

Qam Mud-rich tributary alluvium (Holocene to Historic?): Pale brown sandy silts. Found locally at the terminus of some streams. May be the top of an older unit, locally exposed by erosion. No evidence Qay2 Younger tributary alluvium (Holocene): Light brown silty pebbly fine to medium sands with rare coarse sand channels. Alluvium composes terraces with treads 1.5 to 2 m above local active channels, inset upon the top of Qayb. Typical color 10YR 6/4, with 7.5YR 7/4 Bw horizons, and up to

Qayb Bajada of young tributary alluvium (upper Pleistocene? to Holocene): Pale brown silty fine sands with sparse pebbles. Alluvium composes a bajada of small fans emanating from the escarpment, with a surface that is inset upon by Qay2 and is overlain by that of Qay1. Sparse outcrop, but soil development appears comparable to Qay2 (up to Stage I Bk, slightly reddened Bw). Color of 10YR 6/4

Qay1 Older tributary alluvium (upper Pleistocene): Pink muddy fine to medium sands with sparse pebbles. Very poorly exposed, but appears to be thin alluvial deposits that are inset upon by Qayb and Qay2, with surface treads 3 to 7 m above local active channels. Small gullies reveal muddy fine to medium sands with color of 10YR 7/3, up to Stage II carbonate morphology, and up to Stage I gypsic

Qph Historic piedmont alluvium (upper Holocene? to Historic): Very pale brown sand, silt, and gravels of active stream channels, including low terrace levels with treads up to 1 m above the channel. Generally moderately to strongly bedded with no soil development. Channel sediment is poorly sorted and gravel-rich, dominantly of various and esitic lithologies, with a medium to coarse sand matrix. Extra-channel sediment is silty fine to medium sands with sparse pebbles. Colors of 10YR 7/3 to 8/2. 0-1.5 m thick. Qpf Piedmont gully-mouth fans (Holocene to Historic): Pale brown silty, pebbly fine to coarse sand

Contact, well located, approximately located, inferred location, concealed.

Qeb Eolian blowouts (upper Holocene): Deflationary hollows, included on map to show upper Holocene prevailing wind direction, in conjunction with downwind blowout sands. Only map-scale blowouts are shown. No thickness, as these are mainly erosional features. Qesr Eolian broad sand ridges (upper Holocene): Pale brown clean fine sands composing map-scale

topographically high bands. Sands are moderately sorted, subrounded to rounded, with abundant grains of quartz, common lithics and potassium feldspar, and lesser plagioclase. Colors of 10YR 6/4 to 7/4 measured. Appears to be local preferential accumulations of the Qes2 sand sheet. 0-4? m thick. Qec Eolian coppice dunes (upper Holocene): Very pale brown clean fine sands composing low

dunes accumulating around bushes. Sands are moderately sorted, subangular to rounded, with common grains of lithics, plagioclase, potassium feldspar, and quartz. Coppice dunes are 0.5 up to 1.5 m tall relative to barren interdunal areas. No soil development. 0-1.5 m thick.

Qes2 Younger eolian sand sheet (upper Holocene): Very pale brown silty to clean, fine to medium sands. Moderately to poorly sorted, subangular to rounded sand grains of abundant quartz and lithics, and rare to common potassium and plagioclase feldspars. No evidence of soil development. Colors of 10YR 6/4 to 7/4 common, with local colors of 7.5YR 6/4 to 7/3. Common relatively low relief eolian surface textures, including small (4 to 10 m diameter) to map-scale (map unit Qeb) blowouts, linear ridges and scarps that parallel the prevailing wind direction, and small coppice dunes. Locally, browner, Qes1-like sands can be found just below the surface in topographic lows, suggesting Qes2 is burying Qes1. 0-6? m thick.

Qes1 Older eolian sand sheet (upper Pleistocene? to lower Holocene): Light brown to brown to locally light reddish brown silty fine to medium sands. Moderately to poorly sorted, subangular to rounded sand grains of abundant quartz, common lithics, and rare to common potassium and plagioclase feldspars. Up to Stage I+ carbonate horizon development with a reddened (5YR 5/4 to 5/6) Bw horizon. Colors of 7.5YR 5/4 to 7.5YR 6/6 measured at the surface. Generally only minor eolian surface textures, including some coppice development and vague prevailing wind-parallel lineations on aerial imagery. 0-1 m thick.

