



Napa Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee  
February 23, 2012



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

# Groundwater and Groundwater – Surface Water Interaction: How Does It Work?



Thomas Harter  
University of California, Davis

[ThHarter@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ThHarter@ucdavis.edu)  
<http://groundwater.ucdavis.edu>





# Overview



- What is groundwater?
  - How much groundwater is there?
  - How fast does groundwater move?
  - How do we measure groundwater?
- Where does groundwater come from and where does it go?
- How do Californians use it?
- Groundwater management and groundwater quality

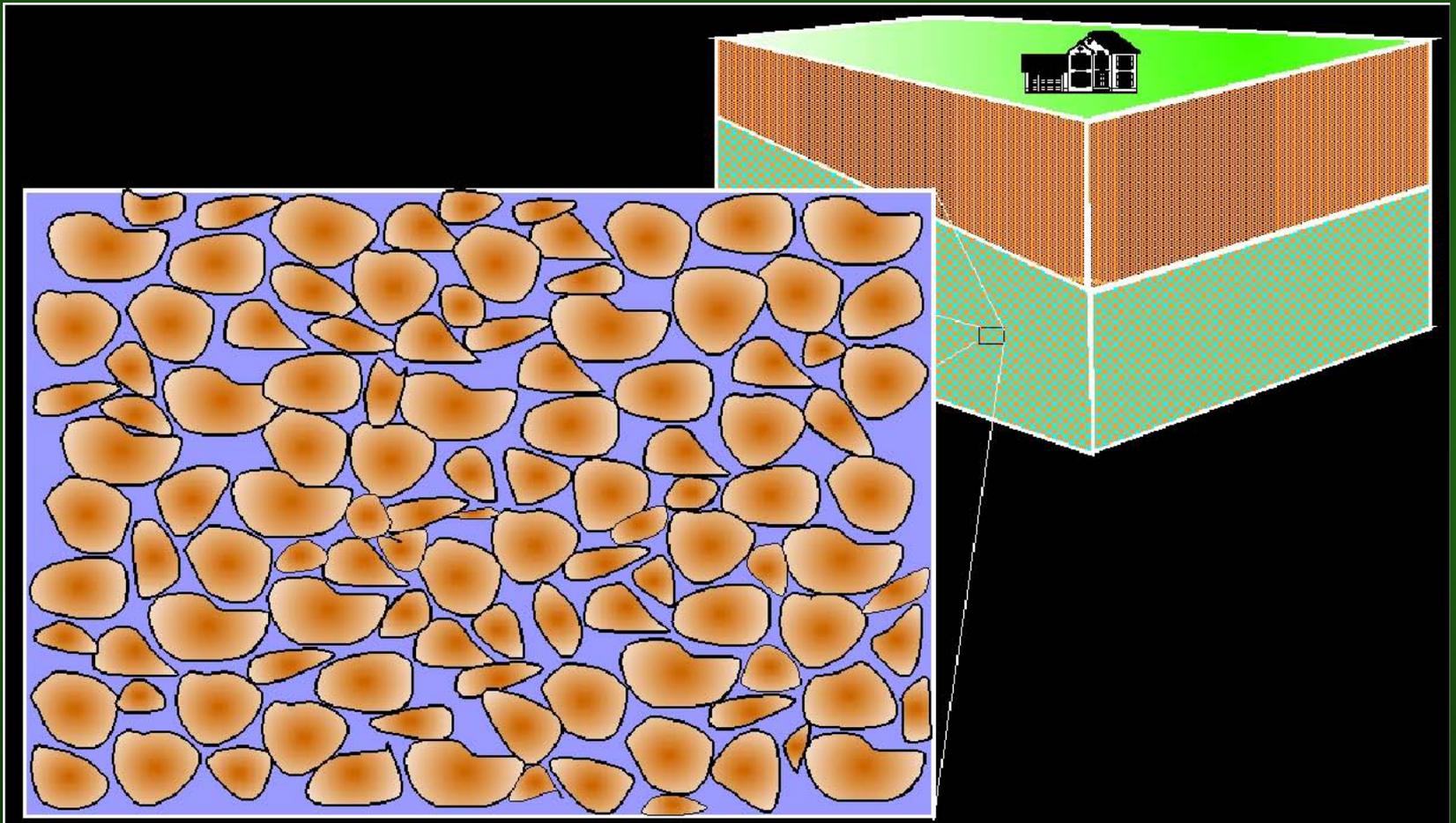


# What is Groundwater?

- An underground lake?
- A network of underground rivers?
- A rectangular network of pipelike water arteries?
- A giant sponge?

