# Learning the low frequency earthquake daily intensity on the central San Andreas Fault

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#### Abstract

Low frequency earthquakes (LFEs) originating below the central San Andreas Fault are associated with slow-slip within the more ductile portion of the crust beneath the seismogenic zone. Monitoring efforts over 15 years recorded >1 million LFEs with >70 per day. We apply machine learning (ML) to statistical features describing the seismic waveforms and estimate the LFE daily intensity. Using 4 years of independent data, the ML model produces a 0.68 correlation. The burst-like LFE behavior is reproduced and the largest misfit occurs during the low-amplitude daily undulations. The ability to continuously monitor LFE activity provides insight to when geodetic measurements of slow slip are possible, without the need for developing a computational-intensive template-matching catalog. Similarities are found between detecting LFEs and tremors, which provides evidence tremors are composed of LFEs. The approach reveals by ML the rich information contained in the features of continuous seismic waveforms.

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#### Key Points:

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9	•	Machine learning estimates daily LFE rate from statistical features of continuous
10		seismic waveforms.
11	•	Model estimates show high correlation with LFE bursts and long term trends in
12		activity.
13	•	Abundant information is available in seismic waveforms to characterize weak ground
14		motions.

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#### 15 Abstract

Low frequency earthquakes (LFEs) originating below the central San Andreas Fault are 16 associated with slow-slip within the more ductile portion of the crust beneath the seis-17 mogenic zone. Monitoring efforts over 15 years recorded >1 million LFEs with >70 per 18 day. We apply machine learning (ML) to statistical features describing the seismic wave-19 forms and estimate the LFE daily intensity. Using 4 years of independent data, the ML 20 model produces a 0.68 correlation. The burst-like LFE behavior is reproduced and the 21 largest misfit occurs during the low-amplitude daily undulations. The ability to contin-22 uously monitor LFE activity provides insight to when geodetic measurements of slow slip 23 are possible, without the need for developing a computational-intensive template-matching 24 catalog. Similarities are found between detecting LFEs and tremors, which provides ev-25 idence tremors are composed of LFEs. The approach reveals by ML the rich informa-26 tion contained in the features of continuous seismic waveforms. 27

#### <sup>28</sup> Plain Language Summary

Low frequency earthquakes (LFEs) are a class of events occurring beneath the sec-29 tion of a fault that produces strong ground shaking. This type of event has been observed 30 along the central San Andrea Fault and occurs much more frequently than regular earth-31 quakes. This study applies machine learning (ML) using statistical features derived from 32 continuous daily seismic waveforms to train a ML model that is capable of estimating 33 the daily LFE intensity. Inferring the daily rate of LFEs allows continuous monitoring 34 of the fault zone using statistical features of daily seismic waveforms, without develop-35 ing a computationally expensive LFE catalog. Bursts of these events are associated with 36 deep slow-slip at the base of the fault that is integral to quantifying the entire slip bud-37 get. The ML model uses features that quantify the energy released and varying frequency 38 content in daily seismic waveforms to estimate the LFE activity. Similarities are found 39 between monitoring for LFEs and detecting tremors, providing evidence that tremors 40 are composed of LFEs. The technique exemplifies the abundant information in seismic 41 waveforms that is capable of training ML models to identify processes deep in the fault 42 zone with the potential to extract more information related to slip events. 43

#### 44 **1** Introduction

Non-volcanic tremor is inferred to be the superposition of rapidly occurring low-45 frequency earthquakes (LFEs) that coincide with slow-slip on the lower-crustal fault in-46 terface where material behaves in a ductile-like manner (Shelly et al., 2007). Observa-47 tions of this class of earthquake have provided insight to better understand how faults 48 accommodate plate motions and allow discovery by informing physical models of the fault 49 structure and frictional regime in the deep roots of a fault zone (Bürgmann, 2018; Ru-50 binstein et al., 2009; Peng & Gomberg, 2010). The phenomenon was first observed in 51 the Nankai trough subduction zone in Japan, downdip from the locked plate interface 52 (Obara, 2002), and later in the Cascadia (Rogers & Dragert, 2003) and Mexican (Frank 53 et al., 2013) subduction zones. Along the more shallow, crustal strike-slip (transform) 54 San Andreas Fault (SAF) near Parkfield, California, Nadeau and Dolenc (2005) also ob-55 served non-volcanic tremor, which provided evidence of slow slip in tectonic environments 56 other than subduction thrusts. Following these initial discoveries, slow slip is now ob-57 served at most major tectonic plate boundaries and is considered an significant percent-58 age of the total slip budget (Jolivet & Frank, 2020). 59

