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# NEW GEOCHRONOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS OF THE MID-TERTIARY SOLEDAD ROJO FORMATION IN THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER EXTENSIONAL CORRIDOR, WESTERN PALO VERDE MOUNTAINS, SE CALIFORNIA

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**Geological Sciences** 

By

Abdulla Al-Kaabi

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## SIGNATURE PAGE

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#### ABSTRACT

This study presents new detrital zircon geochronology and stratigraphic interpretations from the Soledad Rojo formation, an informally named moderately east-dipping section of previously undated red beds located in the Lower Colorado River Extensional Corridor of southeast California. Stratigraphic relationships suggest that the Soledad Rojo formation represents an alluvial fan/braided fluvial system deposited in a syndepositional half-graben basin that developed during regional mid-Tertiary extension in the southern Basin and Range province. This basin is bounded on the east by an inferred north-trending normal fault that uplifts mid-late Oligocene volcanic rocks of the Palo Verde Mountains in the footwall. To the west, the Soledad Rojo formation is deposited conformably above the Tuff of Black Hills (22-27 Ma), which extends further outside of the research area.

This study subdivides the Soledad Rojo formation into three stratigraphic subunits: 1) a lower alluvial unit (Tsrl), consisting primarily of trough cross-bedded, brick red coarse-grained lithic arkose interbedded with subangular-subrounded cobble conglomerate; 2) a middle fluvial unit (Tsrm) of clast-supported, rounded-subrounded cobble-boulder conglomerate interbedded with brick red lithic arkose similar to lower unit; and 3) an upper alluvial unit (Tsru) of interbedded light gray to buff conglomeratic lithic arkose and subangular-subrounded pebble-cobble conglomerate. Silicic and mafic volcanic rocks (Tbh, Tsrv) underlie and are intercalated with the Soledad Rojo formation red beds, and a younger dacitic intrusion (Td) with an age around 20.5 Ma that crosscuts the basin deposits in the northern part of the study area. Detrital zircon geochronology suggests that the maximum depositional age of the Soledad Rojo formation is ca. 24.5 Ma, and the

sediments were derived from late Cretaceous (ca. 75 Ma), late Jurassic (ca. 153 Ma.), and Proterozoic (ca. 1.2 and 1.7 Ga) sources, potentially from late Mesozoic to Proterozoic metaplutonic basement rocks exposed in the region adjacent to the basin.

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## **CHAPTER 1- INTRODUCTION**

The western Palo Verde Mountains, the research area that is the focus of this study, is located in the Colorado Desert of southeastern California within the southern Basin and Range province (Figure 1). The purpose of this study is to examine the Soledad Rojo formation, an undated sequence of red beds found on the western side of the northern Palo Verde Mountains marked by the black box (Figure 2), to develop a better understanding of the history of Basin and Range extensional deformation in this research area. Previous workers hypothesized that the Soledad Rojo formation was either derived from the ancestral Colorado River or was a continuation of the Tolbard Fanglomerate found in the Midway Mountains to the south of the study area (Figure 2). In order to fully understand the nature and the geology of the research area, several questions had to be answered: (1) what are the sedimentary facies and basin structure found within the study area?; (2) what is the provenance of the Soledad Rojo formation?; (3) what is the age of the Soledad Rojo formation?; and (4) what is the validity of previous interpretations and correlations between the Soledad Rojo formation and any other formations? To address these questions, this study presents new geologic mapping, stratigraphic column measurements, detrital zircon dating, and thin section modal point-counting analyses to show that the Soledad Rojo formation was deposited in a late Oligocene to early Miocene-age (ca. 23 Ma) alluvial fan/braided fluvial system likely derived from nearby Mesozoic-Proterozoic metaplutonic basement and Tertiary volcanic sources.



Figure 1: Map and location of the Basin and Range Province (stippled pattern), extending from northern Mexico to the northwestern part of USA. Red box represents the approximate location of the research area (Figure 2). Black areas represent the location of metamorphic core complexes. Dashed line represents the inferred eastern boundary of the Laramide thrust faults (from Parsons, 2006).





Holocene - late Miocene sedimentary deposits



Oligo-Miocene (ca. 32-18 Ma) volcanic & sedimentary deposits - includes minor Tertiary granites



Orocopia schist (Mesozoic) - includes Mesozoic & Tertiary granitic rocks in western Chocolate Mtns.



Metaigneous & metasedimentary rocks (Mesozoic-Proterozoic)

Figure 2 (previous page): Regional geologic map of southeastern California & southwestern Arizona, showing the distribution of early Neogene volcanic and sedimentary deposits (orange) and potential basement sediment source rocks, including Precambrian-Mesozoic metaigneous and metasedimentary rocks (pink) and the Orocopia schist (green). B and P stands for the locations of Black Mountain and Picacho State Park, respectively. The proposed path of the ancestral Colorado River is indicated by blue dashed line south of the Palo Verde Mountains (Modified from Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). The location of the study area is indicated by the black box (Figure 3); the Tolbard Fanglomerate, which is tentatively correlated to the Soledad Rojo formation, outcrops in the Midway mountains approximately 13 km to the south.

## **1.1 GEOLOGIC SETTING**

The Basin and Range province is a region of highly extended, arid topography found within the western Cordillera in North America. It lies over much of the western United States, extending from southern Oregon-Idaho in the north to most of northern Mexico south to the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt (Figure 1). In the north, the Basin and Range covers most of the area between the Rocky Mountains and the Cascade Ranges. In the middle, it is bounded by the Colorado Plateau on the east and the Sierra Nevada batholith to the west. In the south, it surrounds northern Mexico's Sierra Madre Occidental Range. The Basin and Range terrain is dominated by parallel mountain ranges that are regularly spaced with extensional hanging wall basins between them (Eaton 1982, Parsons 2006). The extensional structure of the Basin and Range is the result of a long history of tectonic activity that influenced the different areas of the western Cordillera (e.g., Conde, 1982), including numerous cycles of deformation—particularly extension, compression, and transform—that resulted in the formation of the province.

## 1.1.1 TECTONICS OF THE SOUTHERN BASIN AND RANGE PROVINCE Various forms of crustal deformation occurred during the Cenozoic Era in western

North America that significantly defined the geologic development of the southern Basin and Range province in the vicinity of the study area, including transform deformation in

the western continental margin from the mid-Cenozoic to Quaternary period, which followed a period of widespread crustal extension in the Basin and Range province that involved the development of metamorphic core complexes in highly extended areas and high-angle normal block faulting in less extended regions (e.g., Wernicke, 1992; Axen et al., 1993; Parsons, 2006). During the mid- to late-Cenozoic, east-northeast-directed crustal extension occurred in most areas of central and northern Mexico and the southwestern United States, with the region of extension found west of the extent of Laramide deformation (Figure 1; Parsons 2006) The east-northeast-directed extension in the southern Basin and Range is estimated to have started around 30 million years ago (Parsons, 2006). The age of initial extension in the southern Basin and Range province exhibits a southeast to northwest migratory trend of younger deformational ages, with early stages of extension occurring during the late Oligocene in the southern regions of Arizona, California, and Mexico's Chihuahua, Oaxaca, and Durango. Large-scale crustal extension happened in different regions of northern Mexico and southwestern United States during the early Miocene, culminating in the formation of metamorphic core complexes at the southern margins of Colorado Plateau and the area along the Colorado River located between Arizona and California. (Figure 1; Henry and Aranda-Gomez, 1992; Parsons, 2006).

#### 1.1.2 VOLCANISM IN THE SOUTHERN BASIN AND RANGE REGION

Western North America has had a lengthy history of magmatism since the mid-Mesozoic era. Plutonic and volcanic activity heightened during the Cretaceous period due to subduction of the Farallon plate beneath North America, resulting in the formation of a chain of batholiths extending from British Columbia to northwestern Mexico (e.g., Hildebrand and Whalen, 2017 and references therein). During the late Cretaceous to Eocene, flat-slab subduction resulted in the shutoff of arc-magmatism in the western United States (Laramide magmatic gap), coupled with an eastward migration of subduction-related volcanism in northern Mexico and southern Arizona, south of the Laramide magmatic gap (Ferrari et al., 2007 and references therein). The Laramide magmatic gap continued until ca. 40 Ma, when removal of the Farallon plate from the base of the North American plate resulted in a westward sweep of magmatism in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico (Ferrari et al., 2007 and references therein). Basaltic and bimodal volcanism prevailed in this region and was often accompanied by core complex extension, with the relative timing of these events occurring in the Colorado River region during the late Oligocene to early Miocene (Parsons, 2006, Ferrari et al., 2007).

In the southern Basin and Range, extension in the Colorado River Trough has been reported to be linked with basaltic volcanism that occurred during the Miocene epoch (e.g., Bradshaw et al., 1993). The geochemical composition of basalts found in this region have suggested origination of magma from the subcontinental lithospheric mantle. Following the main extensional event in the Basin and Range province, geochemical compositions of volcanic rocks changed, suggesting that magma was derived from both lithospheric and asthenospheric sources, likely due to lithospheric extension triggered magmatism in the southern Basin and Range during the Miocene (e.g., Bradshaw et al., 1993).

#### 1.1.3 METAMORPHIC CORE COMPLEXES

In the southern Basin and Range province, rapid extension of the crust approximately 13 to 14 million years ago resulted in the development of metamorphic core complexes that are characteristic of the region. This age estimate was based on basin development thermochronology and the age of coeval volcanic rocks (e.g., John and Foster, 1993). In general, metamorphic core complexes in the southern Basin and Range are variably composed of mylonitic crystalline rocks, Miocene granitoids, and Proterozoic metamorphic basement rocks, including the Estrella Gneiss (e.g., Singleton et al., 2019).

Many metamorphic core complexes found in the southern Basin and Range region are proximal and roughly contemporaneous with volcanism and plutonism. In the Colorado River extensional corridor of the southern Basin and Range, volcanic rock ages are estimated to range from 21 to 26 million years ago (Foster and John, 1999).

The core complexes of the Sonoran Desert have been reported to be characterized by fabric development and thermal activity during the Mesozoic Era and Tertiary Period, with multiple episodes of ductile deformation identified in many of these core complexes. The core complexes are embedded with Tertiary plutonic rocks. Plutonic rocks in the Buckskin Mountains are dated at 21.7 million years ago. Tonalites in Whipple Mountains are approximately 24 to 26 million years old. Extension-associated plutons in the Chemehuevi Mountains are 21 to 19 million years old, 19 million years old plutons are recorded in Sacramento Mountains and the youngest at 18 million years old are in Dead and Newberry Mountains (Foster and John, 1999). Volcanic strata and granite are mixed in brittle structures and mylonitic fabrics. Some of mylonitic deformation granite bodies are of Miocene age. Processes in these geologic strata are estimated to have formed 18 to 25 million years ago (Nourse et al., 1994).

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## **1.2 RESEARCH AREA AND SURROUNDINGS**

## **1.2.1 GEOLOGIC SETTING**

The research area is located on the western side of the Palo Verde Mountains, east of the Black Hills (Figures 2 and 3). It is surrounded by many tectonically active areas that contributed toward the current geology of the Palo Verde Mountains area. Around late Eocene to early Oligocene, episodes of faulting occurred in the Chocolate Mountains and the surrounding area (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). Following a period of relative tectonic quiescence from 22 to 33 Ma, the area from Palo Verde Mountains to the Trigo Peaks (Figure 2) underwent a major episode of extensional deformation and tilting. By around 13 Ma, thick alluvial fans filled many grabens and half-grabens among tilted fault blocks throughout the area (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).

## **1.2.2 REGIONAL ROCK UNITS**

The following section is a brief overview of the major tectonic regimes and related rock units found in the vicinity of the research area that may have been a sediment sources for the Soledad Rojo formation, or represent post-Soledad Rojo depositional and geologic events. In addition, a potential source of Mesozoic- and Proterozoic-age sediments to the Soledad Rojo formation could have been from the San Gabriel Mountains, since this region was likely located to the south of the research area during deposition if ~300 km of right-lateral slip is removed from the San Andreas fault system (e.g., Nourse, 2002).

### 1.2.2.1 Precambrian to Paleozoic metamorphic and plutonic basement rocks

The most dominant pre-Tertiary rocks in the vicinity of the study area are plutonic and metaplutonic rocks of Mesozoic and Proterozoic age, with lesser metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks of Jurassic age. The upper plates of Late Cretaceous thrust faults in the region are formed from these rocks. During early Tertiary time, these rocks underwent a period of rapid tectonic unroofing along low-angle normal faults (Haxel and Dillon, 1978; Haxel et al., 1985 Tosdal, 1990) and are now overlain nonconformably by Eocene to lower Miocene sedimentary and volcanic rocks (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).

The oldest rocks in the region of the study area are found in the southern Mule mountains and are assigned mostly to the Pinal Schist (Figures 2 and 3). The Pinal Schist consists mostly of fine-grained quartz-muscovite schist that are imperfectly foliated (Hayes and Landis, 1965). It is older than Paleozoic-age as it is intruded by a Precambrian hornblende-quartz diorite and younger rock units including the Cambrian Bolsa Quartzite are in contact with the Pinal Schist in the Mule Mountains (Gilluly, 1956; Hayes and Landis, 1965). The Cambrian Bolsa Quartzite consists mainly of evenly bedded, very resistant, siliceous sandstone with rounded to subrounded grains. Quartz grains make up most of the formation (around 80 to 90 percent); feldspar grains make up between 5 to 15 percent and the remainder 5 percent consist of traces of schist, quartzite, and opaque lithic fragments (Hayes and Landis, 1965). Another well-exposed formation found in the southern part of the Mule Mountains are the Middle-Late Cambrian Abrigo Limestone, which is subdivided into four lithologic units: a basal shaly unit, a ribbed limestone unit, a sandy unit, and the Copper Queen Limestone unit (Hayes and Landis, 1965). In addition,

other Paleozoic-age formations found within the Mule Mountains are the Devonian Martin Limestone, the Mississippian Escabrosa Limestone, and the Pennsylvanian-Permian Naco Limestone (Hayes and Landis, 1965).