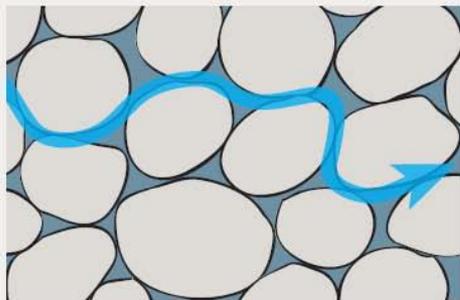


# Groundwater = Water completely filling Pores/Fractures

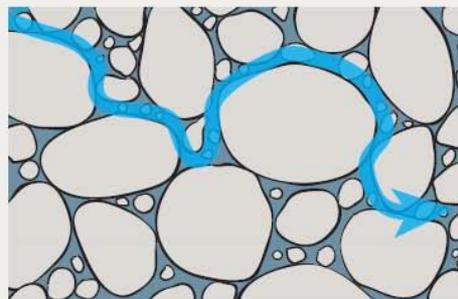




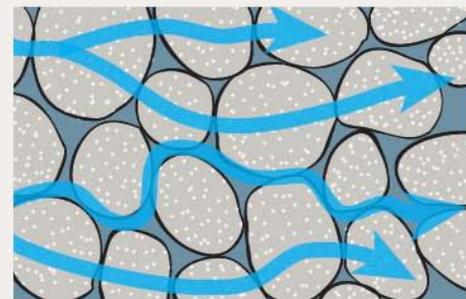
# Groundwater in Different Sediments and Rocks