Observational evidence suggests LFEs represent deep shear slip at the base of a fault zone and the continuous monitoring of LFE activity could serve as a proxy for slow slip (Shelly, 2017; Shelly et al., 2007). Non-volcanic tremors also originating from the deep fault are low amplitude seismic signals that contain bursts of energy in the 1-5 Hz range, but are depleted in higher frequencies and are believed to be composed of LFEs (Shelly

et al., 2007). Tremor signals have been decomposed into individual LFEs using earth-65 quake waveform techniques, e.g. template matching, to show the rapid succession of these 66 events produce tremors (Shelly & Hardebeck, 2010). Near the Parkfield section of the 67 SAF (Figure 1), the time and locations of LFEs are cataloged for 15 years of activity and 68 provide a detailed record of deep crustal deformation (Shelly, 2017). The LFEs migrate 69 along strike at rates up to 80 km/hr (Shelly, 2017; Shelly & Hardebeck, 2010; Shelly, 2010a), 70 show episodic, near-continuous, and bimodal recurrent activity (Shelly, 2010b, 2010a), 71 exhibit decoupled behaviour from the northern to southern sections of the fault (Trugman 72 et al., 2015), and can be triggered by low amplitude stresses produced by tides and tele-73 seismic earthquakes, suggesting a weak frictional environment (Thomas et al., 2012, 2009; 74 Peng et al., 2009; van der Elst et al., 2016; Delorey et al., 2017). Observing complemen-75 tary geodetic observations of deep slow-slip on the SAF is challenged by the low signal-76 to-noise ratio of GPS and InSAR measurements compared to the expected sub-millimeter 77 displacements. At Parkfield, Rousset et al. (2019) quantify the average slow-slip moment 78 release, equivalent to a M4.9 earthquake, by stacking all GPS measurements recorded 79 during bursts of LFE activity with the highest daily rates. This geodetic observation does 80 not quantify individual slow slip events, but does show bursts of LFE activity can be used 81 as a proxy for deep slip on the SAF. 82

Developing the LFE catalog for the SAF utilizes waveform template matching with 83 a 6 second LFE example to scan the entire local seismic network and identify individ-84 ual events (Shelly, 2017). The ability to quantify the daily LFE intensity without com-85 piling a complete catalog has the potential to provide insight into the physics of fault 86 mechanics and potentially help constrain the slip budget of large magnitude earthquakes. 87 Machine learning (ML) has shown the ability to predict the timing of laboratory earth-88 quakes (Rouet-Leduc et al., 2017) and quantify the physics prior to the slip event in these 89 experiments (Hulbert et al., 2019; Rouet-Leduc et al., 2018). In the Cascadia subduc-90 tion zone, ML models are able to increase the detection potential of tremors (Rouet-Leduc 91 et al., 2020), estimate the GPS measured surface displacement (Hulbert et al., 2020), and 92 identify the release of seismic energy before the slow-slip events (Hulbert et al., 2020). 93 In this study, we show a ML model can estimate the daily LFE rate on the SAF. The 94 ML model is trained with statistical features describing the continuous seismic waveforms 95 from a subset of local borehole seismic sensors. The final ML model estimates the daily 96 LFE intensity directly from features of the waveforms. The application demonstrated 97 here provides new evidence of the ability of ML models to identify weak sources of ground 98 motion associated with LFEs and the potential to extract more information related to qq slow slip events. 100

#### <sup>101</sup> 2 Data and Methods

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#### 2.1 LFE Catalog and Daily Rates