Qes/\_ Sand sheet, undivided, over older sediments: Used to delineate areas where an older unit is suspected to be found <0.5 m below a surface cover of eolian sands. Evidence used to support this include common thick carbonate coats on gravels at the surface or in animal burrows, common fragments of white carbonate horizon at the surface or in burrows, exposure of the older sediments nearby, and relative landscape position of the sand sheet-buried surface. The burying sand sheet can fit the description of either the older or younger sand sheet.

Upper Santa Fe Group units

Equivalent to the Sierra Ladrones Fm to the north and Palomas Fm to the south

QTsf Upper Santa Fe Group, fluvial facies (Pliocene to lower Pleistocene): Light gray pebbly sandstones, pale brown siltstones, and light greenish gray mudstones of the ancestral Rio Grande. Sands are moderately to poorly sorted, silty to clean, subrounded to rounded, with abundant quartz, common lithics, rare potassium feldspar, and sparse plagioclase. Rare fine pebbles are mainly chert, with lesser granite, intermediate to felsic volcanics, and quartzite. Thickness unknown, but at least 60 m of seds are exposed; a water well by Socorro penetrated 340 m of QTsf (Chamberlin, pers. comm.).

QTsp Upper Santa Fe Group, piedmont facies (Pliocene to lower Pleistocene): Pale brown to white conglomerates. Poorly exposed, but typically a cobble conglomerate along the east edge grading to a pebble conglomerate to the west. Gravels are poorly sorted, angular to subrounded, and mainly of andesitic porphyry compositions, with sparse red siltstones and limestones. The top is marked by a Stage IV or V carbonate horizon that is exposed along the east edge of the quadrangle. Thickness unknown, but likely comparable to QTsf.

Pre-Santa Fe Group units

**Cross-section only** Mesozoic strata projected from Cather (2002, 2007); Presence of Permian Yeso Group at depth suggested by Weir (1965) and Roybal (1991).

Kgc Cretaceous Gallup Sandstone and Crevasse Canyon Formation (lower Coniacian to Santonian?)

Kmd Cretaceous D-Cross Tongue of the Mancos Shale (upper middle Turonian to lower Coniacian)

Kth Cretaceous Tres Hermanos Formation (middle Turonian)

Kml Cretaceous lower part of the Mancos Shale (middle Cenomanian to lower Turonian)

Kd Cretaceous Dakota Sandstone (middle Cenomanian)

**ku** Triassic rocks, undivided

*Gap in rocks presented in cross-sections; gap is not necessarily present in deep subsurface across the quadrangle.* Py Permian Yeso Group (Leonardian)

# REFERENCES

Cather, S.M. 2002. Geology of the San Antonio quadrangle, Socorro County, New Mexico: New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, Open-file Geologic Map OF-GM-58: scale 1:24,000. Cather, S.M. 2007. Preliminary geologic map of the Cañon Agua Buena quadrangle, Socorro County, New Mexico: New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, Open-file Geologic Map OF-GM-146: scale 1:24,000.

Pearce, J.T. and Kelson, K.I. 2003. Surficial geologic map of the middle Rio Grande valley floodplain, from San Acacia to Elephant Butte Reservoir, New Mexico: New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, Open-file Report OFR-477.

Roybal, F.E. 1991. Ground-water resources of Socorro County, New Mexico: US Geological Survey, Water-resources Investigations Report 89-4083: 103 pp. Weir, J.E. 1965. Geology and availability of ground water in the northern part of the White Sands

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Mike Well fault scarp with Little San Pascual Mountain in the background. Picture looks southwestward. The scarp may uplift the Permian Yeso Formation to within 90 m of the surface, while another fault lying along the north side of Little San Pascual Mountain uplifts the Yeso as well as underlying Abo Formation and Madera Limestones to the surface (Geddes, 1963).

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