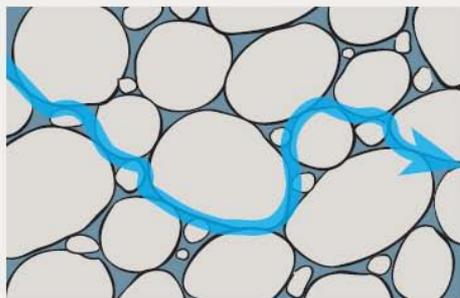
Well-sorted sediment



Poorly sorted sediment



Porous sediment



Consolidated sediment



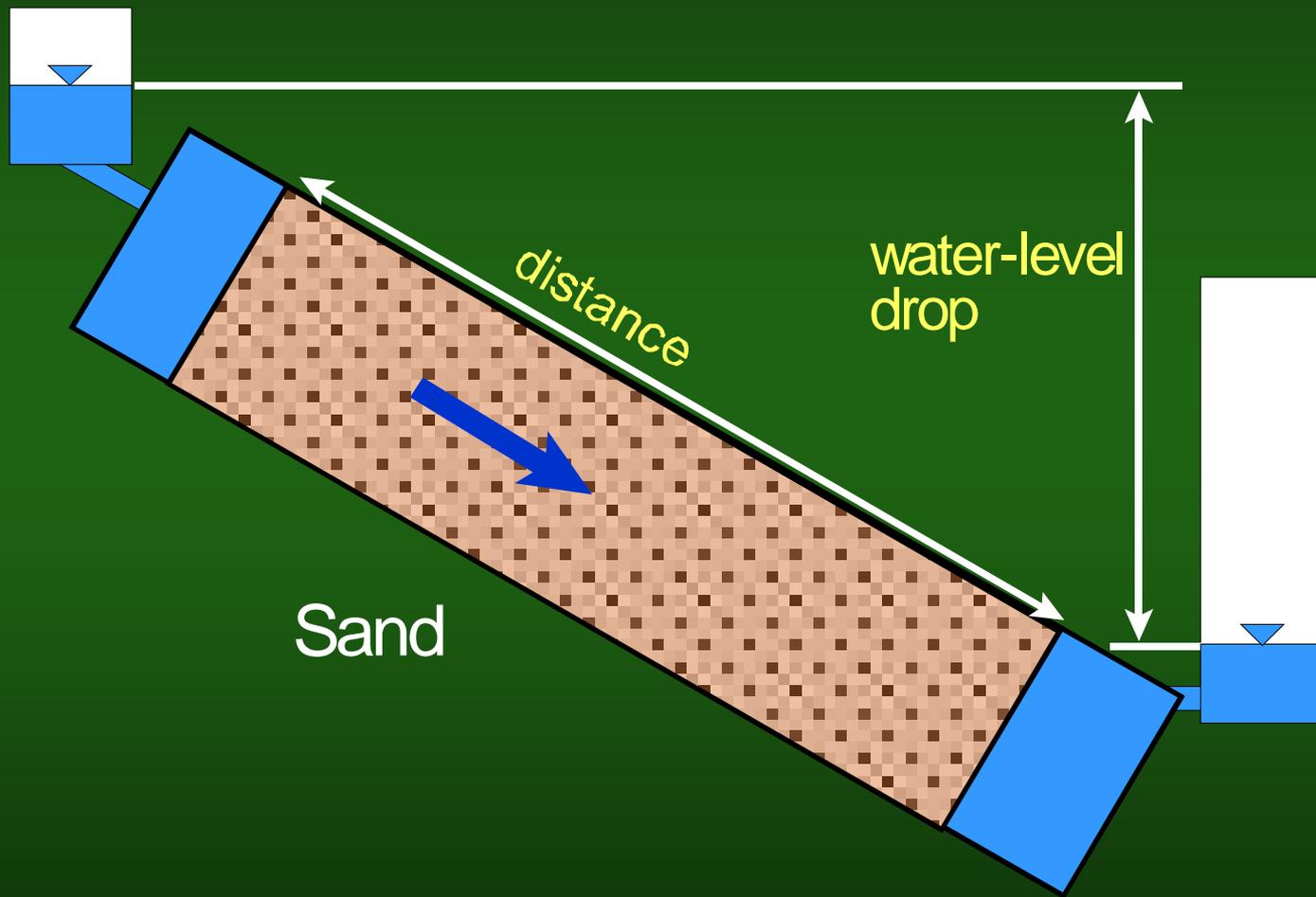
Dissolution of rock



Rock fractures

