



Geologic Map of the Port Townsend South and Part of the Port Townsend North 7.5-minute Quadrangles, Jefferson County, Washington

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GEOLOGIC SETTING

Lower to middle Eocene Crescent Formation basaltic rocks form the basement for the northeastern Olympic Peninsula and are the oldest rocks exposed in the map area (Tabor and Cady, 1978). They consist mostly of columnar to massive flows with oxidized tops and locally developed pillow structures (Hahn and others, 1998). The proclastic rocks are deposited by mass wasting processes either from soil creep and foot-leaves, typically in unconformable contact with surrounding units. Scarps are shown where supported by high (light distance and ranging, based on airborne laser swath mapping) imagery. All shoreline bluffs in the map area are subject to episodic landsliding and resultant bluff retreat, but most slide deposits are removed (within months to years) by beach wave action.

The middle Eocene Lyre Formation, overlying the unnamed unit in fault contact in the map area, consists of lower and upper conglomerate and sandstone facies separated by locally developed diatreme proclastic rocks (Hahn and others, 1998). The proclastic rocks are exposed in the Anderson Lake area, where we have dated them at 46.62±0.56 Ma (Table 1, loc. 1). An angular unconformity separates the Lyre Formation from the overlying Oligocene-Eocene Quimper Sandstone. The Tertiary rocks were folded and faulted in the map area by Oligocene or earlier tectonics.

During the Pliocene, glacial and nonglacial deposits covered most of the map area, forming a thin veneer over bedrock in the south part of the map area but increasing in thickness to the north from 900 m to 2,400 ft at Port Townsend, as suggested in Jones, 1999). Alternately, Mosher and others (2000), using geophysical data, suggested that the thickness ranges from about 500 ft (at Port Townsend) to about 800 ft along the west coast of the Quimper Peninsula. Sediments of Canadian Cordilleran provenance (Vanover Island and the Coast Ranges, hereinafter termed "northern") were deposited in the map area by the Vashon and earlier glaciations. The inclusion of high-grade metamorphic granitic and other crystalline rocks in these northern sediments distinguishes them from sediments of Olympic Mountains (Olympic) provenance, which consist of about 90 percent lithic sandstone with the remaining 10 percent including basalt, argillite, and low-grade metamorphic (mostly metasedimentary) rocks from the core of the Olympic Range.

The oldest Pleistocene sediment exposed at the surface in the map area is thought to be the Double Bluff Drift at the base of the bluff section (where its exposure is too small to show a map scale) on the east side of Discovery Bay, where it is 150 to 300 ft thick and overlies a boundary (Gayer, 1977; Wash. Dept. of Ecology, 1978). Based on stratigraphic position, Double Bluff Drift would likely date to marine oxygen-isotope stage 7 (thereafter "stage" 7), about 125 ka (Morrison, 1991), although direct dates within the drift attest to a source in the Puget lowland (Berger and Eastbrook, 1993; Blum and others, 1987; Eastbrook, 1994).

The oldest exposed interglacial unit is the Whiskey Formation, which forms the base of the bluff section west of Point Wilson. The Whiskey probably correlates with stage 5, about 125 to 80 ka (Morrison, 1991), which is corroborated by a thermoluminescence date of 151 ±43 ka (Eastbrook, 1994) (Table 1, loc. 4, columnar section 4).

Possession Drift overlies the Whiskey Formation, and field relations suggest an age correlated to stage 4 or about 80 to 60 ka (Morrison, 1991). Amino acid-based ages ranging from 80 to 80 ±22 ka were determined for the core of the Olympic Range (Eastbrook and Rafter (1981, 1982). In many locations, Possession Drift provides the only means of distinguishing Whiskey sediments from locally very similar, younger deposits of the Olympia nonglacial interglacial (Preston, 1980).