The LFE catalog developed by Shelly (2017) contains more than 1 million events 103 that occur at >15 km depth in the lower crust near Parkfield, California, which includes 104 the transition from the northern creeping to the southern locked regions of this  $\sim 160$  km 105 section of the SAF (Figure 1a). The events are distributed throughout 88 families at dis-106 crete locations that produce nearly identical waveforms and enable the detection of re-107 peating families with template matching. The Parkfield section of the SAF has hosted 108 numerous  $M \sim 6$  earthquakes, with the most recent in September 2004 (Bakun et al., 2005). 109 The seismicity data along a 160 km transect and within 7.5 km of the fault shows much 110 more activity in the northern creeping section (Figure 1b). The brittle to ductile tran-111 sition is estimated using the  $95^{th}$  percentile of the seismicity depths along the fault and 112 varies from about 9 km to the north and 15 km to the south. Similarly, the LFE fam-113 ilies northwest of Parkfield are between 20-25 km depth and shallower when comparing 114 to the 22-30 km depth to the southeast (Figure 1b). 115

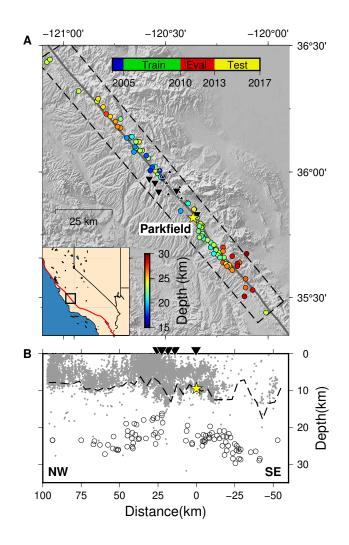


Figure 1. Central coastal range of California in map view. Inset shows the western U.S. with the San Andreas Fault in red and the study area indicated by the black box. (A) Creeping and locked section of the fault (gray line) near Parkfield, shown with a yellow star. Low frequency earthquake family locations are shown as circles with the depth indicated by color. Inverted black triangles are the HRSN seismic sensors used in the analysis; smaller black triangles show the entire HRSN network. The time periods of seismic data from the HRSN applied to model training, evaluating, and testing is shown between 2004-2017. (B) Depth profile showing seismicity (gray dots) within dashed box in A and low frequency earthquakes (open circles). The distance is relative to the Parkfield 2004 M6 hypocenter shown with a yellow star with northwest (NW) and southeast (SE) relative to map view. The dashed black line is the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of event depth along the fault indicating the transition to a more ductile environment.

We develop a daily LFE-intensity time-series that is compiled using all cataloged 116 events between January 2004 and December 2016. The daily count ranges up to 2050 117 LFEs per day, with peak activity following the 2004 M6 Parkfield earthquake, and an 118 average of 202 LFEs per day. Below the locked section south of Parkfield the daily av-119 erage is 131 LFEs per day with 6% of the times exceeding twice the standard deviation 120 from the mean. In this section of the SAF the LFEs waveforms have higher amplitudes 121 and occur at a more steady rate (Nadeau & Dolenc, 2005; Shelly & Hardebeck, 2010). 122 Below the creeping section to the north the average is 70 LFEs per day with 10% of the 123 times exceeding twice the standard deviation from the mean. Here the LFEs exhibit more 124 burst-like activity that was used to constrain the geodetic observations (Rousset et al., 125 2019). 126

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#### 2.2 Seismic Waveforms

The High-Resolution Seismic Network (HRSN; BP network) is a permanent array 128 of 13 closely spaced borehole seismometers located near Parkfield and operated by the 129 Berkeley Seismological Laboratory (Figure 1). The network is designed to enhance mi-130 croseismicity detection along the SAF and is used in the development of the LFE cat-131 alog (Shelly, 2017). We use 5 stations (EADB, FROB, SCYB, SMNB, and VCAB) that 132 perform well when developing the LFE catalog (Shelly, 2017), and obtain all available 133 3-channel (DP; 500 sample per second) daily records between 2004 and 2016. We reverse 134 the polarity and perform channel swaps following the corrections documented in Shelly 135 (2017). The data is preprocessed by deconvolving the instrument response function to 136 obtain waveforms in the native m/s units. From 2010 to 2013 some instruments were up-137 graded with gain amplifiers to improve small event detection, but not all instrument re-138 sponse files were correctly documented, which can produce inconsistent waveform am-139 plitudes after deconvolving the instrument response function. Days containing multiple 140 file segments for the entire day are used and any gaps between segments are filled with 141 zeros. Days with inconsistent channel recordings or only partial waveforms records are 142 discarded. 143

