

1 **Conjugate Faulting, Steptover, and Inflation Associated with the 2010 Magnitude 7.2 El**
2 **Mayor-Cucupah Earthquake Observed in UAVSAR and GPS Measurements**

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24 **Abstract**

25 GPS and UAVSAR observations of the April 2010 M 7.2 El Mayor – Cucupah
26 earthquake indicate a pattern of substantial deformation and sympathetic fault slip
27 associated with the rupture. A series of conjugate left-lateral faults slipped in
28 association with the earthquake and continued to slip into December 2010. A right-
29 lateral stepover developed to the northwest of the main-shock rupture connecting
30 the Laguna Salada and Elsinore faults. Slip on this stepover occurred at a depth of 2-
31 10 km and also continued postseismically. Further northeast the Superstition Hills
32 fault slipped 2 cm at the surface and the Imperial Fault slipped 4 cm. Both slipped
33 right-laterally. The pairs of data that make up the UAVSAR interferogram were
34 collected in October 2009 and April 2011, so it is not possible to determine whether
35 these right-lateral slip events occurred during the coseismic event. The UAVSAR
36 data show an elliptical fringe pattern across the Imperial Valley that is generally
37 matched by a broad pattern of uplift observed in the GPS data, perhaps indicating a
38 regional intrusion of water or magma. About 20 mm of uplift occurred in the Salton
39 Trough surrounding the main shock and an additional 7 mm of uplift occurred in the
40 April – July 2010 timeframe in the southern part of the Imperial Valley. The GPS
41 station closest to the rupture subsided during the earthquake, but began uplifting in
42 March 2011. The uplift pattern and conjugate sets of faults are reflective of the
43 transition zone from rifting in the Gulf of California to transform plate boundary
44 motion between the Pacific and North American plates.

45

46 **Introduction**

47 The 4 April 2010, M 7.2 El Mayor-Cucupah earthquake occurred in northern Baja,
48 Mexico on a northwest-southeast trending right-lateral oblique normal fault [Hauksson et
49 al, 2010]. The fault ruptured the surface and extended just south of the border between
50 Baja and California. The region was observed by continuous GPS (Global Positioning
51 System), and with UAVSAR (Uninhabited Autonomous Vehicle Synthetic Aperture
52 Radar) beginning in October of 2009 and several times following the earthquake,
53 providing detailed coseismic and postseismic images of surface deformation.

54 About 42 mm/yr of shear deformation occur across southern California between Palm
55 Springs and the Mexican border [Meade and Hager, 2005, Fay and Humphreys, 2005]. In
56 this region the San Andreas fault is slipping at about 25 mm/yr, the San Jacinto Fault at
57 12 mm/yr, and the Elsinore fault at about 4 mm/yr [Weldon and Sieh, 1985; Blisniuk et
58 al., 2010; Rockwell et al., 1990; Millman and Rockwell, 1986; WGCEP, 2008; Fay and
59 Humphreys, 2005]. This area, to the north of the Gulf of California, is a transition zone
60 between the extensional tectonic regime of the East Pacific Rise and the transform
61 tectonics of the strike-slip San Andreas fault system (Figure 1A). Both tectonic regimes
62 (extension and transform) are manifest in the Imperial Valley and Salton Trough by
63 abundant seismicity along northwest-trending right-lateral strike-slip faults and northeast-
64 trending left-lateral conjugate faults, with swarms of shallow earthquakes in the Brawley
65 seismic zone southeast of the Salton Sea [Nicholson et al., 1986, Irwin, 1990]. The Salton
66 Trough is characterized by high heat flow, Quaternary volcanism, and hydrothermal
67 activity associated with magma intrusion at shallow depth [Irwin, 1990; Hill et al., 1990].
68 The paleoseismic and historic records show the region is capable of producing large

69 earthquakes, such as the southern San Andreas fault rupture in ~1700 A.D. [WGCEP,
70 2008], and sequences of earthquakes. The 1940 M_w 7.0 El Centro and 1979 M_w 6.5
71 Imperial Valley earthquakes ruptured overlapping sections of the Imperial fault
72 [Toppozada et al., 2002] and the 1968 M_w 6.6 Borrego Mountain earthquake triggered slip
73 on the Superstition Hills fault [Nicholson et al., 1986]. The northwest-trending
74 Superstition Hills fault, a branch of the San Jacinto fault zone, subsequently ruptured in
75 1987 in a M_w 6.6 earthquake which was preceded a few hours by the M_w 6.2 Elmore
76 Ranch earthquake on the conjugate northeast-trending Elmore Ranch fault [Hudnut et al.,
77 1989; Hill et al., 1990]. The southern Elsinore fault zone has not ruptured historically.
78 The southern Coyote Mountains segment of the Elsinore fault zone is separated from the
79 northern Laguna Salada fault zone, which ruptured in 1892, by a releasing stepover with
80 several northeast-trending cross-faults [WGCEP, 2008].

81 The actively deforming Salton Trough, which includes northern Baja, the Salton
82 Trough, and areas west of the Salton Trough, was identified as a location of increased
83 earthquake probabilities or hotspots [Holliday et al, 2007] based on methods derived
84 from pattern informatics forecasting methodology developed by Rundle and Tiampo
85 [Rundle et al, 2002; Tiampo et al, 2002; Rundle et al, 2003]. The effectiveness of the
86 Pattern Informatics method was tested in a prospective test from January 1, 2006 -
87 December 31, 2010. It was found to have considerable skill at locating the future
88 earthquakes $M > 4.95$ that occurred during the test period [Lee et al, 2011].

89 A UAVSAR experiment to observe the Imperial Valley transition zone between the
90 Gulf of California and the San Andreas fault system (Figure 1A) was initiated because of
91 the predicted increase in earthquake probability combined with large earthquakes in the

92 past and active deformation on several faults in the region. Because the deformation is
93 primarily on northwest-southeast striking right-lateral faults, we designed the UAVSAR
94 experiment with flight swaths perpendicular to the faults in order to observe maximal
95 range changes associated with displacements along the faults. As a result observations
96 were collected over the region prior to the El Mayor – Cucupah earthquake, and several
97 times following the event.

98 **UAVSAR and GPS Observation of the El Mayor/Cucupah Earthquake**

99 The NASA/JPL UAVSAR is an airborne, L-band, fully polarimetric radar housed in a
100 pod that is mounted to the belly of a Gulfstream III aircraft. UAVSAR employs a
101 precision autopilot that allows the plane to fly a specified flight path within a 5 m tube,
102 and an electronically scanned antenna with beam steering based on inertial navigation
103 unit (INU) data. These capabilities facilitate repeat pass interferometric radar
104 observations. The instrument observes approximately 22 km wide swaths that are
105 typically between 100 km and 300 km long. Interferometric radar images (or
106 interferograms) are generated from repeat passes flown over a desired site. UAVSAR
107 requires additional processing compared to spaceborne data because the aircraft
108 trajectories are often compromised by wind gusts and turbulence. Motion compensation
109 guided by integrated GPS/INU measurements of 2-3 cm position accuracy is an order of
110 magnitude less accurate than what is needed for geodetically useful observations. To
111 overcome this difficulty, offset measurements between single look complex (SLC)
112 images from the two passes are used to solve for the residual baseline, velocity and
113 attitude angles. Motion data are corrected and the imagery reprocessed [Hensley et al,
114 2008]. Products generated by the UAVSAR processor include both slant range multi-

115 looked interferograms and unwrapped phase products, with 36 looks and approximately
116 6-7 m postings, as well as the corresponding geocoded data products in geographic
117 coordinates based on the SRTM 30 m DEM.

118 UAVSAR data were first collected for the Salton Trough experiment along the border
119 on 20 October 2009 (Table 1). The El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake ruptured northward in
120 Baja, Mexico to the border between the US and Mexico, while the UAVSAR
121 observations were collected in the US to the border of Mexico. As a result, UAVSAR
122 observes only the northern terminus of the rupture, and associated crustal deformation
123 response to the north. Repeat pass data were collected on 12 and 13 April 2010 about one
124 week after the M 7.2 El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake, on 1 July 2010 and 1 December
125 2010 (Figure 1), making it possible to construct repeat pass interferometric (RPI)
126 products for the mainshock, and near term postseismic deformation.

127 Data were also collected in April 2009, and September 2010, but are not used in this
128 study. In the first case, the observations were further north across the Imperial Valley and
129 are too far north to show co- or postseismic motions. For the latter case, the RPI product
130 is noisy suggesting too many error sources to make a useful product.

131 GPS data are also continuously collected for this region and were used in part to
132 constrain some characteristics of the phase unwrapped repeat pass interferometry
133 products, and also highlight a pattern of uplift in the Imperial Valley. Up to 2 cm of uplift
134 occurred spanning the earthquake. Motion continued, at a lower level, at least to the July
135 1, 2010 time period in the southern part of the Salton Trough, and uplift started in Spring
136 of 2011 near the mainshock rupture and Mexican border.

137 The southernmost interferogram (Line 26501) shows two lobes of deformation,
138 marking the north end of the rupture near the Mexican border. The data were examined in
139 a variety of ways to understand the robustness of the solution. The east lobe and localized
140 discontinuities, or offsets, are reflective of ground motion. However error sources from
141 atmospheric water vapor or aircraft motion estimation may be obscuring the deformation
142 in the western part of the interferogram.

143 The earthquake caused large offsets of the ground in the region of this line, which
144 could contaminate the aircraft residual motion estimates. 2D pixel offsets between the
145 two images via amplitude correlation of tiles is computed. A model relates the image
146 offsets to a residual baseline slope. The slope is integrated in time to give the relative
147 motion error. The error is assumed to have zero mean and as a result half of the error is
148 added to each flown track. The data are then reprocessed with the updated motion for the
149 final products. When the deformation signal is large compared to a pixel, there is a
150 possibility of corrupting the offset measurement and thus the estimated motion. The ~ 8
151 cm amplitude western lobe has widely different characteristics for different solutions,
152 while the ~ 80 cm amplitude eastern lobe and other features persist for various solutions.

153 A bound on the error due to atmospheric water vapor may be estimated by examining
154 records of wet troposphere delay [Moore et al, 2010] estimated during the days of flight
155 at local GPS stations. We take the temporal variations of these estimates as proxies for
156 the spatial variability of the water vapor signal in the UAVSAR displacement maps.
157 Differencing the records for the flight dates at stations and taking the extreme values at
158 P494 and P500 (at the western and eastern boundary of the agricultural land,
159 respectively), we estimate the upper bound for vertical water vapor 2-way delay error to

160 be 9.0 cm at P474 and 5.4 cm at P500. This vertical error bound scales according to the
161 increased ray path for off-vertical illumination of pixels, proportional to the cosecant of
162 the elevation angle. This approximately doubles these error bounds in the part of the
163 image farthest from the flight path. Actual errors in radar deformation are likely to be
164 substantially smaller than these bounds, as we have not removed diurnal variation
165 (temporal variation is likely larger than spatial variation during a data capture).

166 Left-lateral offsets of the fringes can be seen, including along a well-defined
167 discontinuity, which is conjugate to the mainshock rupture and corresponds to the
168 location of the Yuha Fault. The Yuha fault [Treiman, 2011] is one of a series of
169 northeast-trending cross-faults [Nicholson et al., 1986] between major strands of the
170 southern Elsinore and Laguna Salada fault zones. In addition to the Yuha fault, a number
171 of northwest and northeast striking offsets that are conjugate to each other can be noted in
172 the interferogram (Figures 2A and 7A). The eastern lobe shows more data outages due to
173 temporal decorrelation in the Imperial Valley from active cultivation of agricultural
174 fields. This lobe of deformation shows disturbance on its eastern margin, which may be
175 due to leveling or settling of the Imperial Valley from liquefaction. Soil moisture effects,
176 which are not unlikely given the extensive liquefaction of the area [McCrink et al, 2011]
177 can also be a contributing source of error to the results. Northwest striking linear offsets
178 in the interferogram can be observed on both the Imperial fault (line 26501 ellipsoid in
179 Figure 1B) and on the Superstition Hills fault (line 26505 in figure 2A).