Olympia deposits in the map area correlate with stage 3 or about 60 to 20 ka (Morrison, 1991). Two radiocarbon ages from Olympia deposits within the map area range from 36,430 to 23,730 ±30 C.Y.B.P. (Thoron, 1981; Gayer, 1977; Wash. Dept. of Ecology, 1978). Radiocarbon ages for the Olympia deposits that range from 27,610 to 16,790 ±90 C.Y.B.P. in the Coveville area of Whiskey Island, northeast of our map area. Field relations indicate that the Olympia nonglacial interglacial in our map area is older than Whiskey Island, such that the younger age control on the Olympia on Whiskey Island also applies to the area of the Quimper Peninsula.

The Olympia nonglacial interglacial ended when advance outwash sand and gravel of the Vashon Stade of the Fraser Glaciation (Armstrong and others, 1965) (stage 2) buried the Puget Lowland (Booth, 1994). Porter and Swanson (1998, Fig. 4) suggested that ice arrived and covered the map area approximately 18,160 ka (or ~15,200 ±30 C.Y.B.P., Oxcal v. 3.9). That age is consistent with the above mentioned and nearby age control on Olympia deposits (Polner and others, 2005). Modeling by Thoron (1981) indicates that ice thickness reached approximately 3,900 to 4,200 ft (1,200–1,300 m) in the map area, where it carved out drumlins and deposited till on most of the map area. Granitic clasts within the till attest to a source in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia.

As the climate warmed at the end of the Vashon Stade, the Puget lobe retreated northward depositing recessional outwash sands and gravels. The most prominent recessional outwash deposits in the map area occupy a broad flat-bottomed trough that merges with the mouths of West and Chumuck Valleys. Thoron (1981, p. 26–27) offered a possible deglaciation sequence for the area. He suggested that the Puget lobe was marked by ice stagnation and the accumulation of ice-contraction drift, associated landforms in the map area are eskers and kettles. Evidence the retreat was characterized by an active ice margin resulting in a thin layer of ablation till. Ablation till in the project area shows considerable evidence of reworking by meltwater, characterized by small-scale channel erosion resulting in a patchwork of till, ablation till, and outwash.

As the Puget lobe retreated northward, marine waters invaded the Puget Lowland, initiating the Everson Interstade (Armstrong and others, 1963). Ice collapse across Admiralty Inlet marks the beginning of the Everson Interstade in the map area. The oldest nearby radiocarbon date from glaciomarine drift at the Whiskey Island Naval Air Station, 14 mi north-northeast of Point Wilson) is 13,650 ±350 C.Y.B.P. (Dethier and others, 1995), although Jones (1999) dated a radiocarbon date from a peat deposit in the map area that is older than Dethier's radiocarbon date suggests. The Everson Interstade ended locally when the rate of post-glacial rebound exceeded global sea level rise, causing the land to rise above the water. We agree with Swanson (1994) that his radiocarbon date of 12,600 ±30 C.Y.B.P. likely provides the best estimate for the end of the Everson Interstade in the map area, but others have favored other dates (Dethier and others, 1995; Eastbrook, 1996).

STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY

The paucity of good bedrock exposures within the map area makes it difficult to add to the current knowledge and understanding of the geologic structure. Gayer (1980) has provided the most detailed geologic mapping and structural interpretation in the study area. We have adopted his mapping of the geology and structure for the area southwest of Anderson Lake on the Quimper Peninsula. However, we have not retained his mapped faults in the immediate area of the lake, because they are not supported by our own mapping. Gayer's mapping shows a series of closely spaced north- to northeast-trending normal faults with a cross fault inferred to account for discordance in bedding strike between the older Crescent Formation and the younger Lyre Formation. We were unable to find evidence of the offshore structures during our study and do not show these structures on our map.