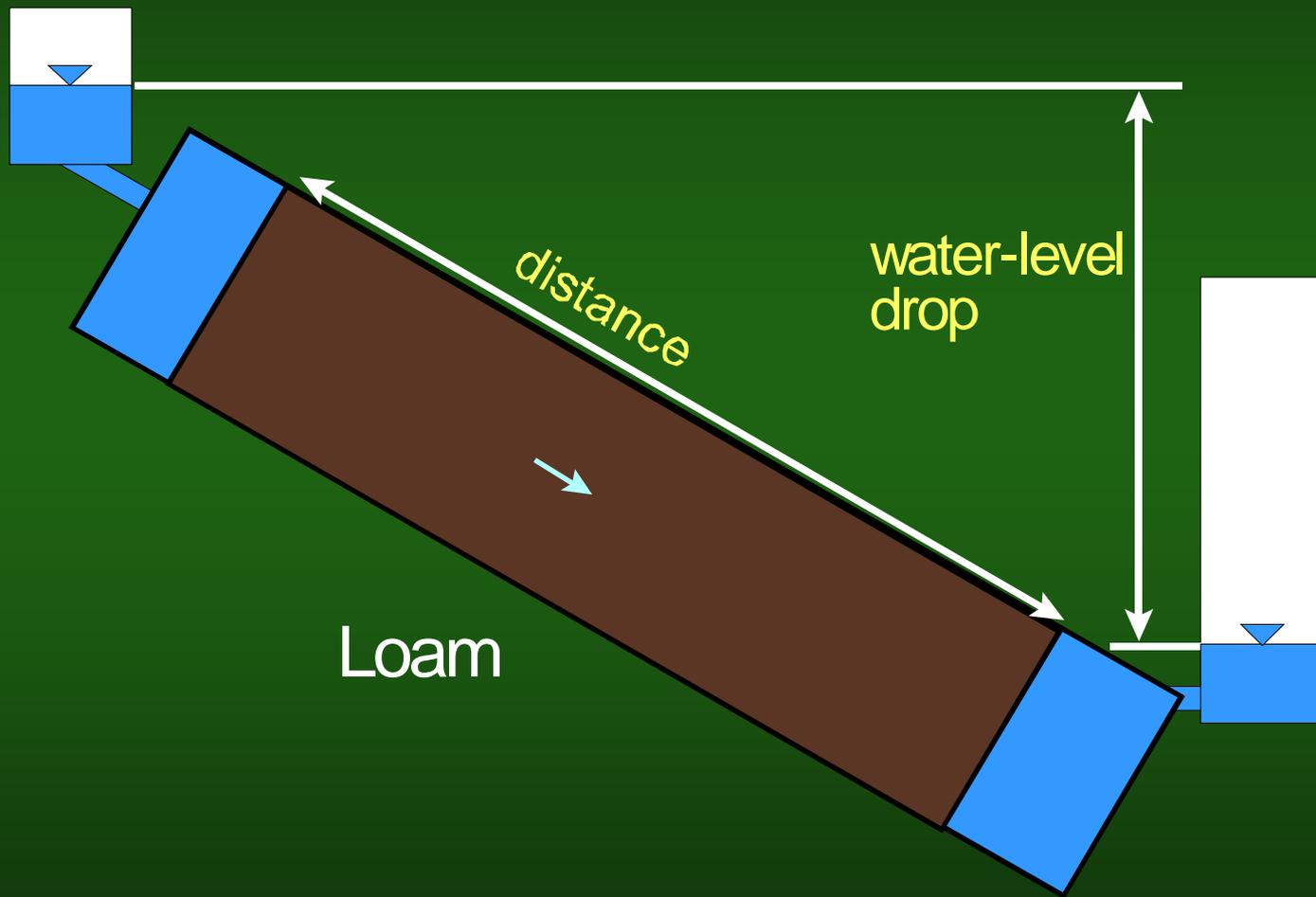


# How fast does water flow?



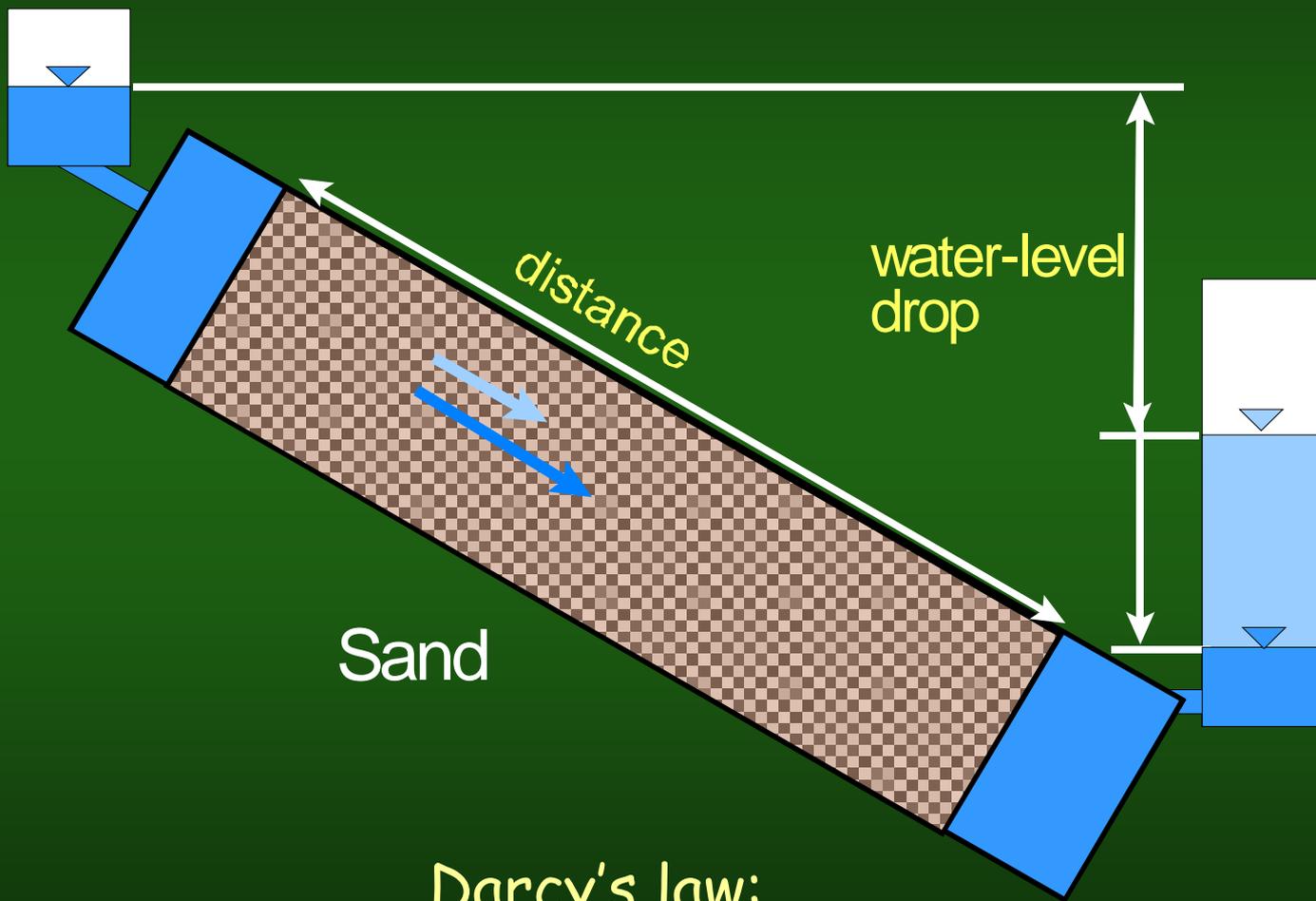


# How fast does water flow?





# How fast does water flow?



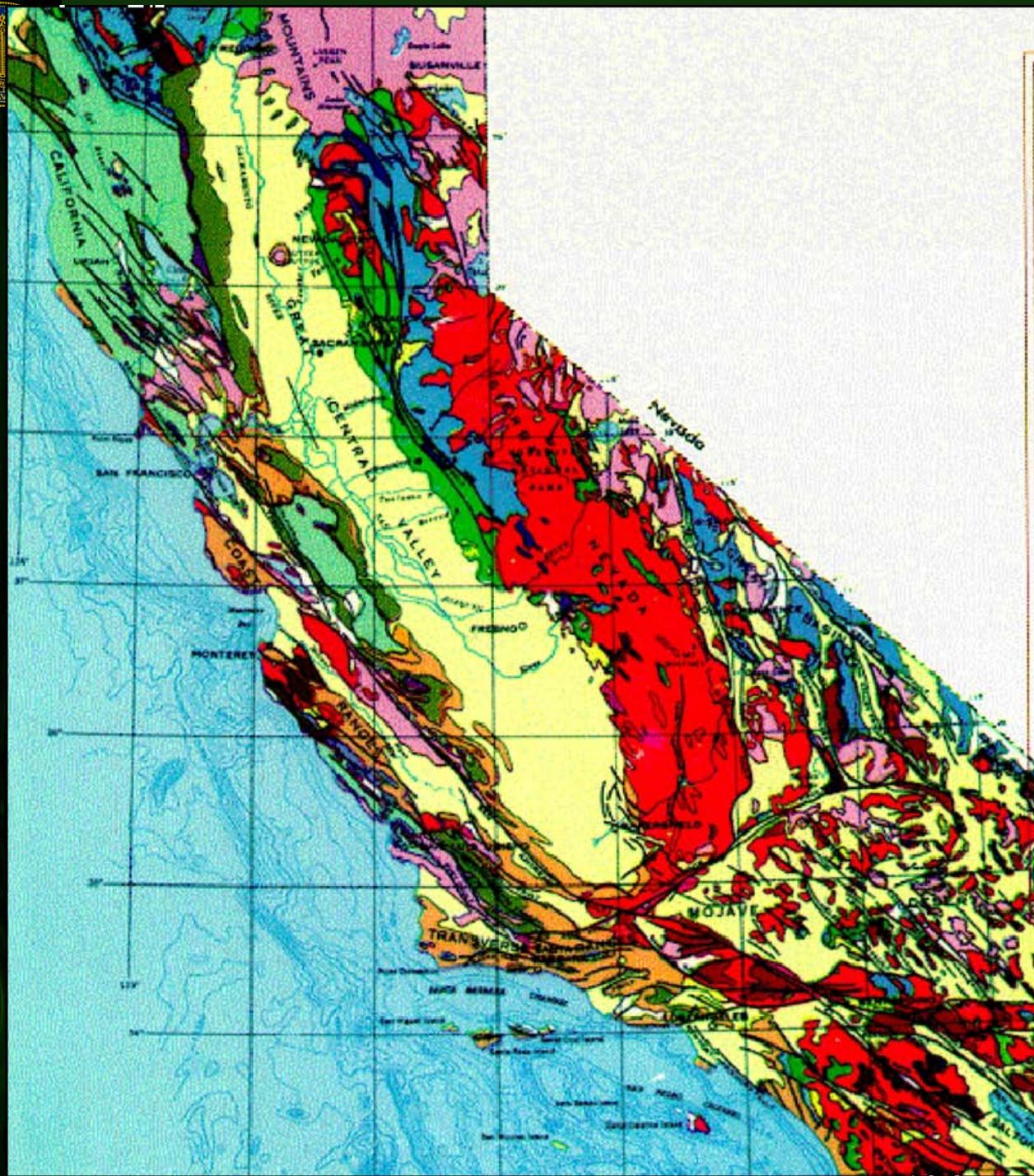
Darcy's law:

$$\text{groundwater flow} = \text{hydraulic conductivity} \times \text{pressure gradient}$$



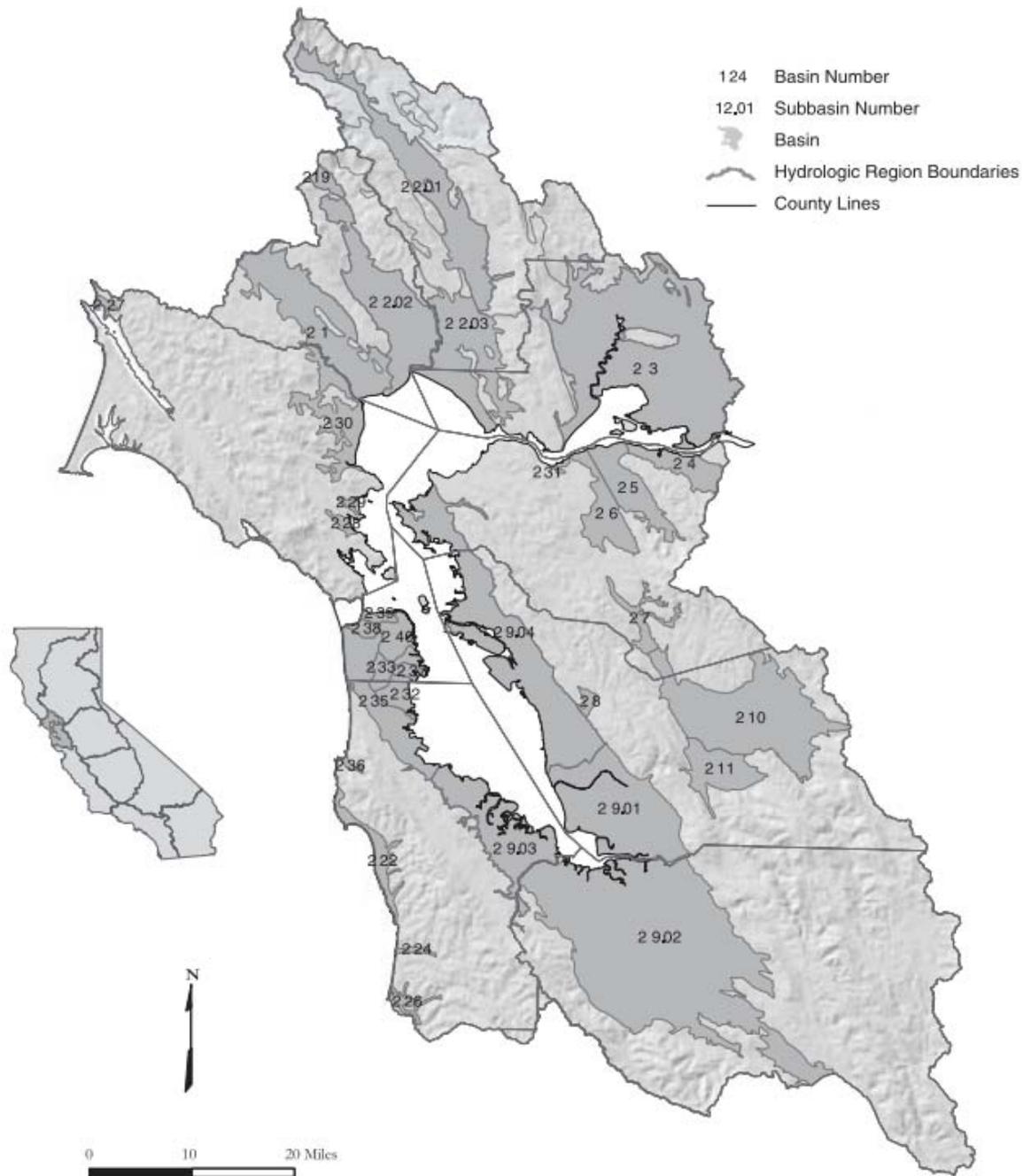
# How do we measure hydraulic conductivity?