180 East of the two lobes a large elliptical fringe pattern tens of kilometers across can be
181 seen in both line 26501 and the next line north (26505). The elliptical pattern (Figure
182 1A) could be attributed to atmosphere, residual, aircraft motion, or crustal motion. Uplift

183 of 1–2 cm is observed at the GPS stations for the same time period as that spanned by the
184 coseismic interferogram (20/10 October 2009 – 12/13 April 2010), and about 7 mm of
185 uplift is observed in the GPS stations for the same time period as the postseismic
186 interferograms (12/13 April 2010 – 1 July 2010) in the southwestern half of the Imperial
187 Valley. Uncertainties in the line-of-sight measurement of the UAVSAR instrument,
188 coupled with the sparseness of the GPS network, did not permit the decomposition the
189 UAVSAR observations into horizontal and vertical deformation. However, the GPS and
190 UAVSAR data were combined in the following inversions and in the interpretation of the
191 data.

192 We compared the UAVSAR line of site measurements to GPS results calculated for
193 the same time frame as the UAVSAR data (Figures 3 and 4). We converted the GPS
194 north, east, and up vectors to line of site for the given azimuth and elevation for that
195 location in the swath. UAVSAR pixels were averaged over a 1x1 km box. The results
196 show that for local scales the correlation between the UAVSAR and GPS results is good
197 and that the UAVSAR results can be deemed reliable. Ramps in the solution and other
198 effects make it difficult to draw more regional conclusions from the UAVSAR solutions.
199 GPS results can be used to validate and presumably improve the UAVSAR results over
200 time. Unfortunately there are no GPS stations located in the western lobe of the
201 interferogram to provide constraints on the results there.

202 The GPS data indicate coseismic uplift during the event [Wei et al, 2011], but also
203 show a trend of uplift for the period 21 October 2009 – 13 April 2010 (Figure 2A). A
204 similar pattern of uplift is observed in the postseismic GPS solution, but is more confined
205 to the southern and western Imperial Valley (Figure 2C). If the uplift were observed only

206 for the time of the El Mayor – Cucupah earthquake it is possible that liquefaction caused
207 local uplift of the GPS monuments [Sasaki and Tamura, 2004]. Instead there seems to be
208 a persistent broad pattern of regional uplift.

209 Webb et al. [2009] and Kedar [written communication] calculated time dependent
210 strain for southern California based on continuous GPS measurements. Their results show
211 substantial dilatation across the Imperial Valley in the region between the Salton Sea and
212 the Mexican border, which grows more pronounced before the El Mayor-Cucupah
213 earthquake. A ring of compression surrounds the Imperial Valley during this time period.
214 More dilation is observed coseismically with compression at the edges, suggesting a
215 regional dome of uplift associated with the earthquake similar to the elliptical pattern
216 observed in the interferograms.

217 The coseismic interferogram on line 26501 includes the timespan April 12–13, 2010,
218 whereas line 26505 does not. A two lobed pattern of deformation is observed in the April
219 12–13, 2010 timeframe (Figure 2B, suggesting that rapid postseismic motions occurred in
220 the weeks following the event. This two lobed pattern continues for the April 13 – July 1,
221 2010 timeframe (Figure 2C) and is suggested in the July 1 – December 1, 2010
222 interferogram (Figure 2D). Two conjugate zones of shear are observed during this longer
223 postseismic time period.

224 We plotted the line of site range changes for these three time periods on four
225 transects. The first two transects (Lines A and B) are oriented perpendicular to the strike
226 of the mainshock rupture with line A being further north and further away from the
227 northern extent of the rupture. Line B spans the interferogram along and just north of the
228 Yuha fault. Line C runs parallel to and just north of the extension of the mainshock

229 rupture and crosses the Yuha fault. Line CC runs north-south through the east lobe and
230 maximum displacement present in the interferogram. Line D crosses north-south
231 perpendicular to the fringes on the eastern side of the Imperial Valley.

232 We converted the GPS deformation measurements into line-of-sight motions
233 commensurate with the UAVSAR observation geometry of the interferograms. The
234 elevation between the ground and the instrument varies from about 20° at the far edge of
235 the swath to about 65° at the near edge of the swath for UAVSAR relative to the
236 instrument. We used an elevation angle that matched or was most appropriate to the
237 closest UAVSAR observation (pixel) and an azimuth of -5° , which is perpendicular to the
238 flight path heading of the aircraft. As a result, GPS projections can vary according to the
239 swath on which they were projected. The locations of the GPS stations do not lie on the
240 cross section line for the most part, so we projected the locations of the GPS stations onto
241 nearby lines (Figures 3–6). Some of the GPS stations are far from the lines, but still
242 provide a general validation of the observed InSAR products. There can be an unknown
243 overall phase constant in the interferogram that must be constrained with
244 knowledge of areas known not to be undergoing deformation or with in situ
245 measurement from GPS. We corrected the UAVSAR range change by a constant offset
246 for the entire image to match the GPS range change estimates for stations on or very near
247 the lines.

248 The coseismic observations indicate about 4 cm of coseismic change near the rupture
249 (Figure 2A). The interferogram shows a fabric of conjugate northeast and northwest
250 striking surface ruptures (Figure 7A). In our convention, positive range change is toward
251 the aircraft. The GPS stations roughly indicate the same sense of motion as the UAVSAR

252 data. Line B, which is closer to the rupture shows about 10 cm of motion peak to peak.
253 The region between stations P494 and P496 shows a noisy but much flatter profile of
254 motion. This is an indication of liquefaction, causing leveling at the western edge of the
255 Imperial Valley on approximately a 10 km scale. The postseismic Lines A and B for the
256 period 13 April – 1 July 2010 suggests the development of a fault stepover indicating
257 continued activity at the northern end of the rupture. 3 cm of right slip are observed on
258 the northwest stepover in the time period 13 April – 1 July 2010 and about 5 cm of range
259 change are observed at the northern extension of the mainshock rupture. A ramp in the
260 data is likely due to unmodeled errors. Line C shows a range change difference of over
261 30 cm from the north edge of line 26501 through the northeast lobe of the interferogram
262 and offsets on the Yuha fault and a fault to the south coseismically and postseismically
263 (Figure 4). Line CC shows a 60 cm gradient across the main or eastern lobe of the
264 interferogram (Figure 5), which is due to a large slip gradient near the north end of the
265 rupture.

266 Further east the coseismic and UAVSAR data show much greater variations along
267 profile line D (Figure 6). Water in the region leading to mechanical instability along with
268 liquefaction most likely disturbed the area during the event, but can also result in soil
269 moisture changes and an additional source of error in the UAVSAR solutions. The GPS
270 results show small postseismic motions and the excursion seen in the UAVSAR
271 postseismic observations are most likely due to unmodeled errors.

272 **Co- and Postseismic Fault Slip**

273 The combined GPS and UAVSAR data, which include one week of postseismic
274 motion, can be inverted for a single fault (Table 2). The inversions use three surface

275 displacement components at GPS station locations, and one displacement component (in
276 the illumination direction) at UAVSAR-observed pixel locations, with surface
277 displacements calculated by elastic half-space dislocations [Okada, 1985]. Inversion is
278 carried out by a residual-minimization procedure [Donnellan and Lyzenga, 1998],
279 estimating the geometry and slip of one or more uniformly-slipping rectangular fault
280 patches. Wei et al [2011] fit a model of a similar 120 km rupture to spaceborne radar data
281 that observe the rupture and GPS data, but use seismicity to constrain the model to two
282 long faults offset by a normal fault, and a fault segment at the north end of the rupture.
283 We used the Wei et al [2011] four segment and multiple fault patch model, but the
284 resulting surface deformation did not vary much north of the rupture. An average slip
285 works approximately as well. These models produce a general gradient across the region
286 of the interferogram, that must be taken into account, but do not contribute much to
287 understanding the local slip. The north end of the rupture in our inversion is about 3 km
288 north of the mapped rupture, suggesting some combination of deeper slip that did not
289 rupture the surface in this region, or northward migration of slip during the immediate
290 postseismic period.

291 The interferogram of the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake shows linear northeast
292 striking patterns that cross and offset the fringes (Figure 7). The most prominent of these
293 is on the Yuha fault, which is a northeast trending strike-slip fault just north of the border
294 between California and Baja [Treiman, 2011]. There is indication in the interferogram of
295 a smaller secondary fault further south that we do not model here. The northeast striking
296 lineations can be fit by a single fault at depth that is sub-parallel to, but south of, the

297 Yuha fault. The results suggest superficial slip on the Yuha and secondary fault in the
298 unconsolidated surface sediment, but a simpler pattern of slip on a single fault at depth.

299 A map view of the interferogram in the region of the mainshock suggests that a
300 stepover develops following the earthquake. Modeling suggests that the El Mayor-
301 Cucupah rupture is bounded on the north by the left-lateral northeast striking, Yuha fault
302 (Figure 9). These faults continued to slip to December 1, 2010 (Figures 7B–D). On 15
303 June 2010 a M 5.7 aftershock occurred just northwest of the northern terminus of
304 the rupture. The epicenter of the event is proximal to the linear discontinuity in the
305 postseismic interferogram and the mechanism of the event is consistent with slip on
306 this stepover.

307 Inversions for slip on the northeast linear structure that steps west of the mainshock
308 rupture yield a moment magnitude ranging from 5.5 – 5.8 (Table 3), which is consistent
309 with the magnitude of the aftershock. We carried out inversions for one, two, and three
310 fault segments for the observed postseismic interferogram. The χ^2/dof of the best-fit
311 model is 0.47 and includes slip on the two offset northwest striking faults separated by
312 the left-lateral Yuha fault. The χ^2/dof for a single fault is 1.54, or three times worse than
313 the three fault segment model. While even the 3-fault model does not exhaust the data (it
314 accounts for 73% of the variance in the radar image, leaving additional evidence of fault
315 slip in the residuals), the UAVSAR data point to locations of the structures, their
316 stepovers, and conjugate structures with the Yuha fault being the primary conjugate
317 structure. The close proximity of the faults superposed gradients on the surface
318 deformation from slip on the other faults. As a result, slip on the three structures best
319 accounts for all of the observed deformation. We carried out numerous models leaving

320 various parameters free and fixed, which helped us to converge on the models presented
321 here. For the postseismic models presented here we fixed the location, strike, and length
322 of the fault surfaces based on those identified in the UAVSAR image. An eastward dip is
323 preferred on the northeast striking faults. Cumulatively the moment release from the
324 earthquake to 1 July 2010 is equivalent to M 6.0.

325 While the model cannot provide exact details of postseismic rupture characteristics,
326 we found that numerous model runs indicate that the main shock rupture terminates at the
327 Yuha fault. Afterslip on the main shock is required by the models. Left slip occurs on the
328 conjugate Yuha fault. Deeper slip is associated with the 15 June 2010 Coyote Creek
329 aftershock. The models prefer a steeply dipping fault, with dip slightly eastward and slip
330 at a depths of 2-10 km. We explored the relocated earthquakes of Hauksson et al [2011]
331 and found that the earthquakes from 2–8 km in that region fall on a plane that follows the
332 stepover imaged by UAVSAR. A cross section by depth through that line suggests a
333 slight eastward dip. The deep and shallow locations are much more diffuse.

334 Coseismic creep is observed on the Superstition and Imperial faults (Figure 10).
335 Using the assumption that all of the slip is horizontal, and parallel to the respective fault,
336 2 cm of horizontal right-lateral slip occurred on the Superstition Hills fault, and 4 cm of
337 right-lateral strike slip motion occurred on the Imperial fault. These results show that
338 locally UAVSAR can produce very detailed observations of surface deformation and
339 provide good indicators of the depth of slip.

340 **Observed Uplift in the Imperial Valley**

341 The UAVSAR observations suggest a dome of vertical deformation in the Imperial
342 Valley. However, the horizontal motions overwhelm the results in the repeat pass

343 interferogram, making it difficult to infer any pattern of vertical motions. GPS results for
344 the region indicate about 2 cm of uplift in the Imperial Valley associated with the
345 earthquake and subsidence near and west of the rupture. Additional uplift of about 7 mm
346 in the southwestern half of the Imperial Valley occurred between the time of the
347 earthquake and 1 July 2010 (Figure 2).

348 Over the longer term, since the earthquake, the stations closest to the northeast end of
349 the co-seismic rupture show the most uplift. Station P494 subsided following the
350 earthquake and then rose about 30 mm in the 1 April 2011 – 28 July 2011 time frame
351 (Figure 11). Station P496 showed a uniform rate of uplift, amounting to about 20 mm in
352 the time frame from the earthquake on 10 April 2010 to 28 July 2011. Water or magma
353 injection could explain the Imperial Valley pattern of uplift. The southeastward motion
354 of the eastern side of the fault rupture would cause a pull apart in the Imperial Valley,
355 consistent with the dilation that is calculated from the GPS time series data [Webb et al,
356 2009] and well developed rifting [Swanberg, 1982].