Gayer (1980) mapped a concealed north-trending, down-to-the-west fault through the central part of Discovery Bay, which he calls the Port Discovery fault. He doesn't discuss the fault in his report, but the apparent intersection primarily on a high-amplitude aeromagnetic anomaly in MacLeod and others (1977). Gayer (1980) inferred to other structures (this structure C and D) from aeromagnetic data and inferred to other structures (this structure W) from a magnetic contour map of the Leech River fault of Vancouver Island, which Gayer shows passing beneath the Quimper Peninsula at the northwest edge of our map and trending south-southeast. He shows structure C meeting with his east-trending, north-south-trending fault in the vicinity of Adkins Beach. Wagner and Wiley (1980) presented seismic reflection survey data suggesting a large landslide offshore of Cape George (on the Strait of Juan de Fuca just west of the base of our map) close to Gayer's structure F. Wagner and Wiley (1980) suggested that a pre-Vashon seismic event generated the landslide. We were unable to find offshore evidence of the offshore structures during our study and do not show these structures on our map.

DESCRIPTIONS OF MAP UNITS

Quaternary Unconolidated Deposits

HOLOCENE NONGLACIAL DEPOSITS

Fill—Clay, silt, sand, gravel, organic matter, riprap, and (or) debris (exposed to elevate and reshape the land surface; includes engineered and non-engineered fills; shown only where fill placement is relatively extensive, sufficiently thick to be of geotechnical significance, and readily verifiable.

Modified land—Soil, sediment, or other geologic material locally reworked by excavation and (or) redistribution to modify topography; includes areas of commercial and industrial development, school yards, grave pits converted to parks and sports fields, active grave mounds, building complexes, artillery bunkers at Fort Worden, and areas around landfills.

Dune deposits—Wind-blown sand and coarse silt; gray to tan; well sorted and stratified; loose. At Point Wilson, beach dunes are about 20 ft high; similar, but smaller dunes rest on beach deposits at Kala Point. This deposit (4 ft thick or less) of dark brown "dune" sand and silt rest on Vashon lodgment till (unit Qgl) over east-facing bluffs at Port Townsend (data are insufficient to establish that they are true dune deposits; not mapped because of map scale and poor exposure); gray, rounded pebbles and cobbles occur at the interface of the "dune" sand and underlying lodgment till, suggesting a period of post-glacial erosion before deposition of the "dune" sand.

Beach deposits—Sand and cobbles, may include silt, pebbles, and clay; pebble-sized and larger clasts typically well rounded; well sorted; loose; may be residual or transported. Large boulders up to 10 ft diameter rest on beach deposits or older in-place beach platform sediments, indicating a beach deposit formed from erosion and previous sliding.

Alluvium—Sand, gravel, silt, and clay; typically tan to gray, but dark grayish brown where stained by peat; variably sorted; loose to consolidated; stratified; deposited in stream beds and estuaries.

Alluvial fan—Sand and gravel; gray to tan; moderately to well sorted; deposited by small streams flowing from highlands into lower-grade valleys.

Marsh deposits—Organic-matter-rich sediments deposited in brackish or saltwater marsh (estuarine or lagoonal) environments.

Mass wasting deposits—Boulders, gravel, sand, and clay; generally unsorted but locally stratified; typically loose; consists of debris from landslides, small landslides, and relicts, differentiated from mapped landslides by lack of obvious scarps or mappable individual slides.

Landslide deposits—Gravel, sand, silt, clay, and boulders; clasts angular to rounded; unsorted; generally loose, unstratified, broken, and chaotic, but may locally retain primary bedding structure; may include liquefaction features; deposited by mass wasting processes either from soil creep and foot-leaves, typically in unconformable contact with surrounding units. Scarps are shown where supported by high (light distance and ranging, based on airborne laser swath mapping) imagery. All shoreline bluffs in the map area are subject to episodic landsliding and resultant bluff retreat, but most slide deposits are removed (within months to years) by beach wave action.

Peat deposits (late Pleistocene to Holocene)—Organic-matter-rich sediment deposited by mass wasting processes either from soil creep and foot-leaves, typically in unconformable contact with surrounding units. Scarps are shown where supported by high (light distance and ranging, based on airborne laser swath mapping) imagery. All shoreline bluffs in the map area are subject to episodic landsliding and resultant bluff retreat, but most slide deposits are removed (within months to years) by beach wave action.

