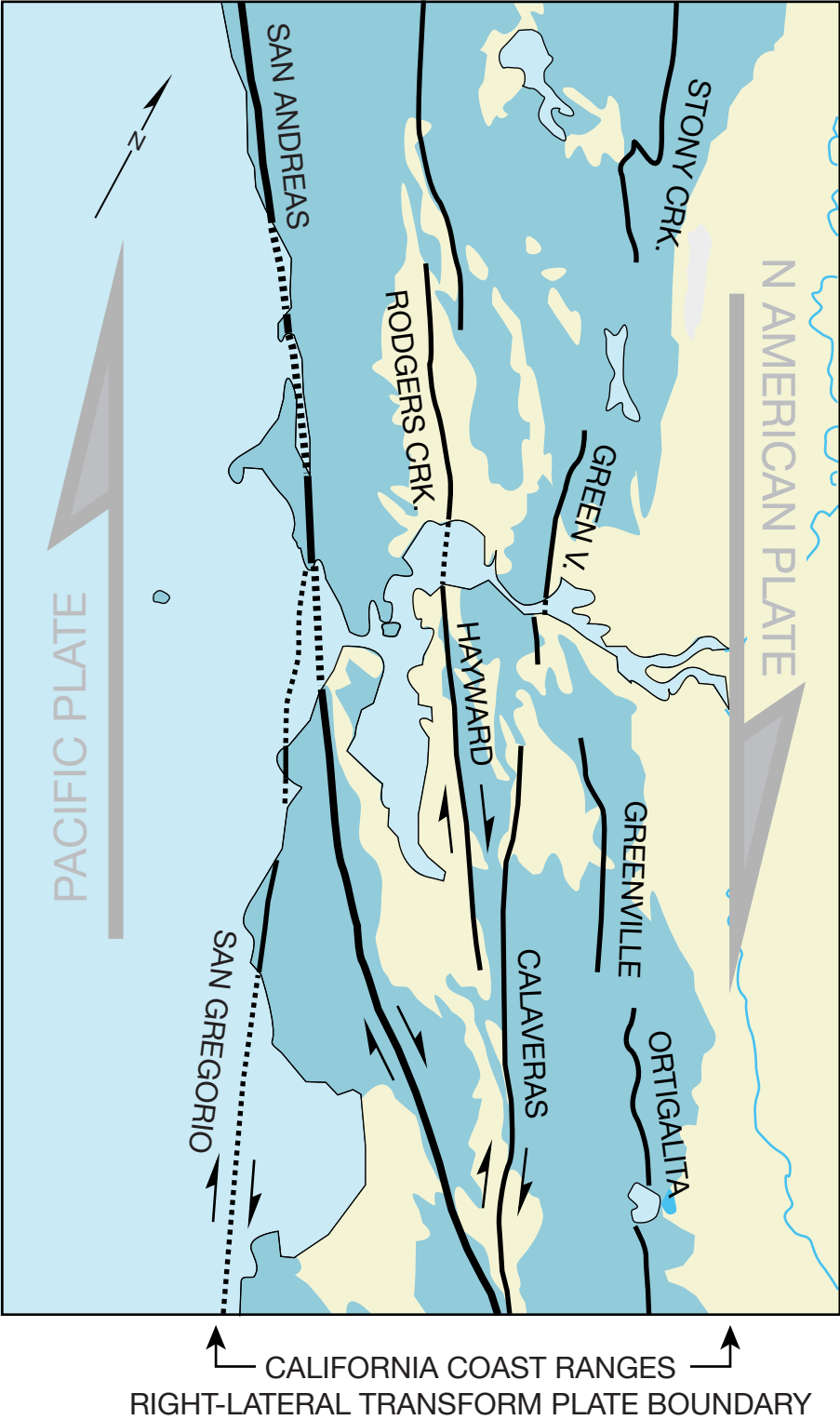


# MAJOR FAULTS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



Collectively, the Coast Ranges of California are the surface expression of the broad transform boundary between the North American and Pacific tectonic plates. The relative plate motions across the the entire boundary, and the relative block motions across each fault within it, are termed right lateral, meaning that when facing the boundary or a fault, the block on the other side moves to the right. About half the relative plate motion occurs across the San Andreas fault, the main fault in the system, and the other half occurs across numerous subsidiary faults. Minor vertical displacements across most of the faults gives rise to the elongate valleys and ridges characteristic of the Coast Ranges.