Formation or geological formation

- fundamental unit of lithostratigraphy (rock units as opposed to time units)
Formation or geological formation

• A formation consists of a certain number of rock strata that have a comparable lithology, facies or other similar properties.

(Facies a distinctive rock unit that forms under certain conditions of sedimentation . . . swamp, river, near shore etc.)
Formation or geological formation

- **not defined by the thickness of the rock strata**
- **thickness of different formations can vary widely**
Formation or geological formation

- A formation can be divided into members
- Formations can be grouped together in groups
Topanga Formation (middle Miocene)—Marine sandstone, siltstone, and locally conglomerate. Includes:

**Paulerino Member**—Massive tuffaceous sandstone and thin bedded siltstone; contains some breccia interbeds

**Los Trancos Member**—Siltstone and sandstone. Thin to medium bedded; pale gray to brownish gray

**Bommer Member**—Medium-to coarse-grained sandstone interbedded with fine-grained sandstones and siltstones.