

**DESCRIPTION OF MAP AND DATABASE UNITS**

**VERY YOUNG SURFICIAL DEPOSITS**—Loose to slightly consolidated alluvial deposits in washes incised into all older units and graded to base-level play deposits in Chuckwalla Valley (Index Map). Geomorphic surfaces undisturbed to slightly dissected and truncated by active or recently active sediment accumulation.

**Very young alluvial deposits (late Holocene)**—Unconsolidated to coarse-grained sandy gravel with subordinate fine sand and silt; bar and swale morphology; unvarnished clasts. Sparingly to moderately vegetated; prominent riparian shrub lines. Clearly degradation, includes:

- Unit 2 (late Holocene)**—White on aerial photographs; no soil profile development. Mostly sand in washes on slopes flanking granitic inselbergs. Transported and deposited in more recently active channels; inset into Qa and older deposits. Unit surfaces correlate with Qb surfaces of Ball (1991).
- Unit 3 (late and/or middle Holocene)**—Light gray to pale yellow, gray on aerial photographs; little or no soil profile development. Transported and deposited in channels or parts of channels less recently active than those in which unit Qa deposited; inset into young alluvial deposits. Unit surfaces correlate with Q4a and Qb surfaces of Ball (1991).

**YOUNG SURFICIAL DEPOSITS**—Loose to moderately consolidated alluvial deposits on piedmont slopes. Slightly to strongly dissected geomorphic surfaces characterized by Av/Cu or Av/Ba/Cu soil profiles typical of Holocene surfaces (McHadden, 1988; Ball, 1991). Deposits form a thin mantle spread across landscape inherited from Pleistocene.

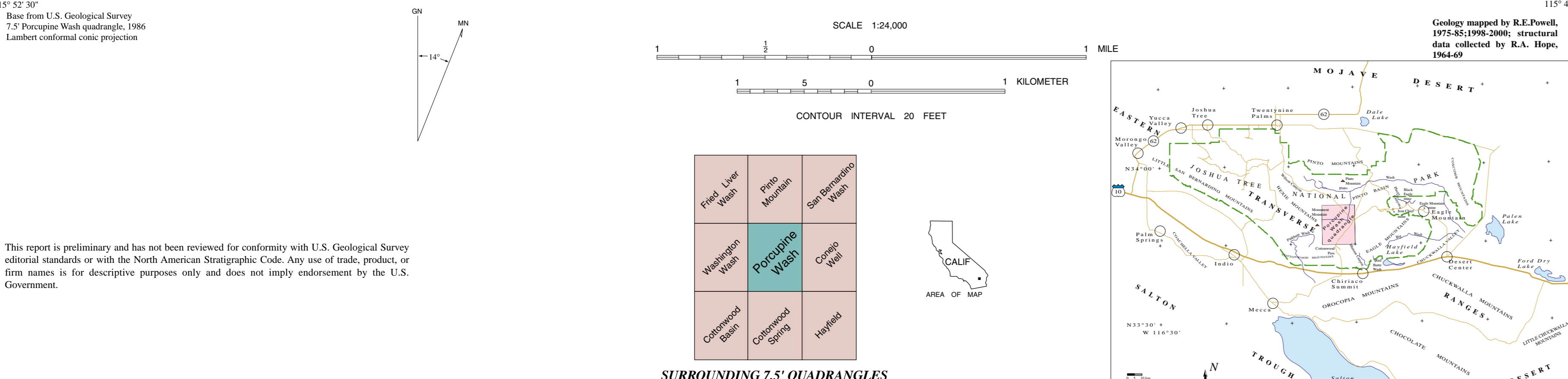
**Young alluvial deposits (Holocene and late Pleistocene)**—Loose to moderately consolidated alluvium deposited in canyon basins and on piedmont slopes. Piedmont alluvial deposits comprise two classes associated with geomorphically distinct pediment settings: (1) Deposits that form alluvial aprons characterized by prominently cone-shaped, multi-lobed fans that produce into bajada down-pediment. Usually occur along base of steep mountain escarpments in resistant rock types, the weathering and denudation of which are relatively insensitive to climatic change (Ball, 1991, p. 161-167). (2) Deposits that have accumulated on broad piedmont slopes along deeply embayed into mountain fronts in less resistant rock types, the weathering and denudation of which are relatively sensitive to climatic change. Consists of:

- Unit 1 (middle Holocene)**—Light gray to pale yellow, gray on aerial photographs; little or no soil profile development. Transported and deposited in channels or parts of channels less recently active than those in which unit Qa deposited; inset into young alluvial deposits. Unit surfaces correlate with Q4a and Qb surfaces of Ball (1991).
- Unit 2 (middle Holocene)**—Unconsolidated to slightly consolidated aggradational alluvial deposits chiefly derived from source terranes comprising rock types, the weathering and denudation of which are relatively insensitive to climatic change. Consists of:

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- Unit 1 (middle and/or early Holocene)**—Largely interpreted from aerial photographs. Unit exhibits dark gray to black, surface characterized by plumose astromorphous channels suggestive of bar and swale morphology. Unconsolidated to consolidated sand and gravel, poorly to moderately sorted. Proximally, unit is inset into Pleistocene deposits (Qoa, Qpa), distally, it overlies them. Fans are generally aggradational to mountain-front escarpments that hold source, resistant, locally varnished blocks. Locally, unit includes cobble and bouldery debris flow deposits. Inferred stratigraphic position, strong direct correlation with Qa surfaces of Ball (1991).
- Unit 2 (middle Holocene)**—Unconsolidated to consolidated sand and gravel, poorly to moderately sorted. Moderate varnish on gravelly proximal parts of fans; swales exhibit pebbly pavements underlain by Av horizon. Surfaces correlate with Q4a surfaces of Ball (1991).
- Unit 3 (late and/or middle Holocene)**—Unconsolidated to slightly consolidated aggradational alluvial deposits chiefly derived from source terranes comprising rock types, the weathering and denudation of which are relatively insensitive to climatic change. Deposits typically located on piedmonts deeply embayed into mountain fronts, truncated with inselbergs, rimmed with pediments, and eroded into highlands composed of quartz-rich light-colored granitic rocks. In Precipice Wash quadrangle, sensitive source terrane includes monzonitic (Kpmp), granodioritic (Qpda), monzonitic (Qpnc), and leucocratic orthogneiss (Qpog). Piedmonts exhibit broad, multi-lobed slopes that drain via small intra-piedmont valleys between slope faces. Alluvium on slope faces originates as fans distributed from feeder drainage channels and a sheet wash on slopes between drainage channels. Fans of this association are characterized by low-concave transverse profiles, and by surfaces having low-relief morphology. Fans and sheetwash on slopes between fans commonly merge imperceptibly. Down-pediment, distributive slope drainage re-collects into intra-piedmont tributary valleys that, in turn, debouch into piedmonts. Piedmonts veneer outer piedmonts formed by channelized flow and by unconfined overland flow in distributed network of branching and collecting washes, fans, and thin slope-flanking debris fans. Includes:

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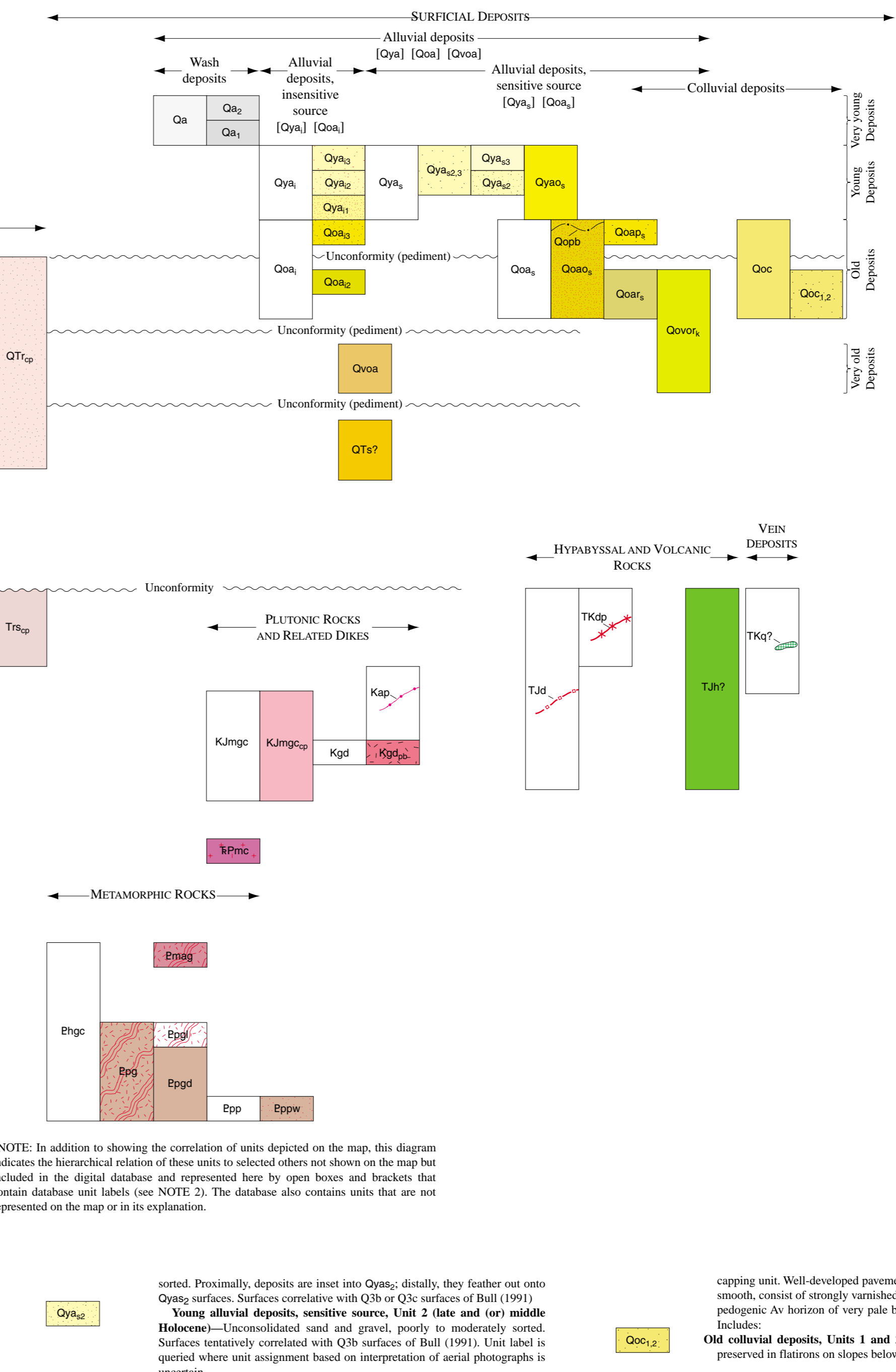
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**CORRELATION OF MAP AND DATABASE UNITS**



**VERY OLD SURFICIAL DEPOSITS**—Deposits in alluvial fans and on piedmont slopes. Very old deposits exhibit strongly dissected geomorphic surfaces characterized by truncated Av/K soil profiles; carbonaceous morphology in K horizon is consistent with pedogenesis in the range of Stage IV-VI; pervasive hard to very hard cherty cementation is typically accompanied by abundant fine laminar calcite.

**Very old alluvial deposits (middle and early Pleistocene)**—Moderately to well-consolidated sand and gravel; exhibits carbonaceous morphology. Ridges are rounded and littered with calcareous fragments; no remaining pavement.

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**QUATERNARY AND/OR TERTIARY SURFICIAL DEPOSITS**—Interpreted from aerial photographs; could be Quaternary and/or Tertiary. Unit is beveled by a pediment and capped by a reddened deposit that may be equivalent to Qoa, or Qoa.

**QUATERNARY AND TERTIARY REGOLITH**—Regolith (Quaternary and Tertiary)—Well-sorted in situ regolith developed on granitic and gneissic rocks beneath surface (pediment). Regolith formation is inferred to have begun in Tertiary (see Top description); additional weathering may have occurred during glauconite of successive Quaternary pediments. Exhumed rock pediments are beveled across the upper (saprolite) and lower (weathered jointed rock) parts of Tr. In Precipice Wash quadrangle, weathered jointed rock typically underlies pediments; calcareous and range from escarpments, whereas saprolite underlies same pediments further down-pediment. Includes:

- Regolith, Pleistocene (Quaternary and Tertiary)**—In situ regolith that underlies Quaternary pediments planed onto Pinto Gneiss (Qp) of Miller (1958).
- Regolith, granodioritic (Quaternary and Tertiary)**—In situ regolith that underlies Quaternary pediments on Quaternary granodiorite (Qpgr).
- Regolith, monzonitic of Pinto Basin (Quaternary and Tertiary)**—In situ regolith that underlies Quaternary pediments on monzonitic of Pinto Basin (Kpmp); light-colored; gneiss. Unit label is queried where unit assignment based on interpretation of aerial photographs is uncertain.
- Regolith, coarse-grained monzonitic (Quaternary and Tertiary)**—In situ regolith that underlies Quaternary pediments on coarse-grained monzonitic of Pinto Basin (Kpmp); gneiss. Unit label is queried where unit assignment based on interpretation of aerial photographs is uncertain.