Additional Proterozoic-age rocks in the region that may have contributed sediment to the Soledad Rojo formation are found in the San Gabriel, Chocolate, and Little Chuckwalla Mountains. In San Gabriel Mountains, the oldest rocks are the quartzofeldspathic gneiss of Paleoproterozoic-age (around 1.7 Ga), which are intruded by gneissose granitic rocks of Paleoproterozoic-age (around 1.67 Ga) and a Mesoproterozoicage (around 1.2 Ga) anorthosite-syenite-gabbro complex (Silver, 1971; Ehlig, 1981; Hoyt, 2012). In the Chocolate Mountains, the oldest rock found is an augen gneiss with U-Pb age of 1.7 Ga (Dillon, 1976; Hoyt, 2012). Anorthosite and syenite have an age of around 1.2 Ga in the Chocolate Mountains region, which look similar to the rocks found in the San Gabriel Mountains region (Silver, 1971; Hoyt, 2012). In the Little Chuckwalla Mountains, the oldest rock units are the augen gneiss dated to Paleoproterozoic-age (around 1.65 to 1.68 Ga) and a Mesoproterozoic-age (around 1.4 Ga) granite that most was metamorphosed to augen gneiss (Hamilton, 1982).

### 1.2.2.2 Mesozoic rocks

Within the Chocolate and Trigo Mountains, the structurally lowest lithotectonic unit within the metamorphic basement complex is the Orocopia schist (Figure 2), which is comprised of metamorphosed oceanic sedimentary and volcanic rocks of tentative Jurassic age (e.g., Haxel et al., 1985, 1987; Ricketts et al., 2011). The protolith of the Orocopia schist is suggested to have been metamorphosed during the Late Cretaceous due to underplating of the oceanic sediments underneath North American plate during subduction of the Farallon plate (Jacobson, 1990). The Orocopia schist is a quartzofeldspathic rock that contains metamorphic minerals of an amphibolite-grade. These minerals include quartz, oligoclase, albite, phengitic muscovite, and biotite (Jacobson et al., 2002; Ricketts et al., 2011).

Compared to the Pelona and Rand schists, the Orocopia schist has a higher proportion of Precambrian to Mesozoic detrital zircon grains (Chapman, 2016). Orocopia schist exposures along the Chocolate Mountains fault from east of middle Mountains to Chocolate Mountains (Figure 2) is juxtaposed with Mesozoic and Proterozoic gneiss and granitic rocks (Haxel et al., 2002; Chapman, 2016). In the Trigo and southern Chocolate Mountains, exposures of the Orocopia schist contain several 100-1000 m-thick metamorphosed gabbro and diorite lenses (Dillion 1976; Haxel et al., 2002, Chapman, 2016). U-Pb detrital zircon geochronology shows that the Orocopia schist within the vicinity of the research area have a maximum depositional age between 67.1 and 84.5 Ma (Barth et al., 2003; Grove et al., 2003, 2008; Jacobson et al., 2011; Chapman et al., 2013; Chapman et al., 2016; Dumitru et al., 2016; Chapman, 2016).

In Chocolate Mountains, the unit overlaying the Orocopia schist is a Jurassic-age mylonitic orthogneiss. Rocks within this unit are characterized by alternating bands of mafic and felsic materials (Ricketts et al., 2011). The unit overlying this orthogneiss is the Winterhaven Formation, which consists of metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks. The metavolcanic rocks comprise the lower subunit of the Winterhaven Formation, with metamorphosed aphanitic to porphyritic andesitic to basaltic flows (Haxel et al., 1985; Sutton, 2010; Ricketts et al., 2011). The upper subunit of the Winterhaven Formation are

metasedimentary rocks that consists of argillite, metamorphosed feldspathic and quartz arenite, and pebble conglomerate (Sainsbury 2010; Sutton 2010; Ricketts et al., 2011).

Mesozoic plutonic rocks within the Mule Mountains are enclosed on the west by a covered northeast-striking high-angle fault, with the Coon Hollow fault separating the Mesozoic plutonic rocks within the southernmost Mule Mountains from Tertiary volcanic rocks to the south that are thin or absent to the north of the Coon Hollow fault (Figure 3) (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). The Jurassic Juniper Flat Granite, like the Cambrian Bolsa Quartzite, is in contact with the Pinal Schist (Hayes and Landis, 1965). Potassium-argon ages of biotite samples from the Juniper Flat Granite are around 163 Ma and rubidium-strontium ages of biotite samples are around 177 Ma, which indicate an Early Jurassic-age (Creasey and Kistler, 1962). Younger Mesozoic rock units in the Mule Mountains include the Early Cretaceous Bisbee Group formations that unconformably overlain the Juniper Flat Granite (Gilluly, 1956; Hayes and Landis, 1964), which is subdivided into the Glance Conglomerate, Mural Limestone, Morita Formation, and Cintura Formation (Ransome, 1904; Hayes and Landis, 1964).

A small amount of Mesozoic metaplutonic rocks are observed in the eastern Palo Verde Mountains region, which are intruded by the Quechan volcanic rocks (described below). However, these Mesozoic rocks terminate to the northwest against the Flat Tops fault, which is an inferred fault based on the opposed dip directions of stratigraphic units on each side (Figure 3) (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).

## 1.2.2.3 Oligocene-Miocene: Volcanic and Sedimentary deposits

An arkosic sandstone and sedimentary breccia unit ("Prevolcanic Sedimentary unit" of Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991) that nonconformably overlies pre-Tertiary crystalline rocks in the Chocolate Mountains' upper plate is considered the oldest Tertiary rock unit in the region surrounding the study area. These rocks generally thin and appear finer grained to the northwest, north, and northeast from the Chocolate and southern Trigo Mountains (Figure 2), with coarse sedimentary breccias being abundant within the southern part of the Chocolate and Trigo Mountains (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). This sedimentary unit is inferred to be early Oligocene-as, as younger volcanism was well-established in the region by around 28 Ma (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).

The early stages of middle Tertiary volcanism (pre- 33Ma) are identified by a series of well-bedded volcanic litharenite and tuff overlying the pre-volcanic sedimentary rocks within the Chocolate Mountains region (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). This volcaniclastic strata is considered to represent reworked ash material erupted from distal explosive volcanic eruptions outside of the study area that was overlain by the locally erupted Quechan volcanic rocks around 33 Ma (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).

Several mafic to silicic volcanic rock units were locally erupted in the vicinity of the study area during the mid-Cenozoic. The Quechan volcanic rocks are the oldest Tertiary volcanic deposits, which were erupted in the Oligocene period (Crow,1978; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). The Quechan volcanic rocks consist of a series of lava flows and subordinate volcaniclastic strata that are exposed in the Palo Verde Mountains and Black Hills (Figure 3; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). A lower unit of lava flows that is lithologically similar to the Quechan volcanic rocks the and the tuff of black hills is assigned to the regional silicic tuff sequence. This unit is the oldest subunit of the silicic tuff sequence and shown in Figure 3 as dacite and rhyodacite unit (Sherrod and Tosdal,1991). Conformably overlying the Quechan volcanic rocks is a silicic tuff sequence composed mainly of rhyodacitic and rhyolitic pyroclastic flows. The silicic tuff sequence consists of at least four silicic pyroclastic deposits, including the tuff of Felipe Pass, tuff of Black Hills, tuff of Ten Ewe Mountain, and the ignimbrite of Ferguson Wash (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). Calderas identified in the Kofa Mountains (Figure 2) are the inferred eruptive source of at least two ash flow tuffs: the tuff of Felipe Pass and the tuff of Ten Ewe Mountain (Grubensky and Bagby, 1990; Sherrod et al., 1990; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991; Grubensky et al., 1993). Tuff of Ten Ewe Mountain is widespread in Kofa and northern Castle Dome Mountains and possibly in Yuma Proving Ground, while the tuff of Felipe Pass is mostly discontinuously in the Lower Colorado River region from Little Chuckwalla Mountains to eastern Kofa Mountains (Figure 2) (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). Ages for the silicic tuff sequence ranges from 23-27 Ma (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991; Needy, 2009).

A smaller fraction of the volcanic rocks in the vicinity of the study area are considered to be younger than the silicic tuff sequence within the lower Colorado River region. The silicic tuff sequence is overlain by a Miocene dacite in the eastern Palo Verde Mountains (Sherrod and Tosdal,1991), by a younger (22 Ma) caldera-filling rhyodacite lava flows and domes in the Kofa Mountains (Bagby et al., 1987; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991), by a bimodal assemblage of rhyolite and basalt that could be as young as 17 Ma in New Water and eastern Kofa Mountains (Sherrod et al., 1990; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991), and by a few scattered silicic lavas in the Picacho State Park area (Crowe, 1978; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991) (Figure 2). The youngest volcanic rocks in the research area vicinity are found as basalt lavas within Black Mountain, with ages as young as  $9.6 \pm 1.8$  Ma (Eberly and Stanley, 1978; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).

Postvolcanic Miocene sedimentary rocks consist of arkosic conglomerate and sandstone that are reddish in color and is interbedded in the research area vicinity with the locally derived fanglomerate. This unit are characterized by micaceous sandy matrix and rounded clasts that are mostly of metaplutonic origin. These rocks are well exposed in the Palo Verde Mountains (including the Soledad Rojo formation) and are probably braidplain deposits of alluvial fans (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). The name "Tolbard Fanglomerate" was given to this formation in Midway Mountains and was tentatively correlated to the superficially similar Soledad Rojo formation (Berg et al., 1982; Jorgenson et al., 1982; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). However, the Tolbard Fanglomerate lacks a lot of the key characteristics of the Soledad Rojo formation, suggesting that these two units are not correlative (described below in the Discussion section)

Postdating the postvolcanic Miocene sedimentary rock sequence are distally derived arkosic sedimentary rocks and locally derived fanglomerate. These deposits are located in basins between the mountain ranges within our study area and its surroundings. The deposits are mostly poorly sorted conglomeratic sandstone and sedimentary breccia that accumulated as large alluvial fans in grabens and half grabens. This unit is given the name of conglomerate of Bear Canyon (Crowe, 1978; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991) and has a wide age range between 9.45 and 23 Ma (Ricketts et al., 2011).

#### 1.2.2.4 Late Miocene to Holocene sedimentary deposits

Following deposition of the Quechan Volcanics and coeval sedimentary units, the late Miocene to Pliocene Bouse Formation and post-Bouse alluvium was deposited in the study area region (Figures 2 and 3). The Bouse Formation formed as a result of lacustrine and/or marine deposits that invaded the Palo Verde Valley during the development of the proto-Colorado River/Gulf of California system around 5 Ma, which resulted in the deposition of siltstone, limestone, and sandstone (Metzger, 1968; Smith, 1970; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).

In the region around the study area, the Bouse Formation is not visible except on the eroded flanks of the eastern Palo Verde Mountains close to the Colorado River (Figure 3; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). In Palo Verde Valley, the Bouse Formation is buried at a depth of 40m to 90m with the top of the formation at an elevation of ~25m to -15m relative to the sea level (Scarborough, 1985; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). This depth and elevation is variable within the region, as the top of the Bouse Formation at Blythe has an elevation of -72m (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).

The deposition and subsequent erosion of the Bouse Formation is thought to have preceded the formation of the Colorado River. Dillon (1976) assert that the river was formed as a result of the erosion of Bouse embayments and Quaternary faulting changed the course of the Colorado River from its ancestral route (see Figure 2) to its present course between the Trigo and Chocolate Mountains (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991; Johnson and Miller, 1980). Post-Bouse Formation deposition in the Palo Verde Mountains, Black Hills, and Mule Mountains region consisted of wide alluvial fans that border these topographic features (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).



Figure 3: Simplified geologic map of the Palo Verde Mountains & Black Hills. The red box shows the location of Figure 6, which represents the research area (from Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).

## **1.2. 3 REGIONAL SEISMIC PROFILES**

In the western region of the Palo Verde Mountains and the Black hills, series of northwest normal faults that are dipping in the northeast were observed (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991). Seismic reflection profiles of the southeastern California region show the combined impacts of structural deformation imposed on the Palo Verdes Mountains region as a result of the combination of the thrust faulting during the Mesozoic period followed by crustal extension during the mid-Cenozoic that resulted in detachment faulting in some parts of the region, and movements along transform faults during the Miocene period to present, which all resulted in the extensional geologic and topographic features that can be easily observed in the region today (e.g., Morris, 1993).

The analysis of seismic reflection data from the Milpitas Wash basin, located immediately south of the study area (Figure 3), interprets that the upper crust is made up of a series of fault blocks that tilt from medium to high angle normal faults and that there are two other sub-basins that underlie the topography (Figure 4). Since the seismic reflection profiles were shot on a west to east alignment, the dips shown on the interpreted cross-section are apparent dips of the faults in the Milpitas Wash topographic basin. Furthermore, the faults also extend deeper into the crust in which they appear to sole into zones of strong reflectivity, interpreted as a low-angle detachment fault (décollement) or some form of extensional fabric that likely developed during the Miocene period of Tertiary extension (Morris, 1993).



Figure 4: Isometric diagram showing the upper crust in the vicinity of the research area based on reprocessed seismic profiles and surface geology (from Morris, 1993). The long side of the diagram represents crustal structure interpreted from seismic line 2, while the short side represents line 6 (Morris, 1993). A key Tertiary structural feature in this diagram are the high-angle faults that are associated with half graben tilt blocks. Red box represents the research area shown in Figure 6. Blue lines show the inferred faults continuation that might be the study basin boundaries.

## **1.3 SOLEDAD ROJO FORMATION: WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN**

The Soledad Rojo formation, an informal name given by Elliott and Marshall (2012), is a moderately east-dipping, well indurated gravelly red bed stratigraphic unit exposed on the western side of the northern Palo Verde Mountains of southeastern California (Figure 3). This formation consists primarily of conglomerates that are orange to light red-colored with clasts composed mainly of volcanic rocks and graniticmetamorphic basement rocks. In addition, Elliot and Marshall (2012) identify the noteworthy presence of quartz arenite clasts in the Soledad Rojo formation and suggest that these clasts are far traveled. Paleocurrent directions in the Soledad Rojo formation indicated by conglomerate clast imbrications is on average east-southeasterly directed with  $\pm 30$  degrees error (Elliott and Marshall, 2012). The Soledad Rojo formation is tentatively correlated to the Tolbard Fanglomerate formation (e.g., Elliot and Marshall, 2012), which is located in the Midway Mountains area south of the study area (Figure 2). The Tolbard Fanglomerate is made up of reddish brown and well indurated alluvial fan deposits of similar appearance to the Soledad Rojo formation (Elliott and Marshall, 2012 and references therein). Further elaboration on these potential formation correlations will be described below in the Discussion section.

## **CHAPTER 2 – METHODS**

## **2.1 FIELD TRIPS**

The first field trip to the study area was in December 2016 over a weekend with Dr. Murray. During this trip, reconnaissance mapping was conducted to get a general idea of the nature of the rocks within the study area. Rock descriptions, preliminary geologic mapping, and several strike and dips measurements were taken, and we decided to move forward with this area for our research.

