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**1 Testing the inference of creep on the northern
2 Rodgers Creek fault, California, using ascending and
3 descending persistent scatterer InSAR data**

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Abstract.

We revisit the question of whether the Rodgers Creek fault in northern California is creeping, a question with implications for seismic hazard. Using imagery acquired by Envisat between 2003 and 2010, we process two persistent scatterer InSAR datasets, one from an ascending track and the other from a descending track, covering the northernmost segment of the Rodgers Creek fault between the cities of Santa Rosa and Healdsburg. The two different viewing geometries provided by the two different tracks allow us to distinguish vertical velocities, that may reflect nontectonic deformation processes, from fault-parallel velocities, that can be used to identify creep.

By measuring offsets in InSAR line-of-sight velocity from 12 fault-perpendicular profiles through both data sets, we identify seven locations where we have a high degree of confidence that creep is occurring (estimated creep rate is more than two standard deviations above zero). The preferred creep rates at these locations are in the range **1.9–6.7 mm/yr**, consistent within uncertainty with alignment array measurements. Creep is **probable ($P \geq 0.70$) at another three locations**, defining a creeping zone ~ 20 km long in total, extending northwest from Santa Rosa. We also estimate the map patterns of fault-parallel and vertical velocities in the region covered by both data sets; these suggest that the Rodgers Creek fault immediately southeast of Santa Rosa remains locked.

1. Introduction

1.1. Fault creep and seismic hazards

25 Fault creep (also known as brittle creep and/or aseismic creep) is the sliding of upper
26 crustal faults, constantly or episodically, in the absence of major earthquakes. It can be
27 considered an alternate behavior to the stick-slip behavior that is thought to occur on
28 most active faults [*Reid*, 1910]. The majority of reported fault creep cases on the con-
29 tinent lie within California [e.g. *Steinbrugge et al.*, 1960; *Cluff and Steinbrugge*, 1966;
30 *Nason*, 1971; *Harsh et al.*, 1978; *Louie et al.*, 1985; *Bilham et al.*, 2004; *Funning et al.*,
31 2007; *Wisely et al.*, 2008; *McFarland et al.*, 2016], although creep has also been observed
32 on the North Anatolian fault in Turkey for several decades [e.g. *Ambraseys*, 1970; *Cakir*
33 *et al.*, 2005; *Bilham et al.*, 2016; *Rousset et al.*, 2016], and has been observed geodeti-
34 cally on the Longitudinal Valley fault (Taiwan), Haiyuan fault (China) and Chaman fault
35 (Afghanistan) in the past decade [e.g. *Hsu et al.*, 2006; *Jolivet et al.*, 2012, 2013; *Fattahi*
36 *and Amelung*, 2016]. Analogous aseismic slip within the depth range of expected seismo-
37 genic slip is also inferred on some subduction zone interfaces [e.g. *Wallace et al.*, 2004;
38 *Bürgmann et al.*, 2005; *Kyriakopoulos and Newman*, 2016]. Multiple mechanisms have
39 been proposed for fault creep, e.g. the presence of fluids at high pressures [e.g. *Sleep and*
40 *Blanpied*, 1992; *Bedrosian et al.*, 2004] or weak minerals such as clays [e.g. *Lockner et al.*,
41 2011], serpentine [e.g. *Moore and Lockner*, 2013], or talc [*Moore and Rymer*, 2007] on
42 the fault surface. It is not clear from our current state of knowledge whether geological
43 conditions are sufficiently similar at the different locations where creep is observed that a

44 single mechanism could explain all reported cases; it is possible that multiple mechanisms
45 could be involved.

46 Since the portions of faults that creep are moving interseismically, rather than remaining
47 locked, they accumulate less elastic strain energy than stick-slip faults. In most of the
48 cases mentioned above, the average rate of creep is lower than the long-term slip rate of
49 the fault estimated geologically, meaning that even though the fault is not locked, it is
50 still accumulating strain [e.g. *Wisely et al.*, 2008; *Weldon et al.*, 2013]. However, if an
51 earthquake were to occur on such a fault, we might expect a lower seismic moment release,
52 compared with a fault of the same size that did not creep interseismically.

53 A second consideration is that of fault friction regime. In the nomenclature of rate-state
54 friction [*Dieterich*, 1978; *Ruina*, 1983], we would consider stick-slip behavior ‘velocity-
55 weakening’ – movement of the fault weakens the frictional resistance of the fault to move-
56 ment, causing a positive feedback that promotes rapid, unstable seismic slip. Creep, on
57 the other hand, implies ‘velocity-strengthening’ behavior – frictional strength of the fault
58 increases with fault slip rate, acting to suppress rapid fault slip and promote stable sliding.
59 There is evidence to suggest that regions of faults with different frictional regimes persist
60 throughout the earthquake cycle. This can be seen in geodetic data from multiple earth-
61 quake cycles on the Parkfield segment of the San Andreas fault, where an asperity shown
62 to be responsible for $M \sim 6$ earthquakes in 1966 and 2004 is surrounded by regions that
63 undergo creep during interseismic periods [*Murray and Langbein*, 2006]. In the week fol-
64 lowing the 2004 earthquake, the creeping portions of the fault released their accumulated
65 elastic strain energy through accelerated postseismic creep [*Johanson et al.*, 2006]. The
66 implication is that creeping fault segments may additionally act as barriers to earthquake

67 rupture, and thus reduce the seismic hazard. In the seismic hazard estimates computed
68 for California, such as UCERF3, this moment-reducing effect is accounted for by scaling
69 seismic moments of potential earthquakes by a coefficient R , where $R \leq 1$ [*Field et al.*,
70 2014].

71 Finally, another hazard that has been observed in association with coseismic rupture in
72 California, particularly on faults that were previously known to undergo surface creep, is
73 postseismic fault slip, or ‘afterslip’. Continued surface fault slip in the days or weeks that
74 follow an earthquake can locally exceed the slip experienced during the earthquake, as
75 observed in the 2014 South Napa, California event [e.g. *Lienkaemper et al.*, 2016; *Floyd*
76 *et al.*, 2016], causing ongoing or repeat damage to fault-crossing infrastructure. In the
77 event of a major earthquake on a creeping fault, we would anticipate a similar hazard in
78 the weeks that followed.

79 In order to correctly characterize both seismic and postseismic hazards, therefore, it
80 is important to know if, and if so, where, a fault is creeping. In this study, we attempt
81 to answer this question for a potentially hazardous fault in northern California, using
82 persistent scatterer InSAR data from multiple viewing geometries.

1.2. The Rodgers Creek fault

83 The Rodgers Creek fault extends for over 70 km in the northern San Francisco Bay area
84 (hereafter ‘North Bay’) in northern California. Along with its along-strike neighbors – the
85 Hayward fault, located to its southeast, and the Maacama fault, located to its northwest
86 – the Rodgers Creek fault is estimated, on the basis of geodetic data, to accommodate
87 a significant proportion (between 15 and 25 percent) of the relative motion between the
88 Pacific plate and the Sierra Nevada-Great Valley block to the east, equivalent to a long-

89 term slip rate of 6–10 mm/yr [e.g. *Prescott et al.*, 2001; *d’Alessio et al.*, 2005; *Funning*
90 *et al.*, 2007; *Field et al.*, 2014; *Floyd et al.*, 2014]. Given this strain accumulation rate,
91 the lack of historic earthquake ruptures along the fault, its unruptured length and the
92 possibility of a joint rupture with the Hayward fault, the fault is considered the most
93 dangerous in the region. Seismic hazard analyses suggest a 32% probability of a significant
94 ($M > 6.7$) rupture in the next 30 years [*Field et al.*, 2014]. Such an earthquake could
95 imperil the heavily populated San Francisco Bay area, close to the southern end of the
96 fault; in addition, the fault also passes through the center of Santa Rosa, the largest and
97 most populous city in the North Bay, and is close to communities in the Sonoma and
98 Napa valleys, all of which would be strongly affected by such an event, drawing a sharp
99 focus on the need to understand the behavior of the fault in detail.

100 Since written records began in the late 18th Century, there have been no major earth-
101 quakes on the Rodgers Creek fault. The most significant events in recent decades were a
102 pair of M 5.5 events in Santa Rosa in 1969 [*Wong and Bott*, 1995]. Paleoseismic studies
103 have shown that the most recent major event occurred approximately 235–296 years ago
104 [*Hecker et al.*, 2005], and involved slip of ~ 2 m [*Budding et al.*, 1991; *Hecker et al.*,
105 2005], consistent with a $M \sim 7$ event if standard earthquake scaling relationships are as-
106 sumed [e.g. *Wells and Coppersmith*, 1994]. Other trenches located between Windsor and
107 Healdsburg suggest that the fault has been active in Holocene time along that segment
108 of the fault [*Hecker et al.*, 2005]. If the slip rate for the fault were at the upper end of
109 the 6.4–10.4 mm/yr range estimated from paleoseismic work by *Schwartz et al.* [1992],
110 the fault could already have exceeded the time required to reload for a repeat of the most
111 recent event.

1.3. Previous evidence for creep on the Hayward-Rodgers Creek-Maacama fault system

112 There is extensive observational evidence for shallow aseismic creep on both the Hay-
113 ward and Maacama faults. This includes observations of offsets of cultural features such
114 as curbs, road markings, walls and fences [e.g. *Cluff and Steinbrugge*, 1966; *Lienkaemper*,
115 2006], alinement array measurements [short (50–250 m) baseline, cross-fault theodolite
116 measurements, e.g. *Galehouse and Lienkaemper*, 2003; *McFarland et al.*, 2016], and creep-
117 meter observations [e.g. *Bilham et al.*, 2004]. Given the location of the Rodgers Creek fault
118 in between these two creeping faults along-strike, **it was speculated for many years that**
119 **the Rodgers Creek fault might also creep**. Prior to the last decade, evidence for creep was
120 limited and equivocal, with no reported cultural offset features and only a few alinement
121 arrays, whose data did not support creep [e.g. *Galehouse and Lienkaemper*, 2003]. Such
122 data did not rule out creep entirely, however, since the distribution of alinement arrays
123 was sparse – prior to 2002, there were only two alinement arrays along the whole of the
124 fault. In addition, the low density of population along much of the fault trace meant that
125 there were few cultural features in those areas that could be offset. If creep were spatially
126 discontinuous, it may not have been captured by that set of observations.

