

Updated USGS Topo Map Collection
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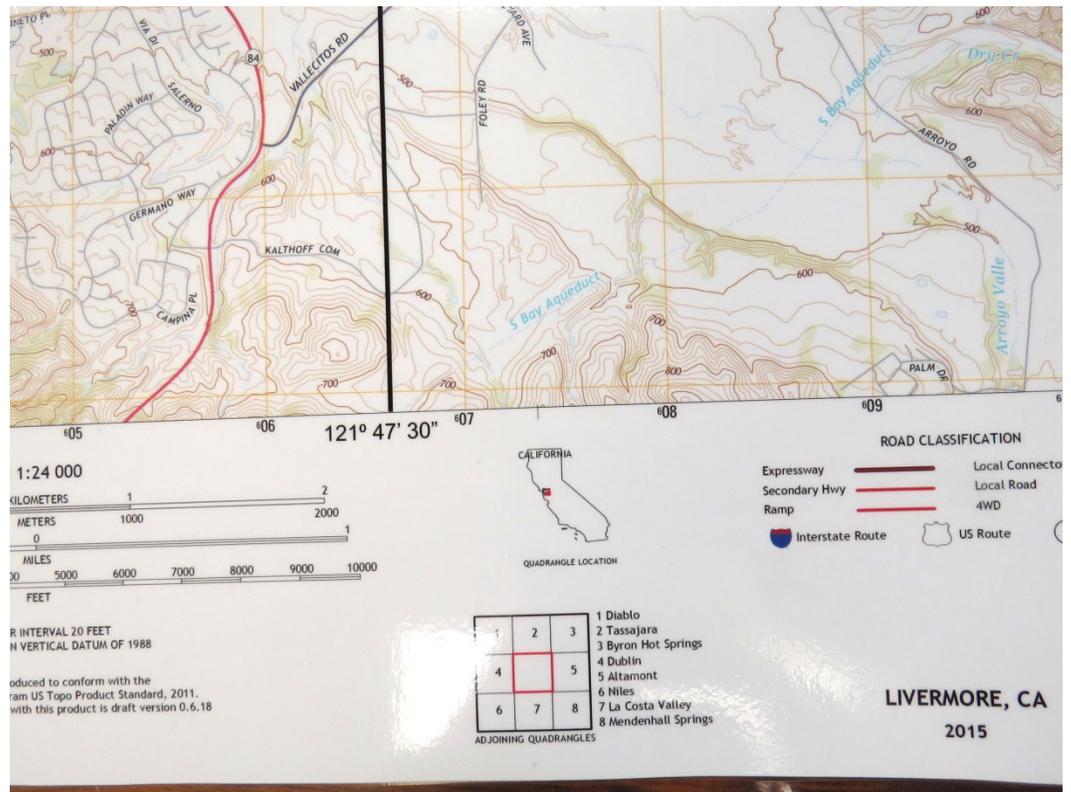
This report is to describe the outcome of the generous grant we received from CARE for our new map collection.

We received notification that we had won the award, and celebrated. But the path to fruition turned out to have twists and turns. Many things were learned from this endeavor, including some unanticipated ones.

For starters, Chabot's Reprographics Center learned a great deal about maps - and map scale - and the challenges of doing print jobs where the size cannot change by even 1%. When one prints Word documents, the precision of font size is somewhat flexible. Most print jobs can be within a few percentage points, and that is fine. But with maps, when you measure an inch on the map's bar scale, it must be accurate, and be exactly 1 inch. Craig in Chabot's Reprographics Center and I had many emails back and forth, as well as phone calls. Overcoming these print challenges was a collegial exercise of an unusual - but ultimately successful-kind. We will be far better prepared to help the Reprographics center understand the precision required the next time. In addition, Craig created a process and we all participated, and ultimately the correctly printed maps were laminated and received. We did have a couple early experimental runs that were not successful, but as we tell our students in the labs...trial and error is part of science. We use these two out of scale maps for lab questions as well..."What is wrong with this map?" One is too large and one is too small...and they figure it out.

The new maps are clear and beautiful, with excellent color and sharpness. I have attached a photo of a portion of the map so that you can see the fine detail. The high gloss of the protective lamination gives us the promise of many years of useful life.

Bottom line - these maps will serve students and instructors for many years to come, with exercises in topographic elevations, distances, profiles and vertical exaggeration.



Again we thank CARE for this wonderful gift and appreciate very much what it is allowing us to do in Geology labs.