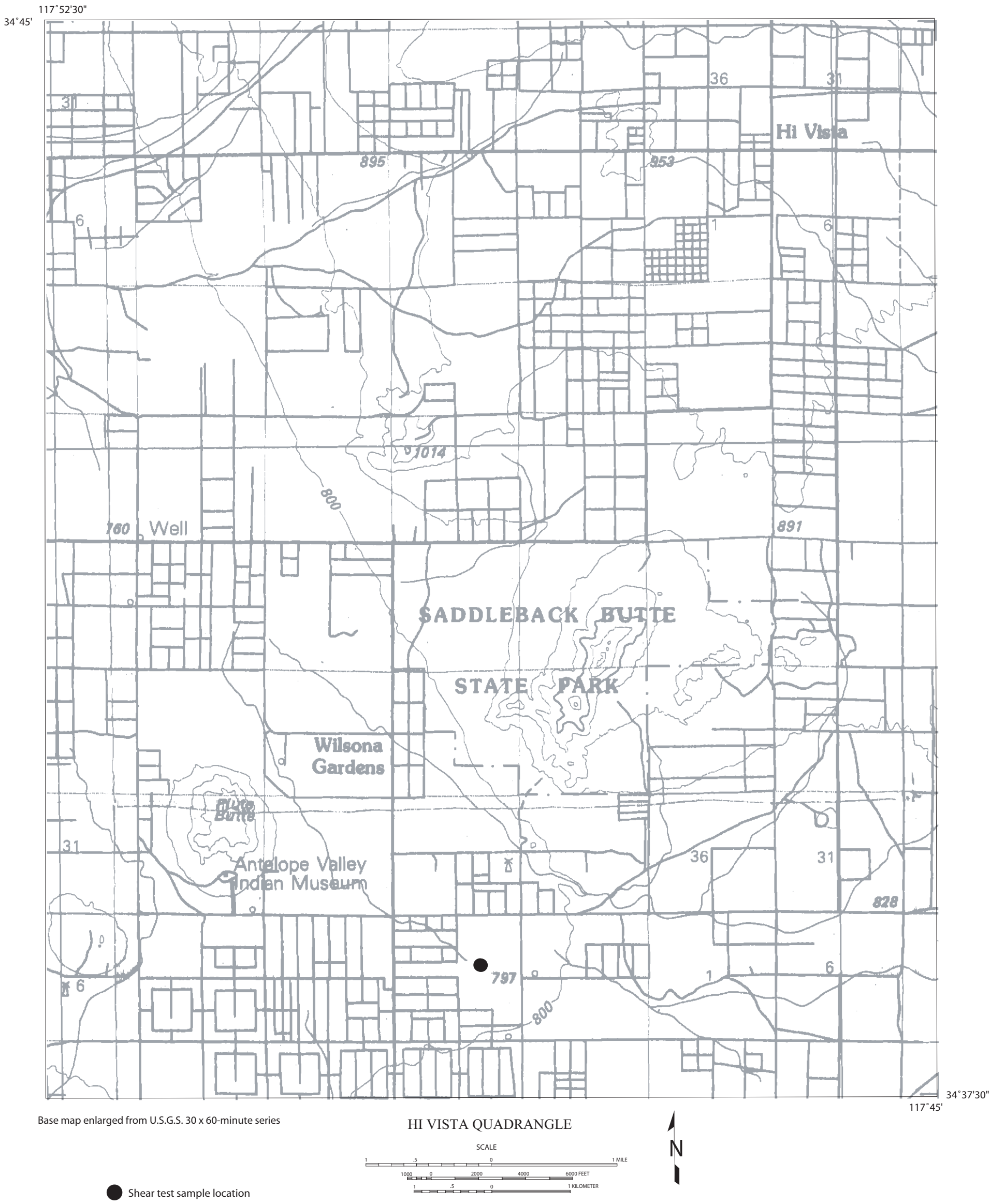

Plate 2.1 Shear test sample locations, Hi Vista 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, California.