



Unit descriptions

Quaternary Deposits

Qam Modern alluvium (Holocene): Modern sand and gravel in active stream bottoms that are generally incised at least a meter below adjoining **Qay** or **Qao** surfaces. 1-3(?) meters thick.

Qamb Modern and historical alluvium (Holocene): sand and gravel that includes modern sediment and historical sediment that are generally incised at least 0.5 meters below adjoining **Qay** or **Qao** surfaces. 1-3(?) meters thick.

Qc Undivided colluvium (Holocene): Hillslope colluvial deposits composed of pebble to boulder size clasts from a variety of rock types. Common on north-facing slopes. Varies in thickness from ~5 – 30 m.

Qls Landslide deposit (Holocene): locally derived blocks of trachyte bedrock associated with a head scarp in cliffs along the western escarpment of the Godfrey Hills.

Qse Eolian deposits modified by slope wash (Holocene): fine-grained tan very fine windblown sand intermixed with granules and pebbles of local rocks. 1-3 m.

Qtr Travertine and carbonate cemented gravel (Holocene): large deposit of carbonate cemented gravel and banded travertine forms a prominent knickpoint in a small tributary off of Gamble Canyon in the southwestern corner of the area. <5 m thick

Qay2mh Alluvium inset in recent valleys (Late Holocene to modern): Unit includes three inset units found within a larger valley eroded in the middle to late Holocene. These units include modern, historical, and late Holocene alluvium (as described in units **Qam**, **Qamb**, and **Qay2**).

Qay Younger alluvium, undifferentiated (Holocene): Units Qay2 and Qay1 undifferentiated, see individual descriptions for more information. Used where the two units cannot be separated due to the scale used or due to the lack of a surficial expression of their individual distributions. 0.5 to 4 m thick.

Qay2 Pre-historical alluvium in relatively narrow valleys (middle(?) to late Holocene): Pebbly sand with minor sandy pebble beds, locally clayey. Internally massive to well-bedded; sand and pebble beds are internally laminated to thin and tabular. Soil is marked by a stage I carbonate morphology. Moderately consolidated. Greater than 2 meters thick.

Qay1 Alluvium capping older alluvial deposits (early(?) to middle Holocene) – Poorly bedded to internally massive pebbly sand and clayey sand. Sand is brownish and very fine, to very coarse-grained. Very fine- to fine-grained sand fraction may have abundant gypsum grains; medium- to very coarse-grained sand is composed of volcanic grains. Topsoil is marked by stage II to I+ carbonate horizon, where there are minor (<10%) soft, calcium carbonate nodules equal or less than 1 cm. Moderately consolidated and 1-3 m-thick.

Qdct Debris flows, colluvium, and talus deposits (middle Pleistocene to Holocene) – Very poorly sorted pebbles and cobbles, with lesser boulders, in a sand to clayey sand matrix. Sand is poorly sorted. No bedding. Unit deposited primarily by debris flows, with colluvium and talus found at the base of steep slopes. Weakly to moderately consolidated. Commonly several meters thick.

Qao Older alluvium (middle to late Pleistocene) – Pebbly sand, sandy gravel, sand, and clayey-silty sand. Sediment is in very thin to medium-bedded, tabular beds. Topsoil generally contains a calcic horizon with stage III carbonate morphology. Generally assigned to either **Qao1**, **Qao2**, or **Qao3** based on the relative height of the surface capping each deposit, but these divisions are entirely allostratigraphic and not based on sediment characteristics.

Qao3 Older alluvium, youngest subunit (upper? Pleistocene). Gravel and sand characterized by strongly developed carbonate horizons and buried soils capped by a surface inset upon that of **Qao2**. See descriptions below: 1-3 m thick.

Qao2 Older alluvium, younger subunit (upper? Pleistocene). Gravel and sand characterized by strongly developed carbonate horizons and buried soils capped by a surface inset upon that of **Qao1**. See description of **Qao** for a description of this unit's sediments. As no sedimentary difference could be established between deposits of **Qao1** and **Qao2**, these deposits could be the same with the lower surface being entirely erosional. This problem also precludes confidently determining the deposit's thickness, but it is probably 1 to 3 m thick.

Qao1 Older alluvium, older subunit (middle? to upper Pleistocene). Gravel and sand characterized by strongly developed carbonate horizons and buried soils capped by a surface inset upon by **Qao2**. See description of **Qao** for a description of this unit's sediments. As no sedimentary difference could be established between deposits of **Qao1** and **Qao2**, these deposits could be the same with the lower surface being entirely erosional. This problem also precludes confidently determining the deposit's thickness, but it is probably 1 to 3 m thick.