127 The advent of high precision InSAR deformation measurements based upon long data
128 time series [e.g. *Ferretti et al.*, 2001; *Berardino et al.*, 2002; *Hooper et al.*, 2004] has
129 provided a means of characterizing and mapping slow-moving deformation sources across
130 large areas. These techniques rely upon spatiotemporal filtering of InSAR time series
131 to separate the signal due to deformation, which is correlated in time, from that due to
132 atmospheric noise, which is correlated in space, but not in time. Such **analyses permit**

133 deformation measurements to be made at precisions of 1.0 mm/yr or better in the line-of-
134 sight direction of the satellite [Ferretti, 2014]. For most satellite applications of InSAR,
135 this gives sensitivity to deformation in the vertical and E-W directions.

136 A change in deformation velocity across the northern Rodgers Creek fault in such a
137 data set spanning the interval 1992–2000 led *Funning et al.* [2007] to infer that the fault
138 was creeping along a segment between the cities of Santa Rosa and Healdsburg at rates
139 of up to 4–6 mm/yr, using both direct estimates of the surface offset rate from the data,
140 and elastic dislocation modeling. This interpretation was controversial, given the lack of
141 surficial evidence mentioned above, and also given the possibility that the fault-bounded
142 velocity change observed could also be consistent with a relative vertical motion across the
143 fault. Subsequent field identification of offset curbs along a secondary trace of the Rodgers
144 Creek fault in Santa Rosa (Suzanne Hecker, personal communication, 2008) and ongoing
145 alinement array survey measurements [McFarland et al., 2016] have provided tentative,
146 but by no means definitive, support for the occurrence of creep along the northern portion
147 of the fault, albeit at a significantly slower rate (< 2 mm/yr).

148 There are **three** potential explanations for such a difference in rate between the InSAR
149 estimates and the alinement array estimates, assuming that neither of the rate estimates
150 was erroneous. If, for instance, the observed cross-fault velocity change were a combina-
151 tion of horizontal and vertical motion, rather than the purely horizontal motions assumed
152 by *Funning et al.* [2007], it is possible that the majority of the observed line-of-sight defor-
153 mation could be due to vertical motions, and the creep rate could be small. Alternatively,
154 the creep rate could be variable on a decadal time scale, such that the InSAR estimates,
155 from data acquired in the 1990s, could be larger than the more recently acquired alinement

156 array data. Finally, the two methods are sensitive to creep over different depth ranges on
157 the fault, and therefore any differences between them may reflect different creep rates at
158 different depths.

159 In this study, we further test the inference of creep on the northern Rodgers Creek
160 using a later, and more comprehensive InSAR dataset than that used by *Funning et al.*
161 [2007]. Specifically, we use data from both ascending and descending viewing geometries,
162 with the advantage that the vertical and horizontal components of deformation can be
163 distinguished.

2. Observations

2.1. Data processing

164 Persistent scatterer (PS) InSAR methods provide a means for measuring ongoing defor-
165 mation of targets on the ground, typically with a better spatial coverage than is achievable
166 using conventional InSAR. By identifying PS – targets on the ground that are phase-stable
167 (i.e. the phase response of the target to incident radar waves does not change) over the
168 period of time covered by the SAR dataset – it is possible to identify pixels with coherent
169 deformation signals even when they are surrounded by heavy vegetation, and to make
170 precise estimates of deformation rates with the effects of atmospheric noise and other
171 errors mitigated [see *Hooper et al.*, 2012, for a full review]. These capabilities make PS
172 methods particularly useful in inhabited vegetated areas such as the North Bay.

173 A number of different software codes exist that implement persistent scatterer ap-
174 proaches [e.g. *Ferretti et al.*, 2001; *Hooper et al.*, 2004; *Kampes*, 2006]. Here we use
175 the Stanford Method for Persistent Scatterers code [StaMPS; *Hooper et al.*, 2004, 2007;
176 *Hooper*, 2010, <https://homepages.see.leeds.ac.uk/~earahoo/stamps/>] to produce a dis-

177 **placement** time series for each stable pixel, giving its displacement (with respect to a
178 reference pixel) at each **observation date** resolved into the satellite line-of-sight (LOS),
179 **with the effects of spatially-correlated tropospheric noise, and orbit and pixel height er-**
180 **rors estimated and removed.** From these displacement time series, a best-fitting LOS
181 velocity is estimated for each PS.

182 We process, in this way, two datasets from two different viewing geometries (ascending
183 and descending tracks) acquired by the ASAR (Advanced Synthetic Aperture Radar)
184 instrument onboard Envisat (Environment Satellite, operated by the European Space
185 Agency), which will be described below. Data are geocoded and topographic artifacts
186 removed using a 30 m resolution digital elevation model from NASA [*Farr and Kobrick,*
187 2000].

2.2. Descending track data

188 Our descending track dataset comprises 33 Envisat ASAR images (track 342, frame
189 2835, see Table S1 for details) acquired between March 2003 and May 2010. We use a
190 subset of the full frame (Figure 1), centered on the area of interest along the northern
191 Rodgers Creek fault, in order to expedite processing. Using the StaMPS code, we identify
192 112,800 PS in a rectangular area of approximately 30 km \times 50 km over the majority of
193 the active fault trace. These are plotted in Figure 2 with negative velocities (indicating
194 motion away from the satellite) colored red and positive velocities (towards the satellite)
195 colored blue.

196 The largest positive PS velocities in the dataset appear on the northwest corner of the
197 map (location V1 in Figure 2), northeast of the town of Cloverdale near the Maacama
198 fault, a deformation of the ground towards the satellite of ~ 6 mm/yr. The largest negative

199 PS velocities of -9 mm/yr cluster approximately 10 km to the east of this peak, at the
200 southern edge of The Geysers, a major geothermal field (location V2). A concentrated
201 area of positive velocities can be seen around 10–15 km south of Santa Rosa in an area
202 known as the Cotati basin (location V3). We will discuss the implications of this signal
203 below. Near the city of Santa Rosa and further north, the color scale changes abruptly
204 from green to blue crossing the fault from west to east, a line-of-sight velocity change of
205 $\sim 1 - 2$ mm/yr that could be explained by right-lateral horizontal motions localized on
206 the fault (i.e. shallow creep) or differential vertical motions across the fault (with the east
207 side of the fault uplifting with respect to the west side), or a combination of both, as we
208 shall investigate below.

2.3. Ascending track data

209 We additionally process an ascending track dataset of 39 Envisat ASAR images (track
210 478, frame 765, see Table S2 for details) acquired between August 2003 and April 2010
211 using the StaMPS methodology. As in the case of the descending track data, we use a
212 subset of the full frame (Figure 1), centered on the area of interest along the northern
213 Rodgers Creek fault, in order to expedite processing. We identify 100,596 persistent
214 scatterers in our area of interest (Figure 2). The footprint of this dataset covers a slightly
215 different area to the track 342 dataset, such that Cloverdale and The Geysers (locations
216 V1 and V2) are not included. However we do see high positive velocities around the Cotati
217 basin (location V3), similar to the track 342 data. Cross-fault changes in velocity are less
218 pronounced than in the track 342 data, and more variable in terms of sign.

3. Analysis and modeling

3.1. Decomposing line-of-sight velocities into fault-parallel and vertical motions

219 InSAR measurements are inherently one-dimensional in that they measure changes of
 220 range (satellite-ground target path length) in a single viewing geometry. Even with two
 221 such independent ‘range change’ measurements, each from a different viewing geometry,
 222 it is not possible to recover the full (three-dimensional) displacement vector – this typi-
 223 cally requires a measurement of the surface displacement in the along-track direction to
 224 complement the two range change observations [e.g. *Funning et al.*, 2005]. In the case of
 225 the proposed creep segment of the Rodgers Creek fault, the rate of displacement is too
 226 small to be measurable using the azimuth offset technique [e.g. *Michel et al.*, 1999; *Peltzer*
 227 *et al.*, 1999; *Jónsson et al.*, 2002].

228 In this case, with two independent measurements, we can only estimate two components
 229 of motion. Given the expectation that close to a creeping fault, horizontal deformation
 230 will be dominated by fault-parallel motions, we choose therefore to resolve horizontal
 231 deformation into the direction of the fault strike, so that we can resolve fault creep directly.
 232 The decomposition of ascending and descending InSAR displacements into displacements
 233 in the vertical direction and an arbitrary horizontal direction can be accomplished by the
 234 following procedure:

Measured deformation in the satellite line-of-sight (in this case, the range change rate), \dot{r} can be expressed as the product of the three-component vector of the ground deformation, \mathbf{v} ($= [v_x \ v_y \ v_z]$), and the unit pointing vector, i.e. a vector pointing from the satellite to the ground target, $\hat{\mathbf{p}}$ ($= [\hat{p}_x \ \hat{p}_y \ \hat{p}_z] = [\cos \phi \sin \lambda \quad -\sin \phi \sin \lambda \quad -\cos \lambda]$), where ϕ is the satellite heading azimuth, and λ is the incidence angle at the location of the ground

target. With our two independent data sets from different viewing geometries, we would expect different range change rate estimates and different pointing vectors, and can thus write two equations in terms of \mathbf{v} :

$$\dot{r}_a = \hat{\mathbf{p}}_a \cdot \mathbf{v} \quad (1)$$

$$\dot{r}_d = \hat{\mathbf{p}}_d \cdot \mathbf{v}, \quad (2)$$

where the ‘a’ and ‘d’ subscripts denote the quantities associated with ascending and descending track data, respectively.

