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*Geophysical Research Letters*

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Supporting Information for

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**Repeating Earthquakes with Remarkably Repeatable Ruptures on the San Andreas Fault at  
5 Parkfield**

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**Additional Supporting Information (Files uploaded separately)**

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16

Excel File: pfield\_repeating\_directivity\_2019\_SI.xlsx

17

**Table S1. Hypocentral parameters for events in Sequences:**

18

The NSCN ID is from the NSCN web page, the origin time from the Waldhauser and Schaff  
19 double difference catalogue (2008), and  $M_w$  from spectral stacking. LM = Sequence number in  
20 Lengline & Marsan (2009). McL = sequence in McLaskey *et al.* (2012). RECU = sequence number  
21 in Rubinstein *et al.* (2012). Note that these ended prior to this study so do not include most  
22 recent repeats. Sequence 9 was identified as two separate sequences by Lengline & Marsan  
23 (2009). A number of their sequences end and start at the 2004 M6 event suggesting that the  
24 perturbation in attenuation and velocity at the time was sufficient to upset their automatic  
25 discrimination. Events from both of their sequences in Sequence 9 were also identified as in a  
26 single sequence by Rubinstein *et al.* (2012). The results of this analysis, including detailed  
27 observation and analysis of the individual seismograms suggests that these should be  
28 considered one sequence.

29

\* indicates event not included in analysis as occurred before current HRSN recording system

30

**Introduction**

31

This Supplementary Information includes a description of the plotting information for Figures 1  
32 and 2, a Table with the Hypocentral information of all earthquakes used, and text (S1-S6) and  
33 figures (S1-S8) providing additional description of the methods, and examples of the modeling.

34 **Text S1. Plotting Information**

35 For precision and reproducibility, we provide the exact information plotted in Figure 1.  
36 Origin: all cross sections are plotted with an origin of 35.9841, -120.5427, the location of  
37 earthquake ID 30227076 in the (NCAeqDD, Waldhauser and Schaff, 2008) catalog. This  
38 earthquake is one of the SAFOD repeaters.  
39 The cross sections are at an angle 140 deg, to North, consistent with the earthquake lineation  
40 along the San Andreas fault at Parkfield (see Thurber *et al.*, 2006).  
41 The 2004 M6 earthquake hypocenter is from the NCSN online catalog:  
42 35.81816, 120.366, depth 8.136 km  
43 The 1966 M6 earthquake hypocenter is from the NCSN BSL online catalog:  
44 35.95, -120.5, and we fix the depth at 9 km  
45 The earthquake hypocentral information for all events used in this analysis is included in Table  
46 S1.

47 **Text S2. Identification of Repeating Sequences and Empirical Green's Function Analysis**

48 To identify repeating earthquake sequences, we require all the hypocenters to be within  
49 150 m of the approximate centroid of the sequence, similar to the resolution of the NCAeqDD  
50 catalog combined with the effects of the changes in near-surface velocity structure following the  
51 2004 M6 earthquake (Rubinstein and Beroza, 2005; Wu *et al.*, 2016). We then check for  
52 waveform consistency and coherency – over 0.9 to 60 Hz for many station-event pairs. We also  
53 confirm that all sequences have been previously identified by other researchers, meeting their  
54 particular systematic criteria for similarity (McLaskey *et al.*, 2012; Lengliné and Marsan, 2009;  
55 Rubinstein *et al.*, 2012; see Table S1).

56 We follow the procedures described by Abercrombie *et al.* (2017a) and use small  
57 earthquakes as empirical Green's functions (EGFs) to remove the path effects and calculate  
58 spectral ratios and relative source time functions (STFs) at each station for each earthquake. We  
59 set the time windows to the S-P time of the closest station, 0.7 s for Sequence 2, and 0.6 s for  
60 Sequences 5 and 9. These are shorter than time windows calculated following Abercrombie *et al.*  
61 (2017a), but at least five times longer than the expected source duration.

62 To account for location uncertainties, we initially search for EGF earthquakes within 0.75  
63 km horizontally and 1.2 km vertically of the sequence centroid, and restrict their magnitude to  
64 between 1.3 and 2.5 M units smaller than the sequence mean. We select the most appropriate  
65 EGFs from these following initial analysis.

66 We deconvolve the EGF events from the main events (Prieto *et al.*, 2009) and obtain  
67 spectral ratios and source time functions (STFs) for each event at each station and component.

68 We use only ratios and STFs for seismogram pairs (per station and component) with a  
69 cross-correlation >0.8 and a depth difference of less than 150 m, or a cross correlation of at  
70 least 0.9 at frequencies below the expected corner frequency (Abercrombie *et al.*, 2017a). 73  
71 EGFs for Sequence 2, 2 for Sequence 5 and 172 for Sequence 9 meet these criteria (Table S1).  
72

73 **Text S3. Resolution and Comparison of the Source Time functions:**

74 To ensure that we have the resolution to detect azimuthal and temporal variation in the  
75 earthquake source time functions (STFs) we compare examples of the source time functions for  
76 each sequence with a delta function filtered to the same frequency range as the data. Figure S1  
77 compares an earthquake in each sequence affected by the M6 and one 6-8 years later after the  
78 post-seismic slip has decreased to the background level. All the source time functions in  
79 Sequence 2 are significantly longer than the minimum resolution indicated by the delta function,

80 showing that azimuthal variation is real, and the rupture velocity reasonable, but small details in  
81 the STFs, of the duration of the delta function, are not. There is no obvious difference between  
82 the two example events. Sequence 5 shows a clear difference in average duration for the  
83 earthquakes with time, but the STFs are little longer than the delta function suggesting that  
84 azimuthal variation could be lost making any measurements of directivity highly uncertain.  
85 Sequence 9 shows a slight difference with time, and STFs that are sufficiently longer than the  
86 delta function to resolve rupture direction, but the rupture velocity could be underestimated  
87 (Abercrombie *et al.*, 2017b).