2.3 Data Features

Data features are calculated using the 3 channels of each sensor as follows. The wave-145 forms are filtered with a 4<sup>th</sup> order zero-phase Butterworth bandpass filter using corners 146 of 1-4 Hz, 4-8 Hz, 8-12 Hz, and 12-16 Hz. For each filtered waveform the zero-crossing-147 rate, the 5-95%, 10-90%, 25-75%, 40-60% inter-quantile-range (IQR), the variance, the 148 skew, the kurtosis, the min-max range, and the root-mean-squared are calculated. This 149 produces 40 features for each channel, 120 features per day for each sensor, and 600 to-150 tal for the 5 sensors (4 filters \* 10 statistics \* 3 channels \* 5 sensors = 600 features). To 151 develop a continuous time series with 600 features per day, sensors with missing daily 152 waveforms are represented as a vector of 120 not-a-number (NaN) values when assem-153 bling the feature matrix. The values are scaled to unit variance using the standard de-154 viation of the previous 15 days. Although the ML model is insensitive to scale differences 155 between individual features, this technique scales the features consistently through time 156 and removes amplitude variations from the equipment upgrades. Additionally, no future 157 information is used to modify a point in the time series, unlike scaling by the standard 158 deviation of the entire series. The short window length is selected to remove seasonal-159 ity observed in the waveforms that could potentially bias the ML model. The scaled fea-160 ture time series is split into training (N=1826), test (N=1096), and blind test (N=1461)161 data sets. Prior to splitting, shuffling is not applied to retain the temporal behavior in-162 herent to the data. 163

#### <sup>164</sup> 2.4 Gradient Boosted Tree ML Model

We develop a ML model based on gradient boosted trees (XGBoost package; Chen 165 & Guestrin, 2016) that is designed as a regression analysis to estimate the daily LFE in-166 tensity from 600 statistical features of the waveforms for that day. The ML model is trained 167 using 5 years of data from January 2005 to December 2009 and the performance is eval-168 uated throughout the training process using 3 years of test data from January 2010 to 169 December 2012. We fit 9 hyperparameters (max\_depth, learning\_rate, n\_estimators, gamma, 170 min\_child\_weight, subsample, colsample\_bytree, reg\_alpha, and reg\_lambda) using a Bayesian 171 172 optimizer (scikit-optimize package; Head et al., 2018). Determining the best combination of hyperparameters is an iterative process and requires training thousands of ML 173 models. The hyperparameter optimizer is updated using the average Pearson's cross cor-174 relation coefficient from the training data 5 fold cross validation. The best fit hyperpa-175 rameters obtained from the cross validation are applied to the test data, which allows 176 a quantitative metric to further constrain the search space during additional model train-177 ing to converge at a global minimum. This procedure ensures an unbiased metric when 178 reporting the performance, but produces data leakage since the best-fit parameters are 179 unintentionally tuned to the test data. The final analysis uses the blind-test data set be-180 tween 2013 and 2016 to evaluate the ML model. 181

#### 182 3 Results

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#### 3.1 Model Training, Testing, and Blind-Test

The results for the 3 data sets are shown as the LFE intensity versus the model 184 estimate, and quantified with the Pearson cross correlation and  $\mathbb{R}^2$  values (Figure 2). The 185 correlation metric describes the similarity in the shape of the curves and the  $\mathbb{R}^2$  value 186 describes the variance between the known values and model estimates, which is consis-187 tently lower compared to the correlation. The training data used in the 5 fold cross val-188 idation has a range between 0.75 and 0.80 correlation values for each year (Figure S1), 189 and a 0.73 correlation value and 0.54  $\mathbb{R}^2$  value for the entire 5 year period (Figure 2a). 190 The test dataset results are consistent with the training and have a 0.72 correlation value 191 and  $0.52 \text{ R}^2$  value (Figure 2b). When viewing each year from 2010 to 2011 separately 192 (Figure S2), the correlation value decreases annually from 0.77 to 0.68, which coincides 193 with the network upgrades (Shelly, 2017). The training and test results show the longer 194 wavelength undulation and LFE bursts are reproduced by the model, with the largest 195 discrepancy observed in estimating the higher-frequency lower-amplitude variations (Fig-196 ures S1 and S2). Consistent values are obtained when using 4 and 7 splits in the cross 197 validation to vary the subsets of data used in each validation. For this data set, the hy-198 perparameters (Test S1) are robust to develop a model that estimates the LFE inten-199 sity from the waveform statistical features. 200