The second field trip to the study area was part of the GSC 491L Field Module class I took with Dr. Murray in the Spring of 2017, with field work conducted over the course of six days. During this field trip, an initial geologic map for the research area was developed with different subdivisions for the Soledad Rojo formation. Detailed sedimentological descriptions of the rock units observed within the study area were recorded. A Jacob's staff in combination with a Brunton compass inclinometer was used to measure a stratigraphic section in the northern part of the study area near Tadpole Tanks. The total measured stratigraphic section thickness was around 44 meters, covering the lower to middle part of the Soledad Rojo formation. This spot was chosen because it was within a wash area with excellent vertical rock exposure that allowed for more accurate data collection by making it easier to recognize the different sedimentary subunits within the Soledad Rojo formation as well as noticing all the structural features such as faults in three-dimensional view. In addition, some samples were collected along the stratigraphic section for point-counting analyses to identify potential textural and compositional changes. By the end of this trip, a better understanding of the research area was developed, and a more accurate geologic map was made with more details and structural features.

The third and fourth field trips to the study area were in the Spring of 2018 to collect additional samples for laboratory analyses. Most of these samples were collected in the Tadpole Tanks wash where the stratigraphic column was measured. A sample was collected from each stratigraphic subunit within this measured section, as well as from other various locations within the research area, to be used for thin section point counting and detrital zircon U-Pb ICP-MS dating purposes. The samples' locations were chosen based on the mapping and stratigraphic data collected from the first two field trips that suggested a slight difference in sedimentary textures and clast compositions between different subunits of the Soledad Rojo formation that was worth checking with additional lab analysis. In addition, new areas were visited during these latter field trips to expand the original geologic map and to observe if there are any other formations found in the study area or if additional stratigraphic changes are identifiable within the Soledad Rojo formation. The final geologic map of the study area is covering an area around 21 km<sup>2</sup>, originally mapped at a scale of 1:12,000 using a topographic base map and aerial photographs.

#### **2.2 SEDIMENT PROVENANCE METHODS**

### 2.2.1 THIN SECTION POINT-COUNTING ANALYSIS

Several rock samples selected from various locations within the research area were used to make thin sections for point-counting analysis. They were chosen based on their differences in grain characteristics and distance from other samples. From the measured stratigraphic column, a sample from each subunit was used for thin section analysis to document any upsection sedimentological changes in the Soledad Rojo formation. In order to create a thin section, the sample is first cut with a rock saw into a chip that has approximately a 2 cm width by 4 cm length and a thickness of around 1.5 cm. It has to be slightly smaller in size compared to a thin section. The sample should be cut perpendicular to any depositional fabrics present in the rock. After cutting the rock chip, it was thoroughly cleaned and labeled on the side not to be glued to the slide glass. The finished rock chips were sent to Precimat thin section laboratory to complete the thin section preparation process.

The first step in thin section preparation is to glue the rock chip to the glass slide and ensure there is a constant thickness. Corners and other parts that are not level are ground using a grinding wheel. Water is poured into the spinning wheel and around the plastic bucket for the purpose of washing the grit away. To prepare the glass slide, it should be frosted or roughed so that epoxy can bind well. To successfully cut the slap, it should be attached to clamp that is parallel to the blade. The frosted side of the slide is attached to the chip that is grounded. Constant thickness of epoxy should be maintained across the section. As the rock chip is now attached to the glass slide, the next step is to cut most of it off from the slide, ensuring that a thin chip is left attached to the slide. The rock that remains attached to the slide must be a further ground to ensure that the slide is of the correct thickness (~30  $\mu$ m), being careful not to grind away the entire sample.

Once the thin sections were ready, a point count analysis using the petrographic lab microscope at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Four hundred (400) counts per sample were identified to study each sample's composition. Framework grains that are either minerals, rock fragments, or other constituents were counted (Table 1). If the microscope crosshairs fell on the matrix, cement, or pore space, the point was skipped and

the thin section was advanced to the next grain to be counted. These data were used and in other cases recalculated as shown in Table 1 to generate a quartz-feldspar-lithics, monocrystalline quartz-feldspar-total lithics, and quartz-potassium feldspar-plagioclase. The raw data results of the point counting are shown in Table 2 in the results section. A total of 12 samples were analyzed in the lab, and are displayed on QFL, QmFLt, and QKP diagrams.

Symbol	Grain categories	<b>Recalculated parameters</b>
Qm	Monocrystalline quartz	Q = Qm + Qp
Qp	Polycrystalline quartz	
K	Potassium feldspar	
Р	Plagioclase feldspar	F = K + P
Lv	Volcanic lithic fragments	L = Lv + Lm + Ls
Lm	Metamorphic lithic fragments	Lt = L + Qp
Ls	Sedimentary lithic fragments	
Hem	Hematite	
Cal	Calcite	
Bt	Biotite	
Opq	Opaque	
Ol	Olivine	
Gls	Shredded glass	

Table 1: Grain-type symbols and categories, with the recalculated parameters used to generate the normalized compositional tables and ternary diagrams (Tables 2 and 3; Figure 17).

## 2.2.2 DETRITAL ZIRCON U-Pb GEOCHRONOLOGY

Four sandstone samples from the Soledad Rojo formation were selected for detrital zircon U-Pb LA ICP-MS geochronology. Mineral separations for these analyses were conducted at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona). The

separation process starts by thoroughly cleaning the workstation to make sure that no contamination from previous rocks used in the lab will occur. Then, the samples were carefully washed with water to remove any dirt on them that might affect our results. The samples are then dried using an air blow gun and left on paper tissue to dry. Once dry, each sample was broken apart to smaller fragments by crushing it on a metal plate using a sledgehammer (Figure 5A). After that, all of the broken pieces were collected and placed in individual sample bags (Figure 5B). The next step of the process is to use the rock grinder to further crush the rock fragments into a fine powder. First, the rock grinding machine was thoroughly cleaned, and the grinding plates were prepared to the proper spacing (Figure-5C). The broken pieces of the sample were then poured into the grinding machine (Figure-5D) and the finer particles were collected. Cleaning of the whole workstation and the equipment used was done after completing each sample. Following grinding, each sample was placed in four different containers that contained a 10% acetic acid solution used to dissolve any carbonate grains or cement (Figure 5E); this process was repeated until no more fizzing or reactions occurred, then the samples were rinsed with water (Figure 5F). Finally, each sample was further separated using the Gemini water table technique to segregate and collect the higher density minerals (including zircon) from the lower density material (Figure 5G).


Figure 5 (previous page): The procedure to start mineral separation process that was done at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. The process started by cleaning the workstation and the samples that will be used to avoid sample contamination. Once the samples are dry, using a sledgehammer, each sample was broken apart to smaller fragments by crushing it on a metal plate (Figure 5A). After that, all the broken pieces were collected and placed in individual sample bags (Figure 5B). Then, the rock grinder was used to further crush the rock fragments into a fine powder (Figure 5C). The broken pieces of the sample were then poured into the grinding machine and the finer particles were collected (Figure 5D). Following grinding, each sample was placed in four different containers that contained a 10% acetic acid solution used to dissolve any carbonate grains or cement (Figure 5E); this process was repeated until no more fizzing or reactions occurred, then the samples were rinsed with water (Figure 5F). Finally, each sample was further separated using the Gemini water table technique to segregate and collect the higher density minerals (including zircon) from the lower density material (Figure 5G).

After completing preliminary mineral separations at Cal Poly Pomona, the highdensity mineral separates were sent to Chemostrat Ltd labs (Houston, TX) to complete the mineral separation process, hand-pick and mount the zircons, and conduct detrital zircon U-Pb geochronology. Some of the preliminary separation steps were repeated by Chemostrat to minimize error in the process, including "sieving the samples to retain the 40µm to 250µm grain size fractions, washing these fractions in an ultrasonic bath and subsequently treating with a 10% acetic acid solution in order to dissolve any carbonate grains / cements that may still be present. High-density grains were separated from lower density material by using a sodium heteroploytungstate solution (LST Fastfloat - 2.89 g/cm<sup>3</sup>) combined with the funnel separation technique described by Mange & Maurer (1992). After further separation using a Frantz magnetic separator (at a current of 1.8 amperes), the heavy mineral separates were mounted in resin pucks that were then polished to approximately half their depth. Zircon grains were mapped by scanning electron microscope (SEM) to generate target coordinates for laser ablation. U-Pb ages for the detrital zircons were obtained by employing laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) using a Thermo Scientific iCAP Q ICP-MS. A laser diameter of 25 microns was used for all analyses. Mass and instrument bias were monitored constantly and accounted for by using sample-standard bracketing with the 91500 zircons as the primary standard and the Plešovice zircon (Sláma et al., 2008) as a secondary standard. Raw data were processed using Iolite software (Paton et al. 2011). To ensure that final dataset contains U-Pb ages from zircons only, all data were screened using 178Hf counts. Hf is incorporated into zircon crystal lattice and is therefore abundant at the percent level in zircon (e.g., Belousova et al., 2002). All zircon analyses were displayed on concordia diagrams (Ludwig, 2008) to check the data for any major peculiarities and for geologically significant discordia arrays. The single analysis concordia age was calculated for each analysis and these ages were used for plotting and interpreting the data. This age has the advantage of being more precise than both the <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>207</sup>Pb ages and the <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>238</sup>U ages (Zimmermann et al., 2017) and therefore removes the need to switch between isotope systems at a given age (typically 1.0 Ga). The data were filtered using a threshold of >0.001for the probability of concordance, a statistic which is calculated simultaneously to the concordia age. Accepted data from each sample were then plotted on histograms (25 Ma bin width) and kernel density estimation (KDE; 20 Ma bandwidth) plots (Vermeesch, 2012)." (Chemostrat Ltd Lab, 2019). See Appendix A for detailed results of each U-Pb analysis and Appendix B for Concordia diagrams.

#### **CHAPTER3 – RESULTS**

## **3.1 FIELD WORK DATA ANALYSIS**

This study divides the Soledad Rojo formation into three stratigraphic subunits (Figures 6, 7, and 8): 1) a lower alluvial unit (Tsrl), consisting primarily of trough cross bedded brick red coarse-grained lithic arkose interbedded with subangular-subrounded cobble conglomerate; 2) a middle fluvial unit (Tsrm) of clast-supported, rounded-subrounded cobble-boulder conglomerate interbedded with brick red lithic arkose similar to lower unit; and 3) an upper alluvial unit (Tsru) of interbedded light gray-buff conglomeratic lithic arkose and subangular-subrounded pebble-cobble conglomerate Silicic and mafic volcanic rocks (Tbh, Tsrv) underlie and are intercalated with the Soledad Rojo formation red beds, and a younger dacitic intrusion (Td) crosscuts the basin deposits in the northern part of the study area (Figures 6 and 7). Descriptions of the map units found in the study area are provided in further detail below.



#### Lithologic Units

- Td dacitic intrusion (late Oligocene early Miocene)
- Tsru Tsru upper Soledad Rojo fm., light gray conglomerate & sandstone
- Tsrml middle and lower Soledad Rojo fm., reddish-orange sandstone & conglomerate
- Tsrv Tsrv Soledad Rojo fm., mafic lava & silicic tuff
- Tbh Tbh Tuff of Black Hills (late Oligocene-early Miocene)
- Tqv Tqv Quechan Volcanics (late Oligocene)

#### Symbols

- Strike & dip of bedding
- Approximate strike & dip of bedding
- Strike & dip of lava flow banding
- Strike & dip of ignimbrite compaction foliation
- Dip & dip direction of fault plane
- Trend & plunge of slickenlines
  Rounded clost surgested and set
- Rounded, clast-supported conglomerate (base middle unit)
  Contact certain
- ---- Contact approximately located
- ----- Fault certain
- ---- Fault approximately located
- Detrital Zircon U-Pb sample (figure 18)
- Murray et al., 2019 S 1.1

Figure 6 (previous page): Geologic map of the Soledad Rojo formation basin in the western Palo Verde Mountains/Black hills. The Soledad Rojo formation is gently to moderately dipping towards the east and is offset by several north-northwest striking, west dipping normal-oblique faults. The basin is bounded on the east by a poorly exposed northeast striking, northwest dipping normal fault, with the Quechan Volcanics (Tqv) in the footwall (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991, and references therein). The west side of the basin is bounded by a northeast striking, southeast dipping normal fault with the Tuff of the Black Hills in the footwall (Murray et. al., 2019). The location of the Tadpole Tank measured section (Figure 8) is indicated by a black box. Locations for detrital zircon samples analyzed for this study (Figure 18) are indicated by green squares. Red circles indicate the locations of <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar samples from Murray et al. (2019).



Figure 7: Generalized stratigraphic column depicting the depositional relationships of the Soledad Rojo formation (see text for detailed descriptions of the rock units). The depositional relationships between Tsrv and Tbh are uncertain due to limited exposure. The red bar roughly corresponds to the stratigraphic position of the Tadpole Tank measured section (Figure 8). Red dots represent the location of samples that were dated using <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar geochronology (Murray et al., 2019), and green dots represent the location of samples that were dated using U-Pb geochronology.



Figure 8: Measured stratigraphic section of the lower to middle Soledad Rojo formation near Tadpole Tank (Figure 6). Dashed line indicates the boundary between the lower and middle units, with rounded to subrounded clast-supported cobble to boulder conglomerate of middle unit above (marker bed in Figure 6) and subangular-subrounded sandstone & matrix supported conglomerates of the lower unit below. Stratigraphic location of detrital zircon U-Pb samples in Figures 6 and 18 is indicated.

#### 3.1.1 Stratigraphic Units of the Soledad Rojo formation

## 3.1.1.1 Tbh: Tuff of Black Hills

The Tuff of Black Hills is part of the silicic tuff and pyroclastic flow sequence that

is widespread across the research area and its surroundings, including the Black Hills, Palo

Verde Mountains, Chocolate Mountains, Trigo Mountains among others (Figures 2 & 3).

Figure 9 shows a panoramic photograph looking northeast at the western margin of the

Soledad Rojo basin, and the hill near the center of the photograph consists of the Tuff of Black Hills (Figure 6; BM1612-14-1), The Tuff of Black Hills is the welded ignimbrite unit observed in a few localities within the research area (Figure 6), consisting of a light red to orange groundmass with dark gray flame that become white pumice fragment upsection. It contains 5-10% phenocrysts of biotite, sanidine, and quartz, with reddish to gray silicic volcanic rock fragments that are up to 1 cm-diameter (Figure 10). Reported ages for the Tuff of Black Hills range between 22-27 Ma, and this unit is possibly correlated to the ignimbrite of Ferguson Wash that was likely erupted close to Picacho State Park (Figure 2; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).



