

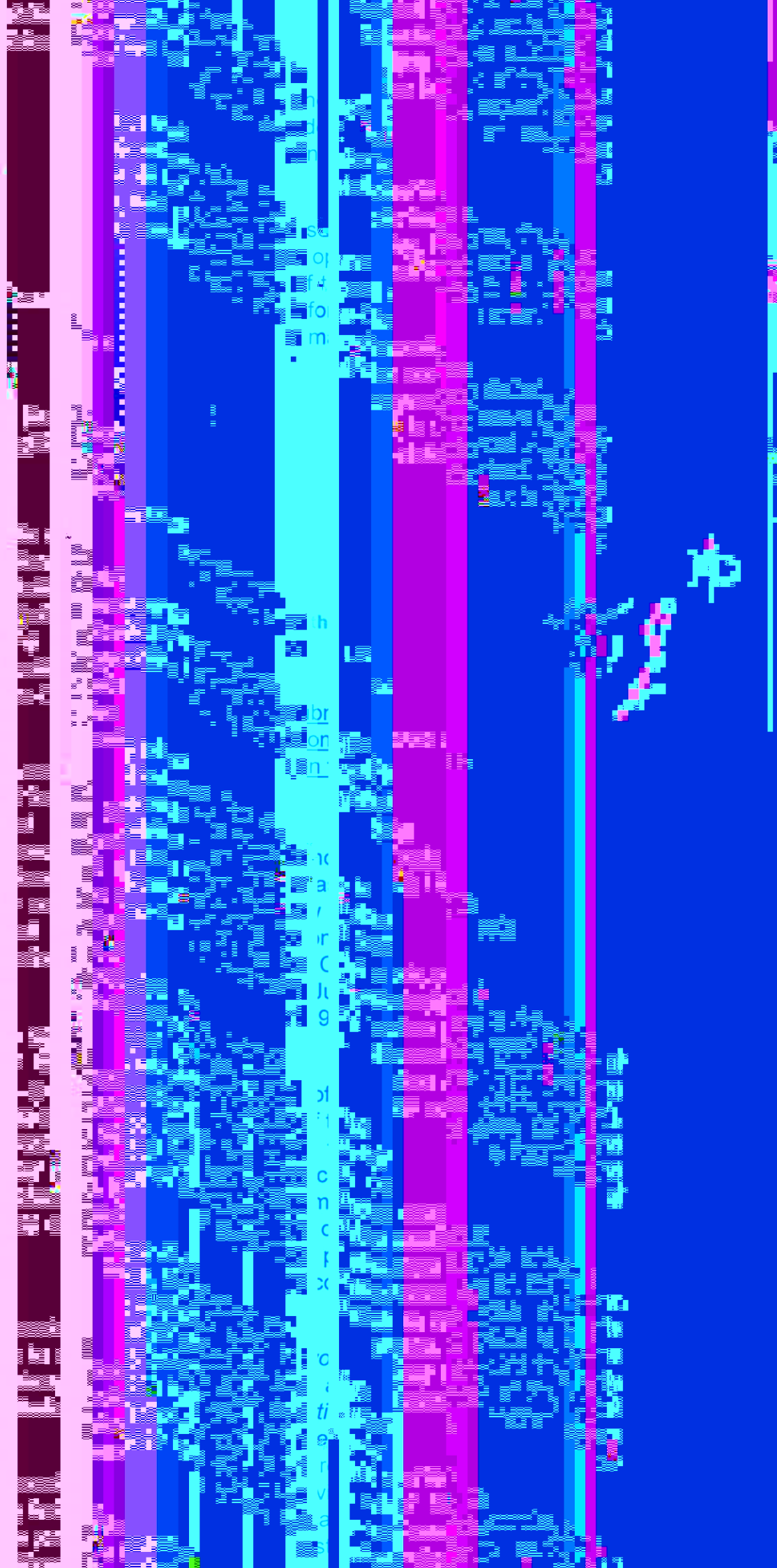
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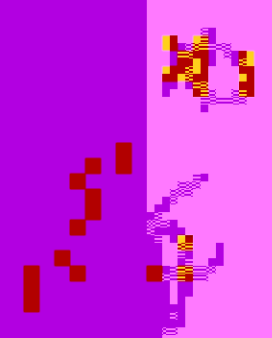
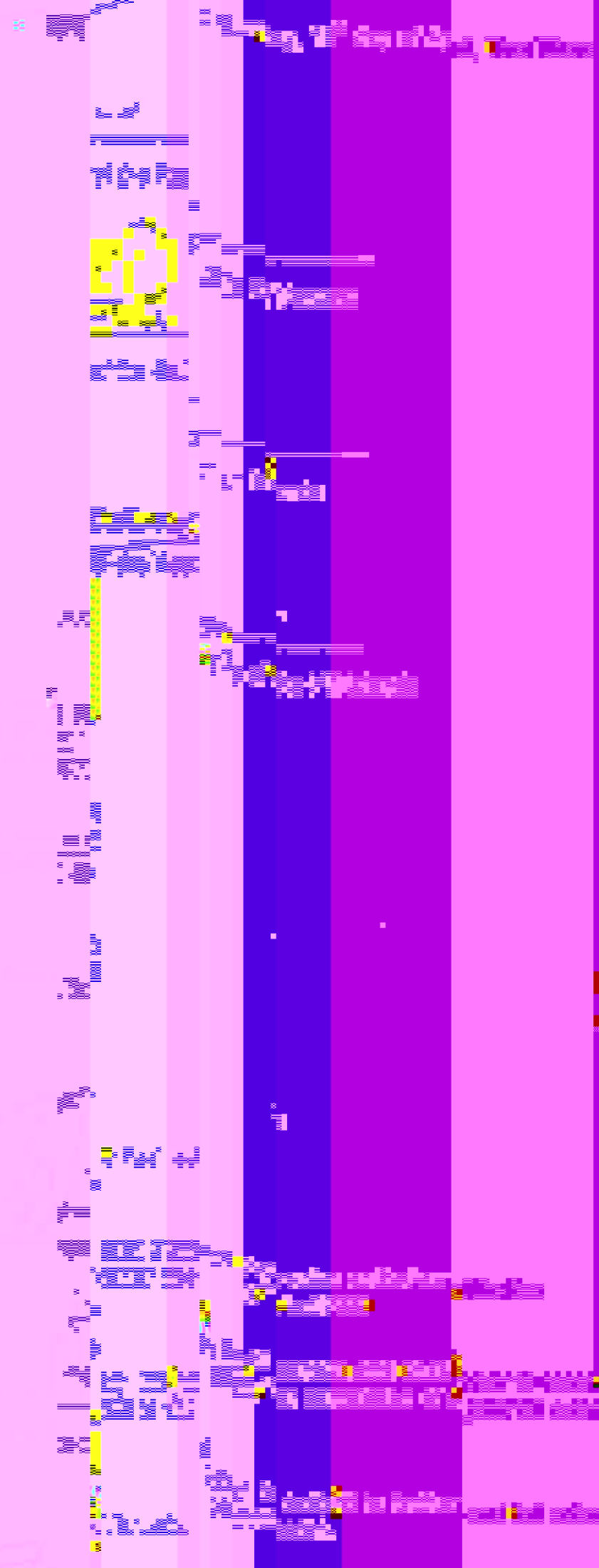
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[The main body of the page contains a large area of severe digital corruption, appearing as a dense, noisy pattern of black, white, and grey pixels. This area obscures the majority of the text that would otherwise be present in the document.]