We next decompose the ground deformation velocity \mathbf{v} into two components – a vertical component with amplitude v_z and a horizontal component with amplitude v_h in a selected direction defined by the two-dimensional unit vector $\hat{\mathbf{v}}_h = [\sin \gamma \cos \gamma]$, representing the unit vector in the average fault strike direction, γ . The range-change rates for these decomposed velocities are given by:

$$\dot{r}_a = v_h(\hat{\mathbf{p}}'_a \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}}_h) + v_z \hat{p}_{za} \quad (3)$$

$$\dot{r}_d = v_h(\hat{\mathbf{p}}'_d \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}}_h) + v_z \hat{p}_{zd}, \quad (4)$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{p}}'_a$ and $\hat{\mathbf{p}}'_d$ are two-dimensional vectors containing the horizontal components of the ascending and descending unit pointing vectors, respectively, and \hat{p}_{za} and \hat{p}_{zd} are the corresponding vertical components of the unit pointing vectors.

We can recast these simultaneous equations as normal equations in matrix form:

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{m} = \dot{\mathbf{r}} + \mathbf{e} \quad (5)$$

where

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{p}}'_a \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}}_h & \hat{p}_{za} \\ \hat{\mathbf{p}}'_d \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}}_h & \hat{p}_{zd} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (6)$$

240 $\mathbf{m} = [v_h \ v_z]^T$, and $\dot{\mathbf{r}} = [\dot{r}_a \ \dot{r}_d]^T$. The vector $\mathbf{e} = [e_a \ e_d]^T$ contains the uncertainties in \dot{r}_a
 241 and \dot{r}_d , which can be estimated from the standard deviation of the residual of the linear
 242 velocity trend to the PS time series.

We invert this system of equations using standard least-squares methods, weighting by the inverse of the variances of the range-change rates, in order to obtain best-fitting estimates of \mathbf{m} . We construct a variance-covariance matrix, \mathbf{E} , such that:

$$\mathbf{E} = \begin{pmatrix} e_a^2 & 0 \\ 0 & e_d^2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

Then, the best fitting model velocities are given by

$$\mathbf{m} = (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{E}^{-1} \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{E}^{-1} \dot{\mathbf{r}}, \quad (8)$$

with corresponding model velocity covariances given by

$$\mathbf{C} = (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{E}^{-1} \mathbf{A})^{-1}. \quad (9)$$

243 We apply this scheme to our data in two different ways. First, LOS offset rates, esti-
 244 mated from profiles through both our InSAR data sets, are used to estimate the fault-
 245 parallel and vertical offset rates at discrete intervals along the fault. Second, we apply
 246 this scheme, pixel by pixel, to both InSAR datasets downsampled onto a common grid,
 247 in order to find the map pattern of fault-parallel and vertical deformation.

3.2. Estimating creep rates from cross-fault profiles

248 We first apply the above decomposition of InSAR LOS displacements into fault-parallel
 249 and vertical deformation rates to cross-fault profile data. PS velocities from both SAR
 250 tracks are sampled at 2.5 km intervals along the northern section of the Rodgers Creek
 251 fault, along 15 km-long strike-perpendicular profiles (Figure 2). The profile locations,
 252 orientations and lengths are based on the previous study of *Funning et al.* [2007], to

253 facilitate comparisons between the results of the two studies. We then estimate surface
254 fault offset rates along each profile, using a modified version of the method employed by
255 *Funning et al.* [2007], shown in Figure 3, where a pair of straight lines with a common
256 gradient, but different y-axis intercepts are fitted to the profile data on either side of
257 the fault. The difference in y-axis offset between the best-fit lines on either side of the
258 fault provides a measure of the LOS velocity step (if any) across it. **By fitting a common
259 gradient on both sides of the profile, we mitigate any regional gradient that may be present
260 in the data due to interseismic strain accumulation across the plate boundary system, and
261 any residual orbital errors.** To account for local variations in fault strike and the location
262 of the surface trace, data within a zone **100 m** either side of the fault are excluded. **We
263 tested different window lengths of data either side of the fault to which to fit these straight
264 lines, between 2 and 5 km, to see which would be most appropriate (Figures 4, S1–S4).
265 We choose to use data within 4 km of the fault in our analysis; we select this length
266 scale on the basis of the uncertainties of the LOS offset rate estimates, and because it is
267 significantly larger than the expected scale of the local basin features in the area [< 1 km;
268 *Hecker et al.*, 2016], thus reducing possible effects of biasing our estimates by nontectonic
269 motions within those basins.**

270 In the modified methodology used here, we simultaneously apply the analysis to the data
271 from the ascending and descending tracks, using the two LOS velocity steps to estimate
272 horizontal (fault strike-parallel) and vertical offset rates for each profile, using the method
273 described above. The average **formal** LOS velocity uncertainties **estimated** from our PS
274 analysis ($|e_a| = |e_d| = 1.0$ mm/yr) are propagated through these calculations in order to
275 provide an estimate of the model uncertainties; **we estimate the standard deviation of the**

276 scatter in the profiles as a whole to be ~ 0.8 , similar to the formal uncertainties in our
277 data.

278 In all, we analyze 12 profiles along the previously identified creeping zone of the Rodgers
279 Creek fault that had sufficient PS in both data sets to measure LOS offsets at the fault.
280 These profiles, detrended using the best-fitting linear gradient in each case, are shown in
281 Figure 4. In these, we identify evidence for both vertical motions (similar pattern of ve-
282 locities in both descending and ascending data sets) and fault-parallel creep (significantly
283 greater LOS offset in the descending track data than in the ascending track data). An
284 example of a feature consistent with vertical motions can be seen in profiles J–J' and K–K'
285 at an along-profile distance of ~ 2500 m. Here, a small peak in LOS velocity of 2–3 mm/yr
286 above the 'background' deformation west of the fault, and approximately 1000 m wide,
287 can be distinguished in both descending and ascending data sets, consistent with localized
288 uplift. Conversely, the data from profile H–H' show a LOS offset of 1.3 ± 0.6 mm/yr in the
289 descending track data and a significantly smaller offset of 0.1 ± 0.8 mm/yr in the ascending
290 track data (uncertainties quoted are 2σ , i.e. two standard deviations). Applying the ve-
291 locity decomposition described above to these offset rates yields a horizontal, fault-parallel
292 offset rate of 2.6 ± 2.2 mm/yr and a east side-up vertical offset rate of 0.5 ± 0.6 mm/yr
293 (1σ uncertainties), suggesting that this particular location is dominated by fault-parallel
294 creep with a possible minor component of uplift.

295 Figure 5 and Table 1 show the along-strike variation in fault-parallel and vertical offset
296 rates estimated in this way from our profile offsets. For seven out of the 12 profiles,
297 the estimated creep rate is more than 2σ (two standard deviations) above zero; we have
298 high confidence in the occurrence of creep at these locations, which are within Santa

299 Rosa (profiles K–K' and L–L'), in a central zone ~ 5 km to the northwest of Santa Rosa
300 (profiles E–E', F–F', G–G' and H–H') and immediately southeast of Healdsburg (profile
301 C–C'). For some of the other profiles (e.g. the pairs of profiles either side of the central
302 zone), the estimated fault-parallel rate values and uncertainties are **between 1σ and 2σ**
303 **above zero**. We estimate the one-tail probabilities for right-lateral creep (i.e. a creep rate
304 greater than zero), based on our estimated creep values and standard deviations for these
305 sites (Table 1). At three of the sites (profiles D–D', I–I' and J–J'), these probabilities
306 are suggestive of the occurrence of creep ($P \geq 0.70$), albeit at a lower level of confidence.
307 On the other hand, the two profiles at the northwest end of the fault (A–A', B–B'), near
308 Healdsburg, have a substantially lower probability of right-lateral creep ($P \leq 0.33$), and
309 we do not consider them to show creep.

310 Overall, where we can confidently resolve them, our preferred creep rates along the
311 northern Rodgers Creek fault are in the range 1.9–6.7 mm/yr. In contrast, vertical offset
312 rates are generally smaller, in the range of -1.8 to 0.9 mm/yr. There is a suggestion
313 of an anticorrelation between high creep rates and negative uplift rates along the central
314 portion of the fault segment (Figure 5), but this is not reproduced at the southeastern
315 end of the fault, in Santa Rosa, where creep is also significant.

3.3. The map pattern of fault-parallel and vertical motions

316 We next investigate the spatial extent of fault creep and its discrimination from vertical
317 deformation by looking at their patterns in map view. In order to achieve this, we first
318 sample both ascending and descending data points onto the same regular grid with a
319 spacing of 0.001° in longitude and latitude (approximately 100 m spacing) using a near-
320 est neighbor procedure. Next, each of our InSAR data sets is flattened by subtracting a

321 best-fitting linear ramp, and referenced to a common point, in order to account for plate
322 boundary-scale deformation signals and long-wavelength errors, such as incorrectly mod-
323 eled satellite orbits. One implication of this flattening procedure is that the horizontal and
324 vertical motions we obtain are only valid over short length scales (< 5 km), the flattening
325 acting effectively as a high-pass filter on deformation features. However our main focus
326 is on laterally abrupt changes in deformation rate associated with fault creep, which can
327 still be resolved under this scheme. The velocity decomposition is then applied to every
328 grid point with collocated ascending and descending LOS velocities. An azimuth of 135° ,
329 is used to approximate the strike of the northern Rodgers Creek fault, for the purposes
330 of estimating horizontal, fault-parallel velocities.