#### 88 **Text S4. Stretching and Fitting the Source Time Functions for directivity**

89 In Figures S2 - S4 we show examples of fitting the source time functions of one earthquake  
90 from each of the three sequences. The directivity (including dip) and velocity of the earthquakes  
91 in Sequence 2 are well constrained (Figure S2). The direction of earthquakes in Sequence 9  
92 (Figure S3) is well constrained, but not the velocity as a range of azimuths are close to the  
93 minimum resolvable STF (see Figure S1). The source time functions in Sequence 5 are too short  
94 compared to the resolution limit to resolve directivity with confidence (Figure S4).

95 We also compare the results from fitting using a unilateral line source, a symmetrical bi-  
96 lateral line source, or a bilateral line source which extends twice as far in the rupture direction  
97 as in the back direction ("2-to-1", in no case is this resolvable from the unilateral line source).  
98 The results of these comparisons are shown in Figure S5, together with those for the EGF  
99 selection tests described below. For Sequence 2 (Figure S5a) the unilateral model has a lower  
100 misfit than the bilateral model for all events, with consistent direction and rupture velocity.  
101 There is more variability for the EGF selections that involve fewer data, but the principle  
102 conclusions do not change. For Sequence 5 (Figure S5b) the bilateral or unilateral models have a  
103 smaller misfit, indicating that the directivity is poorly resolved. This is expected from the short  
104 length of the STFs compared to the resolvable minimum. The earthquakes in Sequence 9 (Figure  
105 S5c) all exhibit slightly lower misfit for the unilateral model than the bilateral, though this is less  
106 clear for the EGF selections using fewer data. This is consistent with the duration of the STFs  
107 lying between those of Sequence 2 and Sequence 5.

#### 108 **Text S5. Tests of Stability and Temporal Resolution with Varying Stations and EGF Selection.**

109 To ensure that our results are not an artefact of the available stations, and selection of  
110 EGFs we repeat the analysis frequency and time domain analyses with different EGF choices.  
111 Figures 3 and 4 show the initial results which use all available stations and EGFs that meet our  
112 strict criteria, regardless of the time of the target event or the EGF. These results include the  
113 most data, but different sets of EGFs for each event and station, and no correction for any  
114 temporal variation in site or path effects. We therefore perform four tests to investigate  
115 whether this is biasing our results, and whether temporal variation in path effects is causing an  
116 apparent variation in source process. The results of the directivity modeling for these tests are  
117 included in Figure S5.

118 For our first test, we continue to use all stations, and all available EGFs, but divide the EGFs  
119 by time. To compare the time when the region is affected by the M6 earthquake to that when it  
120 is relatively healed, we divide both main earthquakes and EGFs into two time intervals: (a) 2004  
121 M6 to 28 September 2005 (1 year), and (b) all other times, see Figures S6 and S7. Note that  
122 Sequence 5 has only one EGF in each time period (in May and September 2005), and so the  
123 ratios and STFs are less stable. The timing of these EGFs does not fully represent the variation in  
124 attenuation and spectral ratios during the first year after the 2004 M6 earthquake.

125 For our second test, we identify consistent sets of EGFs and stations for all earthquakes in  
 126 a sequence. We restrict this analysis to the vertical component which contains the best quality  
 127 data. We individually select the combination of main earthquakes, stations and EGFs to obtain  
 128 the maximum consistent number for all. For sequence 2 we find 43 EGFs for 7 main events at 5  
 129 stations with minimum cross-correlation for at least one mainshock-EGF pair at one station, and  
 130 a median correlation of 0.7 for all EGFs at all stations for all events. Sequence 9 we find 69 EGFs  
 131 for 8 mains at 6 stations. For Sequence 5, we only have two EGFs; they are consistent across the  
 132 majority of stations (6) and events (6) but we do not analyze this sequence in this manner, as  
 133 the results are little different from those of including all data and less stable.

134 Our third test (for Sequences 2 and 9) uses the same consistent sets of stations and EGFs  
 135 but further divides the EGFs into the two time intervals described in the initial test.

136 Using only the consistent stations and EGFs decreases the number of events and stations  
 137 we can analyze (Figures 3, 4, S6b and S7b), but we do not observe any systematic differences  
 138 between these results and those using all data, implying that small variations in EGFs and  
 139 components between stations and events has a negligible effect.

140 Using different temporal sets of EGFs (compare Figures 3, 4, to S6a and S7a, and S6b and  
 141 S7b to S6c and S7c) removes some of the temporal variation in the spectral ratios (bringing the  
 142 red and black ratios closer to the yellow), implying that a significant part of this variation is  
 143 caused by attenuation. We try further dividing the sequences into shorter time periods to  
 144 address the changes in frequency content during the months following the M6 earthquake  
 145 (compare red to black ratios in Figures), but the numbers of EGFs become too small to obtain  
 146 any reliable trends. For Sequence 5 the difference between the two EGFs, at 6 and 12 months  
 147 following the M6, is likely to represent the variation attenuation less well than the larger  
 148 number of EGFs for Sequences 2 and 9 that better sample the time period immediately after the  
 149 M6.

150 We perform one further test of the spectral ratios to investigate the relative effects of  
 151 temporal variation in source and attenuation. We use the same set of EGFs for all events in each  
 152 sequence, independent of time (our second test), and then apply the attenuation increase  
 153 calculated by Kelly *et al.* (2015) to those target earthquakes that occur within a year of the 2004  
 154 M6 (Figure S7). We try values of  $\Delta t^* = 0.001, 0.0025$  to represent the range that they observe  
 155 throughout the first year, and 0.005 to consider a higher value; Figure S7 shows  $\Delta t^*=0.0025$ .  
 156 This extra attenuation is able to account for most, if not all, of the temporal variation in  
 157 frequency content in the ratios. However, we note that these attenuation values were  
 158 calculated under the assumption that there was no temporal change in source properties during  
 159 this time period.