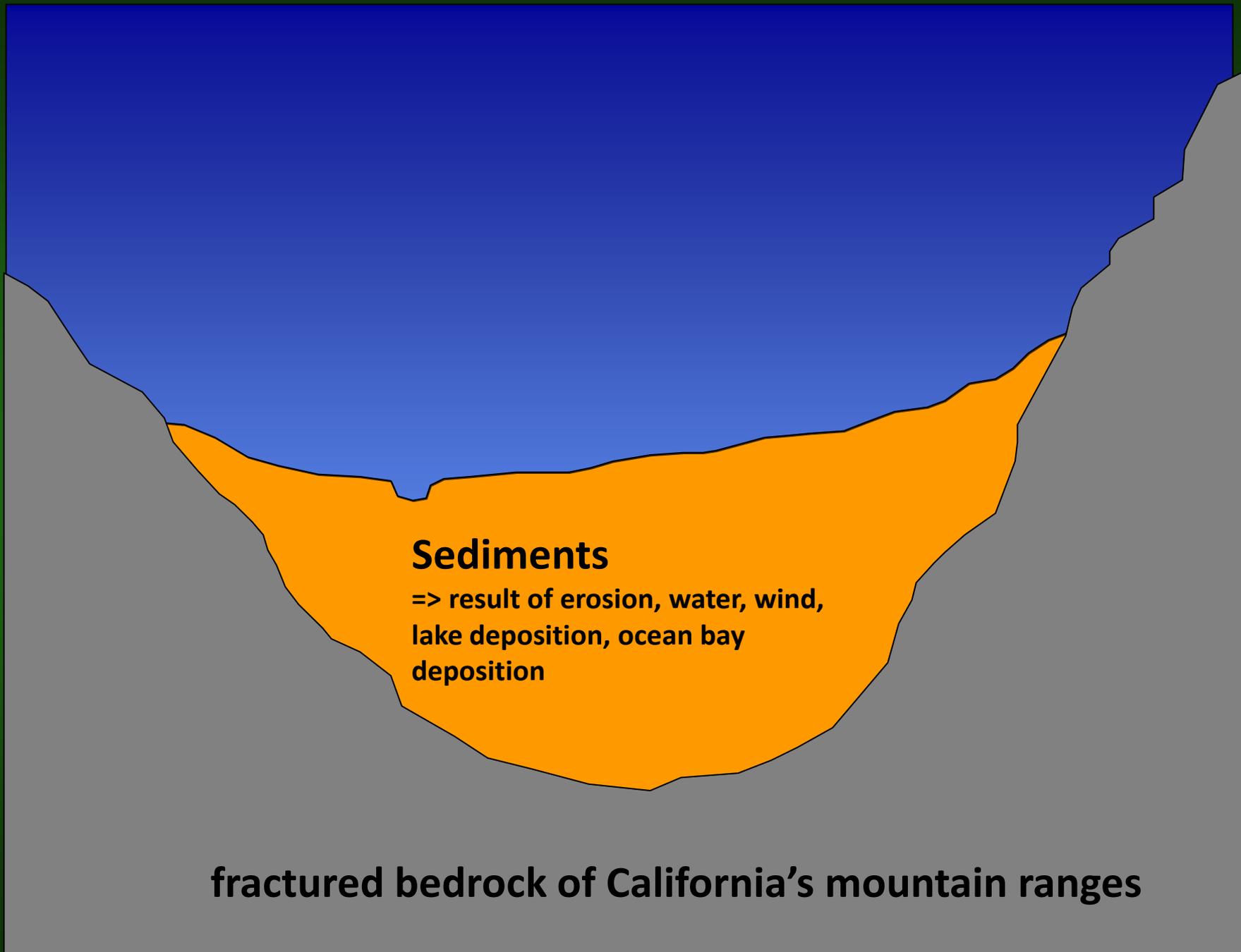
- Estimate based on sediment type (gravel, sand, silt, clay, fractured rock):
  - => **well logs** (geologic logs, geophysical logs)
- Measure on sediment/rock **cores** in laboratory
- Estimate from specific capacity of wells:
  - ratio of pumping rate to well **water level drawdown**
- Measure using an aquifer test:
  - 1-day to 7-day well **pumping tests**
- Estimate from groundwater models:
  - => **matching model results** to measured water levels, groundwater flows



## EXPLANATION Sedimentary and Volcanic Rocks

Cenozoic		Nonmarine sedimentary rocks		Marine sedimentary rocks		Volcanic rocks	
	Late Mesozoic		Great Valley Sequence, marine sedimentary rocks			Franciscan Complex including coastal belt rocks (early Tertiary in part)	
						Meta-sedimentary and meta-volcanic rocks predating granitic intrusions	
						Meta-sedimentary and meta-volcanic rocks; includes some Triassic rocks in Klamath Mountains; some Precambrian rocks in Great Basin	
Paleozoic							Pre-Cambrian Rocks of all types
							Pre-Cenozoic Metamorphic rocks of unknown age
<b>Intrusive Igneous Rocks</b>							
Chiefly Mesozoic							Granitic rocks
							Ultramafic rocks
							Geological boundary
							Fault