**TERTIARY REGOLITH**—Regolith (Tertiary)—In situ regolith developed on granitic and gneissic rocks beneath regional Tertiary erosion surface; thickens on Mesozoic granitic rocks. Largely interpreted from aerial photographs. Unit beveled by pediments formed during Quaternary. On granitic rocks, divided into:

- Saprolite (Tertiary)**—Upper part of regolith on granitic rocks is light-gray to rusty-brown saprolite; ball-and-socket morphology (ridges with flanks fluted by numerous parallel gullies) has developed on outcrops; relatively soft surface. Includes:
- Saprolite, monzonitic of Cottonwood Pass (Tertiary)**—In situ regolith developed chiefly on monzonitic of Cottonwood Pass (Kpmp); gneiss. Unit label is queried where unit assignment based on interpretation of aerial photographs is uncertain.
- Saprolite, orthogneissic (Tertiary)**—Unit label is queried where unit assignment based on interpretation of aerial photographs is uncertain.

**CENOZOIC AND MESOZOIC HYPBYSSEAL ROCKS**—Dikes (Tertiary, Cretaceous, or Jurassic)—Dikes observed in and around Precipice Wash quadrangle include quartz latite or thuyacite, dacite porphyry, and microdiorite. Names are based on phenocryst percentages. Microdiorite dikes typically exhibit prismatic, tabular, includes:

- Dacite porphyry dikes (Tertiary or Cretaceous)**—Gray hornblende-zoned euhedral porphyry containing abundant to sparse phenocrysts of zoned euhedral plagioclase (labradorite to andesine, as large as 1 cm), subordinate euhedral brown hornblende and brown biotite, and rare embayed quartz set in a gray microcrystalline matrix of plagioclase, alkali feldspar, quartz, sphene, apatite, and zircon. Dikes occur in prominent veins that trend northeast through the Eagle and Pinto Basins. Individual dikes, typically a few meters thick and commonly several hundred meters long, dip steeply from resistant sills, and exhibit dark brown patina of calcareous weathering. Contains Crataceous granodiorite (Qpgr, Kpda) and monzonite (Kpmp).
- Hypabyssal intrusives (Tertiary, Cretaceous, and/or Jurassic)**—Interpreted from aerial photographs.

**TERTIARY AND/OR CRETACEOUS VEIN DEPOSITS**—**Quartzite (Tertiary or Cretaceous)**—Inferred to be part of vein quartz from aerial photographs.

**MESOZOIC PLUTONIC ROCKS AND RELATED DIKES**—Part of Mesozoic batholith, plutons of which comprise time-illitobolus belts in Transverse Ranges and adjacent parts of Mojave Desert (see digital database and Powell, 1993). Plutons of major belt (Kpmp, Kpgr) gneiss present in Precipice Wash quadrangle.

**APLITE DIKES (Cretaceous)**—Fine-grained, saccharoidal apfite. White to pinkish white; takes on light to medium-brown stains of desert varnish.

**Monzonitic, coarse-grained (Cretaceous and/or Jurassic)**—Medium- to coarse-grained biotite monzonite. Typically equigranular; locally seriate, containing scattered small phenocrysts of alkali feldspar. Color index 5 to 10. Quartz-rich, aillinite-bearing. Regionally widespread. Typically occurs in plutons associated with older porphyritic biotite monzonite. Disparate discordant ages interpreted on basis of zircon and sphene U-Pb systematics, and

seemingly contradictory age relations for various bodies of monzonite in region may indicate that unit includes plutons of different ages. In Precipice Wash quadrangle, includes:

- Monzonite of Cottonwood Pass (Cretaceous or Jurassic)**—Intrudes Kpda (Hoyle, 1966; Powell, 1981). Dissected zone U-Pb data from sample just south of Precipice Wash quadrangle suggest Jurassic or early Cretaceous age (J.L. Wooden, written communication, 1997). Southeastern of quadrangle unit has been mapped as intrusive into porphyritic biotite-hornblende monzonite that further west has yielded late Holocene zircon and U-Pb dates (Wooden and others, 1991; Fleck and others, 1997). Unit label is queried where unit assignment based on interpretation of aerial photographs is uncertain.
- Granodiorite (Cretaceous)**—Sphene-bearing biotite-hornblende granodiorite; medium to coarse-grained. Late Cretaceous zircon and U-Pb dates in Little San Bernardino and Chuckwalla Mountains (Wooden and others, 1991; Fleck and others, 1997). Crop out in discrete plutons, including:
- Granodiorite of Pinto Basin (Cretaceous)**—Unit label is queried where unit assignment based on interpretation of aerial photographs is uncertain.
- Monzonite of Pinto Basin (Cretaceous or Jurassic)**—Leucocratic quartz-alkali feldspar-plagioclase plutonic rock with 5 to 10% quartz. Mafic minerals consist of clinopyroxene, hornblende, and biotite. Accessory minerals include zircon and apatite. Previously mapped as late Paleozoic(?) or early Mesozoic(?) (Powell, 1981) and represented as late Paleozoic(?) or early Mesozoic(?) (Wooden and others, 1991; Powell, 1993); subsequently interpreted as Permian or Triassic on basis of zircon U-Pb isotopic systematics (Barth and others, 1997).

**PROTEROZOIC METAMORPHIC ROCKS**—**Gneiss complex of the Pinto Mountains (Proterozoic)**—Regional grouping of ortho- and paragneiss units among which stratigraphic relations have been largely obscured by tectonic and deformational events (Powell, 1981, 1993). Widespread in the Eagle, western Pinto, southeastern Eagle, Cottonwood, Chuckwalla and Little San Bernardino Mountains (Index Map). Consists of:

- Angon gneiss of Monument Mountain (Middle Proterozoic)**—Mesocratic orthogneiss; granitic orthogneiss of orthogneissic composition. Elsewhere in region, unit has yielded zircon U-Pb dates of 1.63 to 1.66 Ga (Driver, 1971).
- Pinto Gneiss of Miller (Middle Proterozoic)**—Intermingled ortho- and paragneiss. Widespread in the western Pinto, Heintz, Cottonwood, and Chuckwalla Mountains; also crops out in southwestern Eagle and easternmost Overcast Mountains. Herein, restricted to rocks included in Miller's original description of unit; does not include expanded usage of Rogers (1961). Includes:
- Orthogneissic (Middle Proterozoic)**—Foliated, leucocratic biotite granite to granite gneiss; medium to very coarse-grained. Consist of alkali feldspar, plagioclase, quartz, and biotite; garnet is commonly present as isolated fine crystals or as large, recrystallized clots of many grains. Unit label is queried where unit assignment based on interpretation of aerial photographs is uncertain.
- Pinto Gneiss, dark (Middle Proterozoic)**—From youngest to oldest, includes: (1) Biotite-quartz-feldspar layered gneiss; prominently banded, having alternating light-colored laminae rich in alkali feldspar and dark-colored laminae rich in biotite and oligoclase; light and dark laminae contain abundant quartz (20-50%), garnet is common. (2) Amphibolite. (3) Metasedimentary and/or metamorphosed igneous and/or metamorphosed igneous rocks comprising (a) chert and cordierite and containing varying amounts of sillimanite and/or andalusite; garnet, stannite, plagioclase, and K-feldspar. (b) Biotite, light-colored, gray schistose granodiorite consisting primarily of coarse-grained quartz and very fine-grained sericite. (c) Scattered thin layers of ferruginous schist and granofels. Unit label is queried where unit assignment based on interpretation of aerial photographs is uncertain.
- Metasedimentary and/or metamorphosed hydrothermally altered rocks of Pinto Basin (Cretaceous)**—Includes:
- Siliceous granofels of Wilson Canyon**—Bluish gray siliceous granofels consisting predominantly of coarse-grained quartz and very fine-grained sericite.

**NOTE:** In addition to descriptions of units depicted on the map, this explanation contains descriptions of selected units not shown on the map but included in the digital database. Each additional unit is represented in the Description of Map and Database Units by an open box that contains its database unit label; each open box in the DMI corresponds with either an open box or a pair of brackets that contains the database unit label in the Correlation of Map and Database Units.

**GEOLOGIC MAP AND DIGITAL DATABASE OF THE PORCUPINE WASH 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Version 1.0

By  
Robert E. Powell  
Digital preparation by  
Pamela M. Cossette