

# **New Imperial County fault line discovered after April 4 earthquake discussed at conference**

**Elizabeth Varin, Imperial Valley Press, 5-30-10**

ANAHEIM — While looking for aftereffects from the April 4 earthquake, a new fault line was discovered west of Calexico by geologists.

This discovery took the stage at a late-breaking session of an annual joint meeting of geological groups, which ended Saturday.

The northeast trending fault, named the Yuha Fault, was discovered by geologists who were looking at how much fault lines had shifted from the 7.2-magnitude earthquake, said senior engineering geologist Jerry Treiman. Major earthquakes trigger slips in surrounding fault lines.

Those slips are movements of the displacement of the fault, according to the U.S. Geological Survey Web site.

The April 4 quake triggered small movements on closer fault lines, like the San Andreas and Imperial fault lines, Treiman said. The new Yuha fault moved the most with more than 2 inches of movement.

It's a "pretty healthy amount of trigger slips," he said. "As a geologist it's always exciting to find something that nobody else has."

While the slips may not cause earthquakes, they could have an effect on commercial businesses in the area, he said. Additional mitigation efforts may need to be taken because of the fault.

"It arms them with more information," Treiman said.

The April 4 earthquake was part of Saturday's discussion, with the rest centered around the 150th anniversary of the California Geological Survey, said Ed Wilson, communication director for the California Department of Conservation. Presentations, showed the history and various things the survey does.

Overall the conference featured new earth science research, according to the conference's Web site. Saturday's late-breaking session featured a half-dozen scientists who worked cooperatively with the U.S. Geological Survey and other organizations in the field to locate and map liquefaction and fault rupture occurrences in the Valley after the April 4 earthquake.