PLEISTOCENE GLACIAL AND NONGLACIAL DEPOSITS

EVerson INTERSTADE

Everson Glaciomarine Drift—Silt, clay, and clay-rich diamictum with highly variable amounts of gravel-sized clasts; lenses and layers of sandy or gravelly outwash; buff to olive- or light gray; well-developed columnar jointing with blocky fracture; fracture surfaces commonly stained dark brown; thickness where exposed to sea cliffs ranges from 3 to 10 ft; water table logs suggest that it is 20 ft thick west of Port Townsend (cross section A); widely distributed and found as high as about 15 ft elevation (positioned on the sea floor during the Everson Interstade since high stand preceding glacio-estuarine rebound; may contain marine fossils; generally overlies Vashon till (unit Qgl); overlies advance outwash (unit Qga) west of Port Townsend (cross section A). Deposition of the unit likely began when the ice sheet across Admiralty Inlet collapsed (see Geologic Setting), and its age is further defined by six radiocarbon dates in the Coveville area (Polner and others, 2005). The age of the unit spans the entire Everson Interstade (see Geologic Setting) and age of the interstade.

Glaciomarine outwash—Sand with silt and lenses of gravel; may be capped by silt and clay (Thoron, 1981); tan to gray; loose; best exposed in the Adkins Beach area in sea cliffs west of Discovery Bay, where 5 ft of massive silt with rounded and angular clasts of northern provenance overlies approximately 95 ft of flat bedded, laminated, and low-angle cross-bedded sand containing silt clasts and isolated lenses of gravel; at least 100 ft thick where exposed in the sea cliffs and analysis of water table records suggest a maximum thickness of 140 ft, interpreted by Thoron (1981) as being deposited by rapid subsurface west-flowing currents near an active glacial terminus; also includes detrital sediment in the Fiondale area, occurs as sandy dunes forming a kette topography suggesting that there was stagnate ice present during its deposition; contains marginal marine to terrestrial fossils (mosses and barnacles) (Elizabeth Nesbitt, Univ. of Wash., written commun., 2004); overlies Vashon advance outwash (unit Qga) and is interpreted to be coeval with recessional outwash (unit Qgo) where two recessional outwash meltwater channels merge near Discovery Bay Camp Meeting.

VASHON STADE

Recessional outwash—Pebble to cobble gravel and sand; gray to tan, generally unoxidized with little fine silt matrix; extent in upper 3 to 4 ft generally well rounded; unconsolidated; planar to cross-bedded; thickness ranges from 5 to 100 ft; clasts of northern provenance; lies stratigraphically above Vashon till (unit Qgl) where till had been removed by erosion. Locally divided into subunits: **Sand**—Sand with pebbles and silt; stratified, cross-bedded; at least 20 ft thick. **Dune deposits**—Characterized by forest beds; laid down by meltwaters flowing into Discovery Bay and Port Townsend Bay (Gayer, 1977; Thoron, 1981); an excellent example of a dune deposit.

Ice-contraction drift—Sand to coarse gravel deposited in contact with stagnant glacial ice; gray; tan where weathered; rounded to subrounded clasts; moderately well sorted; crudely stratified; highly permeable; characterized by deformation, including slumping and collapse of the sediment; maximum thickness is about 50 ft; less desirable as a source of aggregate than unit Qgo, due to wide range of clast sizes. A group into ablation till (unit Qgl). To the south a few of these features survived reworking by meltwater depositing unit Qgl.