Figure 9: Panoramic photograph looking northeast at the western margin of the Soledad Rojo basin. The hill near the center of the photograph consists of the Tuff of Black Hills (Figure 6; BM1612-14-1), a resistant welded ignimbrite dipping ~15° SE that overlies white tuffaceous volcaniclastic rocks in the low-lying area to the west. East of this central hill is the basin-bounding SE-dipping normal fault (white dashed line), with ~40° SE-dipping lower-middle Soledad Rojo formation sedimentary rocks in the hanging wall.



Figure 10: The tuff of the Black Hills (welded ignimbrite) has a light red to orange groundmass with dark gray flame that become white pumice fragment upsection. It also contains 5-10% phenocrysts of biotite, sanidine, and quartz, with reddish to gray silicic volcanic rock fragments that are up to 1 cm-diameter. (A) shows a fresh sample (B) shows a weathered sample of the Tuff of the Black Hills taken from location labeled as BM174-22-1 in Figure 6. ages for the Tuff of Black Hills range between 22-27 Ma, and this unit is possibly correlated to the ignimbrite of Ferguson Wash that was likely erupted close to Picacho State Park (Figure 2; Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).

## 3.1.1.2 Tsrv: Basal bimodal volcanic rocks

Bimodal (mafic/silicic) volcanic rocks are locally underlying and interbedded with the Soledad Rojo formation. This rock unit consists of gray, vesicular, flow-banded basaltic lava with 10-15 % olivine and plagioclase phenocrysts, as well as tan rhyodacitic nonwelded tuff with 5% phenocrysts of biotite, quartz, and plagioclase and trace gray volcanic lithic fragments (Figures 6, 7, and 11). A sample of this nonwelded tuff (BM174-23-2; Figure 6) was dated by <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar geochronology, indicating a ca. 22.5 Ma age of this unit (Murray et al., 2019). Interbedded with the bimodal volcanic rocks are volcaniclastic granule to pebble conglomerates that are poorly sorted, light brown in color, clastsupported, and contain mostly angular to subangular volcanic rock fragments (Figure 11). The lithofacies assemblage of this unit suggests that these conglomerates are the results of fluvial or debris flow deposition in this area.



Figure 11: This figure shows the basal bimodal (mafic/silicic) volcanic rocks (Tsrv) that are locally underlying and interbedded with the Soledad Rojo formation consisting of gray, vesicular, flow-banded basaltic lava with 10-15 % olivine and plagioclase phenocrysts, as well as tan rhyodacitic nonwelded tuff with 5% phenocrysts of biotite, quartz, and plagioclase and trace gray volcanic lithic fragments (shown in Figure 11A). Interbedded with the bimodal volcanic rocks, are volcaniclastic granule to pebble conglomerates (shown in Figure 11B) that are poorly sorted, light brown in color, clast-supported, and contain mostly angular to subangular volcanic rock fragment. These conglomerates are the results of fluvial or debris flow deposition in this area.

## **3.1.1.3 Tsrl: Lower Soledad Rojo formation**

The rocks of the lower unit of the Soledad Rojo formation are characterized by red, medium- to coarse-grained lithic arkose sandstones and conglomeratic sandstones (Figures 6, 7, and 8). These deposits are moderately sorted and subangular to subrounded, with trough cross-bedding, horizontal lamination, channel scours, and thin granule to pebble conglomerate lenses. Red matrix-supported conglomerates are interbedded with the sandstones that have grain sizes ranging from pebble to small boulder and are poorly sorted with subangular to subrounded (locally angular) clasts derived from mafic-silicic volcanics and metamorphic/plutonic basement rocks (Figure 12). The lithofacies assemblage of the lower Soledad Rojo formation suggests that it resulted from braided fluvial deposition characterized by gravely rivers with numerous subsidiary channels deposited through lateral accretion of gravel bars (e.g., Miall, 1985)



Figure 12: These pictures represent the lower subunit (Tsrl) of the Soledad Rojo formation. Photos 12A and 12B are from the Tadpole Tank wash stratigraphic section (Figures 6 and 8), while Photo 12C is from another location within the research area. (A) shows deposits that are moderately sorted and subangular to subrounded, with trough cross-bedding, horizontal lamination, channel scours, and thin granule to pebble conglomerate lenses. (B) shows an alternating layer of coarse sandstone and pebble-cobble clast supported conglomerate with subrounded to rounded clasts. (C) red trough cross-bedded sandstone with interbedded pebble to cobble conglomerate lenses. Clasts are generally subangular with metamorphic, plutonic, & mafic-silicic volcanic compositions. This unit resulted from braided fluvial deposition characterized by gravely rivers with numerous subsidiary channels deposited through lateral accretion of gravel bars.

## **3.1.1.4 Tsrm: Middle Soledad Rojo formation**

The middle unit of the Soledad Rojo formation primarily consists of red, clastsupported, cobble-boulder conglomerates with rounded to subrounded, imbricated metamorphic, plutonic, and mafic-silicic volcanic clasts, interbedded with medium to coarse grained sandstone lenses (Figures 6, 7, 8, and 13). The sedimentary structures and lithofacies found within the middle Soledad Rojo formation suggest that these rocks are the result of braided fluvial deposition typified by numerous subsidiary channels with gravelly longitudinal bars and bedforms that developed through lateral accretion that is common in the bar complexes (e.g., Miall, 1985).



Figure 13 (previous page): These pictures are from the middle subunit (Tsrm) of the Soledad Rojo formation. All of the pictures are from the Tadpole Tank measured section (Figures 6 and 8) except (A), which is from another location within the research area. (A, B, and C) shows a clast-supported cobble-boulder conglomerate with rounded metamorphic, plutonic, and trace volcanic clasts (marker bed in Figure 6), interbedded with rough red cross-bedded sandstone. (B and C) shows the upper part of the Tadpole Tank wash stratigraphic column between 26-40 m (Figure 8). (D, E, and F) represents the upper portion of the Tadpole Tank wash stratigraphic column (Figure 8) showing the most top unit of a red very coarse trough cross-bedded sandstone. these rocks are the result of braided fluvial deposition typified by numerous subsidiary channels with gravelly longitudinal bars and bedforms.

#### **3.1.1.5 Tsru: upper Soledad Rojo formation**

The rocks of the upper unit of the Soledad Rojo formation are primarily light gray matrix-supported pebble-cobble conglomerates. These deposits are poorly sorted with subangular-subrounded clasts of metamorphic/plutonic basement and mafic-silicic volcanic rocks (Figures 6, 7, and 14). Interbedded with these pebble-cobble conglomerates are light gray, medium-to very coarse-grained arkosic sandstones, conglomeratic sandstones, and thin granule conglomerate lenses that are moderately to poorly sorted with subangular-subrounded grains. The lithofacies assemblage of the upper Soledad Rojo formation suggests deposition as debris flow and braided fluvial deposits, possibly in a proximal to medial streamflow-dominated alluvial fan system or outwash braid plain (e.g., Miall, 1985; Blair and McPherson, 1994,).



Figure 14: These pictures show the upper subunit (Tsru) of the Soledad Rojo formation. (A) is a light gray clast-supported polymictic cobble conglomerate with subangular-subrounded imbricated clasts. (B) shows a close-up of the same outcrop in (A), showing the metamorphic, plutonic, and mafic-silicic volcanic clast compositions with a light gray silty-sandy matrix. These rocks are the result of debris flow and braided fluvial deposits, possibly in a proximal to medial streamflow-dominated alluvial fan system or outwash braid plain.

# 3.1.1.6 Td: "Mill" dacitic intrusions

The youngest unit in the study area is the "Mill" dacite that crosscuts the Soledad Rojo formation deposits in the northern part of the study area (Figures 6, 7, and 15). This volcanic unit is light red with an aphanitic groundmass, 5-20% biotite and plagioclase phenocrysts, and small (<1cm) gray volcanic xenoliths. A sample collected from this unit for <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar dating of sanidine and biotite (BM174-23-3; Figure 6) indicate an average age of ca. 20.5 Ma for this dacitic intrusion (Murray et al., 2019). The "Mill" dacitic intrusion is possibly correlated to similar intrusive units present in the Eastern Palo Verde Mountains that crosscut Mesozoic metaplutonic basement rocks and the Quechan volcanic rocks (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991).



Figure 15: This figure shows the dacite intrusion unit, which is the youngest unit in the study area and is located at its northern part. (A) shows a photo taken from the MILPITAS WASH ROAD (Figure 6) facing northeast toward the dacitic intrusion unit marked as MILL in Figure 6. It has an estimated height of around 354 m. (B) shows the (Tsrv) subunit of the Soledad Rojo formation being cut-crossed by the dacitic intrusion. The Tsrv unit sits on top of the dacite unit. (C) shows a fresh rock with visible plagioclase phenocrysts that was just cut for lab analysis purposes. It is noticeable the difference in color due to weathering.

#### **3.1.2 BASIN STRUCTURE AND GROWTH STRATA**

The Soledad Rojo formation is gently to moderately dipping (~20-45°) towards the east and is offset by several north-northwest striking, west dipping normal-oblique faults. The basin is bounded on the east by a poorly exposed northeast striking, northwest dipping normal fault, with the late Oligocene-Miocene (ca. 18-26 Ma) Quechan Volcanics (Tqv) in the footwall (Sherrod and Tosdal, 1991, and references therein). The west side of the basin is bounded by a northeast striking, southeast dipping normal fault with the late Oligocene (ca. 24 Ma) Tuff of the Black Hills in the footwall (Murray et. al., 2019). At one locality within the southern part of the map area, the Soledad Rojo formation is deposited unconformably upon a welded ignimbrite interpreted as the Tuff of the Black hills. An east-west trending fault that cut all of the study area units (Figure 6) extending from the oldest unit (Quechan Volcanics) on the east to the youngest unit (dacitic intrusion).

The regional seismic reflection profile (Figure 4) shows data from the Milpitas Wash basin that is located immediately south of the study area (Figure 3). The isometric diagram shows interprets that the upper crust is made up of a series of fault blocks that tilt from medium to high angle normal faults (Figure 3). Since the seismic reflection profiles were shot on a west to east alignment, the dips shown on the interpreted cross-section are apparent dips of the faults in the Milpitas Wash topographic basin. Furthermore, faults also extend deeper into the crust in which they appear to sole into zones of strong reflectivity, interpreted as a low-angle detachment fault (décollement) or some form of extensional fabric that likely developed during the Miocene period of Tertiary extension (Morris, 1993). Similar structural features including growth strata shown in Figure 16 were observed in the research area which is not far from the seismic profiles. This suggest a

synextensional deposition of the Soledad Rojo formation. Several high-angle faults resulted from half-graben tilt were found within the basin.



Figure 16: Evidence of possible growth strata (fanning bedding dips) in the lower subunit of the Soledad Rojo formation near the western margin of the basin, suggesting synextensional deposition. The darker red sandstone on the left dips ~  $50^{\circ}$  east, which is overlapped by a lighter red sandstone dipping ~ $40^{\circ}$  east near center of photograph.

#### **3.2 SANDSTONE THIN SECTION POINT-COUNTING ANALYSES**

Point-counting analyses for 11 sandstone thin sections provide the basis for the following compositional and provenance interpretations of the Soledad Rojo formation (Tables 2 and 3; Figure 17). Plagioclase feldspars are the most common constituent in the Soledad Rojo formation sandstones (Figure 17), with both of the Carlsbad (simple) and albite (multiple) twinnings observed. Microcline is also an abundant potassium feldspar, identified by its extinguished cross-hatched twinning. Quartz is moderately abundant in the formation in both monocrystalline and polycrystalline forms. For most samples, monocrystalline quartz grains exhibit straight extinction, however, there are some grains

with wavy and undulatory extinction (e.g., Basu, 1985). Most of the polycrystalline quartz have more than four subdomains that goes extinct as in different parts of the grain with rotation. Volcanic lithic fragments are widely present within the Soledad Rojo formation and they come second to feldspars as far as their abundance. Basic volcanic rock fragments are the most common, consisting mainly of microlitic plagioclase and lathwork feldspars and very small opaque minerals (Adams et al., 2017; MacKenzie et al., 2017).

Several accessory minerals are present in the Soledad Rojo formation sandstones. Trace olivine was observed, characterized by its high birefringence and high relief. Biotite is a common mica found in most samples within the Soledad Rojo formation. Another mineral found in moderation is calcite. Calcite is the main component of marbles and is found in many metamorphic and igneous rocks; in the Soledad Rojo formation, calcite is observed as lithic fragments and as cement. Opaque minerals are relatively abundant and are not transparent to light making it difficult to distinguish the mineral type, but these grains are likely a type of iron-magnesium oxide (Adams et al., 2017; MacKenzie et al., 2017).

Table 2: This table shows the
results of the point-counting
analysis done on all the 11
samples of the Soledad Rojo
Formation. A total of 400-
point count per sample was
done. Samples from A1-A8
were collected from the lower
to middle Soledad Rojo
formation from the Tadpole
Tank section marked by a
black box in Figure 6. Samples
S1.1-S1.4 were collected from
separate locations within the
study area. These data were
used to generate the QFL,
QmFLt, QKP, LmLvLs
ternary diagrams (Figure 17).

	Stratigraphic	Loca	tion					Mine	erals					Recalc	ulated	Param	eters
Sample	Unit	Northig	Easting	Qm	Qp	Ρ	⋝	۲	Opq	Hem	Cal	Bt	0	Q	Ŧ	F	Ę
A1	Tsrl	3698315	694779	ъ	35	253	55	0	18	7	12	л	10	40	308	ъ	л
A2	Tsrl	3698319	694777	16	26	171	35 35	65	35	13	23	6	10	42	206	81	81
A3	Tsrl	3698320	694789	14	19	236	47	23	9	28	19	ഗ	0	33	283	37	37
Α4	Tsrl	3698339	694807	10	19	247	29	39	10	29	15	2	0	29	276	49	49
A5	Tsrl	3698337	694834	ω	10	252	36	15	14	30	20	9	11	13	288	18	18
A6	Tsrm	3698344	694860	4	15	210	18	92	18	23	13	4	ω	19	228	96	96
A7	Tsrm	3698348	694861	4	10	237	23	104	ω	11	0	6	2	14	260	108	108
A8	Tsrm	3968342	694919	Ч	10	223	63	54	13	12	6	12	б	11	286	55	55 5
S1.1	Tsrl	3697130	694595	4	15	91	21	221	32	10	0	თ	Ч	19	112	225	225
S1.3	Tsrm	3696165	692975	47	15	123	62	119	10	1	19	4	0	62	185	166	166
S1.4	Tsrm	3695069	693068	98	37	118	68	31	ω	18	12	ი	0	123	207	117	117

The average composition Soledad Rojo formation sandstones are arkose to lithic arkose (e.g., Dott, 1964), with a high percentage of feldspar, less abundance of lithic fragments, and limited quartz (average Q-F-L % = 10.4-69.8-19.8; Table 3, and Figure 17 QFL ternary). Feldspar is the most common mineral within Soledad Rojo formation sandstones, with plagioclase in greater abundance than potassium feldspar (average Q-K-P%=13-16-71; Table 3, and Figure 17 QKP ternary). Feldspars are abundant in comparison to the presence of monocrystalline quartz and the total lithic fragments (average Qm-F-Lt%= 5-70-25; Table 3, and Figure 17 QmFLt ternary).

