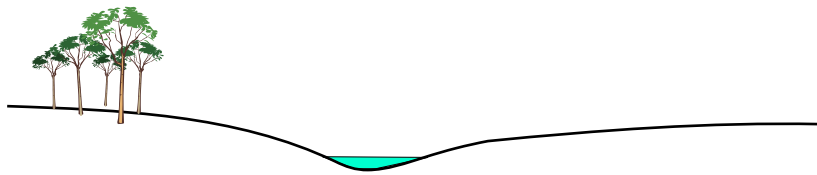


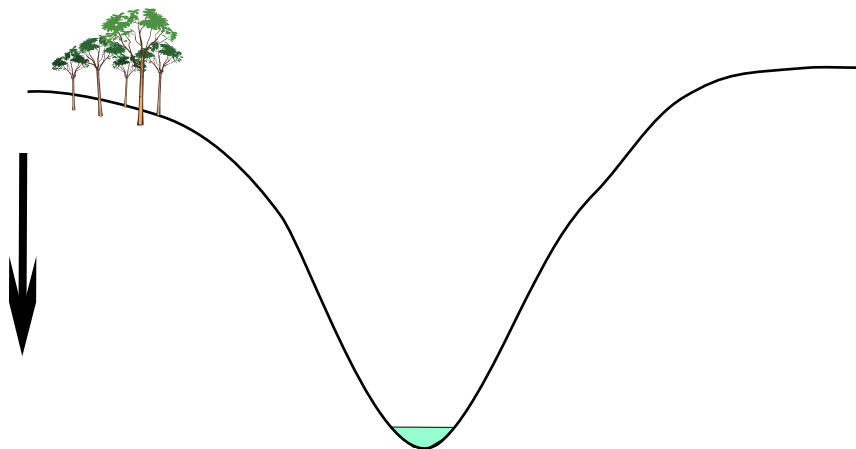
# FORMATION OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S COASTAL LAGOONS

by Keith Meldahl

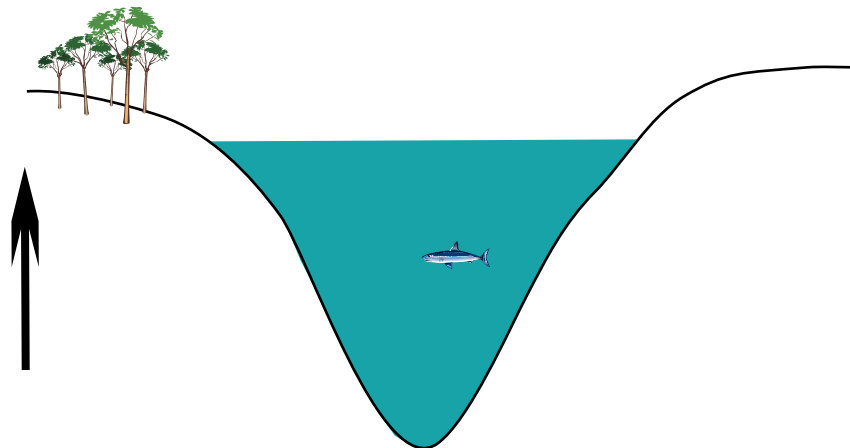
1. Stream flowing toward the sea (toward viewer).



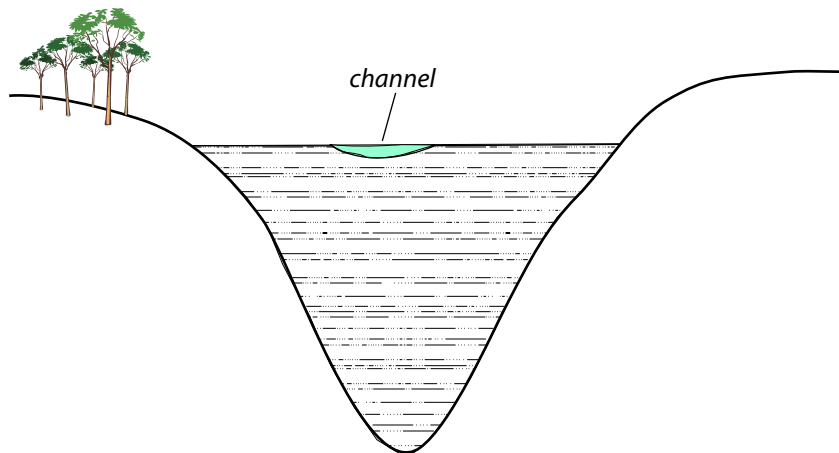
2. Sea level drops; stream cuts a deep valley in response.



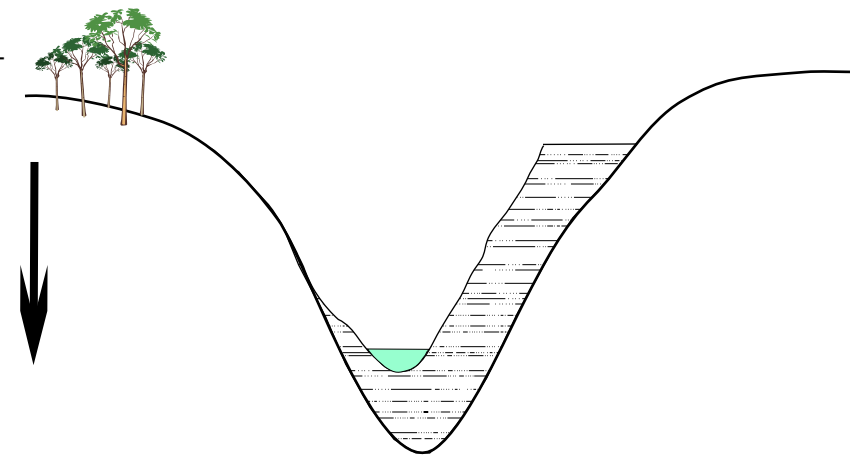
3. Sea rises; ocean water floods the valley forming a deep-water estuary.



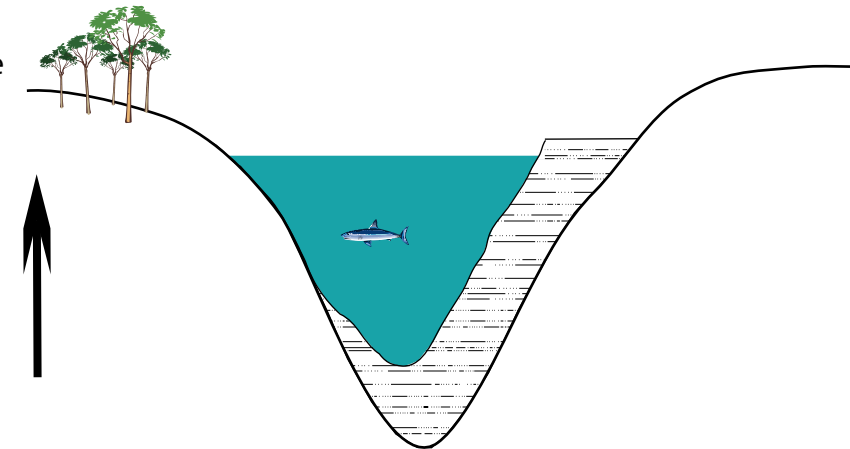
4. Valley gradually fills up with sediment; tidal channels connect stream to ocean.



5. Sea level drops; stream cuts a new valley through the sedimentary fill, but leaves some behind.



6. Sea rises again, but not as high as before; ocean water floods the valley.



7. Valley fills up with sediment; tidal channels again connect stream to ocean.