160

### 161 **Text S6. Corner Frequency and Stress drop as a function of time**

162 For comparison with previous work we fit the spectral ratios to obtain Brune-style corner  
 163 frequencies and stress drops for the earthquakes we study. We calculate a station-weighted  
 164 estimate for each event by stacking the ratios from each station. We fit the ratios with:

$$\frac{\dot{M}_1(f)}{\dot{M}_2(f)} = \frac{M_{01}}{M_{02}} \left( \frac{1 + \left( \frac{f}{f_{c1}} \right)^{\gamma n}}{1 + \left( \frac{f}{f_{c2}} \right)^{\gamma n}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma}} \quad (1)$$

165

166

167 where  $f$  is frequency,  $f_{c1}$  and  $f_{c2}$  are the corner frequencies of the large and small  
 168 earthquakes (target and EGF), respectively,  $M_{01}$  and  $M_{02}$  are the seismic moments of the large  
 169 and small earthquakes, respectively,  $n$  is the high-frequency fall off (we assume  $n=2$ ), and  $\gamma$  is a  
 170 constant controlling the shape of the corner (we assume  $\gamma=2$ ), Brune 1970; Boatwright 1980.  
 171 We place constraints on  $f_{c2}$  by limiting the stress drop of the stacked EGFs to between 1 and 50  
 172 MPa to constrain the solution (Shearer *et al.*, 2019).  
 173 To calculate the  $M_w$  we perform a spectral decomposition analysis (Allmann and Shearer, 2007)  
 174 using HRSN recordings of over 5000 earthquakes located along a 80 km stretch of the San  
 175 Andreas fault centered on SAFOD. We calculate the relative amplitudes of the event terms in  
 176 the frequency range 2-4 Hz, which are proportional to the seismic moment, and convert them to  
 177  $M_w$  by assuming that  $M_3 = M_w / 3$ .  
 178 We calculate the stress drop ( $\Delta\sigma$ ), following Eshelby (1957)

$$179 \quad \Delta\sigma = \frac{7M_0}{16} \frac{f_c^3}{k^3\beta^3} \quad (2)$$

180 where  $\beta$  is the  $S$  wave velocity, and  $k$  is determined by the source model, we assume  
 181  $k=0.32$  (Kaneko and Shearer, 2014; Abercrombie *et al.*, 2017a). We use  $\beta = 3$  km/s for Sequence  
 182 2,  $\beta = 3.3$  km/s for Sequence 5 and  $\beta = 3.2$  km/s for Sequence 9 based on the velocity model at  
 183 their respective locations (Thurber *et al.*, 2006). We fit the spectral ratios obtained from the four  
 184 different sets of EGF analyses described above. The results are shown in Figure S8, for all events  
 185 with well-constrained fits. Most stress drops are in the typical range of ~5-50 MPa, and  
 186 correspond to rupture dimensions of ~80 m, ~30m and ~50 m for Sequence 2, 5 and 9  
 187 earthquakes, respectively. Sequence 2 earthquakes have essentially constant stress drop and  
 188 corner frequency within resolution. Sequence 5 show a clear decrease in corner frequency and  
 189 stress drop following the 2004 M6 event, indicating an increase in rupture area, then gradual  
 190 recovery to pre-2004 levels. The corner frequencies of many earthquakes in this sequence were  
 191 too high to be resolved within the bandwidth of the data – especially when only subsets of the  
 192 EGFs were included. From our tests of time-dependent attenuation, it is possible that some, if  
 193 not all, of this apparent source variation is an artifact of attenuation changes following the 2004  
 194 M6 earthquake. Sequence 9 shows a small decrease in corner frequency, following the 2004 M6  
 195 earthquake, for time-independent EGF selections, but this disappears when correction for the  
 196 time varying attenuation is included, suggesting that no resolvable change in source properties  
 197 occurred.

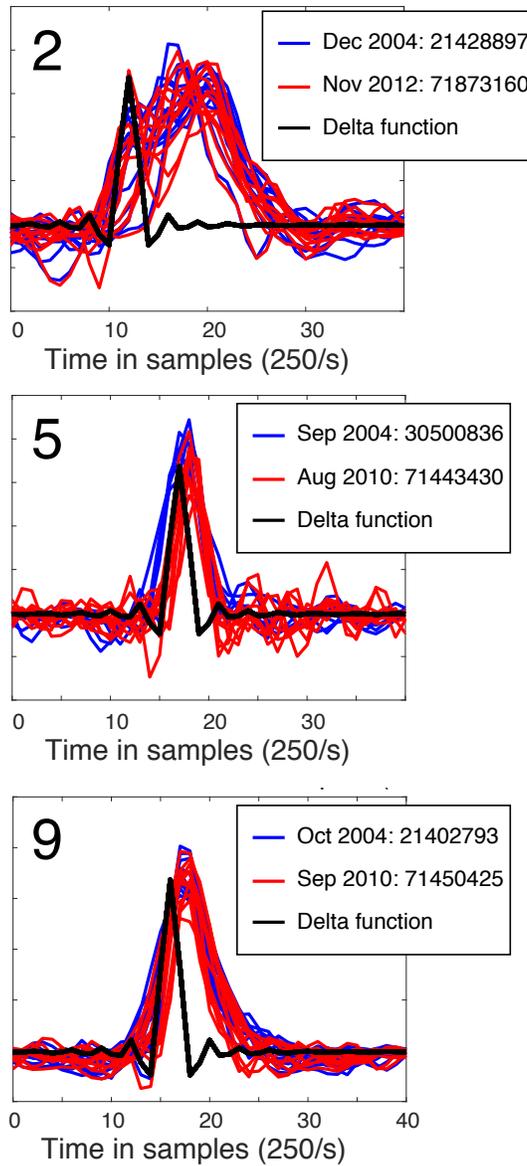
198 We show the resulting values in Figure S8. Since we know that the earthquakes in at least two  
 199 sequences show clear directivity, the simple circular approximation is not ideal but we include  
 200 the numbers to show that these earthquakes exhibit stress drops well within the typical range,  
 201 when calculated under the same assumptions. It also enables us to place quantitative  
 202 constraints on any decrease in stress drop and increase in rupture area (decrease in corner  
 203 frequency) observed for the earthquakes in Sequence 5 following the M6 2004 earthquake. We  
 204 include the results from using the different selections of EGFs to show how much variability this  
 205 source of uncertainty contributes.