Lodgment till—Mix of clay, silt, sand, and gravel with isolated boulders; deposited as diamictum directly by advancing glacier ice; gray where fresh, light yellowish brown where oxidized; cobbles and boulders commonly faceted and (or) striated and glacially polished; unsorted and highly compacted; permeability very low; commonly matrix supported, but locally silt supported; matrix more angular than water-worked sediments; varies in thickness from 1 ft to about 80 ft and averages about 30 ft thick; may include loose ablation till (unit Qgl) and thin to very thin commonly capped by 1 to 2 ft of dark brown wind-deposited sand (see unit Qgo) with loose till-colored clasts near the till-sand interface; up to 10 ft diameter erratic boulders commonly associated with till and ablation till; typically forms a vertical face in coastal bluffs. Unit Qgl lies stratigraphically between recessional outwash (unit Qgo) above and advance outwash (unit Qga) below. Local and nearby age control constrains the age of the unit to between about 15,200 ±30 C.Y.B.P. (see Geologic Setting and Swanson, 1994; Porter and Swanson, 1998; Booth, 1994) and 13,650 ±350 C.Y.B.P. (see Geologic Setting).

Ablation till—Unsorted, unstratified, loose deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay; gray to tan, usually oxidized; thickness generally ranges from 3 to 10 ft, but may extend only where sufficiently thick (5 ft or more) to mask underlying lodgment till (unit Qgl); thickest in northern part of the map area where it contains numerous kettles, in many cases filled with peat deposits (unit Qpl) only; overlies lodgment till (unit Qgl); a somewhat poor source of aggregate due to lack of sorting.

Advance outwash—Sand and pebble to cobble gravel with some bouldery facies; minor silt and clays; may contain till fragments; gray to grayish brown and grayish orange; clasts well rounded; well sorted; coarsens upward, compact, but in places contains some bouldery facies; pebble to cobble sized clasts are approximately 130 ft in thickness; exposed near Glen Cove; crops out dominantly on fairly steep slopes where side streams have eroded through the overlying lodgment till; common in the uplands east of Chumuck Valley south of Hadlock and in the map area (silt and clays have been deformed due to overlying by Vashon ice; commonly overlain by unit Qgl along a sharp contact and stratigraphically above unit Qgl). Subunit Qga contains a sandstone-dominated deposit. The age of unit Qga is bracketed by local and nearby age control from the underlying unit Qgl (Table 1 and Geologic Setting) and an estimate of Vashon ice retreat by Porter and Swanson (1998) (see Geologic Setting).

Unidated Fraser and Pre-Fraser Deposits
Clacial and nonglacial deposits, unidated—Sand, gravel, silt, clay; glaciomarine drift, till, mapped where exposures are poor and (or) map scale does not allow detailed delineation; includes units Qga, Qgo, Qgp, and Qgl; may contain units Qgm and Qgn; may contain Double Bluff Drift (Gayer 1977; Washington Department of Ecology, 1978).

Unidated Pre-Fraser Deposits

Clacial and nonglacial deposits, unidated—Believed to be Pre-Fraser in age, but may include some unit Qga because of uncertainty of similar lithologies in unit Qga and underlying unit Qgl; includes some exposures too small to be differentiated and larger exposures with sediments whose age and origin could not be determined; in cross section A, consists of all unconolidated deposits other than Vashon advance outwash. The largest exposures of unit Qgo are confined to sea cliffs on the east shore of Discovery Bay, the southern parts of which consist mostly of unit Qgl (columnar sections 2 and 3) and the northern parts of which consist of well sorted, stratified, locally cross-bedded tan, brown, and gray sand and silt of uncertain origin exposed in vertical cliffs. This unit also occurs in the steep walls of Chumuck Valley (in the southeast corner of the map), where it is poorly exposed and limited to a few outcrops consisting, in part, of till (Possession?) and underlying, gray, compact, laminated silt and clay (lake beds) of uncertain origin.