357 We compare the Yellowstone caldera to the Salton Trough to explain the vertical
358 motions. At a very simplistic level, the Yellowstone caldera region and the Salton trough
359 have several interesting features in common: both experience frequent large earthquakes,
360 both have very high heat flow, and associated geysers and/or mud volcanoes. There have
361 been several episodes of inflation and deflation of the Yellowstone caldera floor in the
362 period of time covered by annual leveling surveys starting in 1976. Many of the episodes
363 of vertical motion were associated in time with earthquake swarms and changes in
364 activity of geysers and mud pots [Dzurisin, 2007]. There have been several large historic

365 earthquakes in the region with the largest being the M 7.5 Hebgen Lake event on 18
366 August 1959.

367 The long-term (10^5 to 10^6 year) source of both high heat flow and elevated
368 topography is “episodic intrusion of new basaltic magma from the mantle into the crust
369 beneath the caldera” [Dzurisin, 2007, p. 254]. There is good evidence for a partly molten
370 rhyolitic magma at depth [Christiansen, 2001; Smith and Braile, 1994].

371 A leveling survey of the Yellowstone caldera was conducted in 1923 and then from
372 1976 onward. The survey has been repeated on a yearly basis. Starting in 1990, these
373 leveling surveys have been supplemented by GPS measurements, which also measure
374 both vertical and horizontal motion. Starting in 1992 InSAR measurements have also
375 been obtained. These surveys show several episodes of inflation and subsidence of the
376 caldera floor [Dzurisin and Yamashita, 1987; Dzurisin et al., 1990]. The caldera rim has
377 remained relatively stable, but the center showed 90 cm of uplift from 1923 to 1985,
378 followed by 20 cm of subsidence between 1985 and 1995, followed by uplift since 1995.
379 The rate of uplift increased dramatically in 2004 [Chang et al., 2007], and has continued
380 until the present, though not at the 5-7 cm/yr rate seen between 2004 and 2006 [Chang et
381 al., 2010]. The likely mechanisms for short term vertical motion include both movement
382 of magma [Christiansen, 2001; Smith and Braile, 1994] and pressurization of the deep
383 hydrothermal system [Fournier, 1989, Dzurisin et al., 1990].

384 Fournier and Pitt [1985] proposed that the Yellowstone hydrothermal system has a
385 deep zone in which pore fluid pressure is near lithostatic, and a shallow zone in which
386 pore pressure is hydrostatic. The two zones are presumed to be separated by an
387 impermeable, self-sealing layer created by mineral deposition and plastic flow at a depth

388 near 5 km. In this model, uplift can be explained by water released upon crystallization of
389 rhyolitic magma. The net volume increase would yield surface uplift [Fournier, 1989;
390 Dzurisin et al., 1990]. If the self-sealed layer within the deep hydrothermal system were
391 ruptured during an earthquake swarm, the resulting depressurization and fluid loss would
392 lead to surface subsidence.

393 It is tempting to draw parallels between behavior seen in Yellowstone and that in the
394 Salton Trough. There are obvious similarities, including high heat flow, recent volcanic
395 activity, and occasional large earthquakes. Rudolph and Manga [2010] observed an
396 increase in gas flux from mud volcanoes near to the location of the 4 April 2010 El
397 Mayor-Cucupah earthquake, and argued that it was due to a transient increase in
398 subsurface permeability.

399 In addition to the 5 small rhyolite domes, which were extruded onto the Quaternary
400 sediments at the south end of the Salton Sea [Robinson et al., 1976], it has recently been
401 found that there are thick (150-300 m) rhyolite layers at 1.6 to 2.7 km depth in the same
402 area [Schmitt and Hulen., 2008]. They appear to have been emplaced roughly 400 kyr
403 ago. Assuming that the sedimentation rate roughly equals the subsidence rate
404 [Lachenbruch et al., 1985], this implies a mean subsidence rate of 4-6 mm/yr, which is
405 close to the estimate from repeat leveling [Larsen and Reilinger, 1991]. However,
406 trenching across the Brawley fault zone [Meltzner et al., 2006] has shown that the recent
407 sedimentation rate from 1970 to 2004 was at least twice as fast as the average over the
408 preceding millennium.

409 Holocene eruptions at the south end of the Salton Sea as recent as 16,000 years ago
410 and hydrothermal activity suggest that magma in the region is at a shallow depth

411 [Goldstein and Flexser, 1984]. Other studies indicate a magma chamber at 5 km depth
412 with magma that can be as shallow as 1.5 km [Robinson et al, 1976]. Robinson et al
413 [1976] suggest that this region is a leaky transform fault. Swanberg [1983] suggests that
414 free convection may be occurring and Rex et al [1982] suggest a large geothermal field
415 underlying the Salton Trough at depths greater than 4 km with temperatures greater than
416 400°C. These could be factors contributing to the observed regional pattern of uplift.
417 Chang et al [2007] suggest that a large deep expanding volcanic sill can explain the
418 regional uplift pattern in Yellowstone. A similar mechanism may be occurring in the
419 Salton Trough.

420 **Conclusions**

421 The El Mayor – Cucupah earthquake triggered slip on several right-lateral and
422 conjugate left-lateral faults in the Salton Trough (Figure 12). The stepover observed in
423 the UAVSAR data connects the Laguna Salada and Elsinore faults. The left-lateral Yuha
424 fault bounds the northern end of the 2010 rupture and the southern end of the westward-
425 displaced left stepover. The broad pattern of uplift suggests a regional intrusion of water
426 or possibly magma. The region of uplifting crust localizes southwestward over the year
427 following the earthquake. The observed pattern of coseismic and postseismic deformation
428 induced by the 2010 El Mayor-Cucupah earthquake is consistent with the transitional
429 tectonic regime, and the historic record of earthquake sequences in which major events
430 have occurred on northwest-trending strike-slip faults, and with minor slip on conjugate
431 cross-faults. The history of triggered slip and sequences of earthquakes suggests the
432 potential for triggering an earthquake on the southern Elsinore fault zone, which has not
433 ruptured in several centuries.

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439 modeling presented here.

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441

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585

586 **Figure Captions**

587

588 **Figure 1.** Top Panel: Regional context of the UAVSAR study in the Salton Trough. The
589 Pacific North American plate boundary is shown by the solid line, with general sense of
590 motion marked by gray arrows. Seismicity is plotted for the time of the UAVSAR study,
591 which is from October 20, 2009 – December 1, 2010. Area of study, GPS uplift and
592 coseismic UAVSAR repeat pass interferometry images are also shown. Bottom Panel:
593 region of study showing general Pacific-North American plate motion marked as darker
594 gray arrows. Heavy dashed lines mark slip of the mainshock rupture and faults with
595 observed creep. Arrows indicate general sense of motion. Red circles indicate GPS uplift
596 and blue circles subsidence observed by GPS station.. Largest circle shows about 2 cm
597 of uplift. Light dotted lines indicate sections along which UAVSAR line of sight (LOS)
598 changes are plotted in subsequent figures. Northern swath is line 26505 and southern
599 swath is line 26501.

600

601 **Figure 2.** L-band UAVSAR repeat pass interferometry (RPI) products. Each cycle
602 through the color wheel indicates 12 cm of displacement along the radar line of sight.
603 Dotted lines indicate sections along which UAVSAR line of sight (LOS) changes are
604 plotted in subsequent figures. Lines A and B are roughly perpendicular to the mainshock
605 fault motion, line C is perpendicular to the Yuha fault, CC passes through the maximum
606 observed displacements, and Line D through the Imperial Valley. A) Coseismic
607 unwrapped interferogram and vertical coseismic GPS observations for the time period
608 October 2009 – April 2010. Timeframe for the northern swath, which is line 26505, is

609 October 20, 2009 – April 12, 2010. The southern swath is line 26501 and the time frame
610 for first and second passes is October 21, 2009 – April 13, 2010. Red circles indicate
611 uplift and blue circles indicate subsidence. Largest observed uplift is 2 cm and largest
612 subsidence is -1.3 cm. B) Unwrapped interferogram for postseismic observations for the
613 period April 12-13, 2010. C) Postseismic interferogram for the time period April 13 – July
614 1, 2010. Linear offsets are marked by dotted ellipses. D) Postseismic interferogram for
615 the time period July 1, 2010 – December 1, 2010.

616

617 **Figure 3.** UAVSAR line of site measurements versus GPS line of site component from
618 3D GPS solutions for the same time period. UAVSAR pixels are averaged over a
619 1x1 km box. GPS north, east, and up, are converted to line of site for the elevation and
620 azimuth at each GPS point. Dotted line in each plot shows a correlation of 1. A) An
621 offset of 10.02 cm is removed from UAVSAR by averaging differences between the GPS
622 and UAVSAR line of site estimates. IID2 and P500 are removed from the first fit and fit
623 separately. The offset between the two fits is 7 cm. B) An offset of 4.6 cm is added to the
624 UAVSAR. Only P497 and P77 are in the first fit. The difference between GPS solutions
625 is less than 2 cm while the variance in UAVSAR at those points is 7 cm. C) An offset of
626 1.2 cm is added to the UAVSAR. P500 is deleted from the first fit and the average. P500
627 is 8 cm different than the corresponding GPS observation. D) An offset of 15.12 cm is
628 added to the UAVSAR. P492 is not included in the average or first correlation fit.

629

630 **Figure 4.** Graphical illustration of fits from Figure 3 ranging from good correlation with
631 the GPS of less than 1 cm (green) to poor fits (red and purple). Panels correspond to plots
632 in Figure 3.

633

634 **Figure 5.** Cross sections for Lines A and B. Line of site range changes are plotted along
635 the lines for coseismic and postseismic observations. GPS data are projected onto the line
636 of site for the appropriate elevation angle for that point in the image and are plotted twice
637 if located in two swaths. The GPS data were used to correct the range change ambiguity
638 in this and subsequent plots.

639

640 **Figure 6.** Line of site range change in cm is plotted along the section perpendicular to the
641 Yuha fault found at 5 km in the section. GPS data are projected onto the line of site for
642 the appropriate elevation angle for that point in the image. Slip on two left-lateral
643 structures that are conjugate to the mainshock rupture, near 5 and 8 km in the section.

644

645 **Figure 7.** Line of site range change in cm is plotted along a north south section through
646 the largest displacements found in the coseismic repeat pass interferometry. GPS data are
647 projected onto the line of site for the appropriate elevation angle for that point in the
648 image.

649

650 **Figure 8.** Line of site range changes are plotted along the lines for coseismic and
651 postseismic observations for a cross section through the Imperial Valley plotted north to
652 south showing deformation pattern on that region.

653

654 **Figure 9.** Detail of the north end of the rupture for A) the coseismic interval of October
655 21, 2009 – April 13, 2010, B) April 12 – 13, 2010, C) April 13, 2010 – July 1, 2010, and
656 D) July 1, 2010 – December 1, 2010. Offsets associated with the mainshock and the
657 M 5.7 June 15, 2010 aftershock and conjugate slip on the Yuha fault persist in the
658 images.

659

660 **Figure 10.** Coseismic creep on the Superstition Hills and Imperial faults can be seen in
661 the coseismic interferograms for line 26505 and in the agricultural area in 26501 (south
662 line). Detailed cross sections are plotted for each fault indicating 1 cm of line of site
663 changes on the Superstition Hills fault and 2.3 cm of line of site changes on the Imperial
664 fault. This corresponds to 2.0 creep on the Superstition Hills fault and 4.3 cm of creep on
665 the Imperial fault if the slip is horizontal and parallel to the slip lineation.

666

667 **Figure 11.** Vertical time series for stations in the southern Imperial Valley spanning the
668 north end of the rupture. Station plots are organized roughly geographically. Horizontal
669 axis is time and vertical axis is vertical position in mm. Solid vertical line marks the time
670 of the earthquake. Dashed lines mark the beginning of the coseismic interferograms and
671 the end of the postseismic interferograms respectively.

672

673 **Figure 12.** Mapped faults in the Salton trough (solid labeled lines) and areas of slip
674 identified by UAVSAR (dashed lines).