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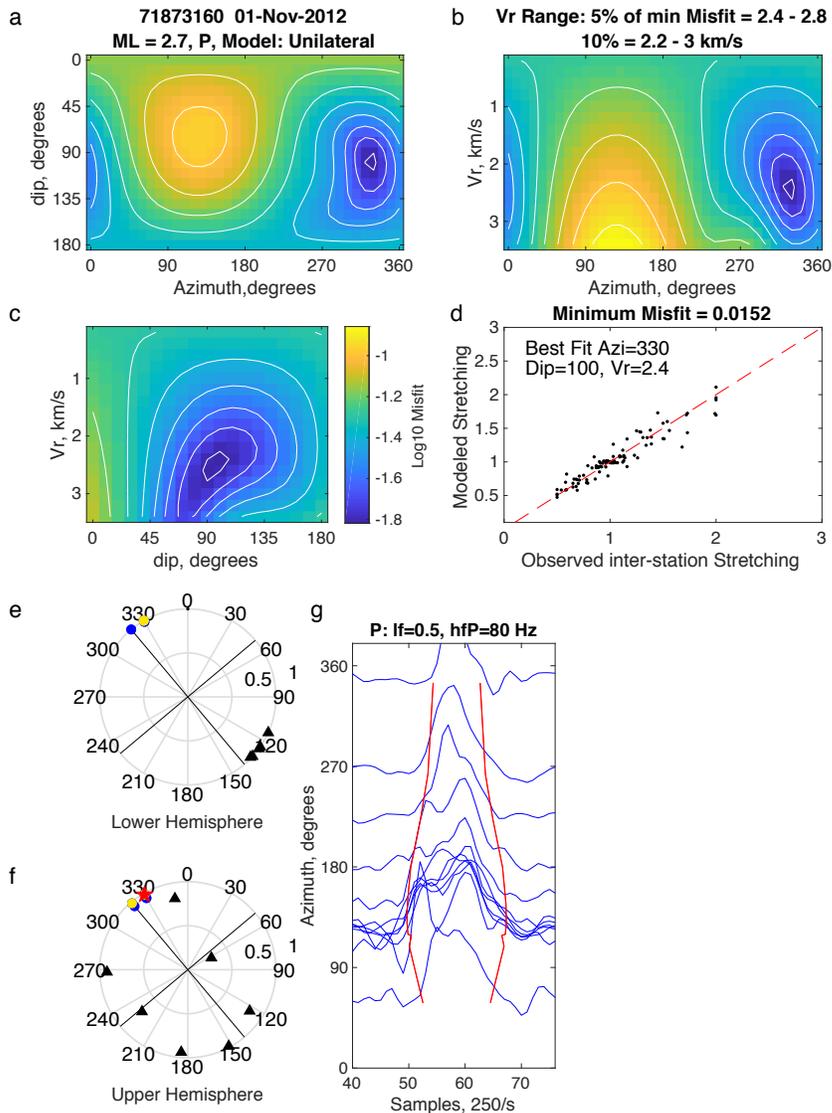
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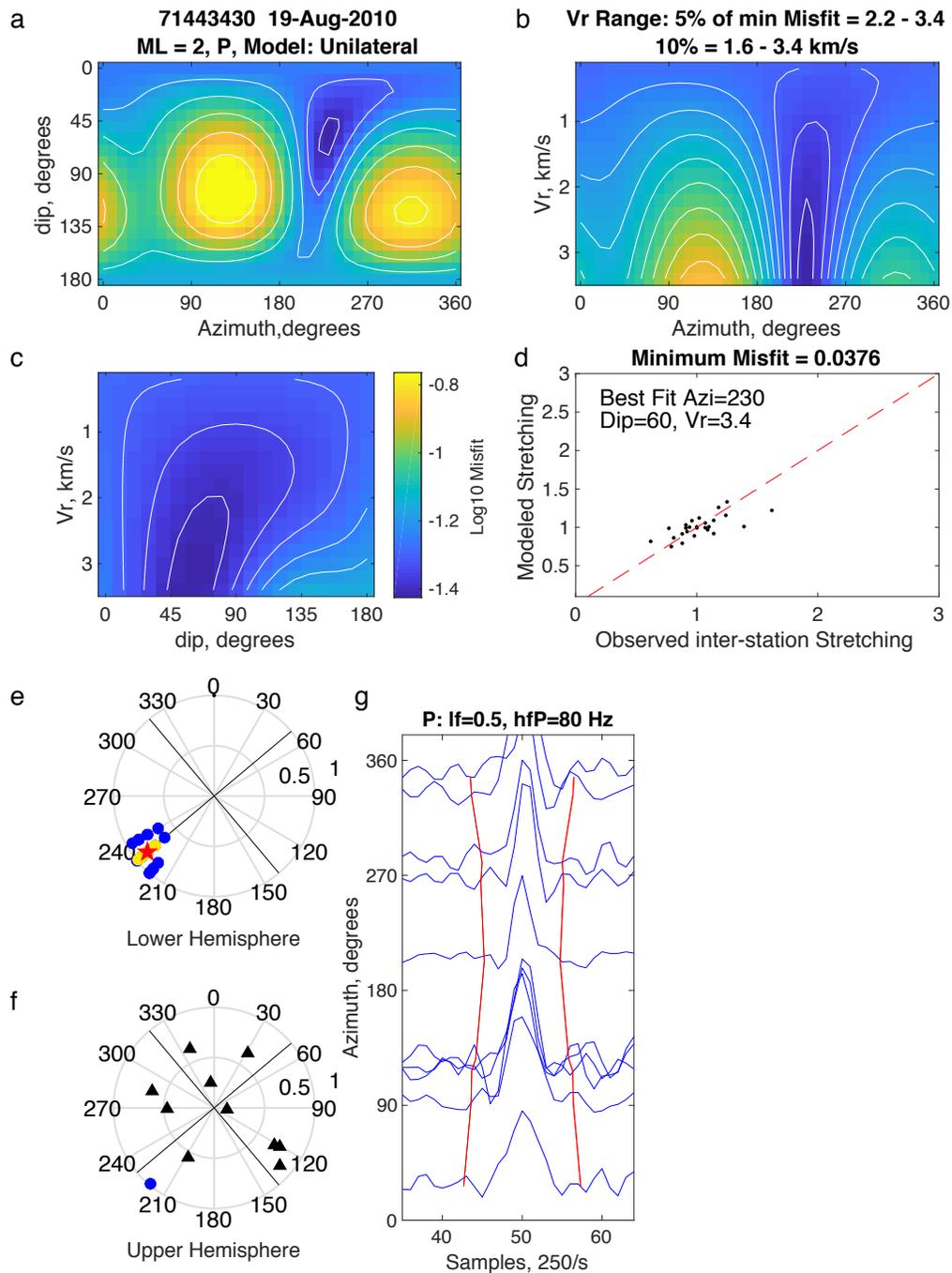
254 **Figure S1.** Resolution of source time functions (STFs). For each sequence the STFs at all stations  
255 are compared for (1) an event strongly affected by the 28 Sep 2004 M6 earthquake (blue), (2)  
256 one 6-8 years later after post-seismic slip has decreased to background level (red) , and the  
257 resolvable delta-function – a spike that is sampled and filtered (<80 Hz) in the same manner as  
258 the data. Sequence 2 shows no obvious difference between earthquakes at different times, and  
259 the STFs are significantly longer than the resolvable delta function showing that azimuthal  
260 variation is real, but small details in the STFs, of the duration of the delta function, are not.