331 The results of the velocity decomposition are shown in map view in Figure 6, and in
332 profile form in Figure S5. In general, the pattern of vertical velocities is smooth across
333 the area of interest, whereas the map of fault-parallel velocities has a noisier appearance.
334 There are several likely reasons for this. First, the $\sim 23^\circ$ incidence angle for the Envisat
335 data used in this study means that the data have a significantly greater sensitivity to
336 vertical motions than horizontal. Thus, horizontal motions' contributions to LOS velocity
337 will be closer to the noise floor than the corresponding contributions from vertical motions,
338 and so the recovered horizontal velocities will appear noisier. Another consequence of
339 this lower sensitivity to horizontal motions is that, in effect, a larger 'gain' must be
340 applied to the horizontal components of LOS velocity when estimating the fault-parallel
341 velocity, thus amplifying any noise that they contain. Finally, in order to achieve the
342 velocity decomposition, we have assumed that all horizontal velocities must occur in
343 the fault-parallel direction. While this is a reasonable assumption when focusing on

344 shallow fault slip due to creep, it is much less safe when considering the other possible
345 sources of horizontal deformation that may be present in the data (e.g. landsliding,
346 expansion/contraction of aquifers). Therefore, although we can identify some features of
347 fault creep in our fault-parallel velocity map, some caution is advised when interpreting
348 off-fault horizontal deformation features.

349 As might be expected, we see evidence for a near-field change in fault-parallel velocities
350 along the section of the northern Rodgers Creek fault where creep is inferred from cross-
351 fault LOS velocity profiles. The amplitude of this velocity step varies along strike, from
352 ~ 5 mm/yr within Santa Rosa, to rates of 2–3 mm/yr seen 5–10 km to the northwest.
353 We can also identify relative subsidence of ~ 2 mm/yr east of the Rodgers Creek fault
354 trace along profiles E–E' and F–F' (Figure S5), consistent with the estimates of relative
355 vertical motions made from our profile offsets (Figure 4). Immediately southeast of Santa
356 Rosa, there is no resolvable velocity change in fault-parallel velocity, indicating that creep
357 does not extend further in that direction, although there is limited near-fault coverage in
358 that area. Coverage is even more limited near the Maacama fault, and therefore it is not
359 possible with these data to assess whether there is shallow creep along the southernmost
360 portion of its mapped trace.

361 The principal feature of the vertical deformation map is a rhomboidal area of uplift,
362 approximately 6 km wide with an amplitude of 6 mm/yr, located ~ 10 km south of Santa
363 Rosa. In our previous study, based on data acquired by the European Space Agency ERS
364 satellites between 1992 and 2000, the same area was marked by range increase consistent
365 with subsidence, and was interpreted as subsidence due to net groundwater withdrawal

366 [*Funning et al.*, 2007]. The uplift apparent in this data set, spanning 2003–2010, suggests
367 that this period was marked by net groundwater recharge.

368 Elsewhere, a series of small-scale subsidence features can be identified, including a pair
369 of areas subsiding at rates of 2 mm/yr, ~ 2 km across that lie approximately 1 km either
370 side of the Rodgers Creek fault trace within Santa Rosa. It is not clear what these features
371 represent, but perhaps they could be related to the releasing bend on the Rodgers Creek
372 fault within Santa Rosa, for which a number of secondary normal fault structures have
373 been identified that may bound local basins and topographic depressions [*Hecker et al.*,
374 2016]. Other subsidence features in the region have been attributed to fluid withdrawal
375 and/or sediment compaction or settling [e.g. *Ferretti et al.*, 2004; *Funning et al.*, 2007], but
376 it is less clear which of these processes should occur in the area immediately surrounding
377 the fault. The presence of thick basin sediments (2 km or greater) in the plain to the
378 SW of Santa Rosa has been inferred from geophysical mapping [e.g. *Langenheim et al.*,
379 2006] and from the large ground motions in the area that accompanied the great 1906
380 earthquake on the San Andreas fault [*McPhee et al.*, 2007], but the basin thickness is
381 significantly reduced (to 500 m or less) in the vicinity of the Rodgers Creek fault.

4. Discussion

382 Our analysis of the persistent scatterer InSAR-processed ascending and descending En-
383 visat data surrounding the northern Rodgers Creek reveals that at seven out of 12 locations
384 we are confident that we can resolve creep at rates of 1.9–6.7 mm/yr. At three more lo-
385 cations, the probability of a creep rate greater than zero is at least 0.7. Here we explore
386 the implications of these results in the context of previous results, and also in terms of
387 seismic hazard.

4.1. Comparison with other studies of fault creep on the Rodgers Creek fault

388 As we described above, there have been a few previous studies that estimate the creep
389 rate of the Rodgers Creek fault. We highlight here two that are particularly appropriate
390 for comparison.

391 *McFarland et al.* [2016] measured a series of alinement arrays as part of an ongoing
392 project of monitoring along the Rodgers Creek fault and other major structures in north-
393 ern California. Although few of these observations span the entire period of observation
394 of the Envisat data used in this study, several of them do overlap with the later portion of
395 that observation period, permitting a tentative comparison. We plot the along-strike vari-
396 ations in horizontal creep rates from our InSAR profile analysis along with the alinement
397 array rates in Figure 5.

398 At three out of four of the alinement array sites the 2σ uncertainty bounds for the two
399 sets of creep rate estimates overlap, suggesting that the two observation sets are gener-
400 ally compatible, albeit with a few caveats or points of note: First, the highest creep rate
401 from the alinement array data set, from Mark West Springs Rd, northwest of Santa Rosa
402 (site RCMW) has uncertainties that partially overlap with the nearest creep rate estimate
403 from InSAR (profile I-I'), suggesting that the InSAR estimate could be an underestimate
404 at that location. Second, the longest-lived, and therefore most precise, alinement ar-
405 ray site at Solano Drive in Santa Rosa (site RCSD) has a significantly lower creep rate
406 (1.44 ± 0.14 mm/yr) than is estimated at the nearest InSAR profile (L-L'; 6.7 ± 1.4 mm/yr;
407 both sets of uncertainties quoted at the two-sigma level). This difference might not nec-
408 essarily reflect an inconsistency between the two data sets, given the location of RCSD
409 at the very southeastern end of the creeping zone as identified in our fault-parallel de-

410 formation map, close to the transition to zero creep. Third, we have included the creep
411 rate estimated at the alinement array at Fountaingrove Blvd in Santa Rosa (site RCFG)
412 between 2008 and 2011 in our comparison. Measurements at this site were considered
413 problematic by *McFarland et al.* [2016], suggesting a negative (i.e. left-lateral) creep rate,
414 indistinguishable within error from zero, which prompted a reinstallation of one of the
415 survey markers in 2014. Interestingly, however, the InSAR result for the nearest profile
416 (J–J') also suggests a creep rate that is zero within 2σ error, implying that a near-zero
417 rate may be permitted at that site.

418 A final, and most important, caveat is that the two observation sets have different
419 apertures, i.e. they measure the effect of creep over different distances – over 250 m or
420 less for alinement arrays, versus over several kilometers for InSAR. This implies that they
421 are sensitive to creep over different depth ranges on the fault (the upper few tens of meters
422 for alinement arrays, the upper few kilometers for InSAR).

423 A more direct comparison can be made with our earlier study [*Funning et al.*, 2007],
424 which also used persistent scatterer InSAR data to infer creep rates on the northern
425 Rodgers Creek fault. The primary differences between that study and this were that
426 data from a different satellite system were used (the European Space Agency satellites
427 ERS-1 and ERS-2), spanning a different time interval (1992–2001), and that given differ-
428 ent data acquisition priorities during this earlier period, only descending track data were
429 available in sufficient quantities for persistent scatterer analysis, meaning that creep rate
430 estimates were made by assuming any observed LOS offsets could be attributed to hori-
431 zontal fault motions, rather than by decomposing observations from two lines-of-sight into
432 fault-parallel and vertical components. Despite these differences, since the ERS and En-

433 visat satellites shared common orbital tracks and imaging swaths and a common imaging
434 geometry (i.e. the same radar incidence angles), the data from the earlier study should
435 be similarly sensitive to creep as the descending track (track 342) data used in this study,
436 and a comparison can be made on that basis. The two studies used the same profile
437 azimuths and lengths (15 km, centered approximately on the fault) and the same method
438 of estimating LOS offset with one difference – the earlier study collapsed data from 5 km
439 wide ‘bins’ onto profile lines running through their centers, whereas the current study
440 divided those original bins in half, producing a greater number of narrower, more closely
441 spaced profiles.

442 The upper panel of Figure 7 shows comparisons of both the estimated creep rates from
443 *Funning et al.* [2007] and this study. We will focus here first on the creep rate comparison.
444 Over the majority of the fault segment considered, the preferred creep rate values from
445 the 2007 study are higher than the values from this study, but the difference is unlikely
446 to be significant – the two-sigma uncertainty bounds from each study show substantial
447 overlap, suggesting that for the most part the creep rate estimates are consistent within
448 error.

449 There is, however, one location where the higher creep rate estimate from the 2007
450 study is significantly higher than that from the current study – in the distance range 16–
451 23 km along-strike (measured southeastwards from the profile A–A’ close to the city of
452 Healdsburg). Here, a creep rate of 6.0 ± 1.2 mm/yr from the earlier study is about 5 mm/yr
453 higher than the estimates made in the current study, whose uncertainties overlap with
454 zero creep rate. This is close to the location of the alinement array RCMW [*McFarland*
455 *et al.*, 2016, Figure S2], whose creep rate estimate (4.37 ± 1.34 mm/yr) is also likely higher

456 than that of our current study, but also spanned a different time interval (2008–2015).
457 **The difference in estimated creep rate between the two InSAR studies could be taken to**
458 **imply** that the creep rate at that location could be variable on approximately decadal
459 time scales. We shall explore this possibility below.