Tables

Repeat Pass Interferometry Product Description	Pass 1 Pass 2	Aircraft Heading
SanAnd_26505_09083-006_10027-005_0174d_s01_L090_02 Coseismic Imperial Valley	2009/10/20 2010/04/12	-95.35
SanAnd_26501_09083-010_10028-000_0174d_s01_L090_02 Coseismic along Mexican border	2009/10/20 2010/04/13	-95.33
SanAnd_26501_10027-001_10028-000_0001d_s01_L090_01 Immediate postseismic along border	2010/04/12 2010/04/13	-95.34
SanAnd_26501_10028-000_10057-100_0079d_s01_L090_01 Postseismic along border	2010/04/13 2010/07/01	-95.38
SanAnd_26501_10057-100_10084-000_0153d_s01_L090_01 Later postseismic along border	2010/07/01 2010/12/01	-95.38

Table 1. Repeat Pass Interferometry product identifiers, dates of passes, and aircraft heading, with a description of characteristics and location of the line.

Model	Single Fault	Two Faults	
		Rupture	Yuha Fault
Latitude	32.641234	32.632167	32.729903
Longitude	-115.752267	-115.748914	-115.740246
Strike	134.1	134.1	46
Dip	-63.29	-63	-90
Length (km)	120	120	8
Depth (km)	0	0	0
Width (km)	11.1	11.2	0.5
Strike slip (cm)	131	145	-8
Dip slip (cm)	94	87	0
Tensile slip (cm)	0.1	0	0
Moment (dyne/cm²)	6.4x10 ²⁶	6.8x10 ²⁶	9.5x10 ²²
M_w	7.2	7.2	4.6
Cumulative M_w	7.2	7.2	
X²/dof	3.5	3.5	

Table 2. Combined GPS and UAVSAR inversions for fault slip for a single fault model and for a primary fault and secondary conjugate fault. \mathbf{X}^2 is computed based on estimated formal error of GPS displacements for each component and station (for 156 stations; at favorable stations uncertainties are 0.05, 0.05, 0.16 cm for east, north, and vertical, respectively) and a reduced set of 20,984 UAVSAR pixels assigned uncertainty of 1 cm. Observation uncertainties are treated as if uncorrelated. Fault latitude and longitude correspond to the NW end main rupture fault. The latitude and longitude of the Yuha fault corresponds to the SW corner of the fault. The depth of the fault corresponds to the top edge and a negative dip is downward to the NE for the mainshock rupture and vertical for the Yuha fault. In the final inversion reported in the table for the single fault model

the depth, width, and all slip parameters were left free. For the two fault model the location, strike-slip, and dip-slip of the rupture were left free and the width and slip on the Yuha fault were left free. Other parameters were left free in earlier runs to minimize the residuals.

Model	Single Fault		Two Faults		Three Faults	
	Aftershock	Aftershock	Yuha Fault	Aftershock	Rupture	Yuha Fault
Latitude	32.763021		32.645506	32.763021	32.667297	
Longitude	-116.000034		-115.822435	-116.000034	-115.805105	
Strike	128	128	36	128	128	36
Dip	-83	-83	-90	-83	-83	-90
Length (km)	18	20	9	18	25	6
Depth (km)	2	2	1	2	2	.4
Width (km)	10	10	9	10	10	9
Strike slip (cm)	4	6.5	-4.2	9.6	6.4	-7.6
Dip slip (cm)	1	1	0	1	0	0
Tensile slip (cm)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moment (dyne/cm ²)	2.2X10 ²⁴	3.9x10 ²⁴	1x10 ²⁴	5.2x10 ²⁴	4.8x10 ²⁴	1.2x10 ²⁴
M _w	5.5	5.7	5.3	5.8	5.8	5.4
Cumulative M _w	5.5	5.8		6.0		
X ² /dof	1.54	1.2		0.47		

Table 3. UAVSAR inversions for postseismic motions. Fault latitude and longitude correspond to the NW ends of the afterhock and main rupture fault. The latitude and longitude of the Yuha fault corresponds to the SW corner of the fault. The depth of the fault corresponds to the top edge and a negative dip is downward to the NE for the aftershock and mainshock rupture and vertical for the Yuha fault. Strike slip is the only free parameter in the final inversion reported in the table, though other parameters were left free in earlier runs to minimize the residuals.

Figures

Figure 1

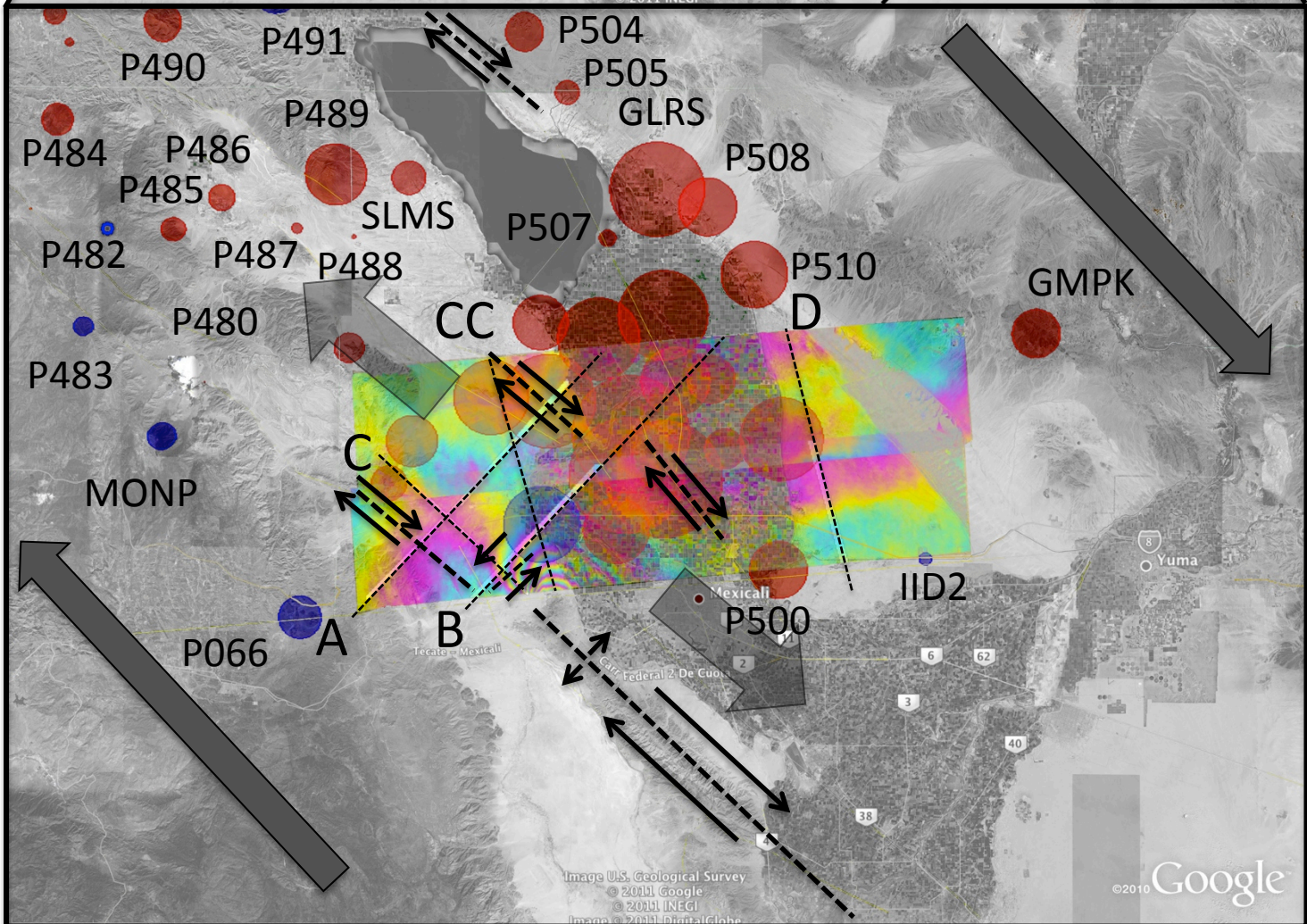
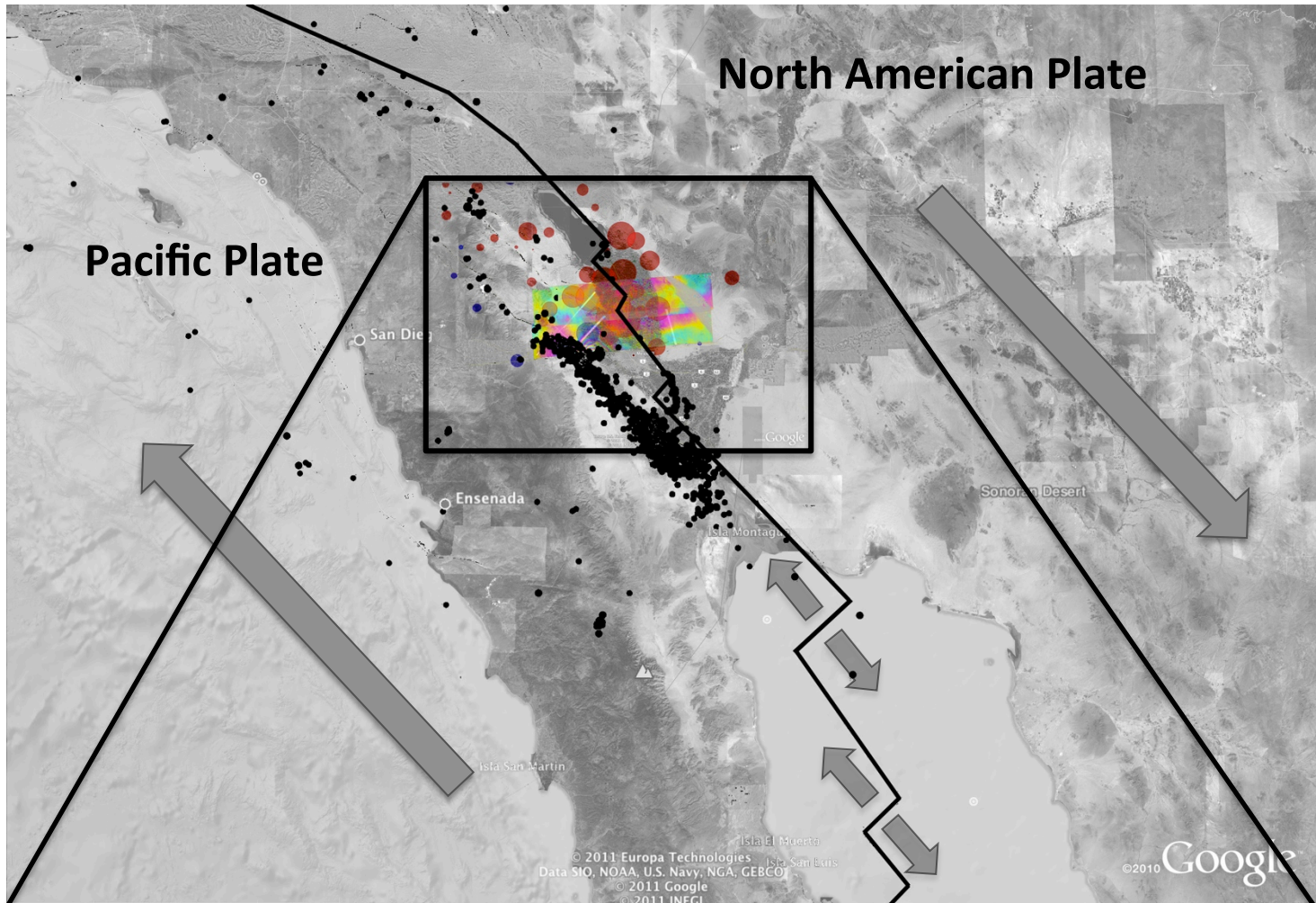


