



DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Descriptions of map units are listed in approximate order of increasing age. Formal stratigraphic names of Cenozoic units are described by Stein, et al. (1941), Lipman, et al. (1979), and Dilger (1990). Field identification of volcanic rocks is based on hand specimens, petrography and chemical data published by Hunt (1976), Baker and Bailey (1976), Lipman and Mankin (1972), Lipman and Mankin (1979), Crowder (1986), and Perry, et al. (1990). The names of volcanic units are based on the above chemical data and the stratigraphic diagram of Lee, et al. (1986). See Goff, et al. (2008) for a contemporary description of the rocks and geology in the Mount Taylor area.

CENOZOIC
Quaternary/Neogene
Alluvium, colluvium, eolian, and anthropogenic deposits

Disturbed areas and artificial fill (Hidoteo) — Disturbed areas, dumped fill, and areas affected by other human disturbances. Mapped where mining deposits or extractions are areally extensive. Includes mine pits and settling ponds associated with the uranium mining industry, as well as check dams.

Stream alluvium (Quaternary) — Brown (7SYR4/2) to light reddish-brown (5YR 6/4), unconsolidated, moderately sorted, silt sand to sandy clay at the surface with bedded gravel/boulder beds. Varies considerably in thickness from <1 to 3 m in tributaries and up to 30+ m.

Stream and valley slope alluvium subjected to colluvial processes (Quaternary) — Unconsolidated to poorly consolidated, well-sorted, fine-grained sand, silt, and clay. Thickness 1 to 3 m.

Alluvial fan deposits (Quaternary) — Typically fan-shaped deposits of coarse to fine gravel and sand, silt, and clay within and at the base of steep relief; grades into alluvial deposits along main channels; probably Holocene to middle Pleistocene in age; maximum thickness about 15 m.

Follon silt and sand subjected to sheetwash (Quaternary) — Windblown and sheet wash deposits of loose, silt and fine sand, 0.2 to >2 m thick.

Follon sand (Quaternary) — Fine- to medium-grained sand capping low mesas at the foot of La Jara Mesa. Up to 15 m thick.

Landslide deposits (Quaternary) — Poorly sorted debris that has moved chaotically down steep slopes; slumps or block slides partially to completely intact, that have moved down slope; slumps and block slides usually display some rotation relative to their failure plane; ages vary from Holocene to mid- to late-Pleistocene; thicknesses vary considerably depending on the size and nature of the landslide.

Tuffs (Quaternary) — Poorly sorted sand and mass wasting deposits primarily from trachyte/basalt-covered mesa tops; thickness can locally exceed 15 m.

Colluvium (Quaternary) — Poorly sorted slope wash and mass wasting deposits from local sources; thickness can locally exceed 15 m.

Younger lacustrine deposits (Quaternary) — Fine-grained sand to silt clay located in small closed basins within the Bajios Redondos graben. Holocene in age. Water filled ponds after heavy rains. Thickness about 2 m.

Older lacustrine deposits (Quaternary) — Fine-grained sand to silt clay located in small closed basins within the Bajios Redondos graben, often surrounding Q₁ Late Pleistocene in age. Thickness 2 to 3 m.

Stream terrace alluvium (Quaternary) — Brown (7SYR4/2) to light reddish-brown (5YR 6/4), unconsolidated, moderately sorted, silt sand to sandy clay at the surface. Two distinct tributary valley fill deposits record 3 cut and fill cycles since the mid to late Pleistocene. Thickness 1-4 m.

Fan pediment alluvial and colluvial deposits (Quaternary) — Unconsolidated to partially indurated fine- to medium-grained sand and gravel. Often associated with either the Upper or Lower San Mateo geomorphic surfaces. Soils exhibit Stage III pedogenic carbonate. Thickness approximately 2 m.

Terrace gravel (Pliocene-Early Pleistocene) — Unconsolidated fine- to medium-grained sand, gravel, and rounded trachyte/basalt boulders up to >3 m in size. Deposits were shed off of Mount Taylor down both San Mateo and La Moxca Canyons onto the valley floor. Thickness varies from 10-20 m in heads of canyons to 3-5 m at distal margins.

San Mateo Creek terrace gravel (Pliocene-Early Pleistocene) — Unconsolidated fine- to medium-grained sand, gravel, and rounded trachyte/basalt boulders up to 2 m in size capping Member Fm. deposits (Kp1) in San Mateo Canyon. Thickness 3-8 m.

