

Fire & Earthquake in the East Bay Hills



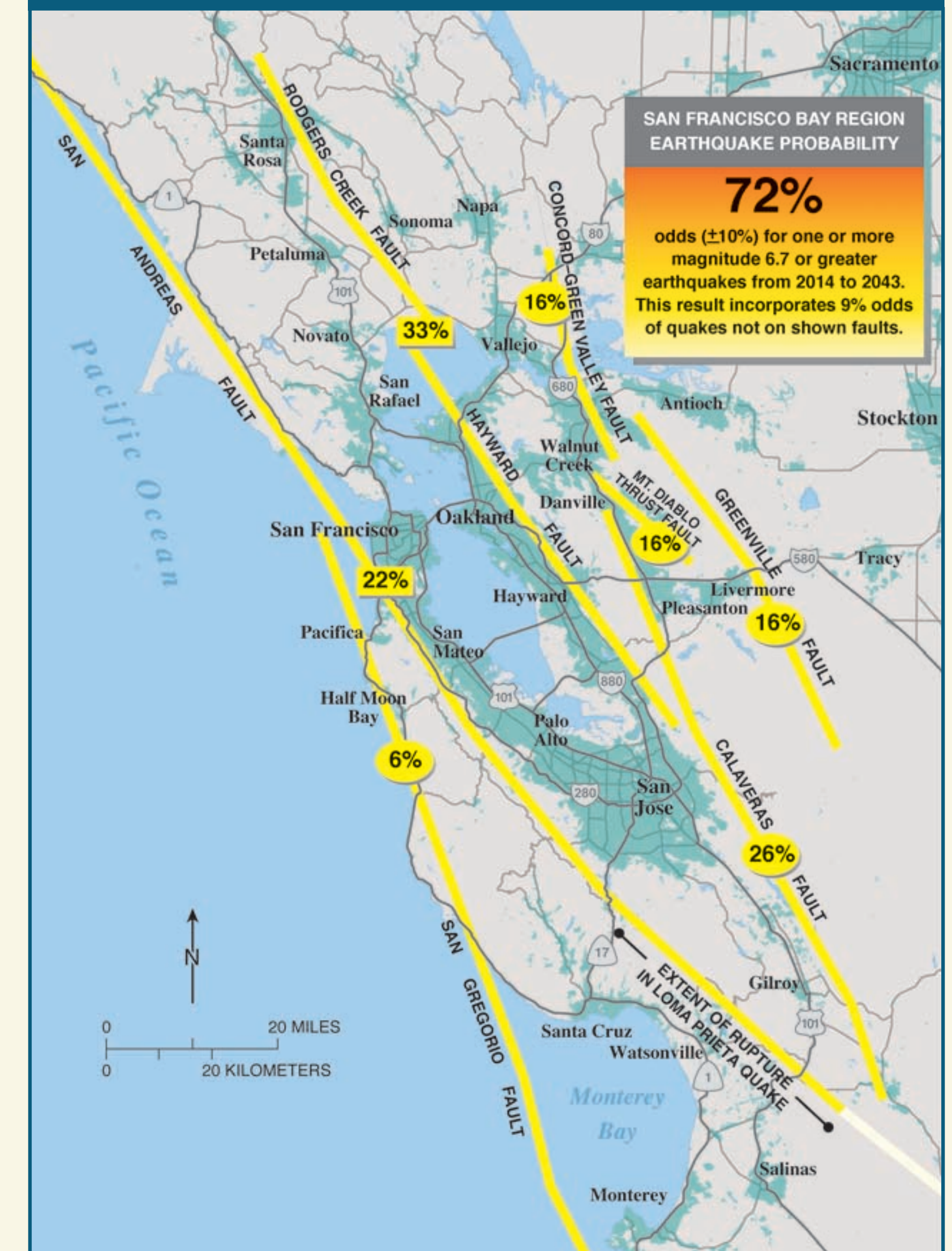
Geography

Steep hillsides and canyons accelerate the spread of fires and make firefighting efforts more difficult. Canyons act as chimneys, trapping heat and intensifying combustion.

Weather

California's mild Mediterranean climate with wet winters and hot, dry summers provides dry fuel in the summer and fall. Diablo winds that conduct hot, dry air from the Central Valley to the coast add to firestorm conditions.

How likely is it that we will experience a big earthquake by the year 2043?



Geology

A major earthquake on the Hayward fault could lead to another firestorm. The San Francisco earthquake of 1906, the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 and the 1995 earthquake in Kobe, Japan, led to major fires caused by broken gas mains and loss of water lines.

Lack of Prevention

Highly flammable vegetation is allowed to proliferate on private and public property. Many homes have shake roofs and wooden decks, which cause a fire to spread rapidly.