

Neotectonics at Laguna Lejia, Atacama Desert, Northern Chile.

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precipitation of carbonate around flamingo feathers which have since decomposed. At least three earthquakes are indicated by recumbent folding and disruption of the beach sediments, followed in each case by a return to laminated carbonate facies. This sequence may represent a gradual upwarping of the southern shore, interrupted by violent resubmergence during earthquakes. It is likely that the Tumisa Line has recently been the locus of earthquake activity since the last glaciation, despite the absence of a fault scarp in the area. In small salars such as Laguna Lejia, it is difficult to distinguish tectonic movements from lake level changes due to climatic effects. It is hoped that a dated section through the sediments will yield information on earthquake frequency and uplift rates.