

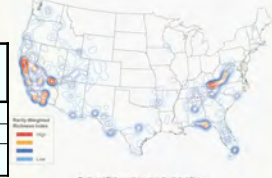
The Unique & Diverse Ecology of California



1888 "Unique Map of California"
Produced by the Southern Pacific Railroad and the CA State Board of Trade

California Biodiversity

Biodiversity Rank for CA among all US States	
Richness	1
Endemism	1
Rarity (% at risk)	2



Taxon	CA Spp Richness	US Spp Richness	% of US Spp in CA	Taxon	#CA Endemics	Rank among US States
Vascular Plants	5,047 (6,272 var.)	15,890	32%	Vascular Plants	2,153	1
Amphibians	51	231	22%	Amphibians	17	1
Reptiles	84	283	30%	Reptiles	5	1
Birds	433	768	56%	Birds	2	2
Mammals	197	416	47%	Mammals	17	1
FW Fish	67	799	8%	FW Fish	20	1

Topography

- Long coastline
- Series of mountains and valleys in close proximity
- Rapid transitions in elevation, slope, soil type, rain harvest/shadow, solar exposure
- Isolated populations/communities
- Snow pack → year-long water

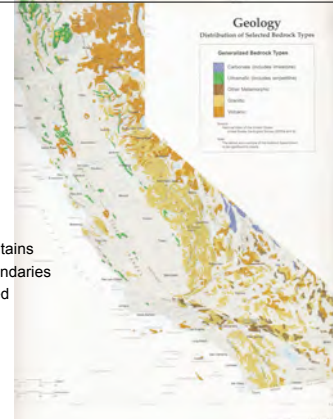


Highest and lowest points in continental US within 80 miles of each other, and 200 miles of the coast.

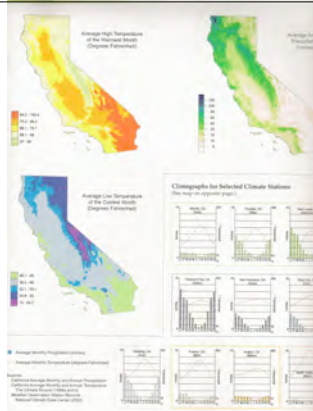


Geology

- Igneous rock: volcanic mountains
- Metamorphic rock: plate boundaries
- Sedimentary rock: old seabed



Climate



Climate

- Major climate types

 1. Mediterranean
 2. Steppe
 3. Cool interior
 4. Highland
 5. Desert