4.2. The possibility of time-variable creep

460 Time dependence in fault creep is observed in a number of locations where creep has
461 been monitored in the longer term [e.g. *McFarland et al.*, 2016; *Rousset et al.*, 2016].
462 Alinement arrays monitored by groups from the US Geological Survey and San Francisco
463 State University have revealed a complex picture of fault creep for over 30 years in the
464 San Francisco Bay Area [*Galehouse and Lienkaemper*, 2003; *McFarland et al.*, 2016]. A
465 number of the faults monitored, including the northern Calaveras fault at San Ramon,
466 and the Hayward fault in Fremont, have shown large variations in creep rate in that
467 time. In San Ramon, the Calaveras fault creeps in an episodic fashion, with multi-year
468 periods of low creep, followed by short periods of faster creep [*McFarland et al.*, 2016]. In
469 Fremont, the Hayward fault was observed to cease creeping (and in some cases, even to
470 slip left-laterally) following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake [*Lienkaemper et al.*, 1991],
471 and then, after several years of stasis, the fault ‘caught up’ with its multidecadal rate
472 with a slow slip event in 1996 [*Lienkaemper et al.*, 1997]. Given these other instances
473 of variable creep rate over time, it is quite plausible that the Rodgers Creek fault could
474 exhibit decadal variations in creep rate. However, it is not clear that our data fully support
475 this interpretation.

476 The lower panel of Figure 7 shows the along-strike distribution of LOS velocity offsets
477 from the *Funning et al.* [2007] descending track 342 data, compared with the correspond-

478 ing offsets from this study. Along most of the fault segment, the LOS velocity offsets agree
479 well within error of each other, except for a difference of $\sim 1 - 2$ mm/yr located between
480 10 and 15 km along-strike. Considering the separation between the two sets of creep rate
481 estimates between 16 and 23 km along-strike described above, it is perhaps a little sur-
482 prising that the LOS velocity offsets in the same interval agree so closely. The implication
483 is that the difference in creep rate that is recovered from the data is more likely due to
484 the difference in methodology or assumptions (i.e. assuming that the descending track
485 LOS offsets were entirely due to fault-parallel velocity offsets in the 2007 study), rather
486 than representing a change in creep rate. On the other hand, at the location where there
487 is a difference in LOS velocity offset between the two data sets (10–15 km along-strike),
488 perhaps a stronger case could be made for a temporal change in velocity, assuming that
489 the proportions of fault-parallel and vertical velocities remained approximately constant
490 over the two decades, although we do not have an ascending track data set spanning the
491 period 1992-2001 to verify this.

4.3. Are there lithological associations with creep on the Rodgers Creek fault?

492 As mentioned above, several plausible mechanisms for creep have been proposed, several
493 of which involve the presence of weak geological materials within fault gouge [e.g. *Moore*
494 *and Rymer*, 2007; *Lockner et al.*, 2011; *Moore and Lockner*, 2013]. At the San Andreas
495 Fault Observatory at Depth, the gouges associated with the creeping fault zones were
496 rich in magnesium-rich saponite clays thought to be derived from metasomatic reactions
497 between ultramafic rocks within the fault zone and the quartzofeldspathic wall rocks that
498 border them [*Lockner et al.*, 2011]. With confirmation of the occurrence of creep on

499 the northern Rodgers Creek fault, we raise the question: can we identify any similar
500 lithological association here?

501 The city of Santa Rosa is situated on a Holocene alluvial fan [*McLaughlin et al.*, 2008],
502 largely coincident with the releasing bend in the Rodgers Creek fault that marks the start
503 of creep. Holocene alluvium abuts most of the creeping section of the fault to its west,
504 except for a 5 km segment immediately northwest of the releasing bend where Pliocene
505 sediments of the Petaluma formation are exposed. To the east of the Rodgers Creek fault
506 are Pliocene-age Sonoma volcanics, and, further to the northwest, Plio-Pleistocene fluvial
507 gravels [*Graymer et al.*, 2006; *McLaughlin et al.*, 2008]. No ultramafic rocks have been
508 observed in contact with the fault at the surface where we are confident of the occurrence
509 of creep, although there is mapped outcrop of Great Valley sequence serpentinite along the
510 fault north of Healdsburg (approximately at the location of profile B–B' in Figure 2), and
511 also a series of mapped slivers of the same unit striking parallel to the fault at distances
512 of 1.5–9 km to the east [*Graymer et al.*, 2006]. Further information on the subsurface
513 geometries of these slivers would be required to assess whether they may intersect with
514 the Rodgers Creek fault at depth, and be a viable cause of the shallow creep we observe.

515 More intriguingly, *Hecker et al.* [2016] in their study of the releasing bend in Santa
516 Rosa present geophysical data consistent with the presence of ophiolitic material in close
517 proximity to the fault at depth. Paired positive gravity and magnetic anomalies, approxi-
518 mately 3 km long and 2 km wide, aligned with the fault trace and located immediately to
519 its east, are consistent with a dense, magnetite-rich unit beneath Santa Rosa. Given its
520 coincidence with the southern end of the creeping segment, we suggest that this feature
521 warrants further investigation as a potential cause.

4.4. Implications for seismic hazard

522 The confirmed presence of surface creep on the northern Rodgers Creek fault, extend-
523 ing northwestwards from Santa Rosa, has implications for seismic hazard assessment.
524 Dynamic rupture modeling experiments targeted at similar, neighboring structures such
525 as the Bartlett Springs fault, have shown that creeping areas can channel fault ruptures
526 at depth or arrest them completely [e.g. *Lozos et al.*, 2015]. This would likely reduce the
527 expected strong shaking, although detailed scenario modeling of the Rodgers Creek fault
528 would be required to quantify precisely by how much. The suggestion from previous ex-
529 periments is that the down-dip width of the creeping areas plays a major role in selecting
530 between these possible outcomes, with wider (deeper) creeping areas more likely to arrest
531 dynamic rupture [*Lozos et al.*, 2015]. The sparse off-fault InSAR data coverage in this
532 heavily vegetated region makes it very challenging to constrain that depth from InSAR
533 alone in this case. Additional constraints on creep at depth, from GPS or from character-
534 istic repeating earthquake sequences would likely enable a more accurate estimate of the
535 seismic potential of the Rodgers Creek fault in this area in future.

536 Finally, earthquakes on other creeping faults, such as the Parkfield segment of the San
537 Andreas fault, have been associated with rapid afterslip afterward [e.g. *Johanson et al.*,
538 2006]. The prevalence of creep along the northern Rodgers Creek fault may imply a
539 continuing afterslip hazard to fault-crossing infrastructure in the days or weeks following
540 an earthquake in the area.

5. Conclusions

541 Our joint analysis of the ascending and descending track Envisat persistent scatterer
542 InSAR data from 2003–2010 confirms that the northernmost segment of the Rodgers

543 Creek fault is creeping. By estimating offsets in profiles through both datasets, and then
544 decomposing these offsets into their fault-parallel and vertical components, we are able
545 to identify locations where the creep rate is significantly greater than zero. There are
546 seven such locations, located up to 20 km northwest of the city of Santa Rosa, where the
547 surface creep rate is more than two standard deviations above zero, at rates between 1.9
548 and 6.7 mm/yr, and thus we have a high degree of confidence that creep is occurring. At
549 a further three locations, the surface creep is more than one standard deviation above
550 zero, suggesting that creep is likely.

551 We also use the distributions of persistent scatterer velocities from both InSAR data
552 sets to estimate the map pattern of fault-parallel and vertical displacements. From these,
553 a picture emerges of cross-fault jumps in fault-parallel velocity extending northwest from
554 Santa Rosa, as expected, but also an abrupt transition to a zone to the southwest where
555 there is no such jump in velocity, indicating an absence of creep. The pattern of vertical
556 velocities is smoother, reflecting a higher signal-to-noise ratio for vertical motions, and
557 shows a prominent area of uplift in an area 10 km south of Santa Rosa where earlier data
558 sets had shown subsidence [*Funning et al.*, 2007]. We interpret this feature as an aquifer
559 that, during the observation period, was undergoing net recharge, and had previously
560 experienced net discharge. We also identify areas of small-scale subsidence that in some
561 cases may be related to local structure, such as a releasing bend in the Rodgers Creek
562 fault in Santa Rosa.

563 Our estimated fault creep rates are comparable within error with estimates made using
564 complementary methods, such as measurements of alignment arrays, but provide a higher
565 resolution picture of the along-strike variations in creep rate. Comparisons with data sets

566 spanning an earlier time period [1992-2001; *Funning et al.*, 2007] show that ascending track
567 data are essential for the accurate estimation of creep rate. In one location, immediately
568 NW of Santa Rosa, we find a significant difference in inferred creep rate between the
569 1990s [i.e. *Funning et al.*, 2007] and the 2000s (this study), yet when the descending track
570 LOS offset data from the two studies are compared, we see very little difference. The
571 implication is that the ascending track LOS offsets from the 2000s are consistent with
572 a significant component of vertical motion at that location, and thus less fault-parallel
573 velocity is required to produce the observed descending LOS offset. In other words, it is
574 not always safe to assume a purely horizontal sense of motion for a fault-bounded offset
575 signal. Similarly, without additional information, we are unable to assess whether a change
576 in the descending LOS offset rate between the 1990s and the 2000s, at a location midway
577 between Healdsburg and Santa Rosa, represents a change in the creep rate or whether it
578 could instead be caused by a change in the sense of cross-fault motion (e.g. additional
579 vertical motion due to a non-tectonic process). We would recommend that future studies
580 of fault creep with InSAR take these possible ambiguities into account, and preferably
581 use data from multiple viewing geometries to mitigate them.