	Stratigraphic	tratigraphic Location		Q-F-L %			Qm-F-Lt %			Q-K-P %			Lm-	Lv-Ls 🤅	%
Sample	Unit	Northig	Easting	Q	F	L	Qm	F	Lt	Q	К	Ρ	Lm	Lv	Ls
A1	Tsrl	3698315	694779	11.3	87.3	1.4	1.6	96.9	1.6	11.5	15.8	72.7	100.0	0.0	0.0
A2	Tsrl	3698319	694777	12.8	62.6	24.6	5.3	68.0	26.7	16.9	14.1	69.0	19.8	80.2	0.0
A3	Tsrl	3698320	694789	9.3	80.2	10.5	4.2	84.7	11.1	10.4	14.9	74.7	37.8	62.2	0.0
A4	Tsrl	3698339	694807	8.2	78.0	13.8	3.0	82.4	14.6	9.5	9.5	81.0	20.4	79.6	0.0
A5	Tsrl	3698337	694834	4.1	90.3	5.6	1.0	93.2	5.8	4.3	12.0	83.7	16.7	83.3	0.0
A6	Tsrm	3698344	694860	5.5	66.5	28.0	1.2	69.5	29.3	7.7	7.3	85.0	4.2	95.8	0.0
A7	Tsrm	3698348	694861	3.7	68.1	28.3	1.1	69.9	29.0	5.1	8.4	86.5	3.7	96.3	0.0
<b>A8</b>	Tsrm	3968342	694919	3.1	81.3	15.6	0.3	83.6	16.1	3.7	21.2	75.1	1.8	98.2	0.0
S1.1	Tsrl	3697130	694595	5.3	31.5	63.2	1.2	32.8	66.0	14.5	16.0	69.5	1.8	98.2	0.0
S1.3	Tsrm	3696165	692975	15.0	44.8	40.2	11.8	46.5	41.7	25.1	25.1	49.8	28.3	71.7	0.0
S1.4	Tsrm	3695069	693068	27.5	46.3	26.2	21.0	50.5	28.5	37.3	27.0	35.8	73.5	26.5	0.0

Table 3: This table shows the sample's stratigraphic unit, location, and recalculated parameters that was taken from the thin section point-counting analysis raw data shown in Table 2. These data were used to generate the QFL, QmFLt, QKP, and LmLvLs ternary diagrams.





Figure 17 (previous two pages): Ternary diagrams showing the results of the thin section point-counting analyses. QFL: quartz-feldspar-lithic fragments, QmFLt: monocrystalline quartz-feldspar-total lithic fragments, QKP: quartz-potassium feldspar-plagioclase, and LmLvLs: metamorphic lithic fragments-volcanic lithic fragments-sedimentary lithic fragments. Lower (Tsrl), middle (Tsrm), and S1.1-S1.4 samples of the Soledad Rojo formation are represented by green, red, blue circles, respectively. The average composition of all analyzed samples is shown with a black triangle symbol. See Table 1 for point counting parameters and Tables 2 and 3 for results of point-counting analyses.

## **3.3 DETRITAL ZIRCON U-Pb DATING RESULTS**

Relative probability density curves, and histograms for the four sandstone samples collected from the Soledad Rojo formation for detrital zircon U-Pb analysis are shown in Figure 18. Samples A8 and A2 were collected from the middle and lower units, respectively, of the formation from the Tadpole Tank measured section in the northern part of the basin (Figures 6 and 8). Samples Tcgs and Tccg were also collected from the middle and lower units, respectively, of the formation in the southern part of the basin (Figure 6). Relative probability density curves help determine the maximum deposition age of the Soledad Rojo formation and other major age peaks in the sediment source of the Soledad Rojo formation. Raw data and Concordia diagrams were made by Chemostrat Ltd Lab (2018) and are shown in Appendices A and B, respectively.

The results of the detrital zircon dating show five groups of different age within the Soledad Rojo formation (Figure 18). Several age peaks are found within the samples, indicating derivation from late Oligocene (ca. 25 Ma), late Cretaceous (ca. 75 Ma), late Jurassic (ca. 153 Ma), and Proterozoic (ca. 1.2 Ga and ca. 1.7 Ga) sources. However, there are slight differences between the samples collected from the two different units of the formation: samples from the lower unit (A2 and Tccg) indicate an additional early to late Cretaceous source (ca. 88 and ca. 112 Ma), while samples from the middle unit (A8 and Tccg) indicate a separate Neoproterozoic source. However, given the limited number of

zircon grains from each of these two age groups (Figure 18), the differences between the lower and middle units could just be an artifact of undercoverage sampling bias rather than a difference in sediment sources.



Figure 18 (previous page): Relative probability density curves and histograms for four detrital zircon U-Pb samples collected from the Soledad Rojo formation (see Figures 6 and 8 for sample locations). The graphs in the left column show the age distribution from 0-2500 Ma; the right column shows the same data from 0-200 Ma to highlight the Mesozoic-Cenozoic age peaks. Inset on the right column are weighted average plots of the youngest zircon population for each sample to indicate the maximum depositional age, which is ca. 24.5 Ma for all samples. Raw data and Concordia diagrams made by Chemostrat Ltd Lab (2018) are shown in Appendices A and B, respectively.

#### **CHAPTER 4 – INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION**

The isometric diagram of the regional seismic profiles (Figure 4) gives an idea of the nature of the study area faults that formed as a result of the regional extension during the mid-Tertiary period. Several medium to high angle normal faults are present in the study area basin, which is likely an asymmetric graben or half-graben basin with most slip on the eastern basin bounding fault. The faults that mark the basin boundaries are most probably the ones marked in blue in Figure 4, where a change in fault dip directions is indicated in the seismic profile. Sedimentary facies within the Soledad Rojo formation suggests that the formation is an alluvial fan/braided fluvial system deposits. So, the Soledad Rojo formation represents a synextensional alluvial fan/braided fluvial system deposited in a half-graben or asymmetric graben basin that developed during regional mid-Tertiary extension. Growth strata shown in Figure 16 supports this hypothesis as well.

The average composition of sandstones from the Soledad Rojo formation show that the Qm-F-Lt percentages plot within the feldspar-dominated "basement uplift" tectonic provenance setting of Dickinson (1985), which is caused when fault-bounded basement uplifts along rift shoulders or transform ruptures uplift metaplutonic rocks to the surface. This tectonic setting determined by sandstone composition is consistent with presence of uplifted metaplutonic basement rocks in the region near the study area, with the quartzofeldspathic sediments derived from these rocks transported and deposited in the Soledad Rojo formation basin. It should be noted, however, that the sedimentary facies associated with the Soledad Rojo formation suggest a first to second order sand sampling (e.g., alluvial fans and braided fluvial system sourced from individual rock types and/or mountain ranges), which is not ideal for tectonic provenance determinations using the Dickinson ternary diagram classifications that work best for third order sampling (big rivers and their deltas, marine environments) (Ingersoll et al.,1993).

QKP ternary diagram (Figure 17) shows that more than 70 percent of the feldspars within the Soledad Rojo formation are plagioclase feldspars. Most of the plagioclase feldspars show no sign of zoning, suggesting that most of them are from metamorphic sources (Helmold, 1985). Also, most of the plagioclase feldspar grains are untwinned rather than twinned, suggesting the abundance of more metamorphic-derived plagioclase feldspars than volcanic/plutonic plagioclase feldspars; however, it's possible the untwinned grains could be a result of breakage of twinnings during sediment transport (Helmold, 1985). The abundance of plagioclase also suggests an uplifted basement provenance (Helmold, 1985). Most of the potassium feldspars show cross-hatch twinning, indicative of microcline, which is typically derived from metamorphic and plutonic sources (Helmold, 1985).,

The abundance of plagioclase and trace olivine supports our interpretations that the Soledad Rojo formation is likely derived, in part, from local basaltic volcanic and metamorphic rocks surrounding the study area. Most of the igneous rock fragments within the Soledad Rojo formation look relatively fresh, suggesting that they had little transport after they were eroded from the original source. Olivine is usually found within basic and ultrabasic igneous rocks and has a relatively low weathering stability (Adams et al., 2017; MacKenzie et al., 2017), suggesting that the source of these fragments could be from the adjacent volcanic-dominated mountains in the region. Based on this study, the sources of sediment to the Soledad Rojo formation is likely a combination derived from the Mesozoic plutonic rocks within Mule Mountains, Mesozoic metaplutonic and the Quechan volcanic

rocks found within the Palo Verde Mountains and Black Hills, mid-Tertiary volcanic rocks within Chocolate Mountains, and the silicic tuff sequence (tuff of Felipe Pass, tuff of Black Hills, tuff of ten Ewe Mountain, and the ignimbrite of Ferguson Wash) that are spread almost across the whole region of the study area vicinity including: Kofa, Castle Dome, and Little Chuckwalla Mountains (Figures 2 and 3).

Detrital zircon dating suggest that Soledad Rojo formation sediments were potentially derived from late Mesozoic and Proterozoic metaplutonic basement rocks exposed in the region adjacent to the basin. The results of the detrital zircon dating show four groups of different age within the Soledad Rojo formation. They were deposited during the late Cretaceous (ca. 75 Ma), late Jurassic (ca. 153 Ma), and Proterozoic (ca. 1.2 Ga and ca. 1.7 Ga). The Proterozoic detritus could have been sourced from the augen gneiss (1.7 Ga) found in Chocolate and Little Chuckwalla Mountains; anorthosite and synnite in Chocolate Mountains region have an age of 1.2 Ga; and the Pinal Schist in Mule Mountains which is dated to pre-Paleozoic (Dillon, 1976; Hamilton, 1982; Silver, 1989; Hoyt, 2012). The late Jurassic detritus could have been sourced from the Mesozoic gneiss and granitic rocks found within Palo Verde, Mule, Chocolate, Trigo, and Castle Dome Mountains (Haxel et al., 2002; Chapman, 2016). The late Cretaceous detritus could have been sourced source could be from the Orocopia schist found within the study area region like Chocolate, Trigo, and Castle Dome Mountains. They have a maximum depositional age between 67.1 and 84.5 Ma (Barth et al., 2003; Grove et al., 2003, 2008; Jacobson et al., 2011; Chapman et al., 2013; Chapman et al., 2016; Dumitru et al., 2016; Chapman, 2016).

The Soledad Rojo formation was tentatively correlated to the Tolbard Fanglomerate of the Midway Mountains (Figure 2) by previous authors, as they share similarities in terms of rock description and composition (e.g., Elliott and Marshall, 2012). For example, the Tolbard Fanglomerate is a reddish brown, well indurated alluvial deposit interbedded with debris flows. Both rock units contain clasts of andesite, gneiss, dacite, and metasedimentary rocks. Similar to the Soledad Rojo formation, the Tolbard Fanglomerate also contains coarse to very coarse arkosic sandstones. However, the age of the Tolbard Fanglomerate is suggested to be in the Miocene epoch, while our detrital zircon data shows a maximum deposition age of 24-25 Ma for the Soledad Rojo formation, within the late Oligocene epoch. In addition, these formations are separated by distance of around 18 miles (Jorgensen et al., 1982). The difference in age and the large distance between the Soledad Rojo formation and Tolbard Fanglomerate strongly suggests that they are not correlative stratigraphic units.

Elliott and Marshall (2012) interpreted that the Soledad Rojo formation is an extension of the Colorado River Delta deposits. The Colorado River Delta can be shown to contain detrital zircons sourced from at least five distinct drainage basins: the Green, Grand, San Juan, Little Colorado, and Gila river systems. A comparison of the detrital zircon age data proves that the Soledad Rojo formation has a different source than the Colorado River Delta deposits. The difference in the age peaks supports the idea that the sediment sources are distinct (Figure 19). There are several age peaks within the Colorado River Delta deposits that are absent in the Soledad Rojo formation marked by purple lines. These Age peaks differences around 100 Ma, 200 Ma, 300 Ma, 400 Ma, 600 Ma, 1.1 Ga, 1.43 Ga, and 1.81 Ga. Only few age peaks in the Colorado River Delta deposits matches some age peaks in the Soledad Rojo formation marked by green lines in Figure 19. This

could mean that they share few similar sources, but that does not mean they are the same formation (Kimbrough et al., 2010).



Although the detrital zircon ages and sedimentary lithofacies of the Soledad Rojo formation suggest a local metaplutonic sediment source, an alternative hypothesis is that the detrital zircon sediments came from metaplutonic rocks found in the San Gabriel Mountains region. The palinspastic reconstruction model of the eastern and central San Gabriel Mountains along the San Andreas fault system shows a 160 km restoration of rightlateral tectonic movement (Nourse, 2002). The middle Miocene palinspastic reconstruction of the San Gabriel Mountains along the San Andreas fault system is shown in Figure 20, showing that the rocks of the San Gabriel Mountains that are currently located ~300 km west of the study area were found just south of the Soledad Rojo basin/Chocolate Mountain during the time of basin deposition (Nourse, 2002). This model shows that rocks from different ages from the San Gabriel Mountains could fit the Soledad Rojo formation's detrial zircon age groups. The Proterozoic age group could be the granite augen gneiss and/or the banded gneiss (mapped as San Gabriel-type PC-Mz basement); the late Jurassic age group could be the Pelona/Orocopia schist (mapped as Pelona / Orocopia / Chocolate Mountains schist); the late Cretaceous could be quartz diorite, tonalite, granodiorite, and granite (mapped as Cretaceous Peninsular ranges batholith and wall-rocks); and the late Oligocene age group could be the Telegraph Peak granite or Mountains Meadows dacite (Mapped Late Oligocene Telegraph Peak Granite / Mountains Meadows Dacite) (Figure 20; Nourse, 2002). The palinspastic reconstruction of the San Gabriel Mountains along the San Andreas fault system provides a valid alternative explanation for the source of Mesozoic-Proterozoic-age sediments and how they reached the research region; the sediments of Soledad Rojo were possibly derived in part from the San Gabriel Mountains and transported to the basin as a result of a braided fluvial system before the sediment
source was shifted to its current location due to right-lateral transform plate tectonic movements.



