

# Uplifted Monterey Shale

Can you believe the shale rock in front of you was horizontal at one point? 6-14 million years ago, deposits in deep ocean basins turned to rock (lithification) and then were lifted up by tectonic forces related to the subduction of the mid-Pacific ridge (now the San Andreas Fault). The Monterey Formation that includes this shale is one of the most widespread sedimentary formations in California, stretching from south of Los Angeles to north of San Francisco. The exposed roots from the oak tree above are a much later development.

At various places in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, the Monterey Formation has yielded fossils of shells, crabs, trees, palms, fish, dolphins, whales and sea mammals.

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*Comments Welcome: [slosaul@gmail.com](mailto:slosaul@gmail.com)*