Figure 2

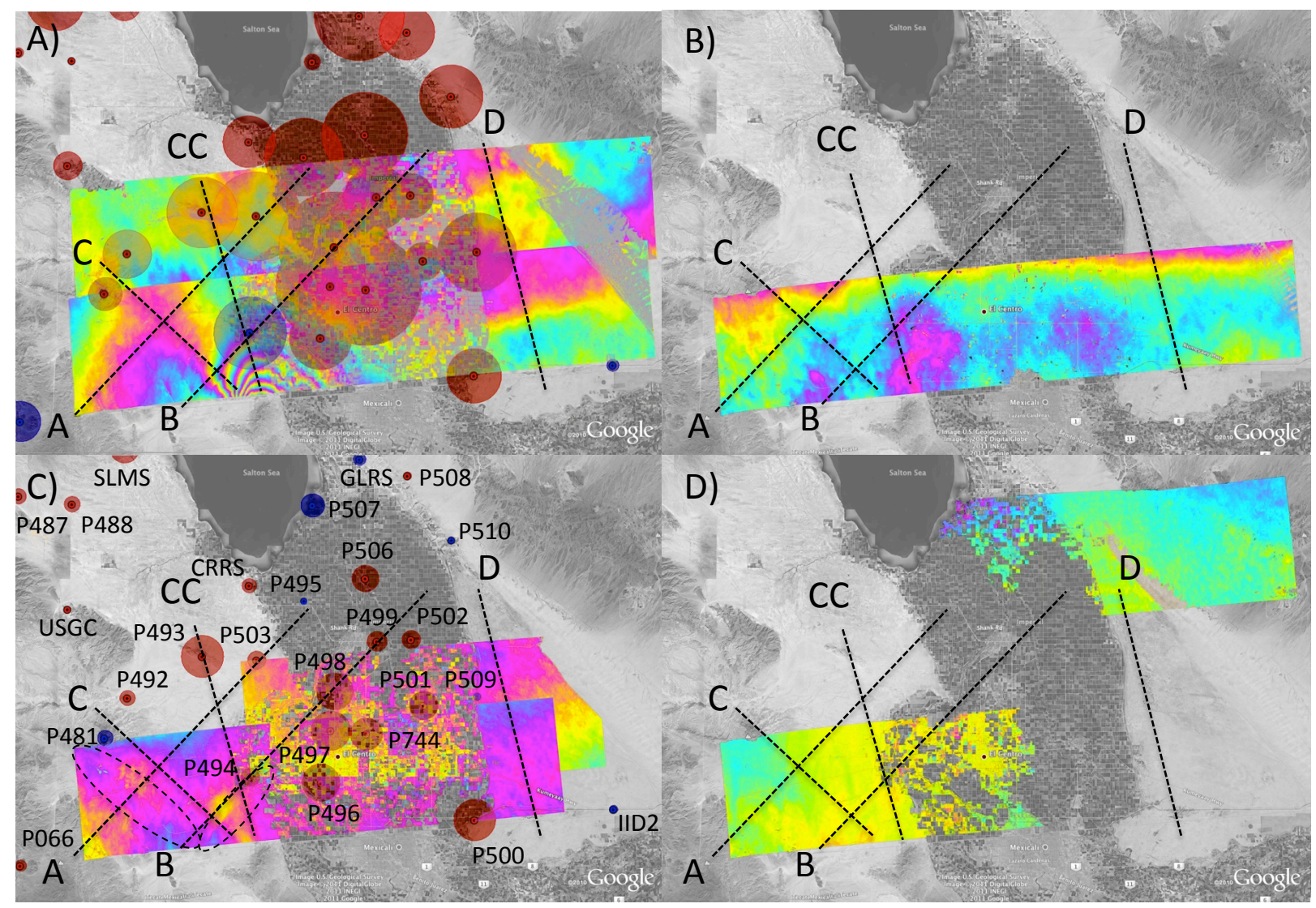


Figure 3

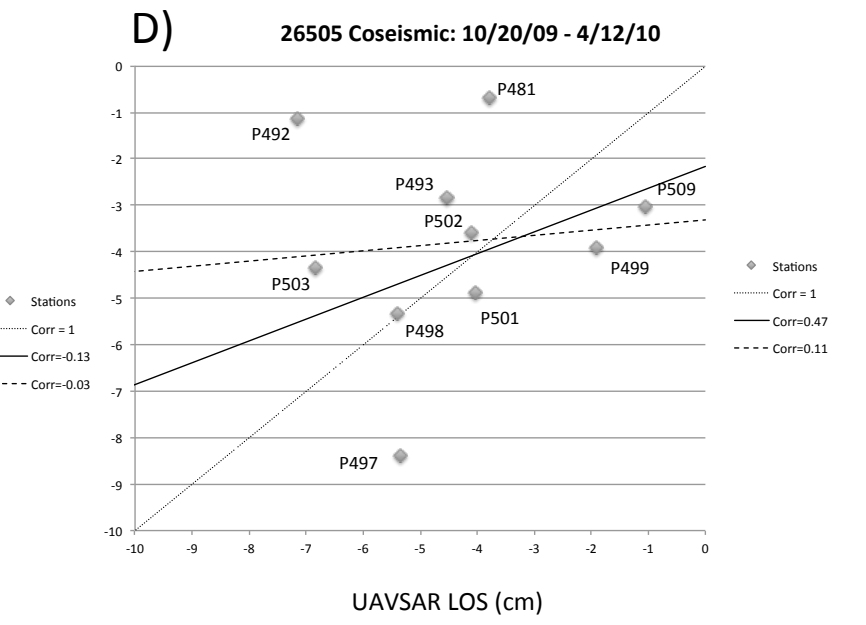
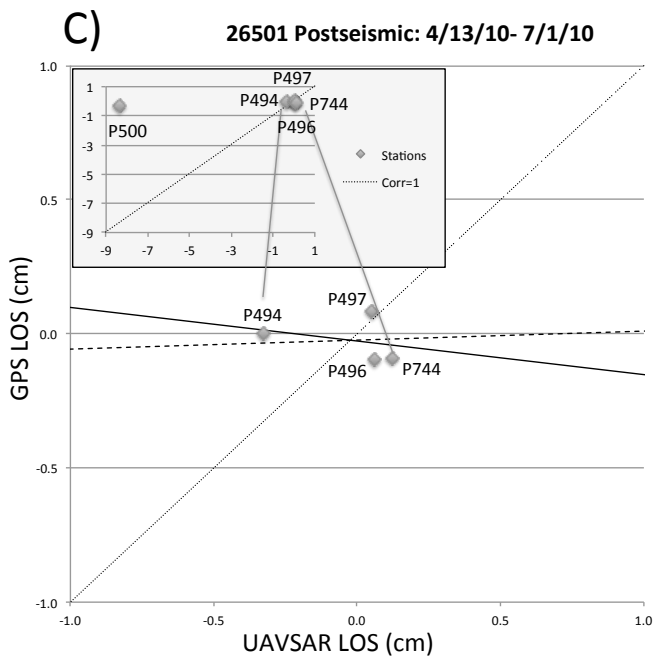
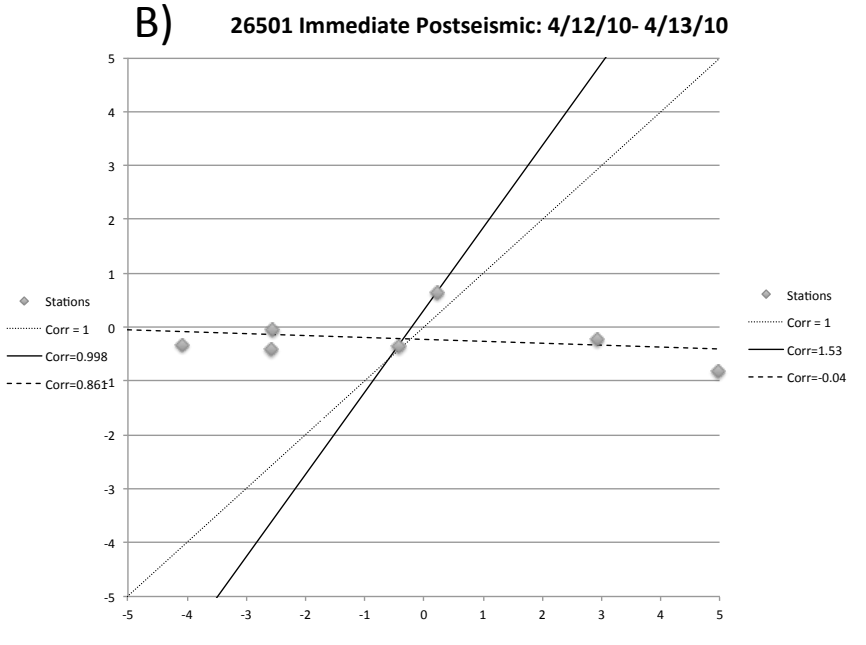
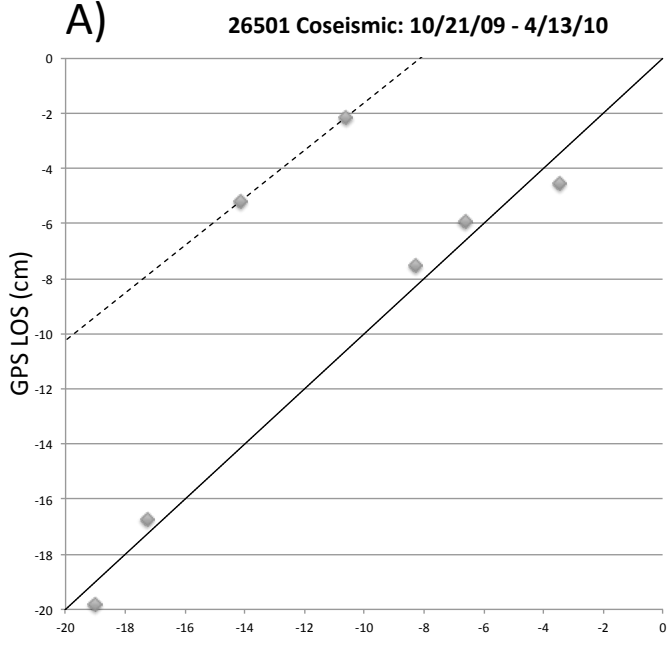
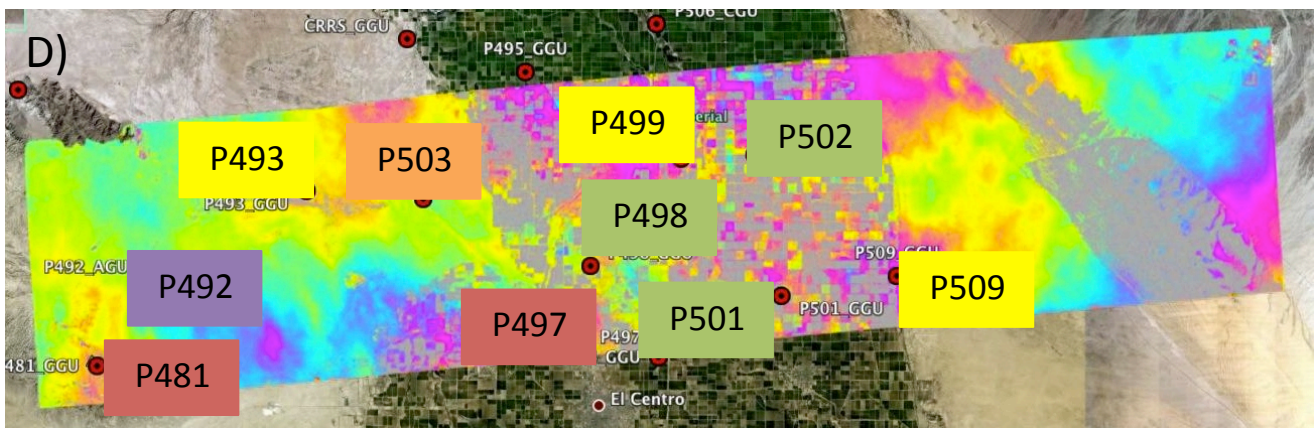
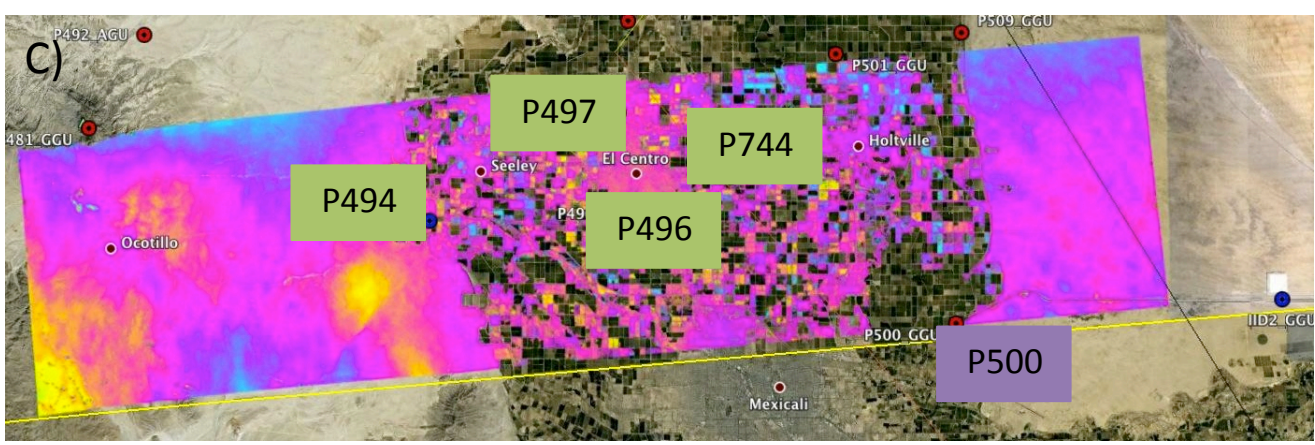
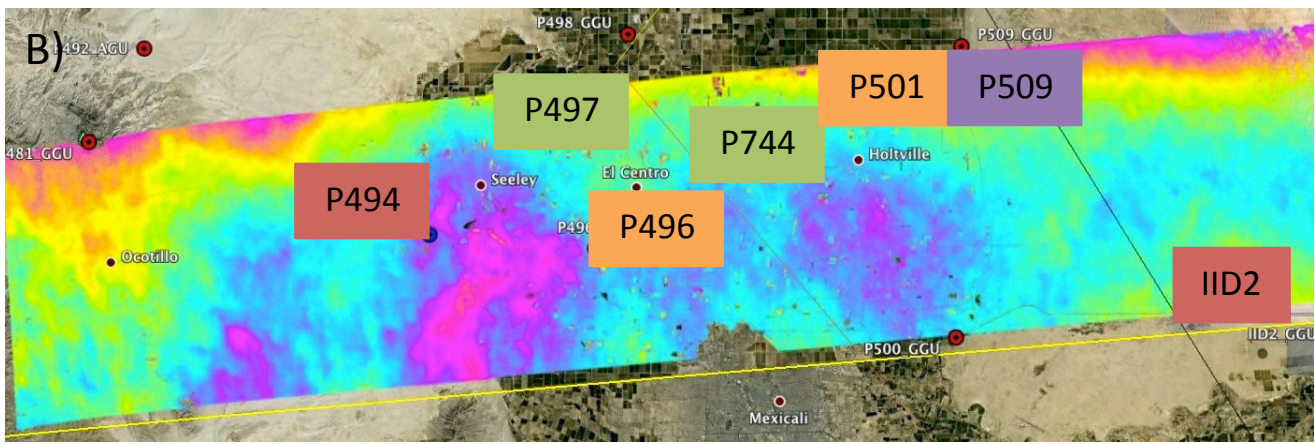
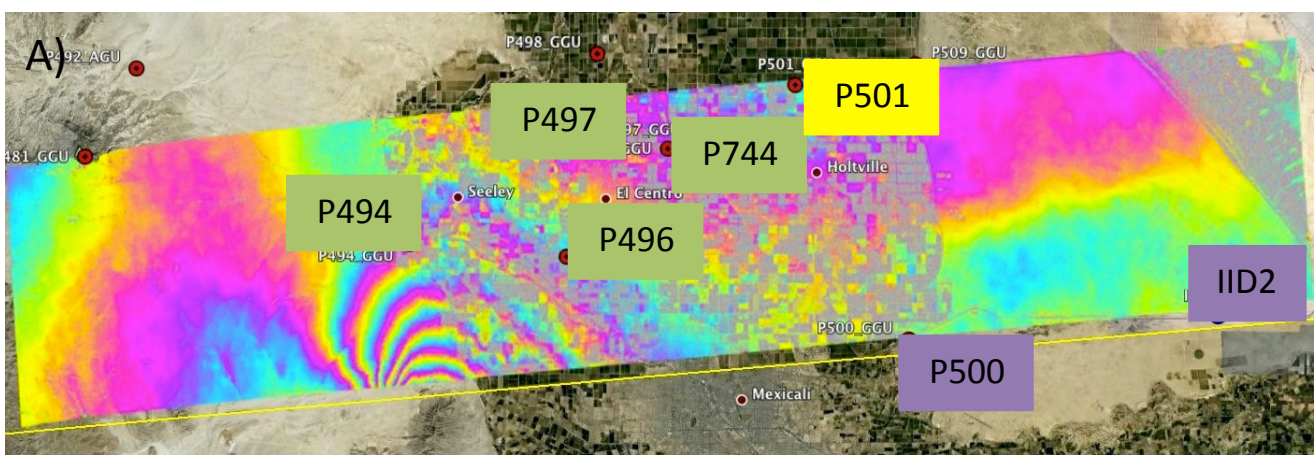