Figure 20: Paleogeography of Southern California (middle Miocene) presenting the Frazier and San Gabriel Mountains restored to be near to the Chocolate and Orocopia Mountains. The location of the San Gabriel Mountains is marked by the blue box. Range of possible deposition location of the Soledad Rojo formation is marked by the red lines. Fault Abbreviations: CF—Canton fault, NSGF—north branch San Gabriel fault, SSGF—south branch San Gabriel fault, VCF—Vasquez Creek fault (Nourse, 2002).

## **CHAPTER 5 – CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK**

### **5.1 CONCLUSIONS**

The Soledad Rojo formation represents a synextensional alluvial fan/braided fluvial system deposited in an asymmetric graben or half-graben basin that developed during regional mid-Tertiary extension. Point counting results show an abundance of plagioclase and trace olivine which supports our interpretations that the Soledad Rojo formation is likely derived from local basaltic volcanic and metamorphic rocks. The results of the detrital zircon dating show five groups of different age within the Soledad Rojo formation: the late Cretaceous (ca. 75 Ma), late Jurassic (ca. 153 Ma), and Proterozoic (ca. 1.2 Ga and ca. 1.7 Ga). This suggests that Soledad Rojo formation sediments were potentially derived from late Mesozoic and Proterozoic metaplutonic basement rocks exposed in the region adjacent to the basin. The Soledad Rojo formation was correlated to the Tolbard Fanglomerate of the Midway Mountains; however, this claim is unlikely because the Miocene age of the Tolbard Fanglomerate is younger than our detrital zircon data that suggests a late Oligocene maximum deposition age for the Soledad Rojo formation. The Soledad Rojo formation was also suggested to be an extension of the Colorado River Delta deposits; however, there are several age peaks within the Colorado River Delta deposits that are absent in the Soledad Rojo formation, which suggest that they are not the same formation. An alternative hypothesis is that the detrital zircon sediments came from San Gabriel Mountains region. The palinspastic reconstruction model provides a valid alternative explanation on the source of the Mesozoic-Proterozoic derived sediments in the Soledad Rojo formation.

## **5.2 FUTURE WORK**

There is an opportunity in the future for more work to further study the Soledad Rojo formation. Expanding the geologic map would help in developing a better idea on how the formation is changing across the region. More samples would be found and will definitely add a lot of information to this research. Another thing that would be really helpful is probably generating more seismic profiles to better understand the structural geology of the region as it would accurately define the faults' location. It would really be helpful if these profiles are joint with the exiting profiles found in Morris (1993) paper. More dating is also preferable to see if any new potential source is found as well as confirming the current maximum depositional age of 24-25 Ma. It would also result in having a more complete spectrum of detrital age. Additional lab analysis on the newly collected samples including thin-section point counting would also help to monitor any changes in composition away from the current research location.

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APPENDIX A – Detrital zircon U-I

		Table A	-1: Raw	/ data us	ed for	the Cor	icordia di	lagrams	and the r	elative p	robabilit	y density	/ curves.			
Cample	Applysic No		1105 10F VVE		יימומ piot + 1 ה%	5	0706/20606	+ or Mo			20, IVIA	+ 5 A	207-COFFECTE	±or Mo	Northing t	_asung
A8 -	P18 098 18 2462 89	0.0237	4.2194	0.0036	1.8071	0.2695	40	160	23	-	24	N	23	<u> </u>	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 57	0.0247	4.8583	0.0037	1.7492	0.1173	20	170	24	-	25	2	24	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 19	0.0308	2.9221	0.0038	1.7002	0.2983	440	120	25	-	31	2	24	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 61	0.0304	5.2632	0.0038	1.8229	0.1722	320	190	25	-	30	ω	24	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 91	0.0264	5.1136	0.0038	1.7065	0.2422	40	180	25	-	26	ω	24	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 68	0.0242	7.8512	0.0038	1.9737	0.1120	-190	270	24	-	24	4	24	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 62	0.0294	5.6122	0.0039	1.8032	0.1256	240	210	25	-	29	ω	25	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 98	0.0230	6.3043	0.0038	1.9582	-0.1430	-190	210	25	-	23	ω	25	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 39	0.0240	4.7917	0.0038	2.0833	0.1644	-50	170	25	-	24	2	25	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 9	0.0227	3.3040	0.0038	1.5625	0.1638	-150	120	25	-	23	2	25	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 71	0.0258	3.8760	0.0039	2.0619	0.1569	80	150	25	-	26	2	25	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 52	0.0261	5.1724	0.0039	1.7894	0.0870	40	190	25		26	ω	25	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 8	0.0394	5.3299	0.0040	1.8564	0.4105	820	230	26	-	30	4	25	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 75	0.0273	5.1282	0.0040	1.7579	0.1886	70	190	26	-	27	ω	26	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 81	0.0250	8.6000	0.0040	2.2556	-0.1077	-160	300	26	-	25	4	26	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 90	0.0262	3.8168	0.0040	1.7487	0.0003	- 10	130	26		26	2	26	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 40	0.0221	12.6697	0.0041	2.0885	0.1237	-660	370	26	-	12	6	26	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 55	0.0453	10.3753	0.0044	2.2831	0.4259	530	380	28	-	4	9	27	-	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 60	0.0837	2.7479	0.0120	1.6304	0.3521	191	95	77	ω	81	4	76	2	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 77	0.1550	1.9355	0.0220	1.5668	0.4755	224	61	140	4	146	Сī	140	4	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 35	0.4020	3.9801	0.0252	1.9841	0.5659	1800	110	160	7	338	22	147	6	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 38	0.1890	2.3810	0.0234	1.5605	0.2944	548	86	149	ъ	175	8	147	σı	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 87	0.1541	2.4335	0.0231	1.7718	0.3707	93	81	147	ъ	145	7	148	σı	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 22	0.1606	1.9925	0.0232	1.6358	0.5115	204	60	148	ъ	151	6	148	ъ	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 93	0.1631	2.1766	0.0237	1.4749	0.2033	168	76	151	4	154	6	151	4	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 73	0.1642	2.1924	0.0240	1.6062	0.4085	159	71	153	ъ	155	6	153	σı	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 20	0.1668	3.2974	0.0240	2.0400	0.1886	200	120	153	6	156	10	153	6	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 32	0.2121	2.2631	0.0244	1.4760	0.2160	682	77	155	ъ	195	8	153	4	3698342	694919
A8	P18 098 18 2462 88	0.1570	5.7325	0.0239	2.0903	0.0472	0	200	152	6	146	15	153	6	3698342	694919

# Pb ICP-MS analyses

3698342 694919	39	1200	24	1197	36	1199	42	1184	0.6313	1.6618	0.2046	1.7028	2.2610	P18 098 18 2462 70	A8
3698342 694919	36	1156	24	1165	34	1158	49	1184	0.5662	1.5990	0.1970	1.7865	2.1550	P18 098 18 2462 37	A8
3698342 694919	35	1227	25	1219	33	1225	50	1182	0.4018	1.4804	0.2094	1.8041	2.3280	P18 098 18 2462 2	A8
3698342 694919	35	1166	28	1182	33	1168	68	1179	0.2025	1.5342	0.1988	2.0225	2.2250	P18 098 18 2462 5	A8
3698342 694919	39	1205	27	1198	37	1203	50	1178	0.5358	1.6796	0.2054	1.8008	2.2490	P18 098 18 2462 100	A8
3698342 694919	37	1085	26	1116	35	1088	48	1166	0.5979	1.7372	0.1842	1.8666	2.0090	P18 098 18 2462 85	A8
3698342 694919	35	1224	24	1206	34	1222	45	1165	0.4382	1.4628	0.2085	1.7234	2.2920	P18 098 18 2462 7	A8
3698342 694919	34	1179	23	1176	32	1178	40	1164	0.5522	1.4955	0.2006	1.6423	2.1920	P18 098 18 2462 96	A8
3698342 694919	38	1182	31	1178	36	1181	72	1156	0.3068	1.6650	0.2012	2.0966	2.1940	P18 098 18 2462 78	A8
3698342 694919	35	1122	22	1124	34	1125	38	1133	0.6488	1.6282	0.1904	1.5309	2.0250	P18 098 18 2462 48	A8
3698342 694919	41	1065	40	1085	39	1068	100	1110	0.3880	1.9689	0.1803	3.1088	1.9300	P18 098 18 2462 59	A8
3698342 694919	41	1250	22	1175	38	1239	44	1070	0.5336	1.6737	0.2121	1.5789	2.1850	P18 098 18 2462 50	A8
3698342 694919	32	983	31	1072	31	995	79	1207	0.2947	1.6766	0.1670	2.3734	1.8960	P18 098 18 2462 4	A8
3698342 694919	39	1041	46	1029	37	1040	140	086	0.1212	1.9121	0.1752	3.6932	1.7600	P18 098 18 2462 30	A8
3698342 694919	30	957	22	1025	29	966	37	1165	0.7247	1.6069	0.1618	1.7114	1.7530	P18 098 18 2462 43	A8
3698342 694919	31	938	24	1063	31	954	42	1300	0.5028	1.7220	0.1597	1.8528	1.8620	P18 098 18 2462 45	A8
3698342 694919	27	865	22	964	26	877	43	1163	0.4414	1.5775	0.1458	1.7599	1.5910	P18 098 18 2462 18	A8
3698342 694919	25	741	26	901	25	759	68	1254	0.4028	1.7600	0.1250	2.1603	1.4350	P18 098 18 2462 99	A8
3698342 694919	36	541	45	704	36	554	77	1188	0.8447	3.3814	0.0902	4.4986	1.0670	P18 098 18 2462 46	A8
3698342 694919	сл	164	сл	165	сл	164	45	159	0.2664	1.5673	0.0258	1.7584	0.1763	P18 098 18 2462 76	A8
3698342 694919	6	164	17	178	6	165	190	210	0.2526	1.7898	0.0260	5.3299	0.1970	P18 098 18 2462 54	A8
3698342 694919	ъ	160	8	161	сл	160	92	152	0.3588	1.5496	0.0252	2.6651	0.1726	P18 098 18 2462 10	A8
3698342 694919	6	158	10	160	6	159	130	200	0.3543	1.9053	0.0249	3.2164	0.1710	P18 098 18 2462 23	A8
3698342 694919	ъ	157	7	160	сл	157	75	188	0.3521	1.5985	0.0247	2.2501	0.1711	P18 098 18 2462 13	A8
3698342 694919	ъ	156	8	169	сл	157	96	328	0.2629	1.6586	0.0247	2.5386	0.1812	P18 098 18 2462 41	A8
3698342 694919	ъ	156	7	158	сл	156	81	169	0.2893	1.6360	0.0245	2.3456	0.1684	P18 098 18 2462 21	A8
3698342 694919	сл	155	6	154	сл	155	56	151	0.4898	1.5239	0.0243	1.9172	0.1643	P18 098 18 2462 56	A8
3698342 694919	сī	154	10	153	ъ	155	130	100	0.3809	1.6069	0.0243	3.3537	0.1640	P18 098 18 2462 31	A8
3698342 694919	сл	154	17	155	ъ	154	210	50	-0.0714	1.7526	0.0243	5.6886	0.1670	P18 098 18 2462 28	A8
3698342 694919	сл	154	сл	152	сл	154	54	128	0.4934	1.5975	0.0241	1.8874	0.1616	P18 098 18 2462 27	A8
3698342 694919	6	153	8	158	6	154	120	220	0.1184	1.8833	0.0242	2.8352	0.1693	P18 098 18 2462 72	A8
3698342 694919	сл	153	6	149	ъ	153	67	සි	0.2418	1.6250	0.0240	1.9849	0.1587	P18 098 18 2462 33	A8

18       2462       66       4.         18       2462       84       4.         18       2462       14       4.         18       2462       3       4.         18       2462       3       4.         18       2462       82       4.         18       2462       82       4.         18       2462       82       4.         18       2462       82       4.         18       2462       8       4.         18       2462       8       4.
3         4.1820         1.554           4         4.2600         1.643           1         4.2330         1.535           1         4.2640         1.524           2         4.2490         1.529           5         3.4220         1.753           5         3.4220         1.753           6         4.2600         1.760
5543         0.2992         1           5432         0.3008         1           53356         0.2991         1           5244         0.2992         1           5298         0.2980         1           5294         0.2982         1           5298         0.2980         1           5294         0.2980         1           5298         0.2980         1
1.6043 0.7669 1.5791 0.7061 1.5547 0.6848 1.4873 0.5354
1648 30 1655 35 1676 30
30 1685 35 1693 30 1685
47 1668 47 1683
3 26 16
ì

