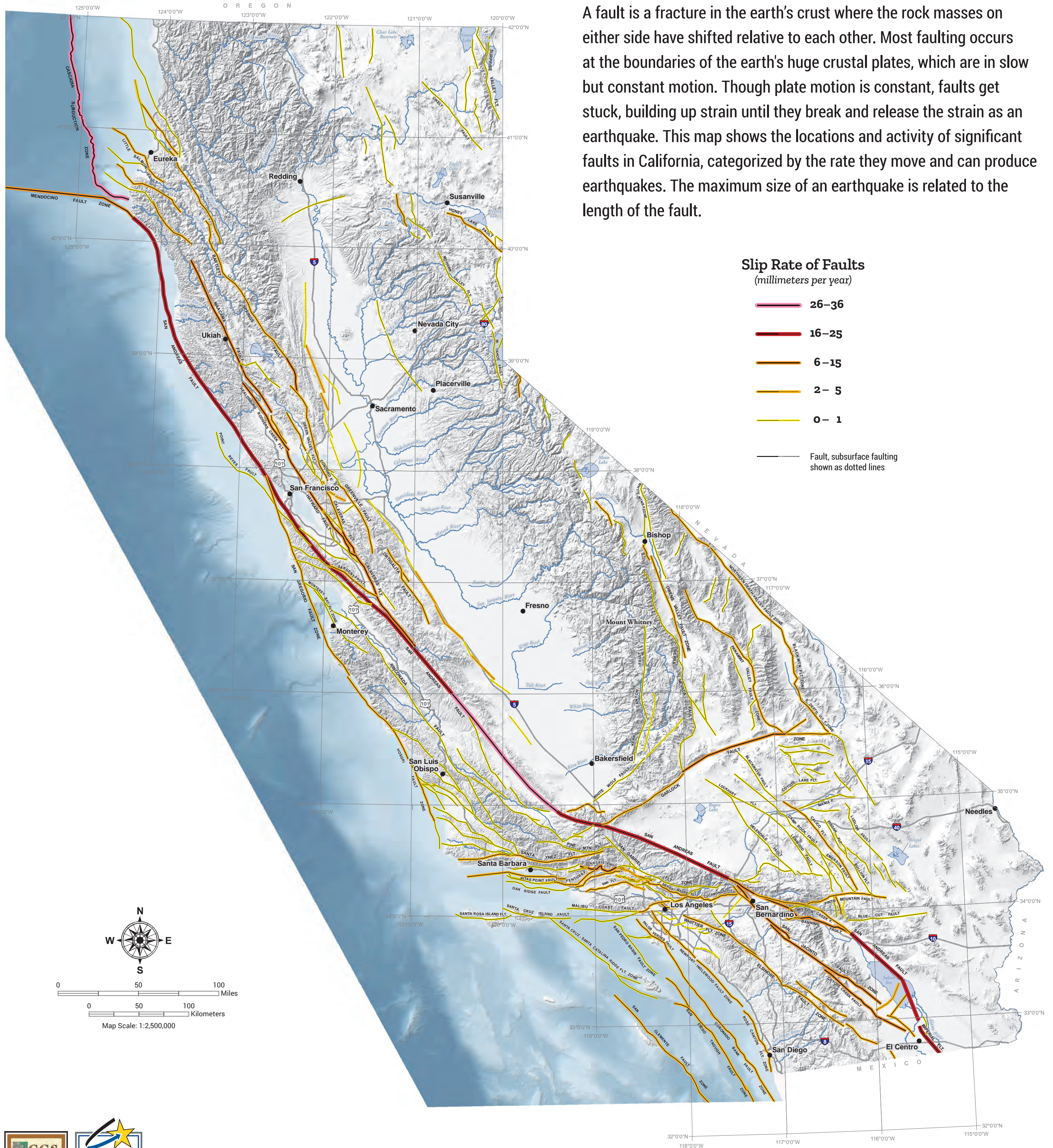


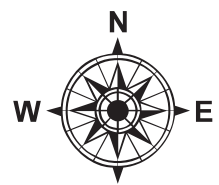
Faulting in California

A fault is a fracture in the earth's crust where the rock masses on either side have shifted relative to each other. Most faulting occurs at the boundaries of the earth's huge crustal plates, which are in slow but constant motion. Though plate motion is constant, faults get stuck, building up strain until they break and release the strain as an earthquake. This map shows the locations and activity of significant faults in California, categorized by the rate they move and can produce earthquakes. The maximum size of an earthquake is related to the length of the fault.



Slip Rate of Faults
(millimeters per year)

- 26–36
- 16–25
- 6–15
- 2–5
- 0–1
- Fault, subsurface faulting shown as dotted lines



0 50 100 Miles
0 50 100 Kilometers
Map Scale: 1:2,500,000



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