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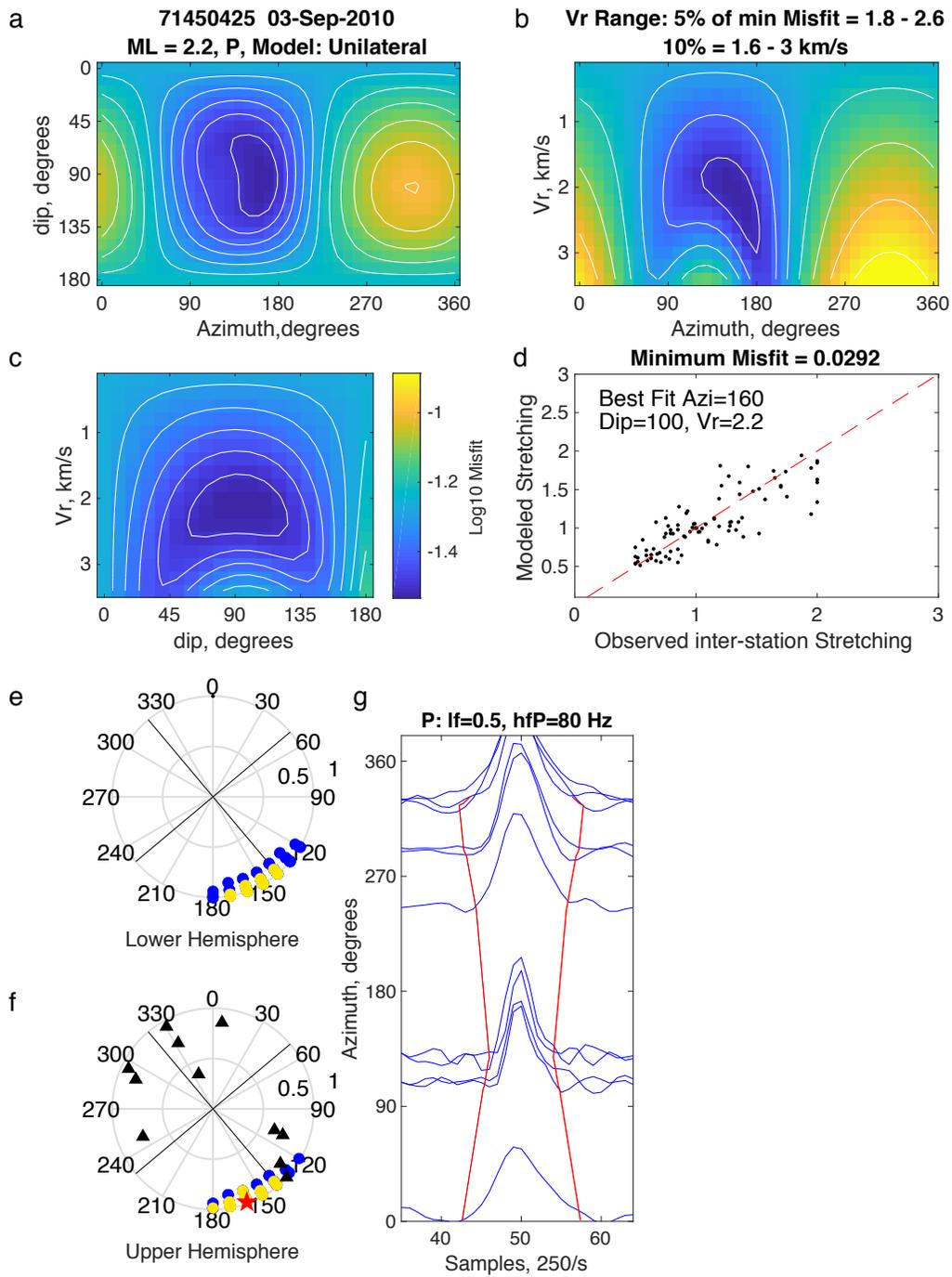
263 **Figure S2.** Stretching and Modelling earthquake ID 71873160 in Sequence 2, using all EGFs and  
 264 stations and assuming a unilateral line source. (a), (b), and (c) the misfit between the azimuthal  
 265 variation in stretching of the STFs and the unilateral line source, as a function of line azimuth,  
 266 dip (0 = vertically up, 90 = horizontal and 180 = vertically down), and rupture velocity. (d)  
 267 relative stretching between each pair of stations from the STFs compared to that predicted by  
 268 the best fitting line source. The red line shows 1:1 correspondence. (e) the lower and (f) the  
 269 upper hemisphere focal spheres; a strike-slip mechanism aligned with the San Andreas Fault is  
 270 shown in both plots, but otherwise they only show upper and lower hemisphere angles,  
 271 respectively. The black triangles are the stations used, the red star is the best fitting line source  
 272 (minimum misfit), the yellow region shows the directions with misfit within 5% of the minimum,  
 273 and the blue the directions within 10% of the minimum. (g) the P wave (blue, cyan if not  
 274 included) source time functions used in the analysis, with filter frequencies. The red lines  
 275 indicate how the duration varies for the best fitting line source. They are centered on the STFs,  
 276 with a mean duration of the approximate duration of the STF estimated by stacking all stations.  
 277