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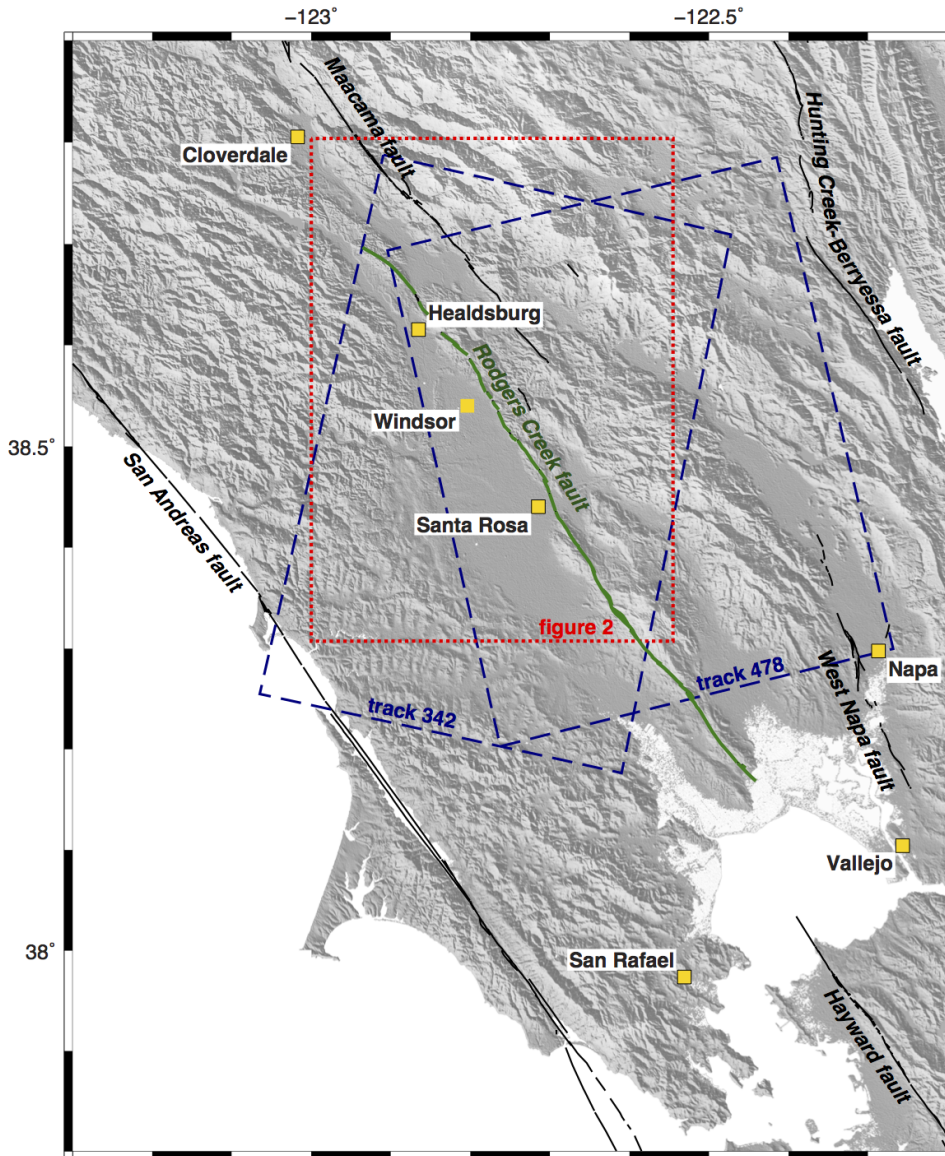


Figure 1. Location map of study area in northern California. The Rodgers Creek fault trace is marked in green, other major faults in black [U.S. Geological Survey and California Geological Survey, 2006]. Locations of significant cities are marked with yellow squares; previous work suggests that creep may be present on the Rodgers Creek fault between Santa Rosa and Healdsburg [e.g. *Funning et al.*, 2007]. Blue dashed rectangles indicate the coverage of the two Envisat persistent scatterer InSAR data sets (track 342 descending, track 478 ascending). Red dotted rectangle delimits the area shown in Figure 2.

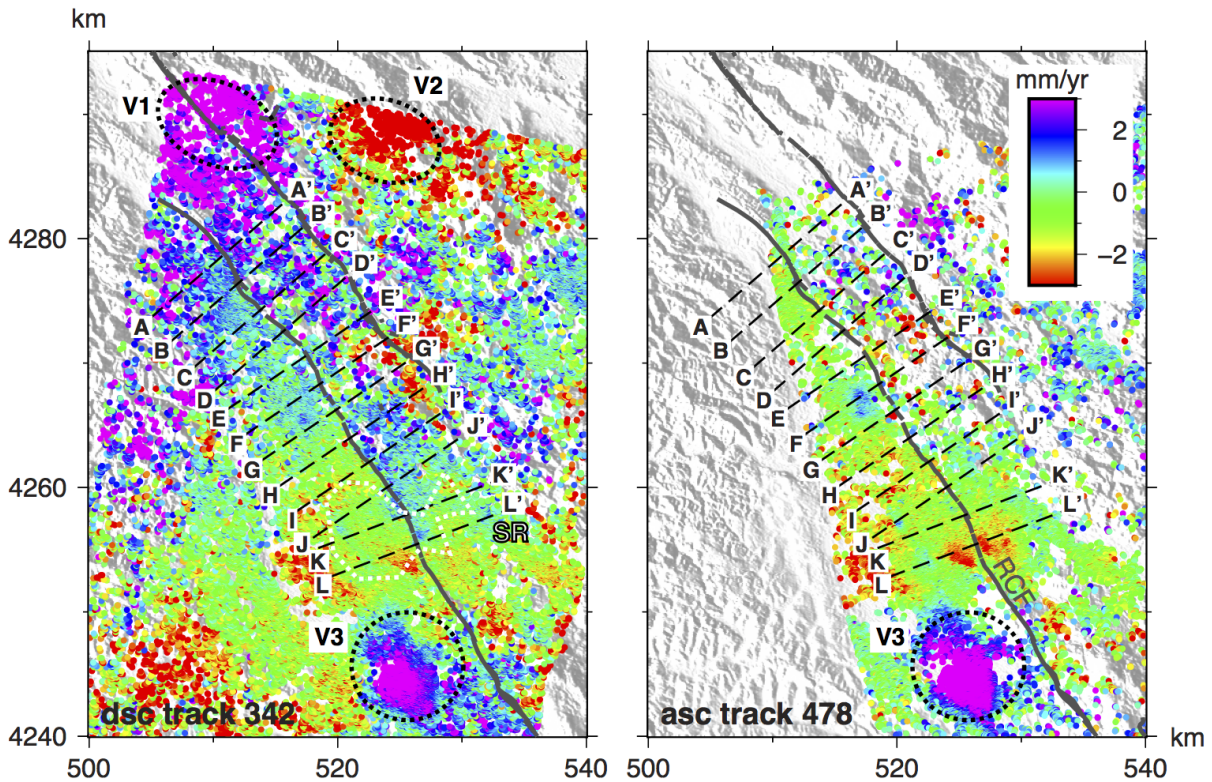


Figure 2. Persistent scatterer InSAR data covering the Rodgers Creek fault. Data shown are best-fitting linear velocities for Envisat data acquired in the period 2003–2010 from descending track 342 (dsc, left) and ascending track 478 (asc, right), processed using the StaMPS software [Hooper *et al.*, 2004, 2007]. Negative velocities (red) indicate movement of the ground away from the satellite, positive velocities (blue) represent movement towards the satellite. Gray solid lines indicate locations of major faults [RCF: Rodgers Creek fault], black dashed lines the locations of profiles shown in Figure 4. Dotted black lines indicate velocity features V1–V3 described in the main text. White dotted line indicates the outline of Santa Rosa [SR]. Coordinates shown here are in UTM km, zone 10; area covered by figure shown in Figure 1.

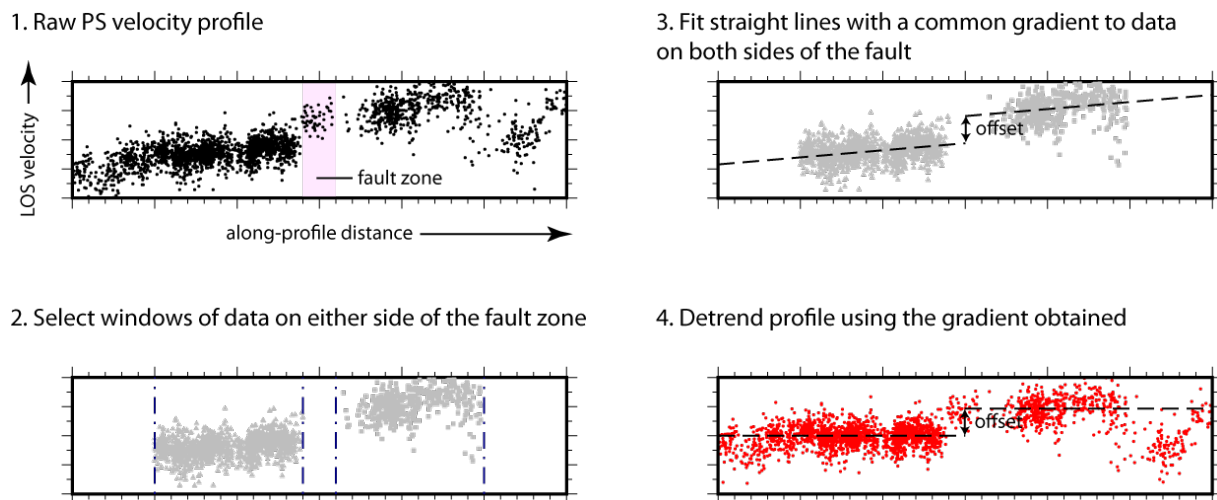


Figure 3. Schematic showing the process of estimating line-of-sight offset rates from persistent scatterer InSAR profiles. Straight lines with a common gradient are fitted to windows of data selected from either side of the approximate fault location. The offset rate is the vertical distance between the two lines on the profile.