After the training and testing is complete, the ML model is applied to the blind-201 test dataset and a 0.69 correlation value and  $0.45 \text{ R}^2$  value are reported (Figure 2c). The 202 correlation values range from 0.54-0.75 if the test data set is separated into the individ-203 ual years, with 2013 and 2016 showing the lowest correlation (Figure S3). The time se-204 ries of the first 180 days in 2015 show the model performance (Figure 3). Qualitatively 205 it captures the multi-day rate changes and adequately estimates the bursts of LFE ac-206 tivity, but does not always correctly capture the higher frequency variations. The results 207 indicate the model is over estimating the LFE intensity when the observed daily rate is 208 <100 LFEs per day. This is shown in the density plot with the highest concentration of 209 points below the  $\pm 50$  interval (Figure 2c) and observed in the blind-test time series (Fig-210 ure S3). Some of the time intervals that are over estimated coincide with periods of miss-211 ing seismic data. Station FROB and SMNB are problematic during days 1-20 in 2015 212 and the model estimate is above the near zero LFE intensity reported in the catalog (Fig-213 ure 3). Beginning in 2010 long periods of network degradation occur more frequently (Figure 214

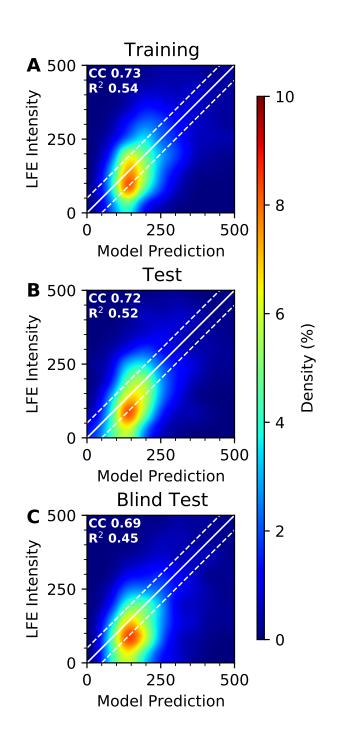
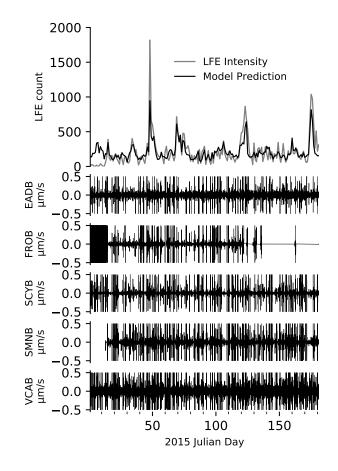


Figure 2. Density plot showing the model estimate versus the cataloged number of LFEs per day for the (A) training, (B) test, and (C) blind test datasets. The white line shows the 1:1 correlation and is bounded by  $\pm 50$  shown as the white dashed line. The Pearson's cross correlation and R<sup>2</sup> values are listed for each in the upper left.



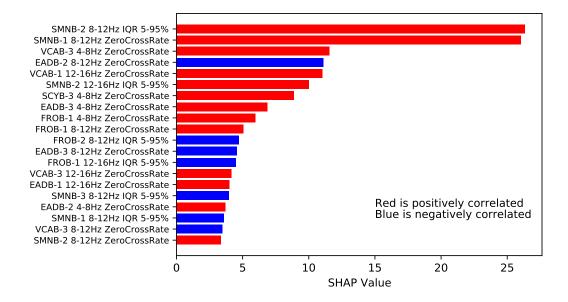
**Figure 3.** LFE intensity shown with 5 seismic waveform examples. The top curve is the LFE daily intensity from the catalog (grey line) shown with the model estimate (black line) for days 1-180 of 2015. The 5 waveform traces shown below are the horizontal channel (DP2) for each sensor used to calculate the statistical features. The vertical axis is clipped to highlight the amplitude variations in noise.