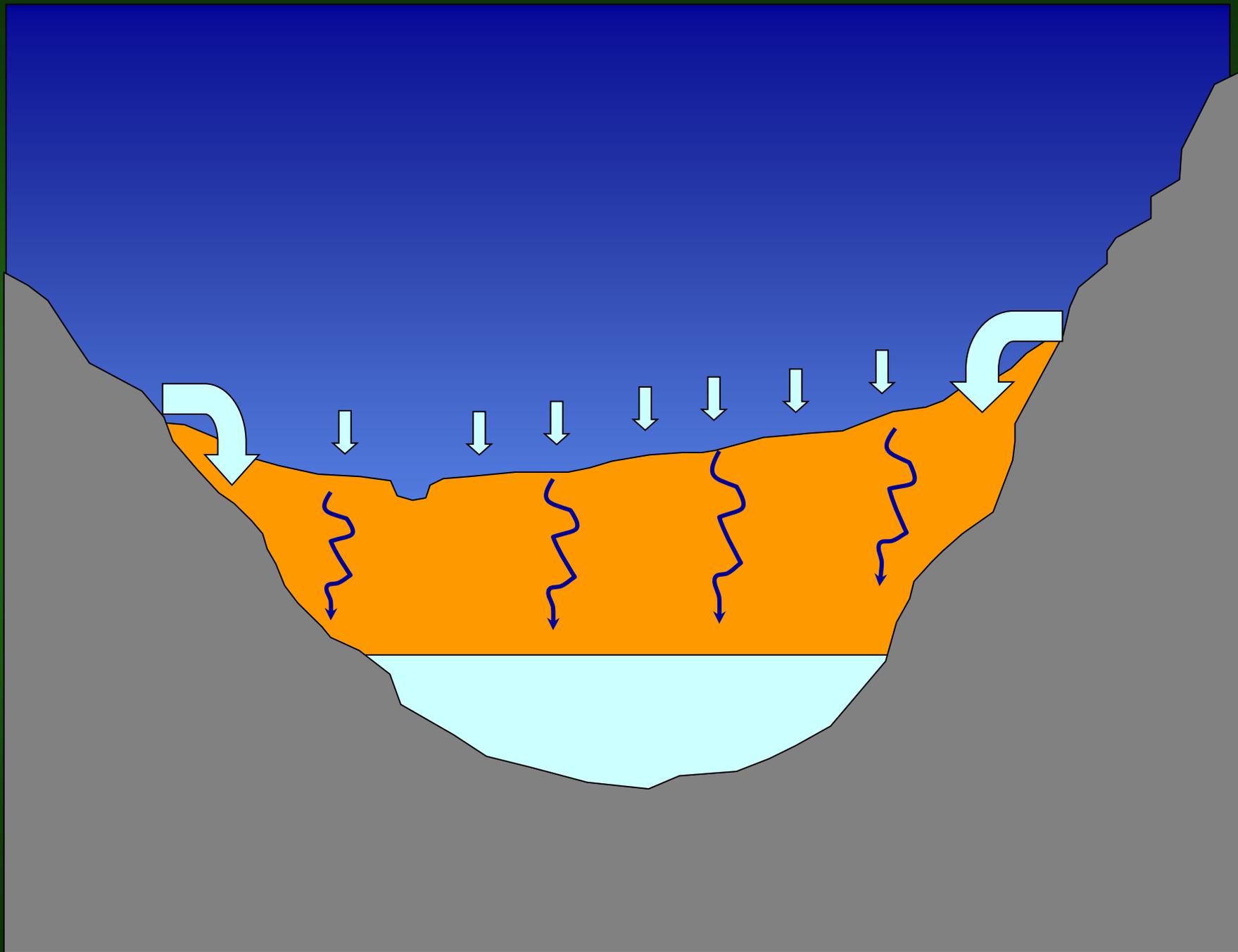




## Sediments

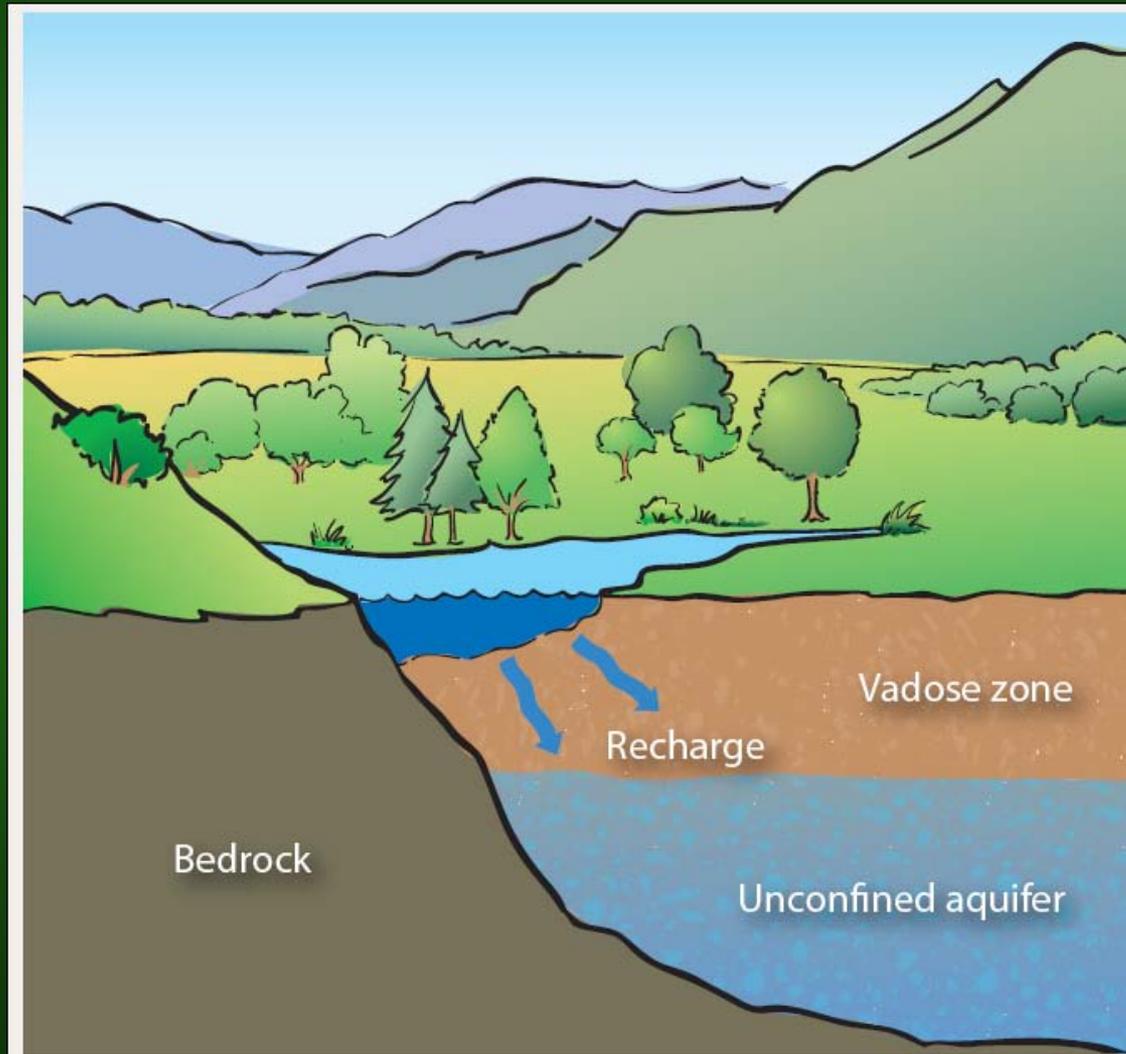
=> result of erosion, water, wind,  
lake deposition, ocean bay  
deposition