Nonglacial deposits of Olympia age—Gravel, sand, silt, and clay; gravel yellowish brown where weathered, gray to dark gray where unweathered; sand, silt, and clay yellowish gray to tan; clasts are Olympic provenance; generally rounded to subrounded; well stratified; compact; typically horizontally bedded fluvial sand and gravel with sparse lenses of silt sand; at least 70 ft of sand and gravel are exposed in the uplands east of Chumuck Valley south of Hadlock and are correlated with similar gravels exposed in sea cliffs on Discovery Bay; overlies Possession Drift (unit Qpl) (columnar section 3) in a depositional setting similar to that in the exposures represented in columnar section 1. Other workers have mapped unit Qgo, equivalents in bluff exposures on the west side of the Quimper Peninsula between McCurdy Point and Cape George, just west of the map boundary (Gayer, 1977; Wash. Dept. of Ecology, 1978), apparently based on outcrops that have since been partially destroyed by landsliding. Wood from silt just above the gravels at Discovery Bay were dated at 36,430 ±300 C.Y.B.P. (Table 1 and columnar section 2). Silt above the dated wood (columnar section 2) contain fossil leaf impressions from a plant (*Salix planifolia*) known to grow in small swamps (Water Bucheler, written commun. to Rick Dillhoff of Burke Museum, Div. of Wash., 2004). In bluffs west of Point Wilson, charcoal from sand and silt in erosional contact with overlying Vashon advance outwash sand was dated at 23,730 ±30 C.Y.B.P. (Gayer, 1977; Wash. Dept. of Ecology, 1978). In G. W. Thron, consulting geologist, written commun., 2004 (columnar section 1 and Table 1). The unit is queried where age assignment is uncertain.

Deposits of the Possession Glaciation

Possession Drift (glaciomarine sections and cross section only)—Glaciomarine drift and underlying till; distinguished from equivalent Vashon facies by stratigraphic position. Glaciomarine drift facies variegated; typically clay rich and rich diamictum; buff, gray, to dark gray; compact and commonly with vertical desiccation cracks and shells; locally indistinguishable from till. Till facies typically sandy diamict; gray to light gray; compact. At Point Wilson, approximately 40 ft of predominantly glaciomarine drift overlies the Whiskey Formation (unit Qgl) (columnar section 1). Unit Qgl is sporadically exposed near the base of sea cliffs along the Strait of Juan de Fuca southwest of McCurdy Point (Gayer, 1977; Wash. Dept. of Ecology, 1978), where we have included it in unit Qgl, and at another locality along the same stretch of sea cliffs (columnar section 4). Possession glaciomarine drift is also exposed at base of sea cliffs on east shore of Discovery Bay (columnar section 2).

Whidbey Formation

Whidbey Formation—Layers of sand, silt, clay, and peat; most commonly weathered to varied shades of tan and light gray; dark gray where unweathered; well sorted and stratified; cross bedded in coarser facies; typically forms base of sea-cliff exposures and most commonly consists of a basal 10 to 20 ft thick floodplain facies that is commonly slightly oxidized; basal floodplain facies forms prominent vertical bluffs and subhorizontal stratification with common, discontinuous peat beds; 90 ft thick section is exposed in a landslide bluff section west of Point Wilson (columnar section 1). Gayer (1977) mapped Whidbey sediments in an area of landward southwest of McCurdy Point (unit Qgl, southeast corner of sec. 1, T31N 12W).

Tertiary Sedimentary and Volcanic Rocks

Quimper Sandstone (Oligocene-Eocene)—Feldspathic sandstone; gray to olive gray, weathers to yellowish tan; fine to coarse grained; typically massive to faintly bedded; locally thin bedded to laminated; locally cross bedded; contains siltstone beds up to 5 in. thick, spherical and elliptical concretions up to 9 in. in diameter, and calcareous lenses up to 15 ft long; contains rare reddish well-sorted chert pebbles; marine mollusks locally present in unconformable contact with underlying Lyre Formation (unit Eml); foraminifera from the unit have been assigned to the Relifugium foraminifera stage (Armentout and Berta, 1977).