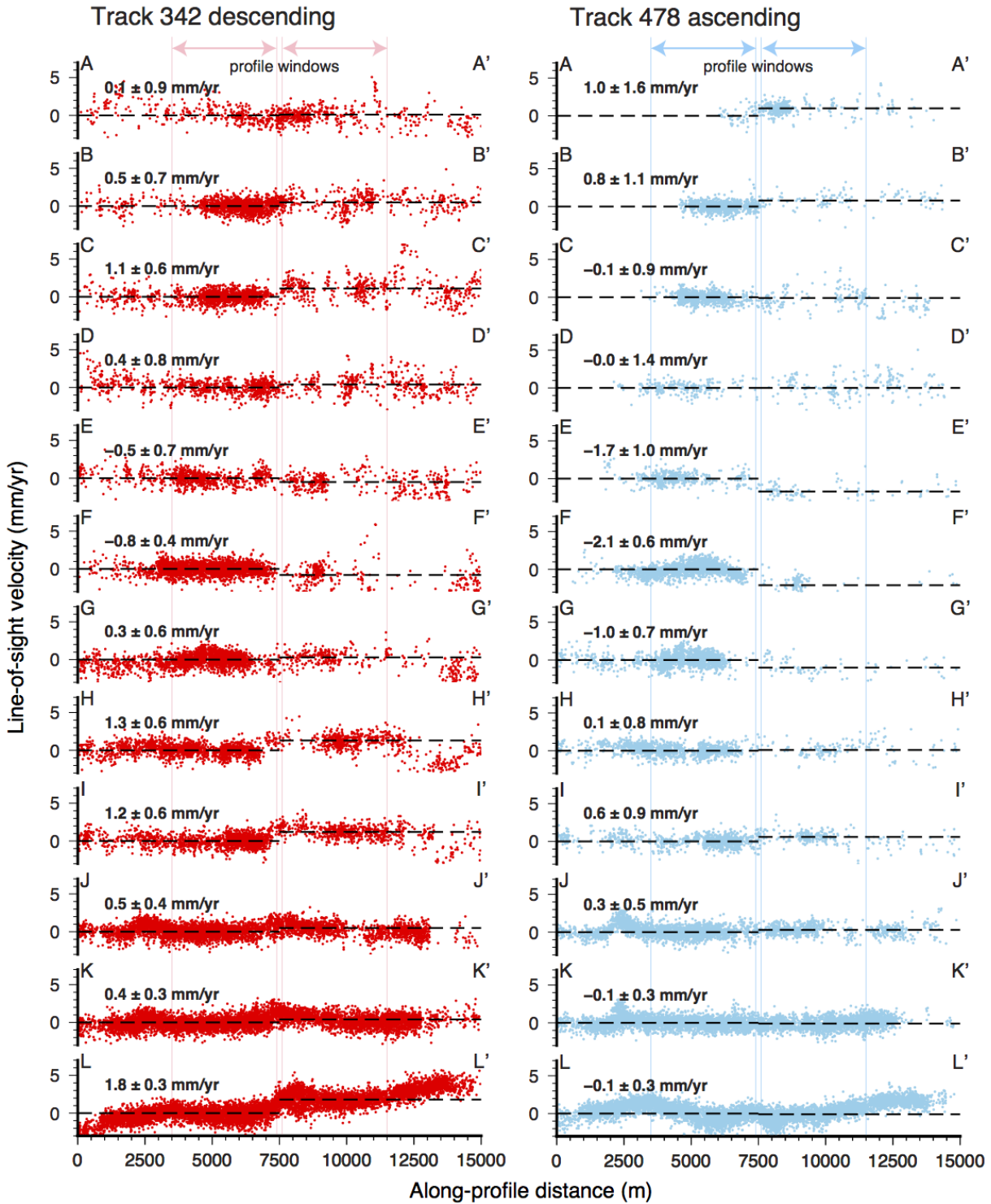


Figure 4. Detrended InSAR line-of-sight velocity profiles for the Envisat descending track 342 data (left) and ascending track 478 data (right). Offsets are estimated using the procedure shown in Figure 3 and are provided with their formal two-sigma uncertainties. A window of data extending 4 km from the fault in both directions is used, data within 100 m of the fault are excluded. Offsets are estimated using the procedure shown in Figure 3 and are provided with their formal two-sigma uncertainties. Profile locations are given in Figure 2.

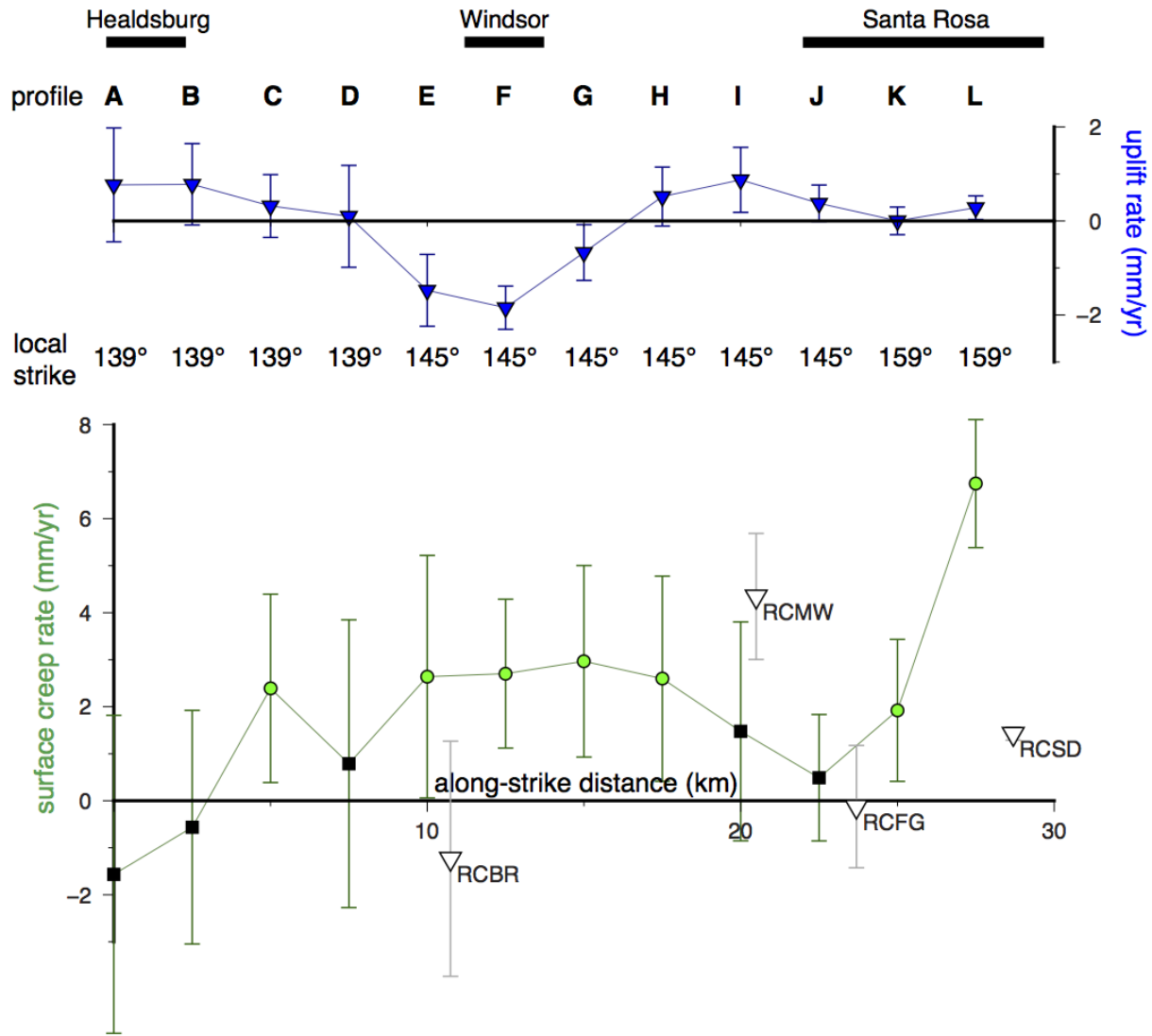


Figure 5. Creep and uplift rate distribution along the northern Rodgers Creek fault. Plotted are right-lateral fault offset rates (‘surface creep rates’, bottom) and vertical fault offset rates (‘uplift rates’, representing east side-up movement, top) estimated from decomposition of line-of-sight offset rates, with two-sigma uncertainties (95% confidence intervals) from propagating uncertainties through the calculations. Two portions of the fault – within the city of Santa Rosa, and a section starting ~ 5 km to the northwest – have creep rates that are more than two sigmas above zero, indicating with high confidence that they are creeping (green circles). These estimates are compared with alignment array measurements [white triangles *McFarland et al.*, 2016]. In general, where InSAR and alignment array observations overlap in space, their uncertainties also overlap, indicating that the observations are compatible, although in the case of RCMW, that overlap is very small. [Temporal coverage of each observation set: Envisat InSAR data, 2003–2010; RCBR (Brooks Rd), 2010–2015; RCMW (Mark West Springs Rd), 2008–2015; RCFG (Fountaingrove Blvd), 2008–2011; RCSD (Solano Dr), 2002–2015]