PHIOCEAN VOLCANIC AND VOLCANICLASTIC DEPOSITS

Younger olive trachyte/basalt — Black to gray, fine- to medium-grained very weakly porphyritic trachyte/basalt flow and red ferruginous siderite deposits. Sparse phenocrysts of quartz and plagioclase. Unit consists of olive and trachyte. Unit contains fine-grained green olivine and trace clinochrysoite that locally occur in cumulate-like clusters. Extensive flow originated from order cone forming Cerro Colorado near the south edge of La Jara Mesa. Overlies Tuff along south and southern mesa margins. Unit not dated. Thickness of flows is <50 m.

Younger megacryst trachyte/basalt — Two distinct flows of black to gray, medium- to fine-grained basalt having very sparse phenocrysts of olivine, plagioclase, and augite and very rare xenolithic mantle peridotite. Flows occur in east-central and northeast portions of quadrangle from vents on adjacent Cerro Pelon quadrangle. Flows overlie unit T₃. Flows not dated. Maximum thickness is <40 m.

Younger megacryst trachyte/basalt — Black to gray, medium-grained porphyritic hawaiite and red to black siderite deposits (T₃) having abundant phenocrysts of augite and plagioclase. Unit consists of olive and trachyte. Unit contains fine-grained green olivine and trace clinochrysoite and multiple flows on southern edge of La Jara Mesa. Unit also contains thin hydrothermalic beds (T₃) overlying bench flows to north and east of cone, partly north of quadrangle boundary. Texture is interstitial to slightly trachytic. Microphenocrysts consist of olivine, titanite, augite, plagioclase, and opaque oxides in glass. Olivine shows considerable idiosyncratic alteration. Overlies thin bed of trachyte tuff (T₃) and older trachyte tuff (T₃) along highway NM 457. Overlies top of Gran's Ridge (Grg) along all of southern La Jara Mesa. Unit not dated. Thickness of flows is <60 m.

EXPLANATION OF MAP SYMBOLS

A — Location of geologic cross section.

G — Geologic contact. Solid where exposed or known, dashed where normally known, dotted where concealed or inferred.

F — Normal fault, showing dip and dip direction of the fault plane; half-and-half on downthrown side. Solid where exposed, dashed where approximately known.

C — Concealed, dominantly dip-slip fault showing relative sense of movement.

S — Strike and dip of inclined joints.

V — Vertical joints.

S — Strike and dip of bedding.

I — Inclined flow foliation or layering, showing dip in igneous rocks.

V — Volcanic vent.

A — Area of volcanic spatter.

A — Arrows show directions of down slope movement within a landslide or slump block deposit.

S — Upper San Mateo geomorphic surface.

S — Lower San Mateo geomorphic surface.

S — Spring.

S — Mine shaft, including mine shafts supported by the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer.

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

COMMENTS TO MAP USERS

A geologic map displays information on the distribution, nature, orientation, and age relationships of rock and deposits and the occurrence of structural features. Geologic and fault contacts are irregular surfaces that form boundaries between different types or ages of units. Data depicted on this geologic quadrangle map may be based on any of the following: reconnaissance field geologic mapping, completion of published and unpublished work, and photographic interpretation. Locations of contacts are not surveyed, but are plotted by interpretation of the position of a given contact onto a topographic base map. Therefore, the accuracy of contact locations depends on the scale of mapping and the interpretation of the geologist. Any inaccuracy of this map could cause misunderstanding in the details of mapping and may result in erroneous interpretations. Site-specific information should be verified by detailed surface mapping or subsurface exploration. Topographic and cultural changes associated with recent development may not be shown.

Cross sections are constructed based on the interpretations of the author made from geologic mapping, and available geophysical, and subsurface (drift/for) data. Cross-sections should be used as an aid to understanding the general geologic framework of the map area, and not be the sole source of information for use in locating or designing wells, buildings, roads, or other man-made structures.

The map has not been reviewed according to New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources standards. The contents of the report and map should not be considered final and complete until reviewed and published by the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the State of New Mexico, or the U.S. Government.

Geologic map of the San Mateo quadrangle, Cibola and McKinley Counties, New Mexico
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This and other STATEMAP quadrangles are available for free download in both PDF and ArcGIS formats at: <http://geofinfo.nmt.edu>

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