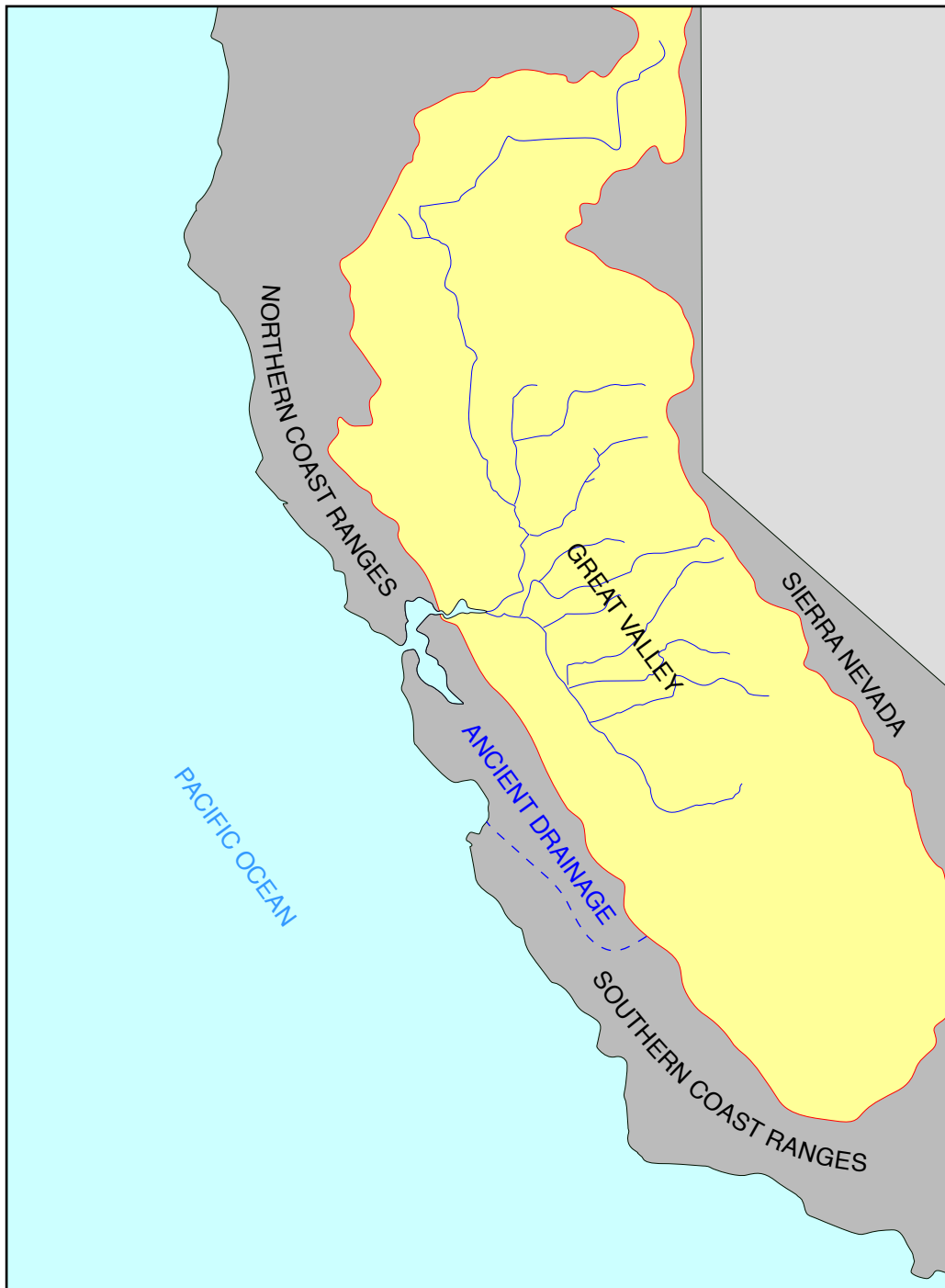


THE CHANGING DRAINAGE OF INTERIOR CALIFORNIA



Presently, the vast interior of California (yellow) drains to the ocean through San Francisco Bay. However, this has not always been the case. Minerals from the rocks of the Sierra Nevada occur only in sediments of the bay area younger than about 560,000 years. Prior to that time, the interior of California drained into the ocean by way of Salinas Valley and Monterey Bay. Vertical crustal movements in the southern Coast Ranges shifted the drainage outlet to the north.