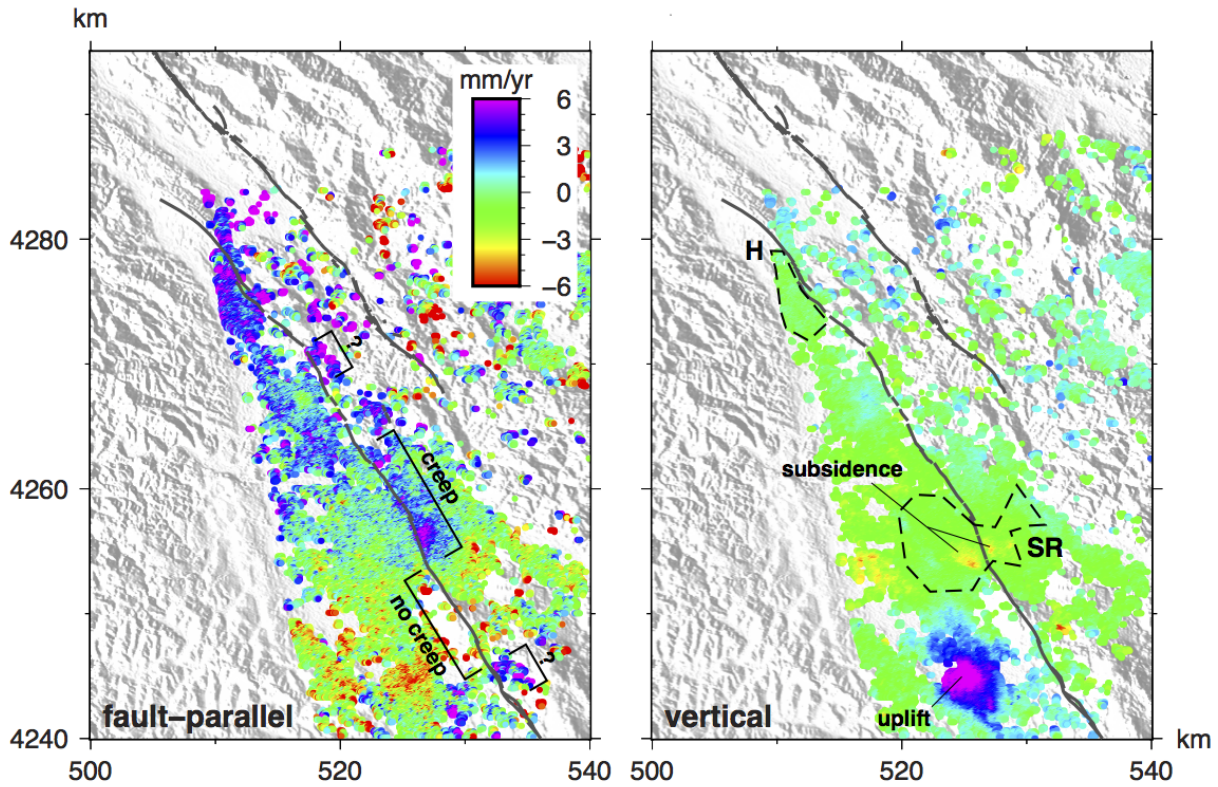


Figure 6. Map pattern of surface deformation velocities, decomposed into fault-parallel (left) and vertical (right) components. Fault-parallel velocities are horizontal velocities with an azimuth of 135° , i.e. positive fault-parallel velocities indicate movement to the southeast. An abrupt increase in velocity from west to east across the Rodgers Creek fault is consistent with right-lateral creep, such as a ~ 10 km zone extending northwest along-strike from Santa Rosa, and also possibly in two other localized zones (indicated by question marks). In contrast, there is no evidence for creep immediately southeast of Santa Rosa. In the vertical deformation map, positive deformation rates indicate uplift; the most prominent feature is an uplift feature with an amplitude of 6 mm/yr in the southern part of the image, that we interpret as a recharging aquifer. We can also identify localized subsidence features across the area, such as a pair of subsiding areas either side of the Rodgers Creek fault in Santa Rosa. [Black dashed lines indicate locations of cities. SR: Santa Rosa, H: Healdsburg.]

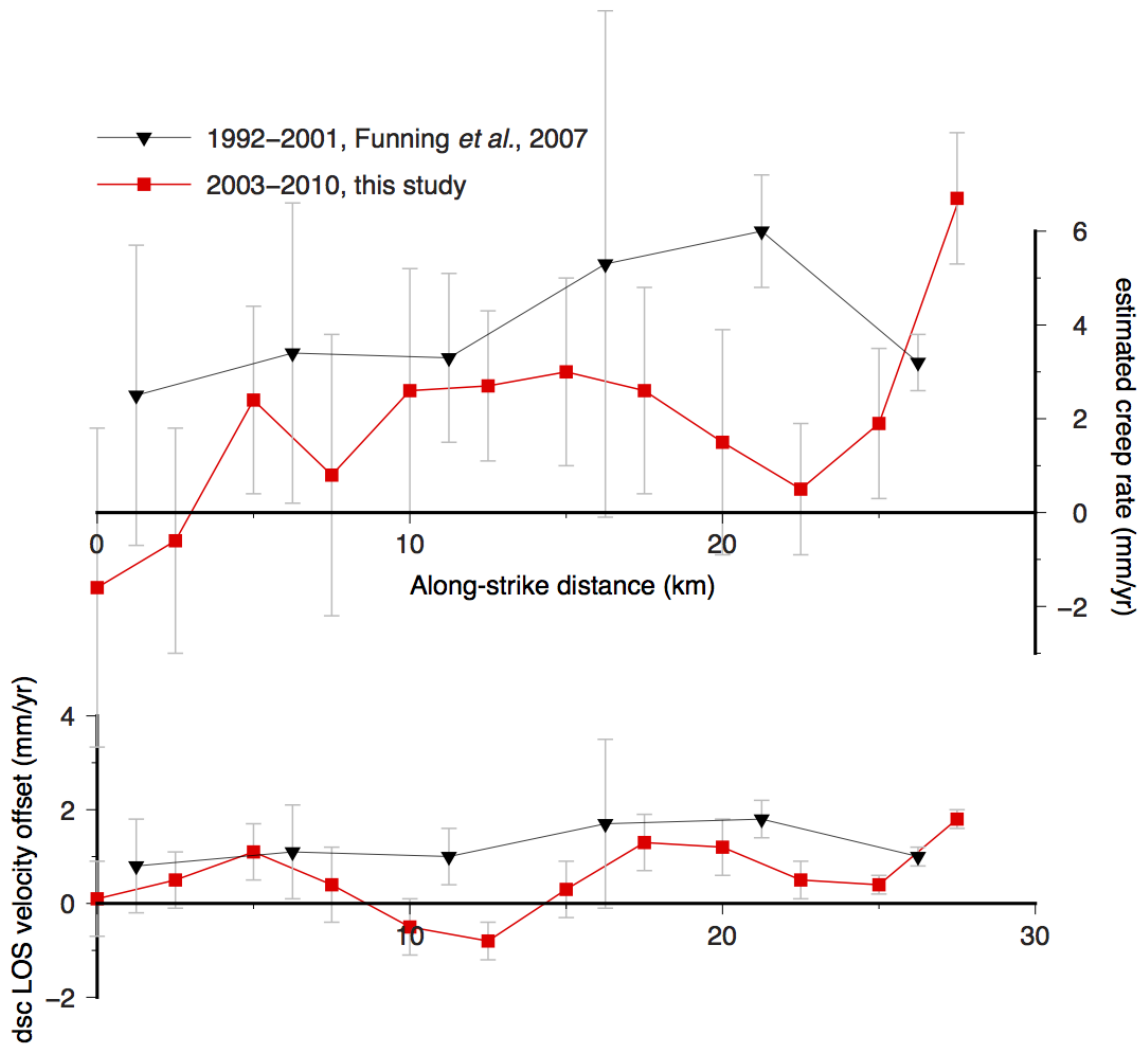


Figure 7. Comparison of estimated creep rates (top) and line-of-sight velocity offsets (bottom) with results from an earlier study. Black symbols/lines are the results of *Funning et al.* [2007], where data from the ERS satellites from 1992–2001 were used and only descending (dsc) track data were used to estimate creep rates. Red symbols/lines are the corresponding quantities from this study, spanning 2003–2010, where both descending and ascending track data are used in the creep rate estimation. Error bars represent two-sigma uncertainties. The estimated creep rates in the range 17–23 km along-strike differ by ~ 5 mm/yr, however the line-of-sight velocity offsets at the same locations are similar. This indicates that the creep rates from the earlier study may be erroneously high due to a lack of ascending data used in the analysis, and that the creep rates may in fact be similar between the decades.

Table 1. Creep rate estimates from profile offsets.

Profile	Distance ^a (km)	Descending rate ^{b c} (mm/yr)	Ascending rate ^{b c} (mm/yr)	Creep rate ^{c d} (mm/yr)	P^e (creep rate > 0)	Vertical rate ^{c f} (mm/yr)
A–A'	0	0.1 ± 0.9	1.0 ± 1.6	-1.6 ± 3.4	0.18	0.8 ± 1.2
B–B'	2.5	0.5 ± 0.7	0.8 ± 1.1	-0.6 ± 2.5	0.33	0.8 ± 0.9
C–C'	5.0	1.1 ± 0.6	-0.1 ± 0.9	2.4 ± 2.0	0.99	0.3 ± 0.7
D–D'	7.5	0.4 ± 0.8	0.0 ± 1.4	0.8 ± 3.1	0.70	0.1 ± 1.1
E–E'	10.0	-0.5 ± 0.7	-1.7 ± 1.0	2.6 ± 2.6	0.98	-1.5 ± 0.8
F–F'	12.5	-0.8 ± 0.4	-2.1 ± 0.6	2.7 ± 1.6	> 0.99	-1.8 ± 0.5
G–G'	15.0	0.3 ± 0.6	-1.0 ± 0.7	3.0 ± 2.0	0.99	-0.7 ± 0.6
H–H'	17.5	1.3 ± 0.6	0.1 ± 0.8	2.6 ± 2.2	0.99	0.5 ± 0.6
I–I'	20.0	1.2 ± 0.6	0.6 ± 0.9	1.5 ± 2.3	0.90	0.9 ± 0.7
J–J'	22.5	0.5 ± 0.4	0.3 ± 0.5	0.5 ± 1.3	0.77	0.4 ± 0.4
K–K'	25.0	0.4 ± 0.3	-0.1 ± 0.3	1.9 ± 1.5	0.99	0.0 ± 0.3
L–L'	27.5	1.8 ± 0.3	-0.1 ± 0.3	6.7 ± 1.4	> 0.99	0.3 ± 0.3

^a Distance southeastwards along strike from profile A–A', near Healdsburg.

^b Line-of-sight offset rates of the east side of the fault with respect to the west side.

^c All quoted uncertainties are 2σ formal uncertainties from propagation of errors through the profile fitting and velocity decomposition calculations.

^d Right-lateral horizontal offset rates, estimated in the local strike direction.

^e One-tailed Gaussian probability that the creep rate is right-lateral and greater than zero.

$P > 0.99$ indicates a preferred creep rate value that is more than three standard deviations above zero.

^f Vertical offset rates, where positive values indicate uplift of the east side of the fault with respect to the west.