

Dear Authors,

Your manuscript has been accepted for publication following peer review, subject to minor corrections. During the editorial evaluation, a number of points were identified where clarification and improved justification would strengthen the scientific transparency and allow readers to better assess the robustness of the results.

These points do not affect the overall acceptance of the manuscript but should be addressed before final publication. I therefore request that you make the following revisions:

### 1. Velocity Uncertainty Estimation

Please clarify the basis of the equation used (line 186). Specifically:

- provide its statistical or empirical justification
- Clarify how it relates to established methods (e.g., Williams, Bos, Blewitt)
- Define what is meant by “robust” and “realistic,” ideally with quantitative support or comparison

### 2. Reference Frame Choice

Expand and clarify the justification for using the ITRF14 Eurasia frame rather than computing a regional frame. Try to avoid qualitative terms such as “reliable” or “perfect” unless supported quantitatively

### 3. Magnitude of Residual Velocities

Address the issue that residual velocities ( $\sim 1$  mm/yr) are of the same order as the interpreted tectonic signals. Please discuss implications for interpretation and uncertainty

### 4. Comparison with Previous Studies

Include a clear comparison (main text or supplementary material) between your velocity field and that of Piña-Valdés et al. as it will allow readers to independently assess agreement

### 5. Strain Rate vs. Focal Mechanisms

Strengthen the discussion of the relationship between GPS-derived strain and earthquake focal mechanisms. If limitations exist, you should be clearly stated rather than used to avoid comparison

#### 6. Language and Tone

Please revise overly strong or subjective terms (e.g., “fundamental,” “crucial,” “significant”) to ensure a neutral scientific tone

These revisions are intended to improve clarity and scientific rigor rather than to require additional analysis.

I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript.

Associate Editor