Qta High-level sand and gravel deposits (late Pliocene-early Pleistocene?) – Deposit consists of rounded gravels that are donated by syenite at the base of Sierra Blanca and by trachyte lavas at the base of the Godfrey Hills. The unit is poorly exposed. In general, base of deposit lies above modern surfaces developed on units **Qay** and **Qao**. 2-4 m thick.

Neogene Volcanic Rocks

Godfrey Hills Formation

Tgvsu Upper volcaniclastic sediments (Oligocene): heterolithic landslide deposit with a white ashy matrix that contains large (1-5 m) angular boulders of porphyritic trachyandesite, Palisades tuff, and trachyandesite breccia. In places the stratigraphy of the debris is in the appropriate order but the units are thoroughly brecciated. 5-15 m thick.

Tgysl Lower volcaniclastic sediments (Oligocene): sandy, matrix-supported, carbonate- cemented conglomerate that contains upper trachyte lava as the dominate clast. The clasts are angular and <0.5 m in diameter. The pronounced imbrication in the deposit indicates flow toward 20° to 90°. 30 m thick.

Tgtu Upper trachyte to trachyandesite (Oligocene): light to dark gray fine-grained lava with a trachytic texture and contorted platy flow foliation. Microphenocrysts are aligned plagioclase, pyroxene, and magnetite. The unit is composed of a series of thin flows 1-10 m thick with basal scoriaeous breccia and vesicular flow tops with elongated vesicles. Red to yellow alteration of the flow breaks is common. Base fills paleocanyons, top is eroded by modern processes or is cut by Oligocene paleocanyons. 50 m thick.

Tgbr Trachyandesite breccia (Oligocene): light gray trachyandesite lava flows with phenocrysts (<5-7%) of sanidine and pyroxene interbedded with monolithologic breccia with subround to angular clasts in a light gray matrix. ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of 28.59±0.05 Ma and 28.53±0.03 Ma were obtained from sanidine in the unit (Peters, personal communication, 2010). 60-70 m thick.

Tgbt Biotite trachyte breccia (Oligocene): trachyte lava flows that are similar to **Tgbr** flows, but this lava contains biotite in addition to sanidine and pyroxene. Furthermore, the flows are lighter gray in color and are more sugary in texture compared to typical **Tgbr** flows. This lava is separated from the overlying **Tgbr** flows by a distinct, mappable flow break. The trachyte breccia is present only on Godfrey Peak and on hills northeast of Godfrey Peak. 60-70 m thick.

Tgtp Palisades tuff (Oligocene): Cliff-forming welded tuff with pronounced eutaxitic foliation and taphony weathering texture. Contains < 2% lithic fragments composed of trachyandesite and trachyte lavas. Phenocrysts include plagioclase, sanidine, pyroxene, magnetite, and sparse biotite and hornblende. ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of 28.67±0.07 Ma and 28.66±0.08 Ma were obtained from sanidine in the tuff (Peters, personal communication, 2010). Geochemically, this tuff is a trachyte (see appendix). 25-90 m thick.

Tgt Trachyte flows (Oligocene): Cliff-forming succession of light gray flow-banded lava flows and flow breccias of trachyte with ~10% phenocrysts of plagioclase, biotite, and pyroxene. Other phenocrysts include twinned feldspar, magnetite, and apatite. 60-70 m thick.

Walker Group

Published K-Ar and ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages for the Walker Group lavas and breccias are 29.3-37.3 Ka (Moore et al., 1991).

Double Diamond Formation

Twtds Intercalated alkaline lava flows and volcaniclastic sediments (Oligocene to Eocene): interval of thin to thick (1-10 m) discontinuous trachyte, porphyritic trachyandesite, biotite trachyte, and trachybasalt flows complexly intercalated with volcaniclastic sediments (**Twds**). The volcaniclastic sediments are sandy conglomerate with subangular to subrounded pebbled, cobbles and boulders of trachytic lava. The deposits are poorly sorted and bedding is not distinct. 90 to 100 m.

tuff of Buck Pasture

Twbtp tuff of Buck Pasture (Oligocene to Eocene): Welded to unwelded lithic-rich tuff. The lithic fragments are angular pieces of trachytic lavas. The phenocrysts are sanidine, plagioclase, biotite, and pyroxene. The tuff contains mafic clots that are flattened near the base and that are rounded to embayed, but more equant, upsection. The mafic clots are reddish brown with crystals of plagioclase and pyroxene (5-7%) set in a fine-medium grained pinkish tan matrix. Thickness highly variable 1 – 100 m; fills paleovalleys.