ß	₽	₽	₽	₽	ß	₽	ß	ß	₽	₽	ß	₽	ß	₽	₽	ß	₽	₽	ß	₽	₽	R	ß	ß	A8	A8	A8	A8	A8	A8	AB
P18 098 18 2463 49	P18 098 18 2463 95	P18 098 18 2463 97	P18 098 18 2463 74	P18 098 18 2463 11	P18 098 18 2463 50	P18 098 18 2463 71	P18 098 18 2463 89	P18 098 18 2463 28	P18 098 18 2463 25	P18 098 18 2463 72	P18 098 18 2463 6	P18 098 18 2463 37	P18 098 18 2463 12	P18 098 18 2463 48	P18 098 18 2463 2	P18 098 18 2463 46	P18 098 18 2463 82	P18 098 18 2463 96	P18 098 18 2463 41	P18 098 18 2463 67	P18 098 18 2463 34	P18 098 18 2463 73	P18 098 18 2463 43	P18 098 18 2463 83	P18 098 18 2462 53	P18 098 18 2462 14	P18 098 18 2462 80	P18 098 18 2462 74	P18 098 18 2462 97	P18 098 18 2462 79	P18 098 18 2462 92
0.0866	0.4660	0.0922	0.0770	0.0752	0.0367	0.0255	0.0264	0.0307	0.0242	0.0253	0.0261	0.0326	0.0584	0.0240	0.0283	0.0368	0.0491	0.0245	0.0247	0.0296	0.0185	0.0425	0.0300	0.0202	4.2800	4.2690	4.3930	4.2600	4.2050	4.5590	4.0660
4.2725	3.8627	2.7115	1.8182	3.1915	5.3134	2.9412	4.1667	8.3062	3.0992	3.5573	3.2567	3.3742	4.9658	2.9167	4.2403	2.3098	4.3788	3.0612	3.4413	4.7297	11.8919	8.7059	4.5000	4.2079	2.5701	1.6397	1.7073	1.6432	1.6647	1.6451	1.5986
0.0121	0.0149	0.0118	0.0115	0.0114	0.0050	0.0039	0.0039	0.0040	0.0039	0.0039	0.0039	0.0039	0.0041	0.0038	0.0038	0.0039	0.0040	0.0038	0.0037	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	0.0033	0.0028	0.2870	0.2956	0.3035	0.2960	0.2925	0.3174	0.2839
2.3651	2.0442	1.6553	1.5271	1.5748	3.2000	1.9036	1.7771	2.2785	1.9330	1.6774	1.6766	1.9280	2.4390	1.7182	1.5806	1.5468	2.2613	1.7251	1.7459	1.7329	2.0718	2.6178	2.5449	1.9531	1.7247	1.5731	1.5651	1.5541	1.5726	1.7328	1.4794
0.0670	0.6330	0.7933	0.4283	0.0875	0.2624	0.2345	-0.0060	0.3244	0.2908	0.0730	0.0163	0.3386	0.6140	0.2711	0.9370	0.2141	0.3500	0.2999	0.3108	0.4469	0.0232	0.2128	0.5747	0.0771	0.7254	0.6817	0.6971	0.7147	0.6118	0.7295	0.5839
210	2910	415	112	70	160	20	70	170	-50	20	120	550	1470	-30	275	824	1270	50	10	380	-500	780	620	190	1763	1701	1693	1693	1689	1689	1687
180	100	100	55	120	150	110	160	220	110	130	120	130	130	100	100	86	160	110	120	170	320	360	130	160	63	34	35	34	36	34	31
77	95	76	73	73	32	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	26	24	24	25	26	24	24	24	23	25	22	18	1626	1668	1707	1670	1652	1774	1610
4	4	ω	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	46	47	46	46	52	42
84	381	89	75	74	36	26	26	31	24	25	26	33	57	24	28	37	49	25	25	30	18	42	30	20	1682	1683	1707	1681	1671	1737	1645
7	25	თ	ω	Сī	4	2	2	ъ	2	2	2	2	Сī	-	2	2	4	2	2	ω	4	7	ω	2	41	28	28	28	27	29	26
77	75	75	73	73	32	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	21	18	1608	1665	1710	1668	1649	1788	1602
4	ω	N	N	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	52	53	52	52	62	47
3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698342 6	3698342 6	3698342 6	3698342 6	3698342 6	3698342 6	3698342 6
;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94777	;94919	;94919	;94919	;94919	;94919	;94919	;94919

34 1197 34 1198	1202	571 0.6939	042 1.56	364 0.2	2.2610 1.4	P18 098 18 2463 1
41 1160 34 1183	1194	11 0.9835	974 1.62	148 0.1	2.2160 1.	P18 098 18 2463 54
54 1164 38 1174	1169	68 0.5641	981 1.76	380 0.1	2.1930 1.1	P18 098 18 2463 35
64 1238 36 1222	1164	81 0.4916	119 1.62	151 0.2	2.3640 2.	P18 098 18 2463 93
59 1166 35 1172	1157	573 0.4014	985 1.63	019 0.1	2.1820 1.1	P18 098 18 2463 39
44 230 7 233	232	52 0.2733	363 1.51	266 0.0	0.2582 1.	P18 098 18 2463 80
140 248 8 591	2140	65 0.6927	392 1.65	088 0.0	0.8070 4.1	P18 098 18 2463 58
93 165 5 168	190	17 0.3076	259 1.60	790 0.0	0.1803 2.1	P18 098 18 2463 7
54 164 5 165	146	63 0.3302	257 1.47	351 0.0	0.1771 1.1	P18 098 18 2463 59
130 163 6 164	170	39 0.5213	256 1.95	723 0.0	0.1770 3.1	P18 098 18 2463 19
84 164 5 189	466	10 0.3430	258 1.53	682 0.0	0.2048 2.3	P18 098 18 2463 92
71 161 5 163	165	93 0.4181	253 1.61	025 0.0	0.1748 2.:	P18 098 18 2463 76
80 160 5 168	242	81 0.4380	252 1.56	438 0.0	0.1792 2.3	P18 098 18 2463 98
85 158 5 168	246	32 0.3183	248 1.65	889 0.0	0.1808 2.4	P18 098 18 2463 42
76 157 5 164	229	0.2489	246 1.60	071 0.0	0.1756 2.1	P18 098 18 2463 61
120 156 5 171	300	04 0.2444	246 1.69	609 0.0	0.1840 3.:	P18 098 18 2463 91
95 155 6 157	151	16 0.5001	243 1.79	035 0.0	0.1683 2.1	P18 098 18 2463 38
95 154 6 157	158	16 0.1520	242 1.90	580 0.0	0.1668 2.4	P18 098 18 2463 68
470 153 8 152	-50	183 0.8666	240 2.70	3791 0.0	0.1820 20	P18 098 18 2463 69
75 154 6 173	411	63 0.5881	241 1.90	605 0.0	0.1864 2.:	P18 098 18 2463 45
47 151 4 154	171	94 0.802.4	236 1.45	809 0.0	0.1636 1.1	P18 098 18 2463 75
160 150 6 144	80	62 -0.0598	235 1.93	948 0.0	0.1530 3.1	P18 098 18 2463 13
140 150 5 158	190	37 0.2176	236 1.67	462 0.0	0.1690 3.1	P18 098 18 2463 63
120 150 5 160	230	37 0.5676	236 1.67	783 0.0	0.1840 5.1	P18 098 18 2463 24
58 149 5 150	133	98 0.4795	234 1.59	497 0.0	0.1590 1.1	P18 098 18 2463 32
97 151 5 183	552	25 0.4765	238 1.66	303 0.0	0.1980 3.0	P18 098 18 2463 30
140 153 6 210	830	51 0.9274	240 2.04	210 0.0	0.2330 4.	P18 098 18 2463 23
79 148 5 150	153	15 0.2773	232 1.64	154 0.0	0.1598 2.3	P18 098 18 2463 65
100 147 6 154	271	05 0.4436	230 1.89	748 0.0	0.1645 2.1	P18 098 18 2463 90
63 143 5 520	2937	35 0.3987	224 1.85	065 0.0	0.6720 2.3	P18 098 18 2463 94
110 86 3 114	700	96 0.1525	135 1.62	920 0.0	0.1196 2.1	P18 098 18 2463 84
81 79 3 81	103	172 0.2267	123 1.78	184 0.0	0.0827 2.4	P18 098 18 2463 88

3698319 69	51	1631	29	1677	46	1638	40	1702	0.6266	1.5706	0.2897	1.6548	4.2300	P18 098 18 2463 27	A2
3698319	51	1588	28	1654	46	1599	37	1699	0.6673	1.6140	0.2819	1.7069	4.1010	P18 098 18 2463 22	A2
3698319	53	1707	28	1701	46	1705	35	1697	0.6196	1.5512	0.3030	1.6114	4.3440	P18 098 18 2463 4	A2
3698319	52	1659	28	1681	46	1662	42	1696	0.4557	1.5620	0.2945	1.6521	4.2370	P18 098 18 2463 16	A2
3698319	51	1664	27	1694	46	1667	28	1695	0.8331	1.5403	0.2954	1.6241	4.3100	P18 098 18 2463 62	A2
3698319	51	1605	27	1655	46	1614	34	1694	0.6751	1.6152	0.2848	1.6990	4.1200	P18 098 18 2463 29	A2
3698319	46	1568	25	1641	42	1580	29	1693	0.7303	1.4928	0.2780	1.4859	4.0380	P18 098 18 2463 55	A2
3698319	53	1681	28	1688	47	1682	45	1690	0.5174	1.5756	0.2983	1.7487	4.2890	P18 098 18 2463 100	A2
3698319	63	1874	29	1786	52	1848	37	1689	0.6597	1.6536	0.3326	1.6543	4.8360	P18 098 18 2463 70	Ą
3698319	51	1611	27	1654	45	1618	31	1688	0.7768	1.5931	0.2856	1.6999	4.1180	P18 098 18 2463 87	P2
3698319	68	1844	33	1763	59	1820	34	1688	0.8285	1.8343	0.3271	2.0127	4.7200	P18 098 18 2463 78	P2
3698319	51	1565	28	1628	47	1580	34	1687	0.7526	1.6402	0.2774	1.7522	3.9950	P18 098 18 2463 17	P2
3698319	54	1684	28	1688	48	1683	36	1686	0.3048	1.6237	0.2987	1.7454	4.2970	P18 098 18 2463 99	A2
3698319	62	1702	30	1702	54	1698	46	1685	0.5434	1.8218	0.3019	1.8307	4.3700	P18 098 18 2463 40	A2
3698319	42	1392	27	1537	39	1418	36	1685	0.6228	1.5435	0.2462	1.6897	3.5510	P18 098 18 2463 33	A2
3698319	52	1666	27	1681	46	1667	32	1683	0.7362	1.5736	0.2955	1.6451	4.2550	P18 098 18 2463 77	A2
3698319	53	1677	28	1689	49	1679	30	1682	0.7695	1.5977	0.2973	1.6290	4.2970	P18 098 18 2463 36	A2
3698319	55	1750	28	1725	48	1741	33	1678	0.7314	1.5625	0.3104	1.6756	4.4760	P18 098 18 2463 64	A2
3698319	53	1815	26	1755	46	1796	28	1677	0.7475	1.4614	0.3216	1.5119	4.6300	P18 098 18 2463 51	A2
3698319	52	1698	27	1691	46	1694	35	1673	0.6468	1.5287	0.3009	1.6264	4.3040	P18 098 18 2463 79	A2
3698319	4	1493	25	1579	40	1509	32	1672	0.6371	1.4962	0.2640	1.6034	3.7420	P18 098 18 2463 5	A2
3698319	53	1628	28	1654	47	1632	35	1671	0.7144	1.6291	0.2885	1.6999	4.1180	P18 098 18 2463 21	A2
3698319	73	1614	42	1643	63	1634	42	1665	0.8903	2.2727	0.2860	2.0631	4.1200	P18 098 18 2463 86	A2
3698319	56	1649	32	1659	50	1648	41	1655	0.7385	1.7135	0.2918	1.9370	4.1300	P18 098 18 2463 18	A2
3698319	56	1633	27	1638	50	1634	37	1647	0.7840	1.7307	0.2889	1.7391	4.0250	P18 098 18 2463 9	A2
3698319	44	1424	26	1498	41	1435	34	1562	0.7082	1.5825	0.2496	1.6224	3.3900	P18 098 18 2463 47	A2
3698319	31	996	27	1183	30	1021	58	1472	0.5324	1.5998	0.1719	1.8318	2.2110	P18 098 18 2463 10	A2
3698319	40	1346	26	1412	38	1358	34	1469	0.6855	1.5371	0.2342	1.6496	3.0310	P18 098 18 2463 53	A2
3698319	38	1198	31	1218	35	1201	76	1237	0.3111	1.6105	0.2049	2.3646	2.3260	P18 098 18 2463 20	A2
3698319	34	1181	26	1207	32	1183	51	1219	0.3135	1.4881	0.2016	1.7513	2.2840	P18 098 18 2463 57	A2
3698319	37	1159	24	1187	35	1161	33	1208	0.8147	1.6456	0.1975	1.6839	2.2270	P18 098 18 2463 56	A2
3698319	35	1165	25	1188	33	1167	51	1207	0.5254	1.5601	0.1987	1.8394	2.2290	P18 098 18 2463 14	A2

TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	ß	R	ß	R	R	ß	ß	₽	₽	ß	ß
P18 098 18 2464 21	P18 098 18 2464 51	P18 098 18 2464 1	P18 098 18 2464 55	P18 098 18 2464 24	P18 098 18 2464 27	P18 098 18 2464 12	P18 098 18 2464 10	P18 098 18 2464 31	P18 098 18 2464 22	P18 098 18 2464 47	P18 098 18 2464 59	P18 098 18 2464 35	P18 098 18 2464 5	P18 098 18 2464 30	P18 098 18 2464 44	P18 098 18 2464 20	P18 098 18 2464 16	P18 098 18 2464 36	P18 098 18 2464 14	P18 098 18 2464 3	P18 098 18 2463 85	P18 098 18 2463 3	P18 098 18 2463 66	P18 098 18 2463 8	P18 098 18 2463 44	P18 098 18 2463 60	P18 098 18 2463 81	P18 098 18 2463 31	P18 098 18 2463 52	P18 098 18 2463 26	P18 098 18 2463 15
0.1731	0.1673	0.1921	0.2085	0.2027	0.0273	0.0361	0.0274	0.0300	0.0360	0.0275	0.0272	0.0273	0.0319	0.0255	0.0255	0.0349	0.0271	0.0398	0.0221	0.0172	4.5100	4.6200	4.0840	4.3700	4.3040	4.3090	4.1710	4.0620	3.9100	4.4900	4.2250
2.1953	2.1219	1.6658	1.5827	1.8747	10.6227	2.3546	3.4672	5.1667	6.1111	4.9091	4.0441	4.7619	8.4639	4.1176	4.3137	7.7364	6.8266	4.2714	6.1086	3.1977	1.9956	1.8398	1.5916	1.6018	1.7426	1.6245	1.5584	1.7233	1.9182	2.0045	1.6568
0.0231	0.0225	0.0226	0.0183	0.0153	0.0040	0.0041	0.0040	0.0039	0.0040	0.0039	0.0039	0.0039	0.0039	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0037	0.0038	0.0036	0.0026	0.2899	0.3038	0.2745	0.2971	0.2874	0.2910	0.2872	0.2762	0.2649	0.3054	0.2908
1.8406	1.8453	1.7493	2.7352	2.8086	2.8465	2.0782	1.7592	1.6620	2.0202	1.6852	1.6879	1.8182	2.3316	1.9789	1.8519	2.5333	2.0492	2.0000	2.6761	1.6296	1.8972	1.6458	1.5847	1.4978	1.5832	1.5979	1.6539	1.7560	1.8120	1.9646	1.6678
0.4570	0.3674	0.3412	-0.2734	0.6112	0.1368	0.5450	0.2044	0.1147	0.3087	0.1080	0.0637	0.1816	0.3877	0.2607	0.0462	0.0502	0.3443	0.3333	0.0334	0.1631	0.4614	0.3285	0.7075	0.6837	0.7265	0.7727	0.6328	0.7848	0.5727	0.7490	0.7626
366	343	653	1300	1582	-20	743	150	280	480	120	170	210	370	130	110	340	300	1020	-40	60	1843	1799	1746	1741	1741	1730	1725	1724	1720	1717	1704
75	80	60	110	83	380	74	140	190	250	180	150	190	300	150	170	300	240	170	250	120	58	50	31	29	34	31	33	34	37	47	32
147	143	144	117	86	26	26	26	25	26	25	25	25	25	24	24	24	24	24	23	17	1644	1708	1562	1676	1627	1645	1630	1570	1513	1716	1647
л	ъ	ъ	6	ъ	2	-			-				-		-	-	-	-			54	49	44	44	45	46	46	49	49	59	49
162	157	178	192	187	27	36	27	30	36	28	27	27	32	26	26	34	27	40	22	17	1726	1753	1648	1704	1689	1694	1669	1644	1614	1730	1674
7	6	6	6	6	6	2	2	ω	4	ω	N	ω	Сī	2	2	Сī	4	ω	ω	-	32	32	26	26	27	27	28	28	34	35	28
146	142	142	111	91	26	26	25	25	25	25	25	25	24	24	24	23	23	23	23	17	1611	1695	1543	1668	1614	1636	1615	1555	1494	1717	1638
U	ъ	ъ	6	сī	Ν	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	56	48	50	51	52	53	54	53	67	54
3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3695069 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6	3698319 6
93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	93068	94777	94777	94777	94777	94777	94777	94777	94777	94777	94777	94777

TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	TCCG	
P18 098 18 2464 33	P18 098 18 2464 54	P18 098 18 2464 9	P18 098 18 2464 53	P18 098 18 2464 19	P18 098 18 2464 23	P18 098 18 2464 41	P18 098 18 2464 42	P18 098 18 2464 8	P18 098 18 2464 56	P18 098 18 2464 15	P18 098 18 2464 50	P18 098 18 2464 25	P18 098 18 2464 52	P18 098 18 2464 7	P18 098 18 2464 34	P18 098 18 2464 26	P18 098 18 2464 17	P18 098 18 2464 11	P18 098 18 2464 46	P18 098 18 2464 43	P18 098 18 2464 48	P18 098 18 2464 57	P18 098 18 2464 49	P18 098 18 2464 6	P18 098 18 2464 13	P18 098 18 2464 18	P18 098 18 2464 40	P18 098 18 2464 37	P18 098 18 2464 32	P18 098 18 2464 28	P18 098 18 2464 4
4.0490	4.3520	4.3660	4.2790	3.8380	4.1700	3.8430	4.3990	4.4700	3.8040	4.3010	3.8800	4.1890	3.5770	3.4120	3.9600	2.0800	2.3510	2.2290	2.2250	2.2700	0.1756	0.1707	0.3410	0.1777	0.1651	0.1560	0.1970	0.1595	0.1600	0.1671	0.1953
1.6053	1.4936	1.7178	1.6359	1.5633	1.9185	1.5613	1.5913	1.7897	1.5773	1.6275	1.6753	1.7904	1.5376	1.7585	1.8939	4.0865	1.9353	1.9291	1.6629	1.6740	1.8793	1.8453	5.8651	1.7164	2.9376	4.4872	4.5685	1.7555	1.7188	1.7654	2.5602
0.2810	0.3031	0.3016	0.2989	0.2694	0.2944	0.2744	0.3147	0.3187	0.2720	0.3086	0.2790	0.3048	0.2600	0.2530	0.2961	0.1780	0.2057	0.1998	0.2007	0.2069	0.0246	0.0246	0.0257	0.0243	0.0239	0.0238	0.0241	0.0237	0.0237	0.0238	0.0236
1.6726	1.4847	1.6578	1.5557	1.5405	1.6984	1.4942	1.5094	1.7258	1.5625	1.5878	1.5771	1.8045	1.5385	1.7391	1.8575	3.6517	1.6286	1.6517	1.4948	1.4500	1.5834	1.5682	1.8295	1.5857	1.7768	1.9924	2.6971	1.5388	1.4557	1.7045	1.5228
0.6340	0.7257	0.6924	0.8739	0.6747	0.8728	0.5373	0.7530	0.8172	0.7330	0.7433	0.8865	0.7357	0.6736	0.8382	0.9061	0.8821	0.3830	0.5750	0.5936	0.6841	0.3766	0.9416	0.5781	0.3831	0.2602	0.0564	0.3054	0.5828	0.3732	0.1518	0.4584
1726	1700	1693	1684	1675	1666	1662	1660	1659	1656	1652	1644	1633	1630	1571	1571	1290	1250	1223	1211	1201	262	193	1370	327	171	50	550	142	150	260	520
39	29	42	27	32	31	31	29	32	30	30	26	40	33	32	31	80	56	50	40	39	58	47	190	55	100	170	160	47	50	57	100
1594	1705	1703	1684	1536	1661	1562	1762	1780	1550	1732	1584	1716	1489	1452	1668	1055	1205	1173	1178	1212	157	156	164	155	152	152	153	151	151	151	151
47	44	52	46	42	50	41	47	53	43	48	45	54	41	45	53	69	36	36	32	32	თ	Сī	6	თ	თ	6	8	ъ	4	ъ	сл
1643	1701	1702	1686	1598	1662	1600	1709	1721	1592	1690	1606	1668	1545	1503	1618	1129	1224	1184	1188	1203	164	160	292	166	155	147	182	150	151	157	181
28	25	28	26	25	30	25	27	31	25	27	27	29	27	27	33	61	27	27	22	25	6	сл	29	თ	8	12	15	ъ	ъ	ъ	8
1580	1707	1698	1685	1522	1662	1552	1778	1800	1539	1744	1579	1725	1475	1442	1684	1043	1202	1170	1176	1212	156	156	154	154	152	152	151	151	151	151	149
52	51	56	52	46	56	46	54	63	47	55	49	62	45	49	62	74	38	38	34	34	σı	σı	6	σı	σı	6	8	σı	4	σı	თ
3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069	3695069
693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068	693068

TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 68         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 62         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 65         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 76         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 70         0	TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 68         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 62         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 65         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 76         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 76         0	TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 68         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 62         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 65         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 76         0	TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 68         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 62         0           TCGS         P18 098 18 2465 65         0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 68 0 TCGS P18 098 18 2465 62 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 68 0		TCGS P18 098 18 2465 49 2	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 6 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 19 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 51 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 66 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 42 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 8 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 71 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 5 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 79 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 35 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 63 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 33 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 15 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 1 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 61 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 74 0	TCGS P18 098 18 2465 59 0	TCCG P18 098 18 2464 38 4	TCCG P18 098 18 2464 39 4	TCCG P18 098 18 2464 60 4	TCCG P18 098 18 2464 45 3	TCCG P18 098 18 2464 58 4	TCCG P18 098 18 2464 2 4
		.1970 3 .1970 3	1.1543 1.1543	1.0827 2 1.2400 1 1.1576 2 1.5190 2	1.1576 2	.0827 2	.0827 2		0.361 4	.0370 10	.0352 4	.2940 5	.0286 3	. 1060 5	.0263 7	.0357 5	.0275 2	.0261 4	.0329 1:	.0332 2	.0281 4	.0243 2	.0253 2	.0684 3	.3700 2	.4000 2	.5570 1	.7560 1	.6070 1	.2120 1
1.5645 1.5533 1.4331	1.5645 1.5533 1.4331	1.5645 1.5533	3.5645		2.0231	2,1574	4.0625	2,1765	1.1551	0.1351	1.2614	6122	3.3217	6604	.7947	5.7423	2.9091	1.5977	3.8298	.5602	.4484	.8807	.3734	3.7281	.4027	.3864	.6458	.7306	.7365	.6619
0.0235 0.0239	0.0235		0.0237	0.0228	0.0255	0.0219	0.0245	0.0120	0.0043	0.0041	0.0041	0.0061	0.0040	0.0047	0.0040	0.0040	0.0039	0.0039	0.0039	0.0039	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0040	0.2750	0.2800	0.3070	0.2561	0.3156	0.2876
1.9062		1.4662	1.6695	2.6316	1.6883	1.7548	12.4490	1.5794	2.0979	3.1477	1.8248	2.7094	1.6197	2.3555	1.8987	2.2444	1.7857	1.8079	2.5575	1.6667	1.8353	1.7329	1.5996	1.7383	2.3636	2.3214	1.5309	1.6595	1.5526	1.5994
0.0652		0.1165	0.4825	0.6347	0.2997	0.4852	0.9699	0.1632	0.2599	0.2566	0.3034	0.8670	0.2838	0.7898	0.1561	0.1378	0.3511	-0.0204	-0.0319	0.4954	0.0517	0.1835	0.1525	0.4851	0.6256	0.6411	0.5543	0.7998	0.6079	0.6229
-40		195	550	140	2322	282	3660	172	480	380	530	3130	240	2440	- 170	600	220	50	- 460	625	270	50	124	1970	1889	1857	1760	1749	1728	1727
260		90	120	110	57	74	210	78	160	420	140	240	130	160	270	250	100	170	500	86	160	110	86	110	68	ങ	35	З	37	37
152		150	151	145	162	140	152	77	28	27	26	39	26	30	26	26	25	25	25	25	25	24	24	26	1558	1589	1724	1468	1767	1628
თ		4	Сī	7	U	СЛ	37	2		2		2					-	-		-	-	-	-	-	66	68	46	44	48	46
149		154	182	146	423	149	780	81	36	37	<u>ж</u>	251	29	101	26	35	28	26	32	33	28	24	25	67	1692	1696	1738	1581	1747	1673
	2	7	11	9	14	6	150	ω	ω	7	ω	26	2	11	4	4	2	2	9	2	ω	-	-	Сī	41	39	27	28	28	27
152		150	149	145	142	139	77	77	27	26	26	26	26	26	25	25	25	25	25	25	24	24	24	23	1522	1554	1720	1441	1773	1617
•	ס	4	Сī	8	сл	Сī	21	2		2		2								-	-				71	71	53	47	55	51
3696165 692975		3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3696165 692975	3695069 693068	3695069 693068	3695069 693068	3695069 693068	3695069 693068	3695069 693068

TCGS P18	TCGS P18	TCGS P18	TCGS P1	TCGS P18	TCGS P1	TCGS P1	TCGS P18	TCGS P18	TCGS P18	TCGS P18	TCGS P1	TCGS P18																		
98 18 2465 69	98 18 2465 78	98 18 2465 75	098 18 2465 9	98 18 2465 39	98 18 2465 36	98 18 2465 52	98 18 2465 25	98 18 2465 58	98 18 2465 20	98 18 2465 67	98 18 2465 16	98 18 2465 26	98 18 2465 10	98 18 2465 38	98 18 2465 11	98 18 2465 72	098 18 2465 4	098 18 2465 3	98 18 2465 50	98 18 2465 32	98 18 2465 27	98 18 2465 43	098 18 2465 7	98 18 2465 64	98 18 2465 28	98 18 2465 17	98 18 2465 56	98 18 2465 22	98 18 2465 60	
4.1960	4.3830	4.2820	4.1940	4.2030	4.1880	4.3900	4.3150	4.3970	4.2440	4.1560	3.8910	3.6100	4.1200	3.6210	3.2710	3.0710	3.0250	2.8230	2.2320	2.2440	2.0090	1.0780	0.2790	0.2401	0.2140	0.1821	0.1656	0.2070	0.1662	
1.6683	1.4830	1.6348	1.6691	1.6655	1.6714	2.1640	1.6222	1.7057	1.6494	1.6843	1.6705	1.8006	2.0631	1.6570	1.5286	1.7909	1.5702	1.5232	1.8145	1.7380	1.6177	1.9481	1.6667	1.6660	3.0374	2.3064	1.9928	3.1401	2.9783	
0.2949	0.3061	0.3019	0.2952	0.2945	0.2975	0.3051	0.3036	0.3116	0.3011	0.2967	0.2780	0.2657	0.3106	0.2781	0.2531	0.2424	0.2454	0.2285	0.2015	0.2046	0.1837	0.1194	0.0375	0.0341	0.0268	0.0263	0.0247	0.0247	0.0242	
1.5259	1.4538	1.5568	1.6430	1.5789	1.6807	1.8027	1.6469	1.7651	1.5111	1.6009	1.6187	1.8818	2.0927	1.6900	1.5409	1.5264	1.4670	1.4880	1.5881	1.8328	1.6059	1.9263	1.4674	1.6153	1.6592	1.5048	1.5783	1.6188	1.6322	
0.5360	0.6402	0.6609	0.6660	0.6313	0.6986	0.7977	0.6850	0.8855	0.5001	0.7476	0.7592	0.3588	0.8137	0.8043	0.6170	0.8489	0.4810	0.6593	0.6041	0.7422	0.8842	0.4466	0.6899	0.6053	0.1711	0.3346	0.2384	0.1842	-0.0081	
1679	1678	1676	1675	1675	1673	1671	1669	1667	1662	1651	1643	1582	1544	1508	1500	1443	1412	1408	1198	1180	1173	759	361	249	440	183	110	550	150	
38	29	35	36	35	42	47	36	30	37	32	34	4	45	33	35	37	34	32	44	42	35	ස	42	48	120	79	70	110	120	
1665	1720	1702	1665	1662	1676	1714	1706	1750	1695	1673	1583	1515	1738	1587	1453	1398	1414	1326	1182	1198	1086	726	237	216	171	167	157	157	154	
\$	4	\$	48	46	50	56	50	55	\$	47	4	54	61	\$	40	38	37	36	34	40	32	27	7	7	6	თ	თ	თ	сл	
1672	1709	1688	1668	1673	1675	1708	1692	1712	1680	1663	1609	1553	1648	1554	1471	1417	1413	1360	1191	1193	1116	739	250	218	197	169	155	190	155	
28	25	27	28	26	29	34	27	30	27	28	27	29	33	26	25	24	23	23	26	24	22	21	7	7	1	7	6	10	9	
1664	1726	1704	1665	1661	1678	1721	1713	1759	1701	1677	1574	1510	1768	1589	1449	1395	1414	1320	1182	1201	1082	725	236	216	169	167	158	155	154	
51	50	53	54	52	56	62	56	62	51	53	50	56	74	53	44	42	41	38	36	43	34	27	7	7	6	σı	σı	σı	J	
3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	3696165 69.	
2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	2975	



**APPENDIX B – Concordia diagrams** 

Figure B-1: Concordia diagrams of the four Soledad Rojo formation detrital zircon samples. The graphs in the left column show the age distribution from 0-2000 Ma, with the graphs in the right column showing the same data from 0-200 Ma to highlight the Mesozoic-Cenozoic age points. Adapted from (Chemostrat Ltd Lab, 2018).