GPS Observations of Postseismic Deformation Associated with the 1994 Northridge Earthquake

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Measurement of postseismic deformation following the 1994 M 6.7 Northridge earthquake indicates continued shortening of the region since the earthquake. In the year following the earthquake a station located about 15 km southwest of the epicenter has moved northward 15 mm. The site moved northeast 54 mm during the mainshock. Another station located about 15 km northwest of the northern edge of the rupture moved 981111111 southwest on the mainshock and has moved an additional 15 mm southward in the year since the earthquake. Both stations show a decrease in motion since the earthquake consistent with an exponential Lijit (scale of decay) of about 3 years. The data cannot be explained by a model of anelastic layer over a viscoelastic half-space. With our current models it appears that the latest data, and the preseismic data can be fit with a model, and a relaxation time of about 20 years for the lower crust. More data are required to confirm this, however. We are testing whether afterseislip 011 the down dip extension of the fault or other faults or nonlinear relaxation of the lower crust can explain the postseismic data for the months following the earthquake. At present we favor afterseislip.

American Geophysical Union
Abstract Form

Reference #: 0000
Session 0.00

1. IUGG XXI General Assembly
2. 07/358687
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10. Regular author

Date received: 1 Jan 95
Date formatted: March 23, 1995
Form version: 1.1