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279 **Figure S3.** Stretching and Modelling earthquake ID 71443430 in Sequence 5. See Figure S2 for  
 280 explanation.

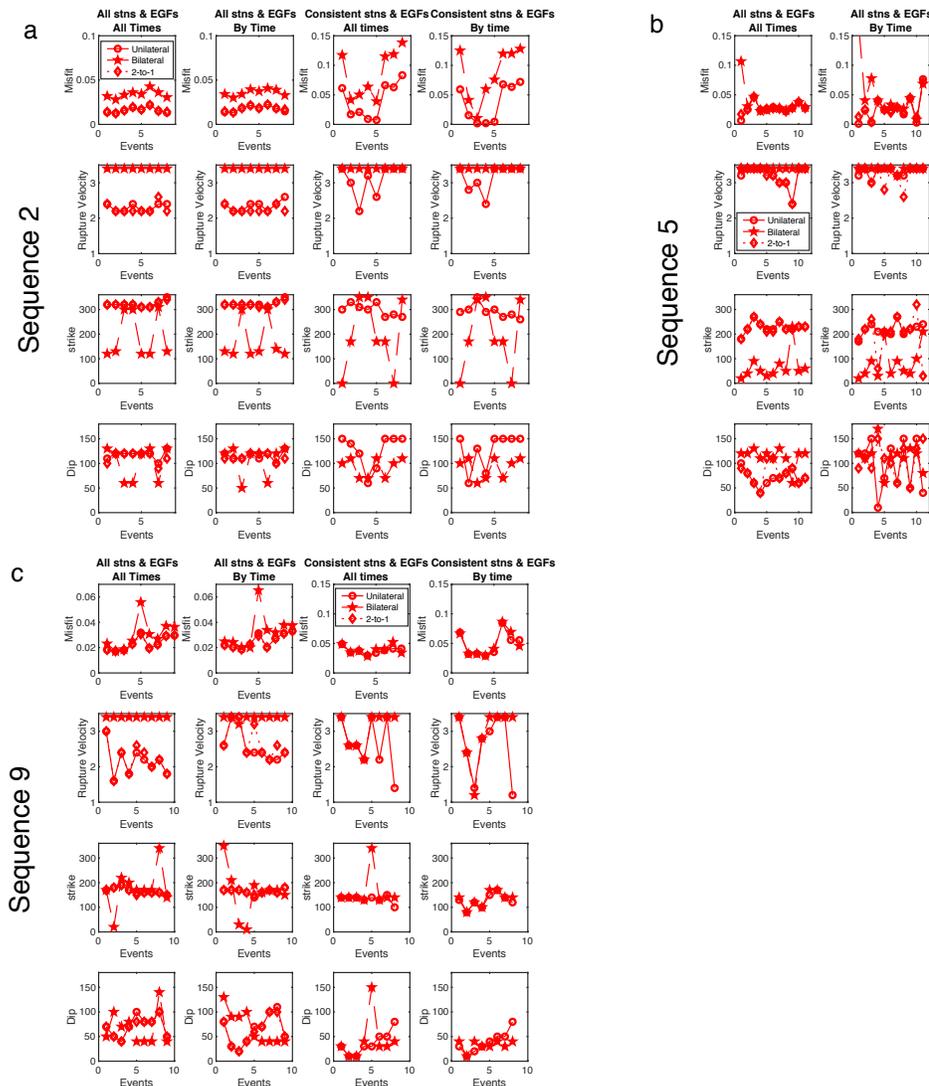
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283 **Figure S4.** Stretching and Modelling earthquake ID 71450425 in Sequence 9. See Figure S2 for  
 284 explanation