3 in Shelly, 2017), suggesting the ML model is correctly estimating the LFE activity 215 when the template matching was unable to detect all events. To test if the model is over 216 estimating because is it trained using data when the network is performing best, we do 217 the opposite and train a model with the same hyperparameters using data from 2013.5 218 to 2017 and use 2013.0 to 2013.5 to estimate the LFE intensity. The results show an in-219 crease in correlation value from 0.55 to 0.66 for this time interval (Figure S4) indicat-220 ing the model trained with the best data is most likely estimating an accurate LFE in-221 tensity, even if the network performance decreases. 222

#### 3.2 Feature Importance

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Tree based ML model architectures have the benefit of quantifying the feature importance to interpret which information is most influential in the model output. The feature importance is quantified using the SHAP summary value (Lundberg & Lee, 2017) to report the contribution and a positive or negative correlation with the target variable (Figure 4). The SHAP values for the 2 most influential features are more than 2 times greater than the others, but that does not indicate causality, only how the model is obtaining information to perform best. The most influential feature is the 5-95% IQR from



**Figure 4.** SHAP metric showing feature importance with the more influential features having a greater value. The 20 that contribute most to the model are shown in descending order with the feature name listed on the vertical axis. Features positively correlating are in red and negatively correlating in blue.

station SMNB on channel DP2 in the 8-12 Hz bandpass with a SHAP value of 27 that 231 is positively correlated. Inspection of the feature time-series indicates similarities with 232 the LFE intensity but it does not, as expected, match peak-for-peak because of the non-233 linear relationship the model develops using information from the entire dataset. The 234 features ranked 2 through 5 are all zero crossing rate in the 4-8 Hz, 8-12 Hz, and 12-16 235 Hz bandpass and 3 of them are positively correlated. The  $4^{th}$  ranked feature is the zero 236 crossing rate in the 8-12 Hz bandpass and correlates negatively with the LFE rate, in-237 dicating this value is informing the model of when not to expect LFEs. Regardless of 238 station or channel, the top 20 features are 5-95% IQR or zero crossing rate, 13 correlate 239 positively and 7 negatively, and 5 are in the 4-8 Hz bandpass without any in the 1-4 Hz 240 bandpass. None of the central-moment statistics appear in the top 20 best features listed. 241

#### 242 4 Discussion

The ability of ML when applied to seismic data from laboratory shear experiments 243 to infer instantaneous and future behavior demonstrates that signals are emitted through-244 out the stress loading cycle (Rouet-Leduc et al., 2017; Lubbers et al., 2018; Rouet-Leduc 245 et al., 2018). Features of the seismic signals illuminate pre-failure slip characteristics by 246 identifying continuous micro-failures (Hulbert et al., 2019). As shown here, the statis-247 tical representation of seismic waveforms at Parkfield contains rich information regard-248 ing daily LFE intensity. The LFE intensity is thought to be a manifestation of micro-249 failure evolution on the deep portion of the slowly-slipping fault, similar to laboratory 250 studies. Sensitivity tests incorporating station dropout or using a single station (the HRSN 251 station VCAB and broadband station PKD were modeled for single station analysis) pro-252 duce similar results, but manifest a reduction in LFE burst intensity. This is logical con-253 sidering the sources are distributed along a 160 km section of the fault, and illustrates 254 that a larger spatial sampling of features is required to capture the diverse LFE activ-255 ity (Figure 1). 256

The less impactful features are in the 1-4 Hz bandpass, suggesting the ML model 257 is identifying information to quantify the LFE intensity outside the spectral range typ-258 ically associated with LFEs. This observation is supported by the zero-crossing rate in 259 the 8-12 Hz bandpass as being an important feature since LFEs are depleted in energy 260 above 10 Hz (Obara, 2002). The best features reported from ML models analyzing lab-261 oratory shear data are similar to those found here (Rouet-Leduc et al., 2018), suggest-262 ing that fault frictional characteristics are similar across multiple scales. Additionally, 263 applying a variation of this method to slow slip in Cascadia shows that tremor activity 264 is best characterized by the IQR in the 8-13 Hz bandpass (Rouet-Leduc et al., 2019; Hul-265 bert et al., 2020). Further, a deep learning model trained using the frequency content 266 of tremor with seismic data from Cascadia is able to identify tremor on the SAF near 267 Parkfield (Rouet-Leduc et al., 2020). The deep learning model does not provide a spe-268 cific best-feature due to the different model design, but does highlight the strong sim-269 ilarities between detecting tremors and LFEs. This collection of results suggests that a 270 characteristic acoustic release of energy across multiple scales and tectonic environments 271 is responsible for both tremors and LFEs. Indeed, the results show IQRs from 4-16 Hz 272 map to the LFE intensity, identifying a statistical relationship between LFEs and tremor, 273 providing new evidence for tremor being comprised of LFEs. 274

