

**Thomas Brocher**

**USGS**

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**McCone Hall 265, UC Berkeley**

**The 150th Anniversary of the Damaging  
1868 Hayward Earthquake: Why it Matters**

**Abstract:** October 21st marks the 150th anniversary of the damaging 1868 Hayward earthquake. USGS studies of the Hayward Fault reveal that it has produced 12 large earthquakes in the past 2000 years spaced from 100 to 220 years apart. The Hayward Fault is one of the most urbanized faults in the United States. So the expected large Hayward Fault earthquake will impact the entire San Francisco Bay Area. The odds of a damaging M6.7 earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Area in the next 30 years are nearly 3 out of 4. The effects of earthquakes can be mitigated through building codes, retrofits, planning, and training.

## Speaker Bio:



Tom Brocher is a seismologist at the USGS Earthquake Science Center, in Menlo Park, where he has worked for 33 years after working briefly at the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He served as Director of the Earthquake Science Center for several years and prior to that served as the USGS Coordinator for Northern California Earthquake Hazard Investigations. His interests include earthquake hazard assessment, earthquake mitigation, and earthquake preparedness. Tom served as chair of the 1868 Hayward Earthquake Alliance, a public/private non-profit organization seeking to increase public awareness of that earthquake and the hazards posed by the Hayward Fault. Tom has authored or co-authored 165 peer-reviewed publications and is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.