Lyre Formation of Eocene (middle Eocene)

Upper sedimentary unit—Conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone, and sandy siltstone; pebbles to cobble conglomerate; sandstone and blue-gray in an unweathered exposure north of Woodman, but more typically iron-stained to yellowish brown; conglomerate clasts mostly thin to very thin, angular, argillite, metamorphic, and minor white to yellowish-gray diatreme clasts (presumably from underlying unit Ev); conglomerate thick bedded; sandstone is very fine to medium grained and massive to thin bedded; siltstone and sandy siltstone are limonite stained and thin to very thin bedded; locally includes thin beds of fine to coarse-grained sandstone and granular sandstone; quartz where unit assignment is uncertain; silty sandstone facies includes the Townsend Shale; foraminifera from silty interbeds further west along the northern slope of the Olympic Peninsula have been assigned to the Narayan stage (N. S. Malloy and others, 2004) (Armentout and Berta (1977) agreed with Malloy's call for the age of the Lyre Formation and concluded it to apply to the Quimper Peninsula).

Pacific tuff and breccia—Hornblende diatreme tuff and breccia; previously described by others as andesitic (Gayer, 1980; Tabor and Cady, 1978); light to medium gray; weathers tan; locally contains rare leaves and coalified wood; commonly massive, but some tuffs are thin bedded; broken zoned plagioclase and hornblende phenocrysts are observed in this section. In a recent petrologic study of this unit Hahn and others (2004) estimated a 300 ft thick exposed section at Anderson Lake, which they suggest was deposited within topographic constraints such as a paludology. They describe the deposit as a subvolcanic related block and ash flow located in the Cascadia fore arc, which they suggest is unlikely to have traveled more than 6 mi from its source. Geochemical analyses of samples collected during this study have produced diatreme chemistry (Table 2, "A" and "B" ages of 46.62 ±0.56 Ma on plagioclase from tuff (Table 1) establishes the unit age as middle Eocene.

Lower sedimentary unit—Conglomerate, sandstone, and siltstone; iron-stained yellowish brown; conglomerate clasts are predominantly chert, with lesser meta-sedimentary and meta-igneous rocks, quartz, and feldspathic sandstone; siltstone is fine to very coarse grained and typically contains scattered pebbles; siltstone is sandy and thin to faintly bedded.

Unsorted sedimentary rocks of Eocene (middle to lower Eocene)

Sandstone interbedded with massive to faintly bedded, dark gray to black siltstone; weathered dark yellowish brown; sandstone fine to medium grained, thin to thick bedded, and locally contains rounded black clasts up to 4 in. long; more angular than water-worked sediments; varies in thickness from 1 ft to about 80 ft and averages about 30 ft thick; may include loose ablation till (unit Qgl) and thin to very thin commonly capped by 1 to 2 ft of dark brown wind-deposited sand (see unit Qgo) with loose till-colored clasts near the till-sand interface; up to 10 ft diameter erratic boulders commonly associated with till and ablation till; typically forms a vertical face in coastal bluffs. Unit Qgl lies stratigraphically between recessional outwash (unit Qgo) above and advance outwash (unit Qga) below. Local and nearby age control constrains the age of the unit to between about 15,200 ±30 C.Y.B.P. (see Geologic Setting and Swanson, 1994; Porter and Swanson, 1998; Booth, 1994) and 13,650 ±350 C.Y.B.P. (see Geologic Setting).

Crescent Formation (middle to lower Eocene)

Conglomerate—Rounded boulder and cobble conglomerate; basaltic (Table 2); dark gray to black weathering to dark brown; commonly deeply weathered; overlies unit Ev; Gayer (1980) states that the unit overlies a red saprolite about 20 ft thick exposed in a highway road cut along the east side of Discovery Bay. Thoron (1959) called this unit his "Upper Crescent member".

Basalt—Massive tholeiitic flows and breccias with very rare pillow lavas; grayish black; weathers to dark greenish gray, brown, and grayish yellow to white; common red-oxidized zones at tops of flows; columnar jointing south of map area indicating that most of the exposed part of the unit is subareal; contains foraminiferal assemblages referable to the Peruvian to Utahian Stages (Rau 1981). Babcock and others (1992, 1994) dated subunit basalts, correlates with those in the map area, and near the Dowsingalls River valley, 20 mi to the south, using ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar geochronometry; their age range (from top to bottom) of the section from 50.5 ± 1.6 Ma to 51.0 ± 0.4 Ma.

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