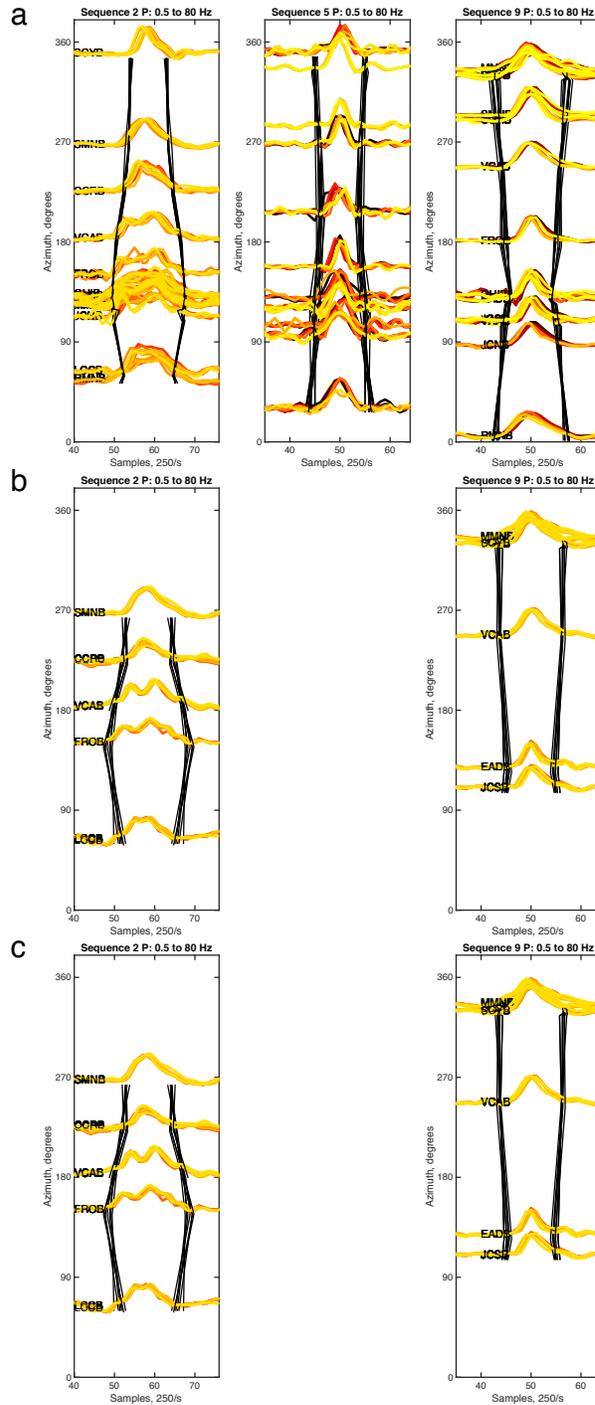
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287 **Figure S5.** Directivity Measurement and Resolution for Varying EGF selection for (a) Sequence 2,  
 288 (b) Sequence 5 and (c) Sequence 9. Results are compared for the best fitting model using either  
 289 a unilateral line source, a symmetrical bi-lateral line source, or a bilateral line source which  
 290 extends twice as far in the rupture direction as in the back direction (“2-to-1”, in no case is this  
 291 resolvable from the unilateral line source). Each column shows the results for a different set of  
 292 stations and EGFs. Column 1 is all available stations and EGFs, on all 3 components, for each  
 293 individual earthquake, regardless of occurrence time. Column 2 is same as 1, but Sequence and  
 294 EGF earthquakes are divided into two time periods: one covering 28-Sep 2004 to 1 Oct 2005,  
 295 and the other including both the time before the M6, and after 1 Oct 2005. Column 3 is as  
 296 Column 1, but using only a consistent set of stations and EGFs – each main event has exactly the  
 297 same set of EGFs at exactly the same set of stations, all on only the vertical component. Column  
 298 4 is as Column 3, but with the EGFs further divided by time as in Column 2. Hence moving from  
 299 left to right involves decreasing amounts of stations and EGFs.

