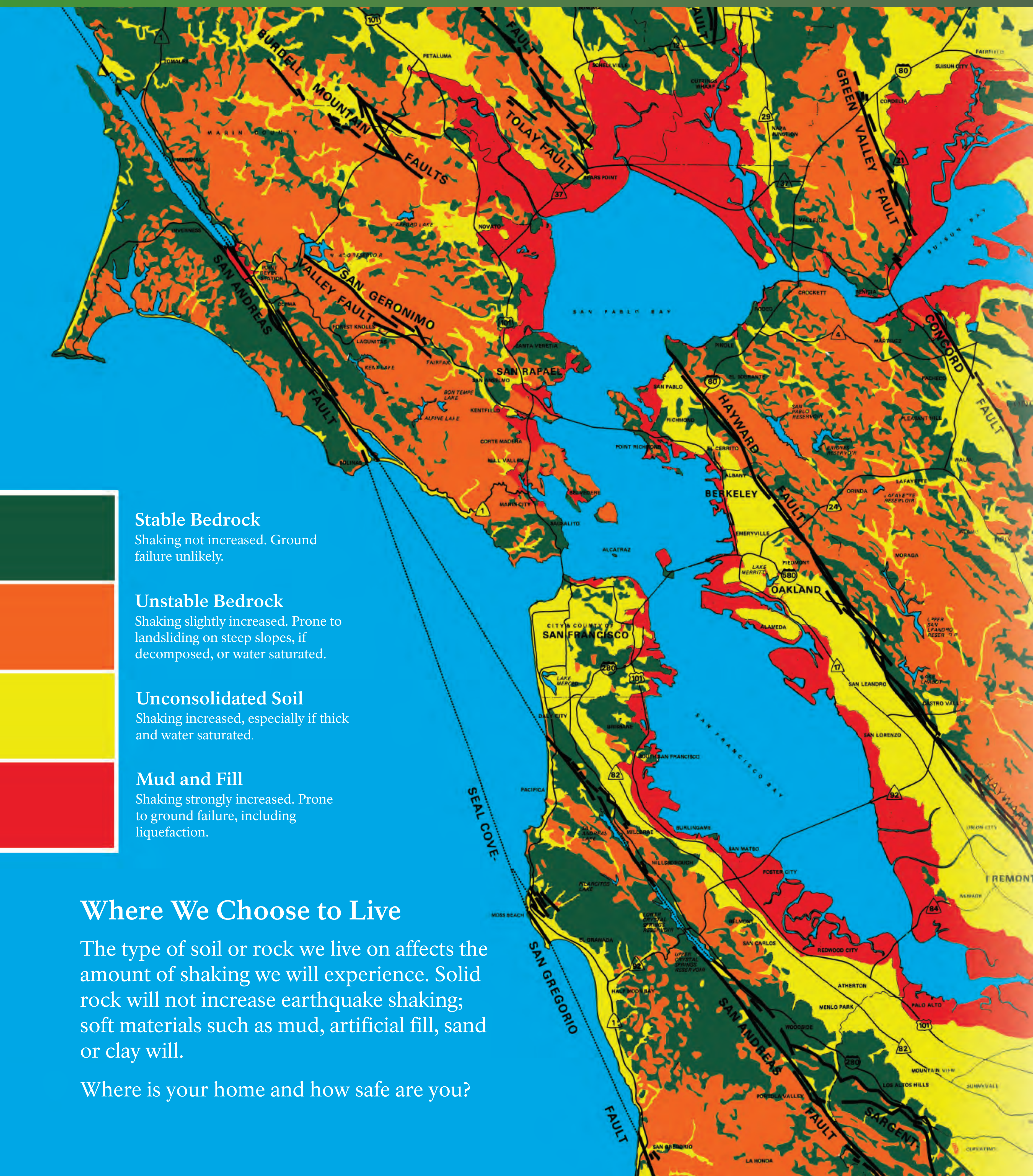


Are You at Risk?



Anyone who chooses to live or travel in this landscape shaped by the San Andreas fault system must know that earthquakes can strike at any time.

Whether standing here in the fault zone or elsewhere within its reach, we must examine our risk before the next big quake. Being prepared will help us cope with the inevitable damage and disruption.



Stable Bedrock

Shaking not increased. Ground failure unlikely.

Unstable Bedrock

Shaking slightly increased. Prone to landsliding on steep slopes, if decomposed, or water saturated.

Unconsolidated Soil

Shaking increased, especially if thick and water saturated.

Mud and Fill

Shaking strongly increased. Prone to ground failure, including liquefaction.

Where We Choose to Live

The type of soil or rock we live on affects the amount of shaking we will experience. Solid rock will not increase earthquake shaking; soft materials such as mud, artificial fill, sand or clay will.

Where is your home and how safe are you?



House collapse near Loma Prieta epicenter

Are You Ready?

When an earthquake strikes, it is too late to think about preparedness. Make emergency plans, keep food and water on hand and secure potential falling objects. Indoors, find safe places to wait out quakes; outdoors, watch out for falling lines, trees and poles. Being prepared could save your life.



Retrofitting at USGS headquarters

Retrofitting Saves Lives

Using frames to anchor and support buildings and roadways, retrofitting strengthens structures built before modern earthquake safety codes. While costly, the expense of retrofitting is small compared to the value of life and property that will be saved.