Figure 4



|GPS-UAVSAR| < 1 cm < < 2 cm < < 3 cm < < 4 cm <

Figure 5

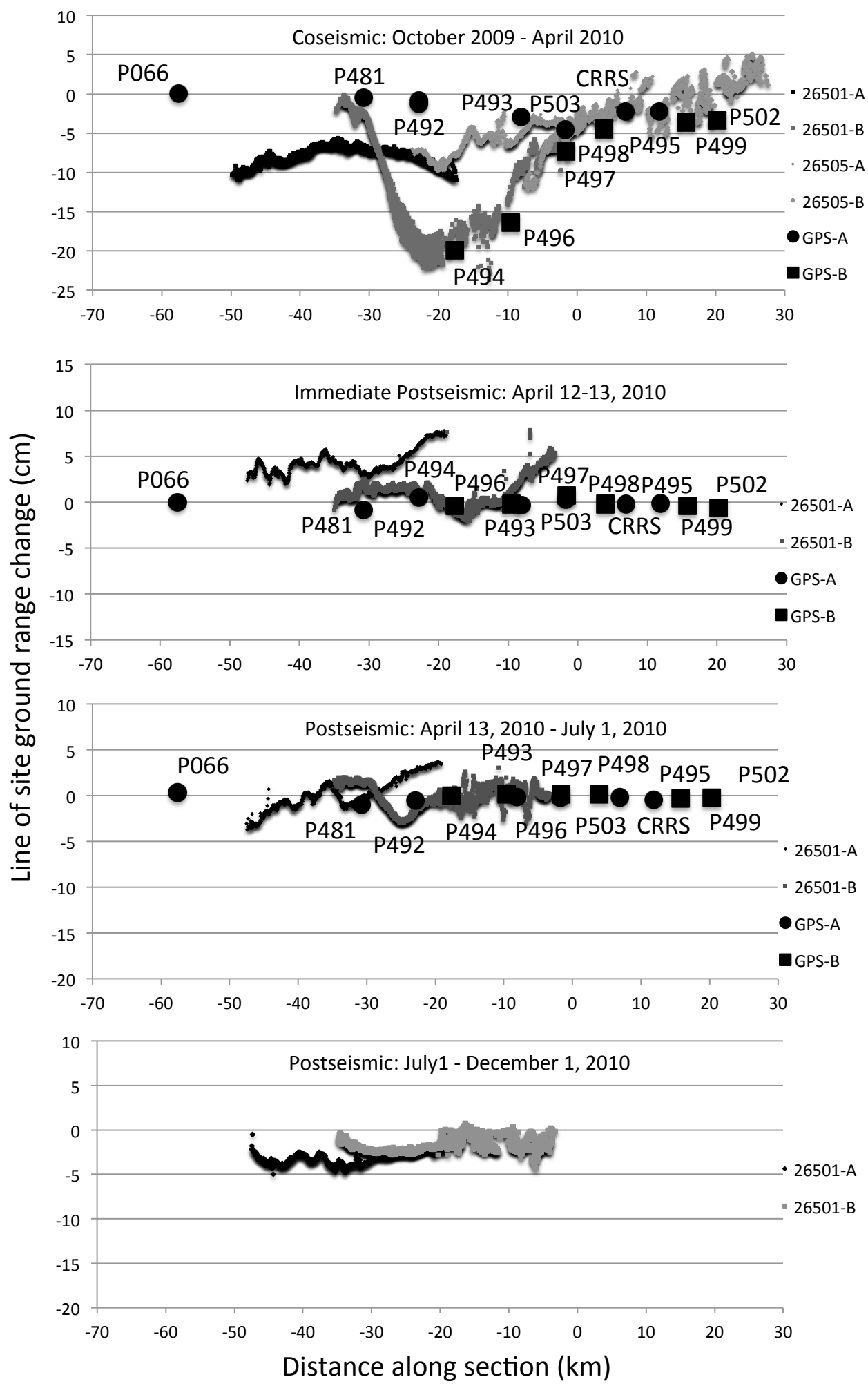


Figure 6

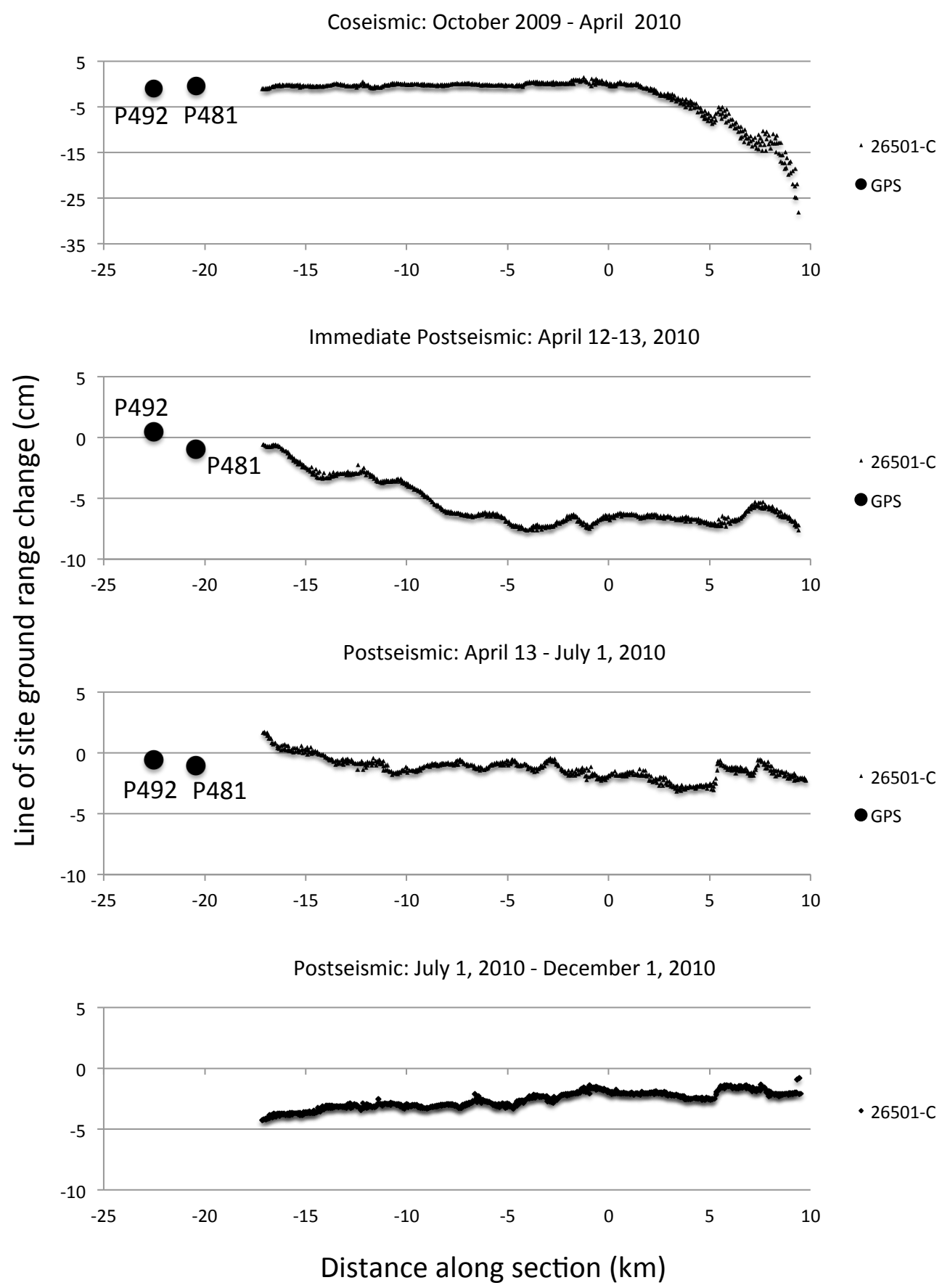


Figure 7

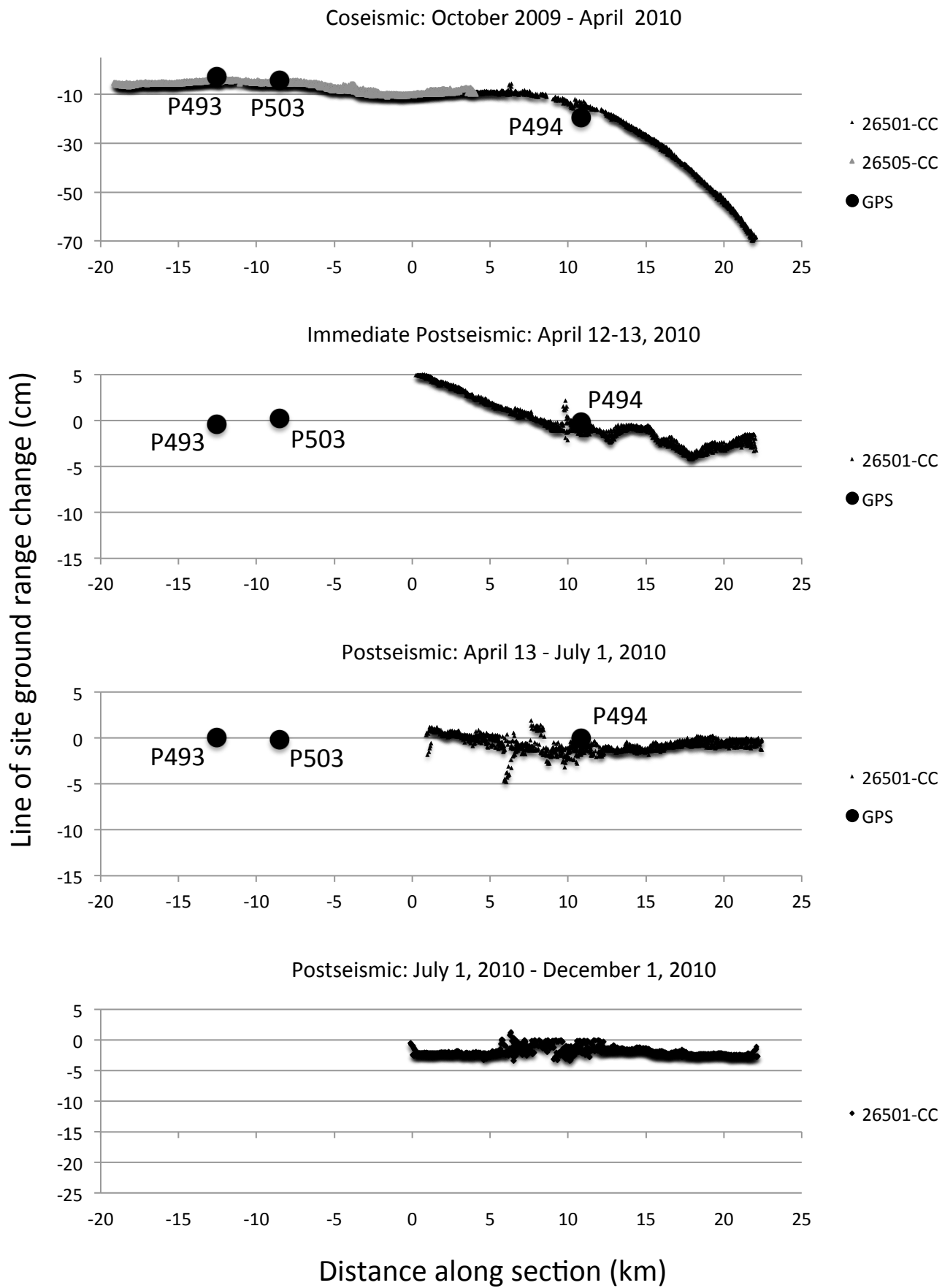


Figure 8

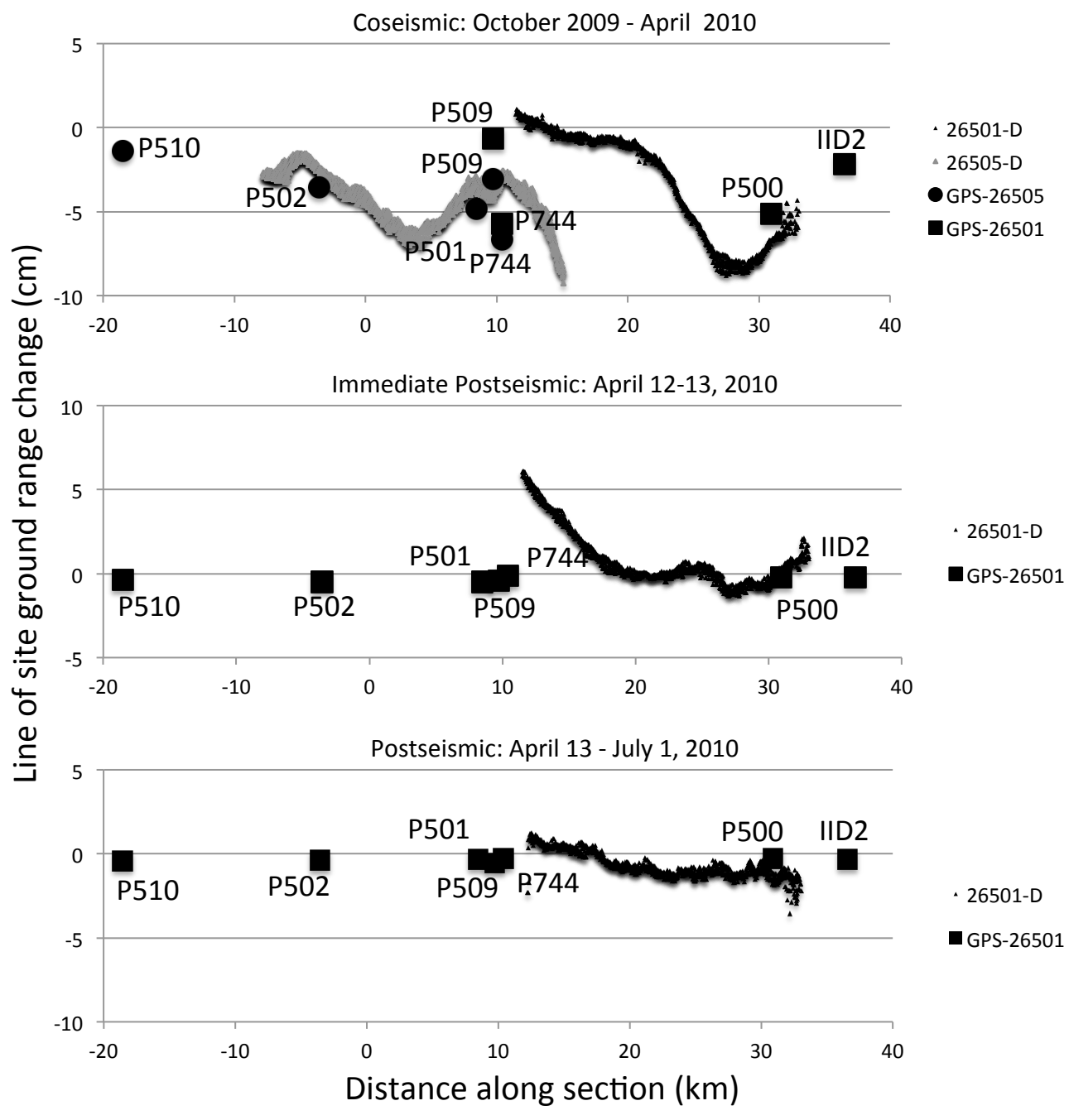


Figure 9

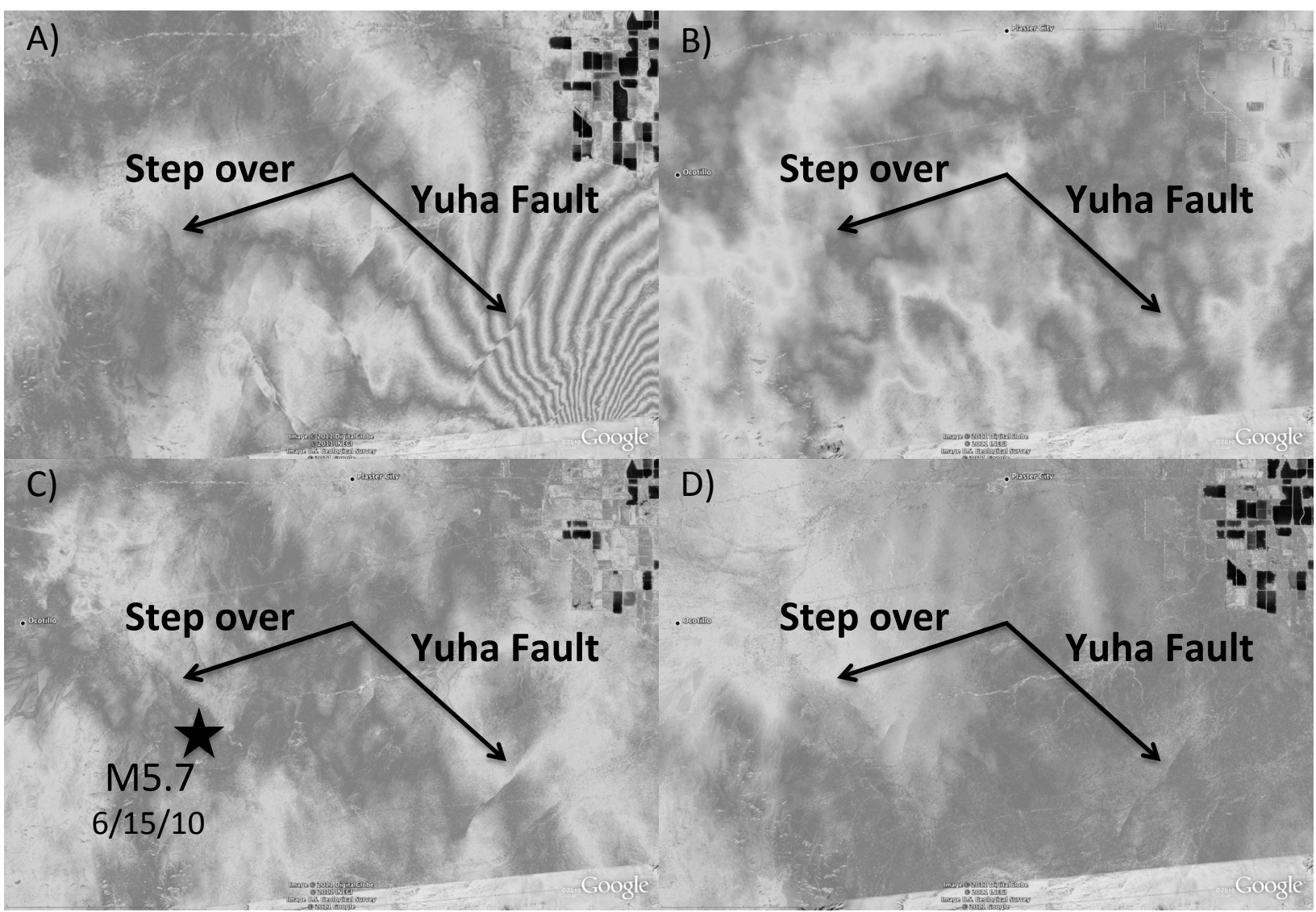


