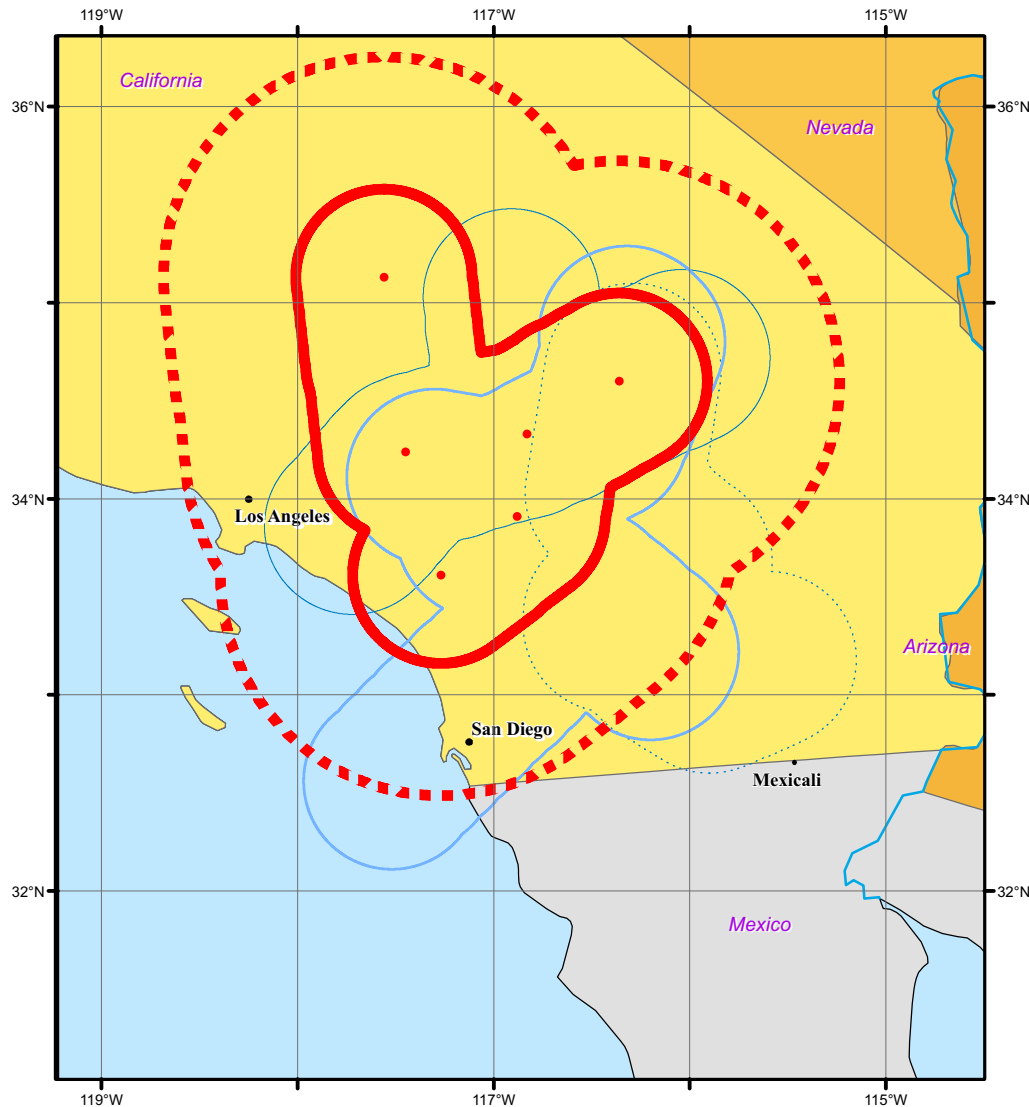


# Experiment in prospective earthquake prediction using Reverse Tracing of Precursors (RTP) Prediction #6b, March 17, 2006



Red circles show the earthquakes that formed new precursory chain on December 17, 2005. Area of alarm is shown by red contours: solid line is for test A, dashed line is for test B. This alarm extends previously issued predictions #6 and #6a. Blue contours correspond to those predictions (test A only, dark blue for prediction #6, light blue for prediction #6a). Dotted line shows the area of the prediction #3 (false alarm).

Starting from October 1, 2005 we test in parallel two versions of the prediction algorithm. Test A concerns exactly the same algorithm as before. In test B we made one change: we increased by factor 2.5 the value of the numerical parameter,  $R$ , thus expanding the area of alarm.

An earthquake with magnitude  $M_{\text{ANSS}} \geq 6.4$  is predicted to occur within the time interval from March 18, 2006, to September 18, 2006, Universal Time. Area of alarm is shown in the figure. This alarm extends the Prediction #6, previously issued on November 16, 2004 and the Prediction #6a issued on October 5, 2005.

Estimated probability that a target earthquake will occur at random in the total time-area of the extended alarm (Predictions #6, #6a, and #6b) is less than 16% in test A and less than 24% in test B. Estimated probability of a false alarm does not exceed 50% in both tests.

**Reminder.** As you know, earthquake predictions should be released to the public or media only by a proper disaster management authority. Otherwise, prediction may trigger profiteering and disruptive anxiety of population. Accordingly, we open an access to our predictions only to professionals who agreed to comply with the above limitation. This restriction is lifted and prediction becomes publicly available when a target earthquake occurs in the area of alarm, or when the alarm expires, independently of was it correct or wrong.