The technique presented here quantifies the LFE daily intensity with the goal of learning what information contained in seismic waveforms is relevant to forecasting instantaneous seismic activity. The statistical features applied to the ML model provide a snapshot of the physics recorded in the waveforms that are emitted in this low frictional environment. The daily sampling applied here filters the information into a 24-hour windows using all LFE families along the fault and possibly obscures useful characteristics contained in the <10 s LFE waveforms.

Applying instantaneous features, we also attempted to forecast the future LFE intensity. The results produced poor predictions, especially during the LFE bursts. This suggests that we must isolate LFE sources along the 160 km fault segment to test whether or not future behavior can be forecast for single source locations.

A limitation to the model was degraded performance during the aftershock sequence of the 2004 M6 Parkfield earthquake. The ML model captures the LFE increase, but underestimates the multi-month elevated activity (Figure S5). Since the ML model was not trained using a data set containing LFEs triggered from a large magnitude event, the waveform statistical properties of this type of activity will not be learned by the model.

The problem we describe is challenging because of the spatially synchronous be-291 havior of LFE families that can produce simultaneous emissions at source locations spa-292 tially unrelated (Trugman et al., 2015), and the frequent earthquakes occurring along the creeping section of the fault. For these reasons the central SAF presents unique con-294 ditions in contrast to other regions where related problems are explored, e.g., tremor and 295 slow-slip in Cascadia (Rouet-Leduc et al., 2019, 2020; Hulbert et al., 2020). Neverthe-296 less, the ML model extracts the LFE intensity with a high correlation to the known rate 297 and suggests the engineered features utilized are sufficient to characterize the slip be-298 havior of the evolving fault system. It will be interesting to apply the trained ML model 299 to other tectonic environments and learn if it generalizes to an efficient approach for mon-300 itoring LFE activity without retraining, or utilizing template based signal processing. 301 Similar LFE analyses across different tectonic regions and faulting styles may provide 302 additional insight into consistent and varying LFE, tremor, and slow-slip characteristics. 303 Our results underscore the power of ML in seismic signal analysis, complimenting pre-304 305 vious studies extracting new information from seismic waveforms (Rouet-Leduc et al., 2017, 2018; Lubbers et al., 2018; Rouet-Leduc et al., 2019, 2020; Hulbert et al., 2020). 306

#### 307 5 Conclusion

We develop a ML model to estimate the daily LFE intensity on the central SAF 308 using statistical features of seismic waveforms. The model is trained using the LFE cat-309 alog containing >1 million events to develop a daily rate and 5 borehole seismometers 310 to calculate features representing characteristics of the waveforms. The ML model gets 311 a correlation of 0.68 when applied to a blind-test data set. The largest misfit is observed 312 when the cataloged LFE rate is <100 per day. Tests during periods of seismic station 313 malfunction indicate the ML model is reporting an increased rate more consistent with 314 315 long term activity. Similarities with the statistical features that best describe the LFE intensity are observed between other ML models that identify tremors and provide ev-316 idence tremors are composed of LFEs. 317

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# Supporting Information for "Learning the low frequency earthquake daily intensity on the central San Andreas Fault"

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Supporting information includes the final model hyperparameters and the full time series plots of LFE intensity from catalog and ML model.

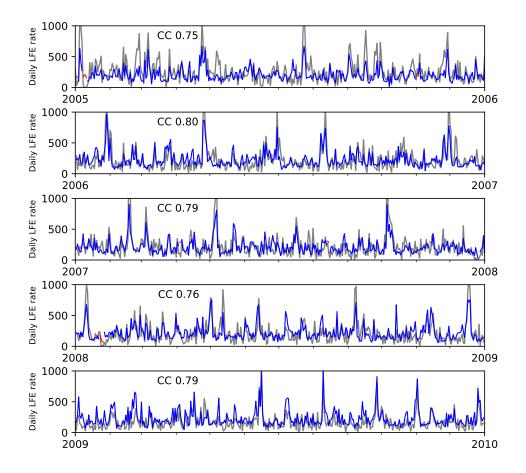
#### Contents of this file

- 1. Text S1
- 2. Figures S1 to S5

**Text S1.** The hyperparameter search space was refined to allow an initial large range, then systematically narrowed to avoid overfitting the training data. The final model is selected after the Gaussian optimizer converges on a set of hyperparameters and the average correlation value from the 5 fold cross validation stabilizes. The best-fit model hyperparameters are max\_depth = 4, learning rate = 0.039, n\_estimators = 688, gamma = 0, min\_child\_weight = 28.73, subsample = 0.764, colsample\_bytree = 0.9, reg\_alpha =

