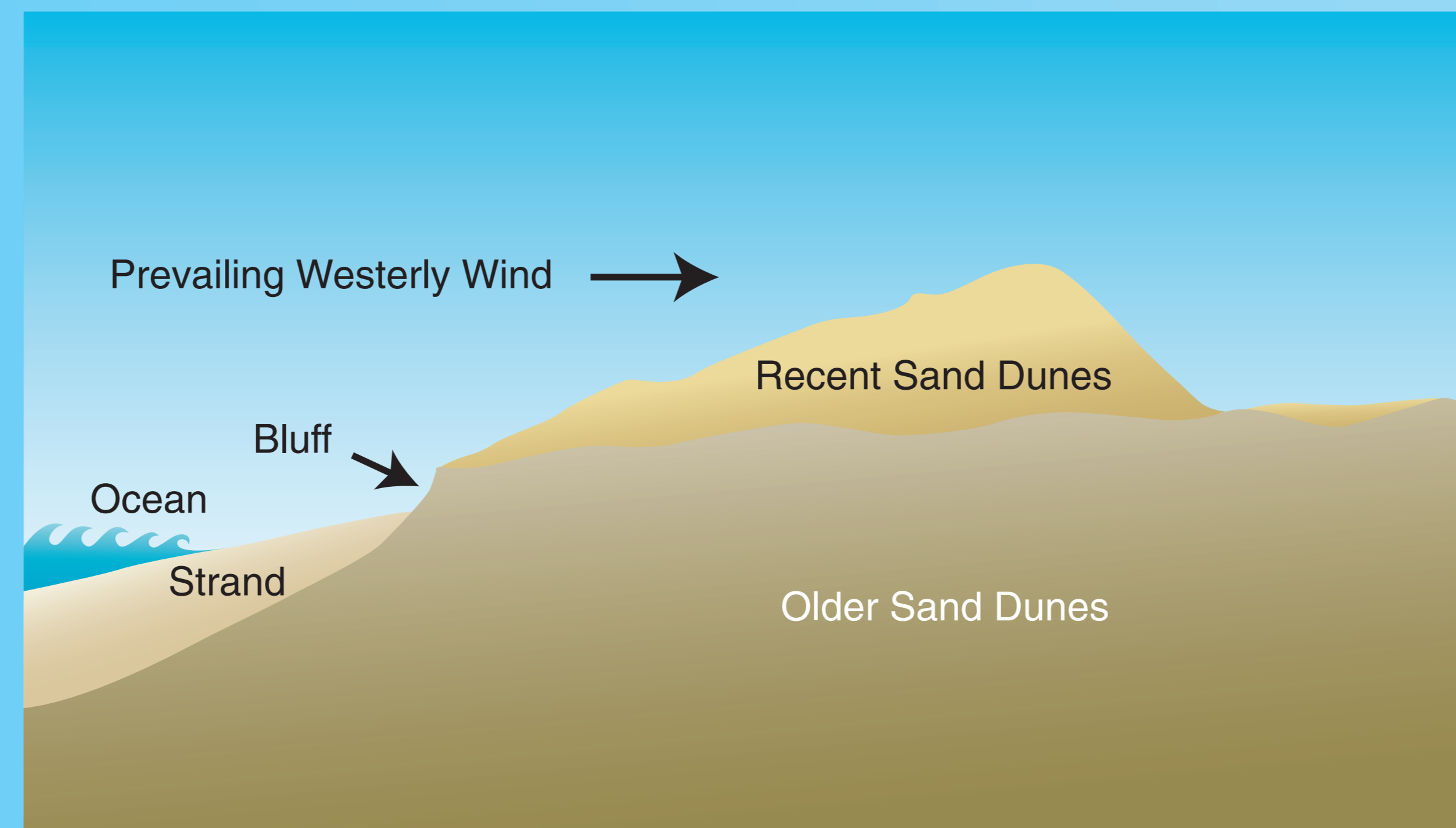
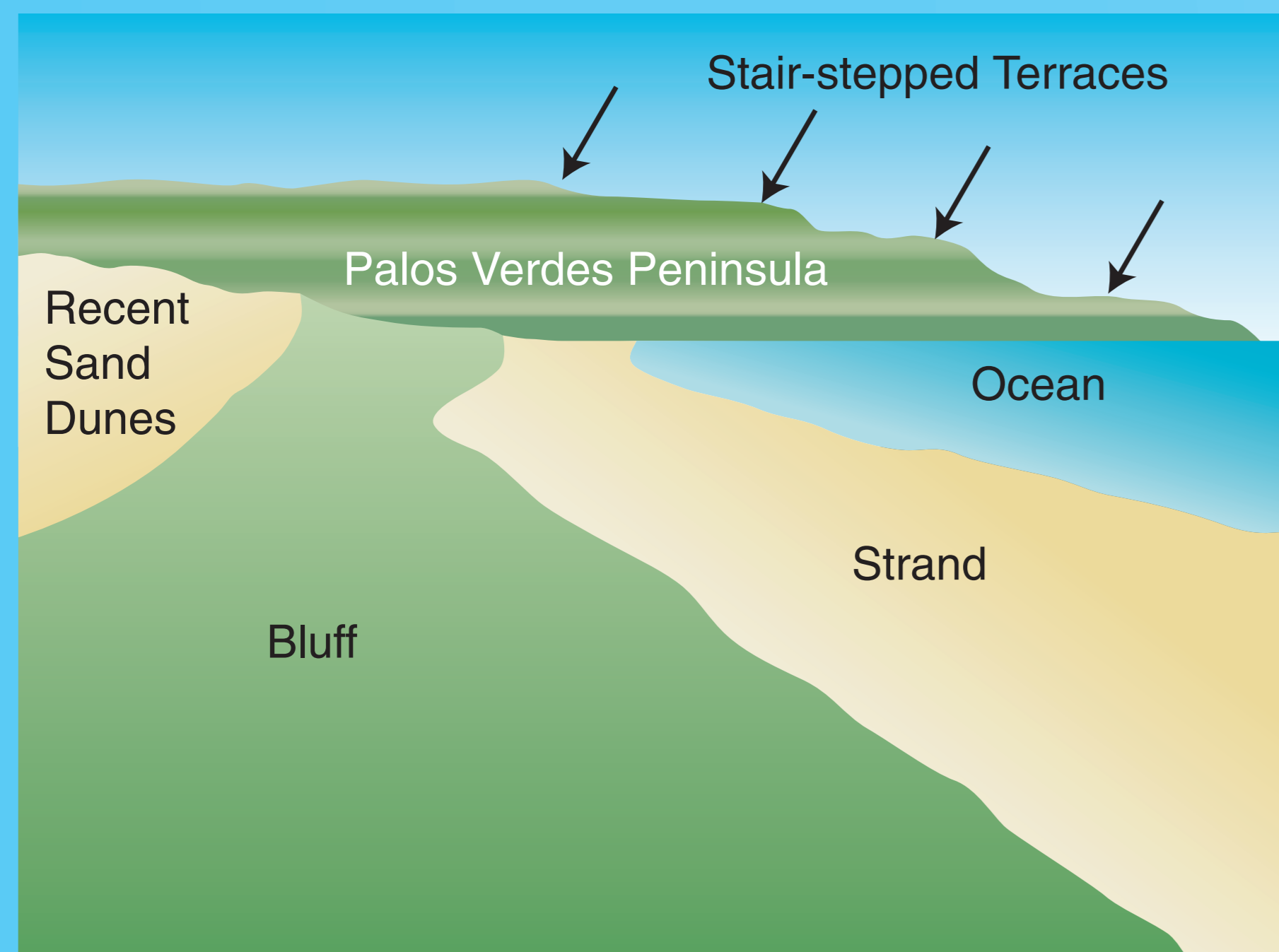


# Local Geology

Looking north along the coast from here, you can see the entire Santa Monica Bay dune system. Scientists believe that two major events shaped these dunes. First, during the last glacial period that peaked about 20,000 years ago, low sea level exposed the floor of Santa Monica Bay. Streams flowing across the exposed sea floor deposited sediment that was blown onshore by winds to form extensive dunes. Then, as the sea rose about 5,000 years ago, fresh sand was blown onto these older dunes forming the recent sand dunes.



To the south, the staircase of cliffs and wave-cut platforms of the Palos Verdes Peninsula was created by changing sea levels that occurred long before the dune building began.



### Beach Bluffs Restoration Project

The Beach Bluffs Restoration Project began in 2001 when a group of local residents, nonprofit groups, and government agencies united to implement a common vision of restoring the native vegetation of the bluffs along the southern portion of Santa Monica Bay, between Ballona Creek and the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

**Goals of the Project**

- Increase the ecological value of the bluffs and dunes
- Promote the beauty of native plants
- Educate the public about the natural history of our urban beaches