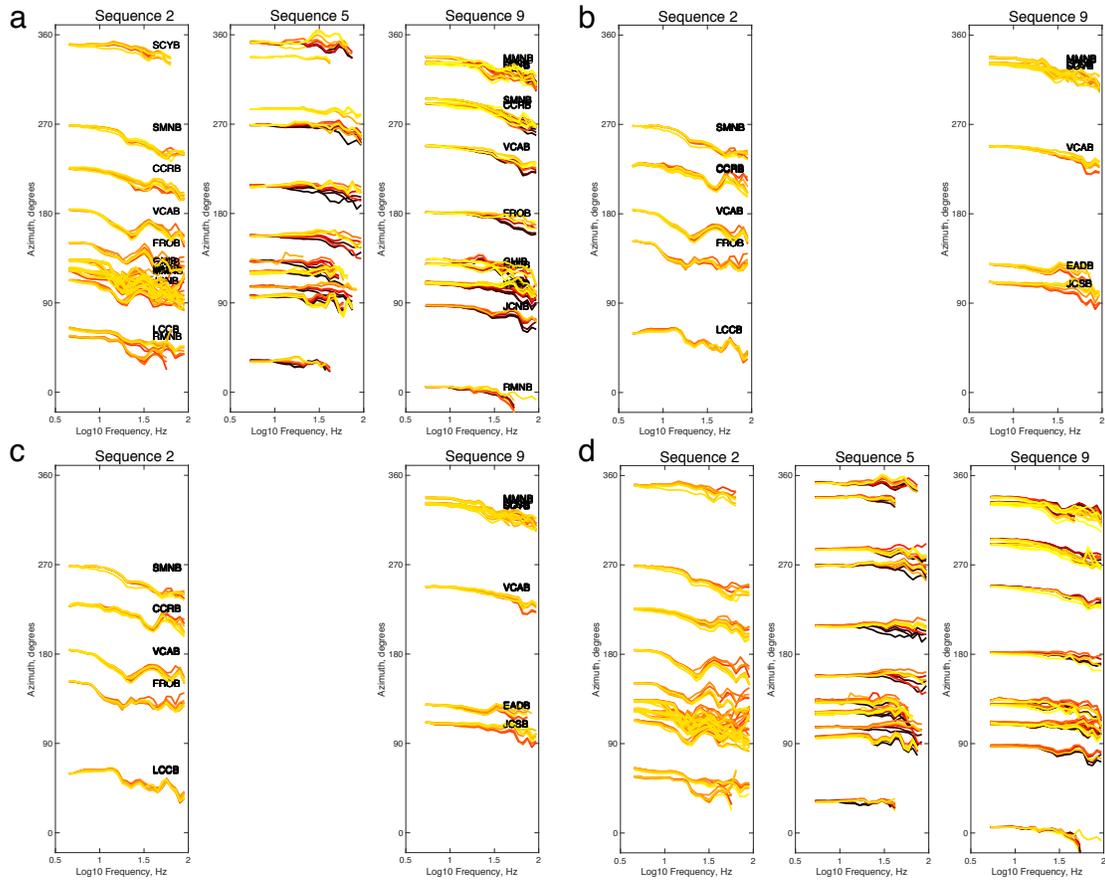
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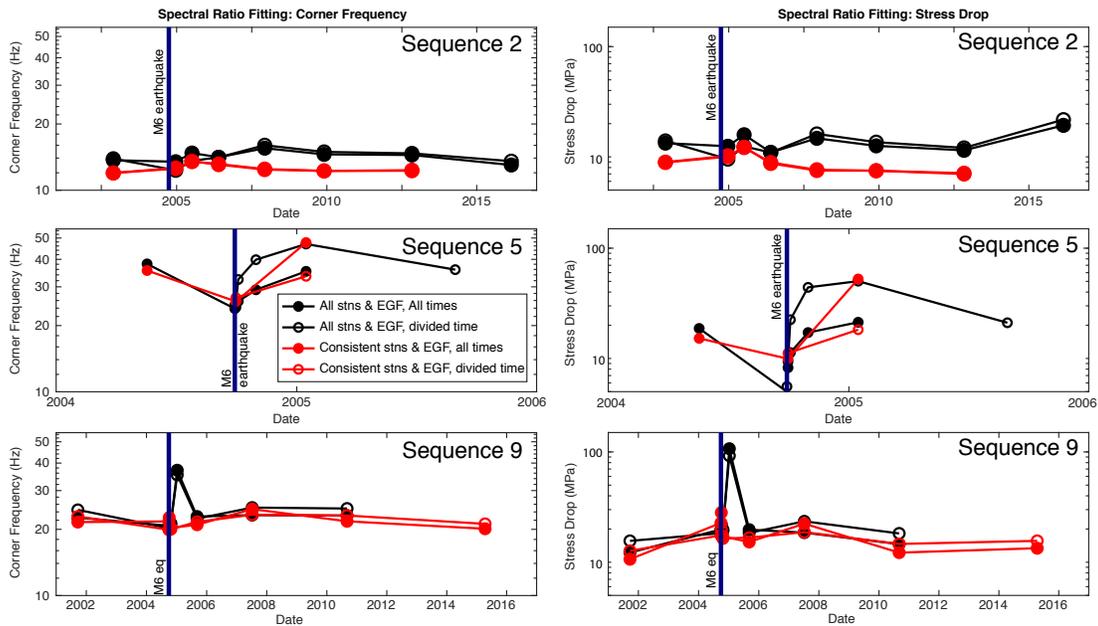
302 **Figure S6.** Source Time functions as Figure 3 in paper, for different sets of conditions shown in  
 303 the columns in Figure S5; Figure 3 is for all stations, all EGFs (Figure S5: column1 ). (a) all  
 304 stations, all EGFs, EGFs divided by time (Figure S5: column2 ), (b) consistent stations and EGFs  
 305 (Figure S5: column3), (c) consistent stations and EGFs, EGFs divided by time (Figure S5: column  
 306 4).

307



308

309 **Figure S7.** Spectral Ratios as Figure 4 in paper, for different sets of conditions shown in columns  
 310 in Figure S5; Figure 4 is for all stations, all EGFs (Figure S5: column1 ). (a) all stations, all EGFs,  
 311 EGFs divided by time (Figure S5: column2 ), (b) consistent stations and EGFs (Figure S5:  
 312 column3), (c) consistent stations and EGFs, EGFs divided by time (Figure S5: column 4). Note  
 313 consistency, but decreasing quantity of data, and consequent lack of resolution moving from (a)  
 314 to (c). (d) is for the corrections in Column 1 (all stations, all EGFs: Column 1), but with the  
 315 addition of the extra attenuation ( $\Delta t^*=0.025$ ) calculated by Kelly *et al.* to events within 1 year  
 316 following M6.  
 317



318

319 **Figure S8.** Corner Frequency and Stress drop from spectral ratio fitting. Left hand column:  
 320 corner frequencies, and Right hand column: stress drop. Top row = Sequence 2, middle row =  
 321 Sequence 5 (many events have fc too high to resolve – especially after number of ratios included  
 322 is decreased for consistency), and bottom row = Sequence 9. For each sequence the results for  
 323 different selection of EGF are shown; variation that is least dependent on selection is the most  
 324 reliable. Selections correspond to those described in the paper and Figure S5: black filled  
 325 symbols - All available stations and EGFs are used for each event, regardless of date, black open  
 326 symbols - All available stations and EGFs but only from the same time period as the respective  
 327 target earthquake, red solid symbols - consistent EGFs and stations for each target event, from  
 328 all time period, and red open symbols - consistent stations and EGFs only from the same time  
 329 period as the respective target earthquake.

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331