[The right side of the page features a vertical strip of digital noise, primarily consisting of black and white pixels, which also obscures any text that might have been there.]

[The far right edge of the page is mostly white, with some faint, illegible markings and a few small, scattered colored pixels (blue, pink, green) that appear to be artifacts or minor annotations.]

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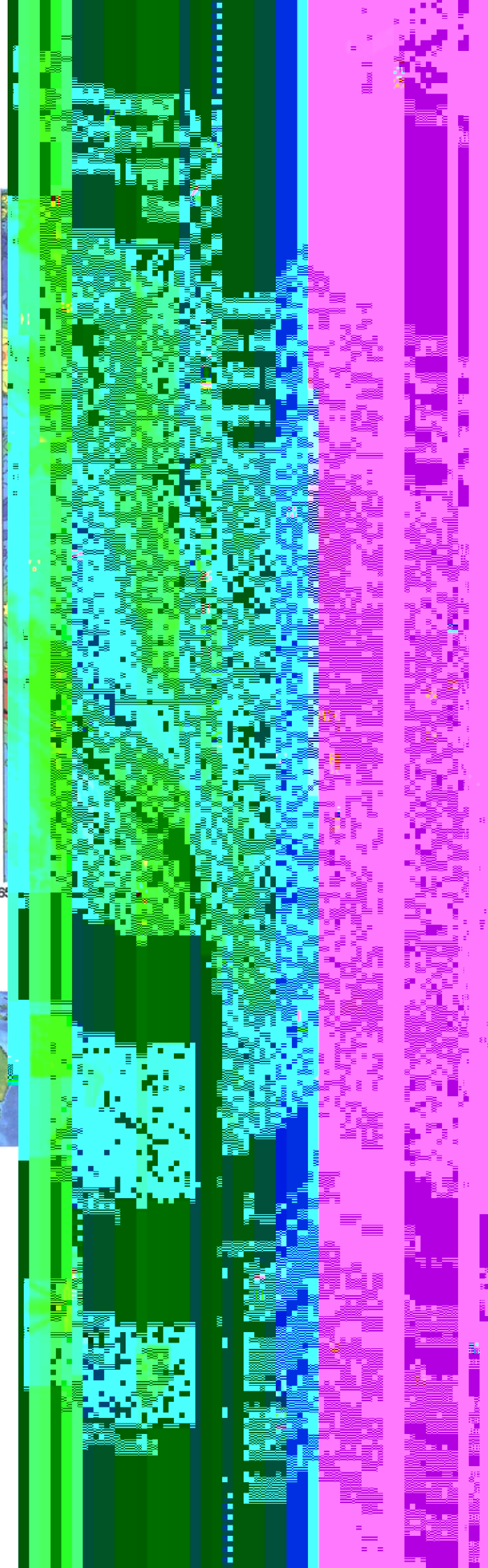


Figure 1

Study Area

The study area is located in the western United States, specifically in the state of California. It covers a large area of the Central Valley, extending from the northern foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains to the southern coastal plain. The region is characterized by diverse topography, including mountainous terrain, rolling hills, and extensive agricultural lands. Major cities and urban centers are scattered throughout the area, with a high concentration in the Central Valley. The climate is generally semi-arid, with hot summers and mild winters. The study area is bounded by the Sierra Nevada mountains to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The southern boundary is defined by the state of Arizona. The eastern boundary is the Nevada-Sonora border. The map shows a network of roads and highways, with major routes like I-5 and I-80 clearly visible. The topographic map uses contour lines to represent elevation, with higher elevations shown in brown and lower elevations in green and yellow. The inset map shows the location of the study area within the United States, highlighting its position in the western half of the country.