Figure 10

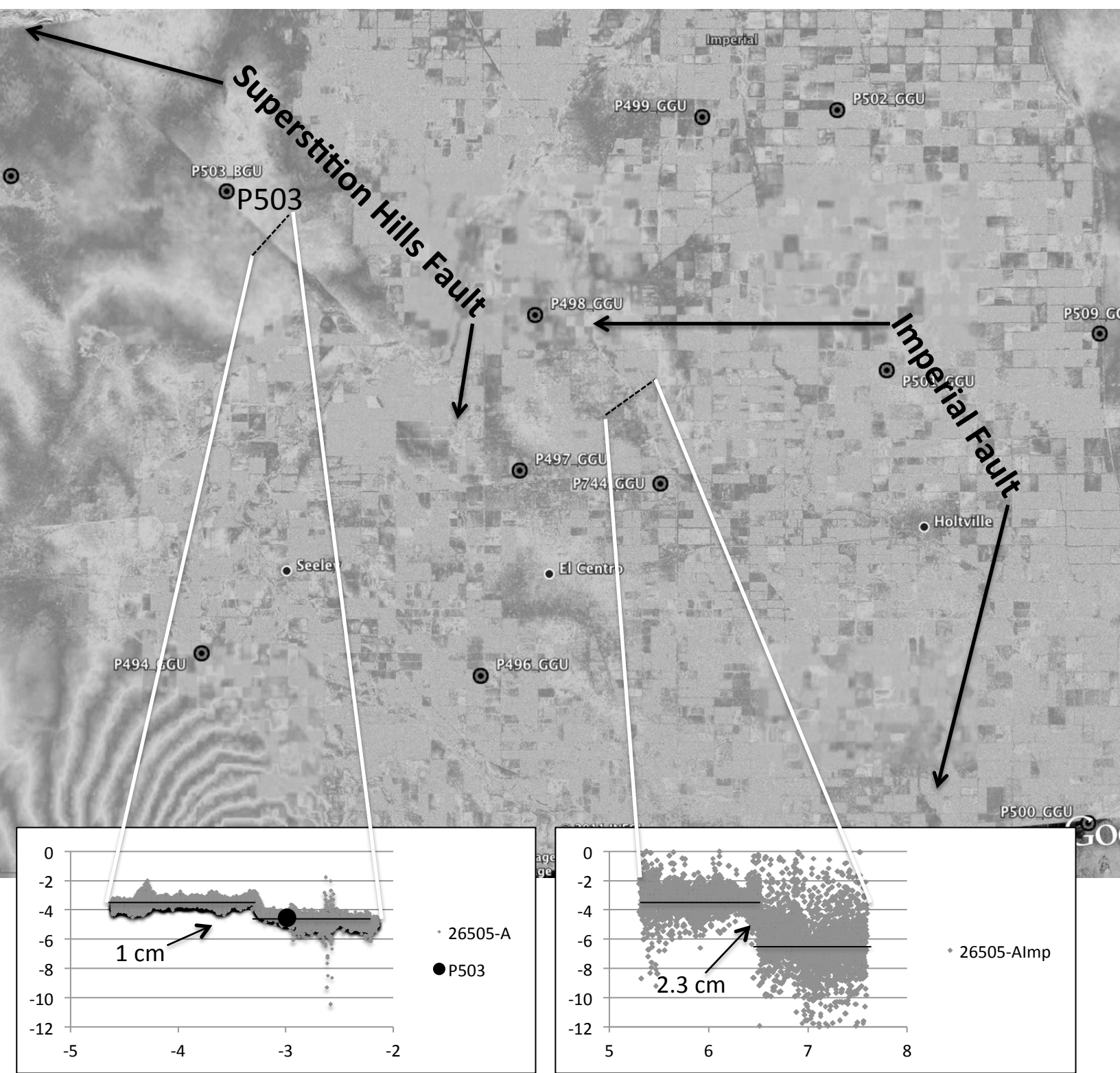


Figure 11

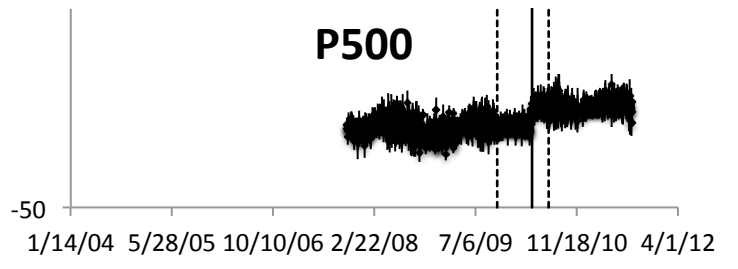
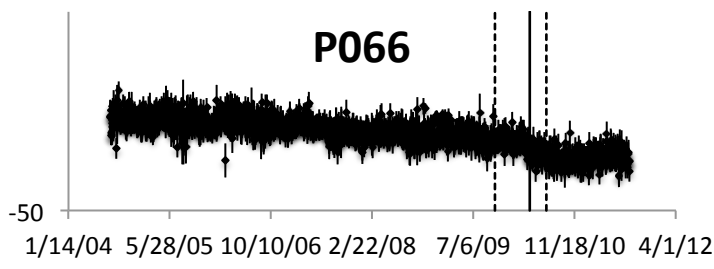
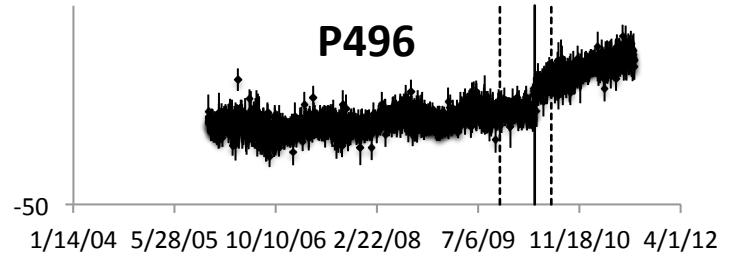
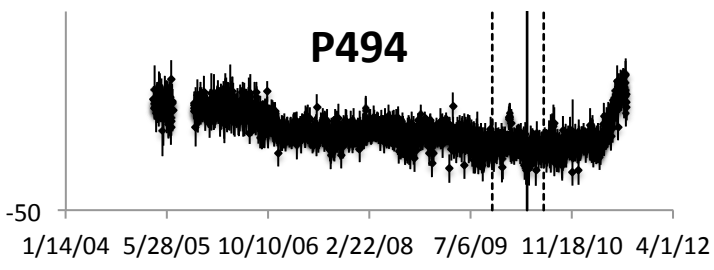
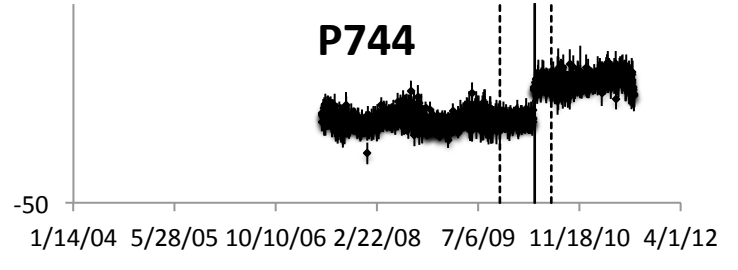
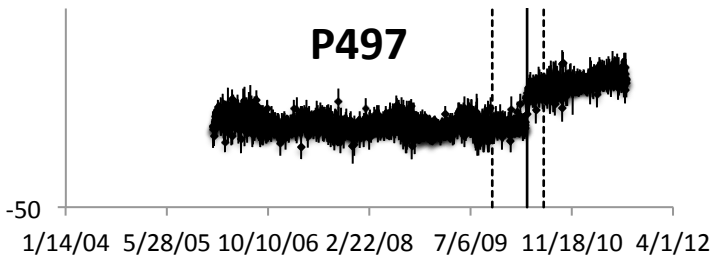