### X - 2

150, and reg\_lambda = 59.668 which produce the highest correlation with the training data.



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Figure S1. Training cross validation results. Each 1 year period is held out and the model is trained using the remaining 4 year. Shown are the model prediction in blue with the LFE intensity shown in black. Predictions in red indicate >50% of the data features are missing. The Pearson's cross correlation is shown for each time window

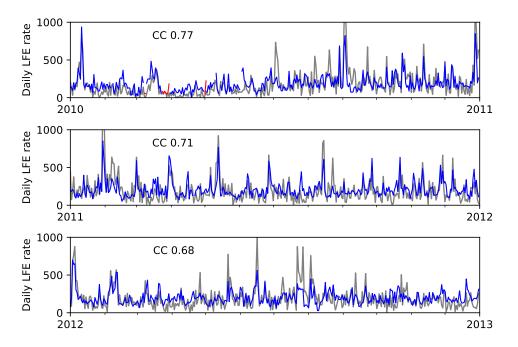
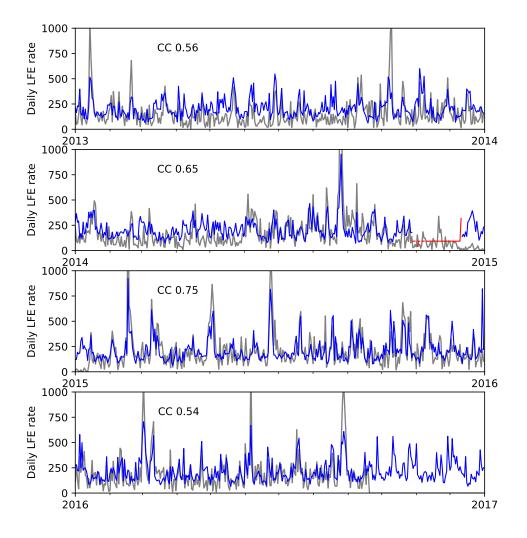
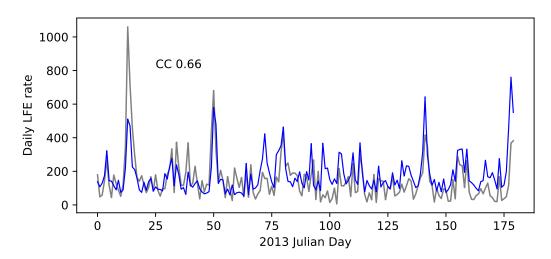


Figure S2. Test data results shown for each 1 year period. Shown are the model prediction in blue with the LFE intensity shown in black. Predictions in red indicate >50% of the data features are missing. The Pearson's cross correlation is shown for each time window



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Figure S3. Blind-test results shown for each 1 year period. Shown are the model prediction in blue with the LFE intensity shown in black. Predictions in red indicate >50% of the data features are missing. The Pearson's cross correlation is shown for each time window



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Figure S4. Evaluating the model performance when trained using data from periods when the seismic network is degrading. Shown are the model prediction in blue with the LFE intensity shown in black for the first 180 days for 2013. The Pearson's cross correlation is shown for each time window

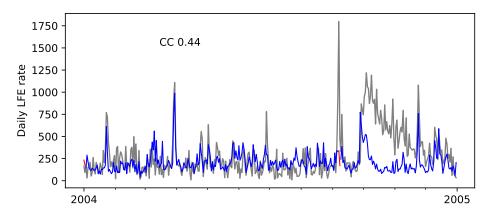


Figure S5. Results shown for 2004. Shown are the model prediction in blue with the LFE intensity shown in black. Predictions in red indicate >50% of the data features are missing. The Pearson's cross correlation is shown for each time window