

# The Transverse Ranges

Purpose: To locate and identify the importance and uniqueness of the region known as the Transverse or east-west oriented mountain ranges of California.

## I. Location

- A. The only major east-west trending mountain region in the state.
- B. North of the Peninsular ranges.
- C. Made up in part by the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mtns, Santa Ynez Mtns., and the "Channel Islands" of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, and Anacapa. (p. 33 text.) a prolongation of the Santa Monica Mtns.
- D. Santa Monica Mtns. = folding and faulting along Santa Monica Fault just a few million years ago.
- E. Islands roughly parallel to and same size & ht. as Catalina Is.

## II. Physical Geography

- A. Physically (but not economically) separates the south land from the rest of the state.  
Sometimes in winter all roads (5, 101 etc. ) are closed, effectively demonstrating the above.
- B. Most rugged and least densely settled coastal province.
- C. Highest peak 11,485 ' Mt. San Gorgonio.
- D. Produced by: folding and faulting of sedimentary rock (west) and block faulting of metamorphic and igneous rocks on the east. = deep canyons, long steep slopes.
- E. Caused by Plate Tectonic squeeze play esp. on west side, by San Andreas and associated fault systems.
- F. San Andreas cuts the ranges in two, N. Boundary of San Gabriels, cutting through Cajon Pass, to become the S. edge of the San Bernardino mtns.  
Displacement along fault = reason for the two names of the mtn. ranges. They are one range cut in two. The ranges continue to move farther apart as the plates move.

## III. Cultural Features

- A. The Santa Monica Mtns., San Fernando Valley, Oxnard Plain, Santa Clara Valley (lower), Santa Barbara. = most settled area.
- B. Other areas of note are resorts of Mt. Baldy Village, Arrowhead Lake, Big Bear Lake, & some small communities between.
- C. Most of the Skiing areas of S. Cal. located here.
- D. Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Is. are not developed, apart from military and pastoral use. No tourism. Part of Channel Islands National Park.

**END**