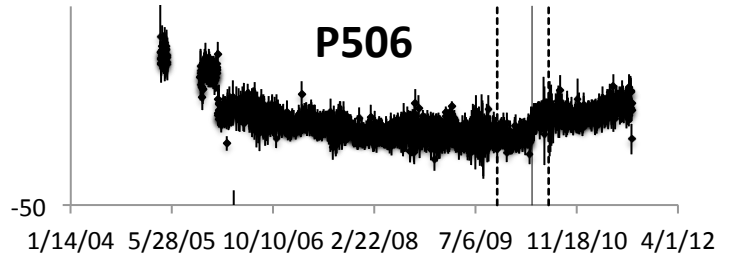
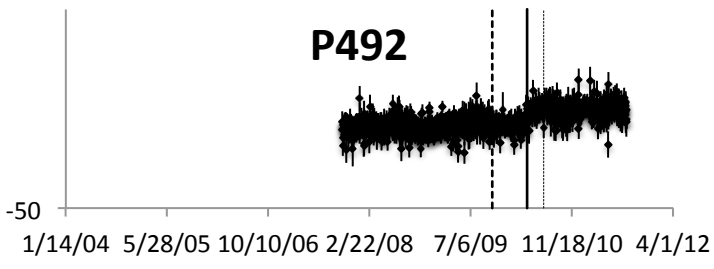
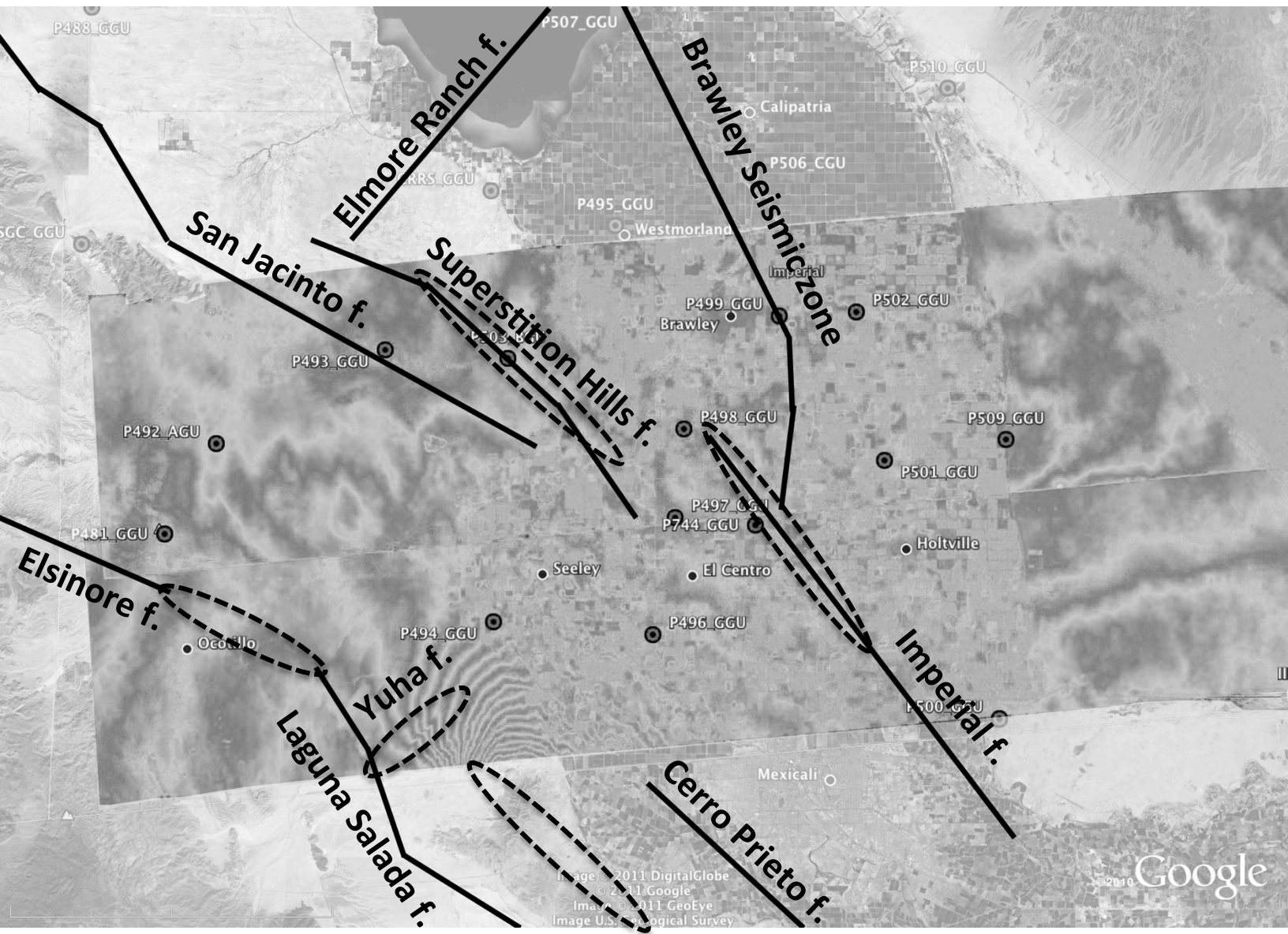


Figure 12



1 **Copyright Material**

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3 **Supporting Nonprint Material**

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