



MAJOR EARTHQUAKE UNLIKELY TO STRIKE PALOS VERDES SOON

1995 Study Shows Risk of Earthquake
Is Much Higher in Rest of Southland

A new report issued January 21, 1995 shows that the Palos Verdes Peninsula area has a significantly smaller chance of being hit by an earthquake than other parts of the Southland, with a major shaker much more likely to erupt on distant portions of the San Andreas Fault.

A study by the Southern California Earthquake Center shows that the San Gabriel Valley has a 40%-60% probability of being hit with a moderate-to-strong earthquake over the next three decades. During this same time period, Southeast Los Angeles County and most of Orange County have a 30% probability of an earthquake of the same magnitude.

"But as you get down to the Palos Verdes Peninsula you get into safer areas," said Thomas Henyey, executive director of the Southern California Earthquake Center.

There is only a 10% chance of the Peninsula being hit with a moderate to strong earthquake over the next three decades. A key measure of activity is how far the two sides of an earthquake fault move in the course of a year. The Palos Verdes Fault only moves a few millimeters a year. That is about one tenth as active as the San Andreas Fault which moves about 35 millimeters a year.

In addition, the Newport-Inglewood Fault was considered less likely to erupt than 40 out of the 65 Faults listed in the 1995 survey because there has been less movement in this fault in the last 150 years than on other faults.

The conclusions for this study were based on 150 years of historical records and measurements of the earth's crust movement.

1995 Study by The Southern California Earthquake Center: 1/21/1995