fractured bedrock of California's mountain ranges





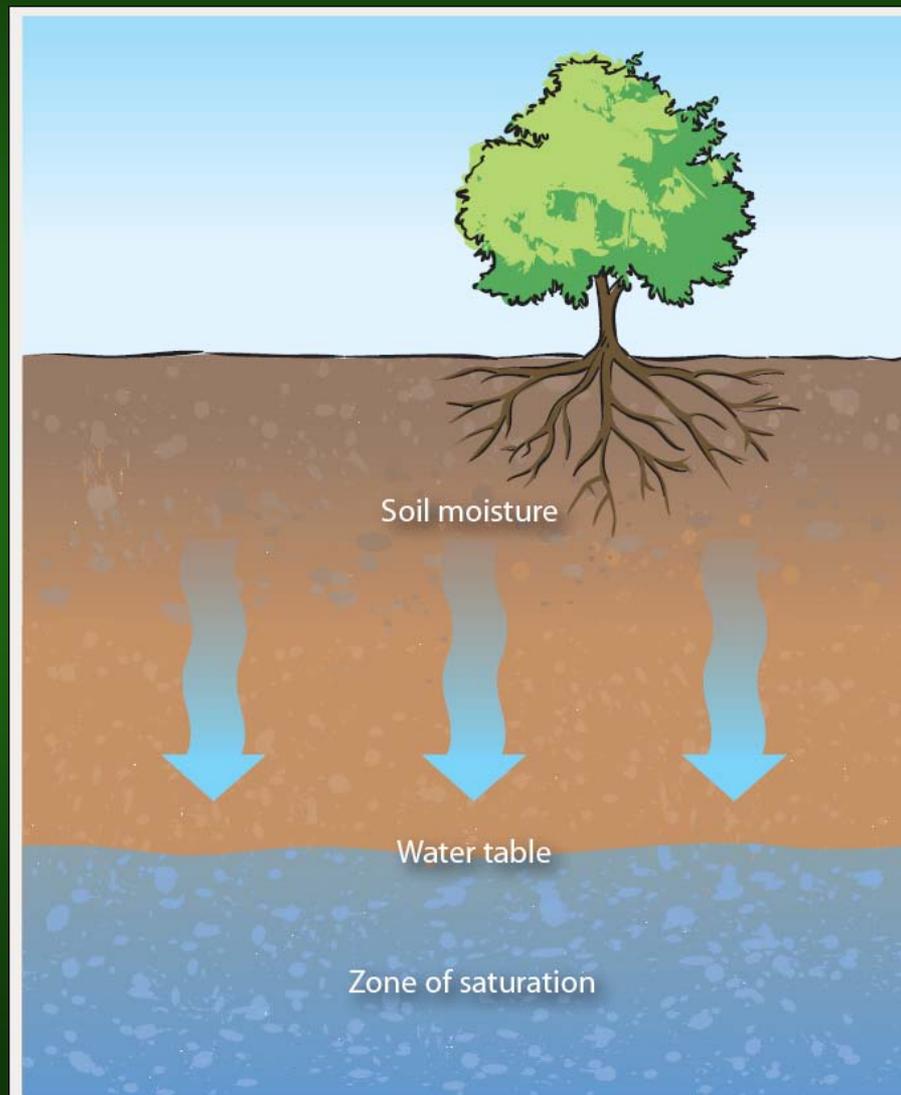
# Unconfined Aquifer

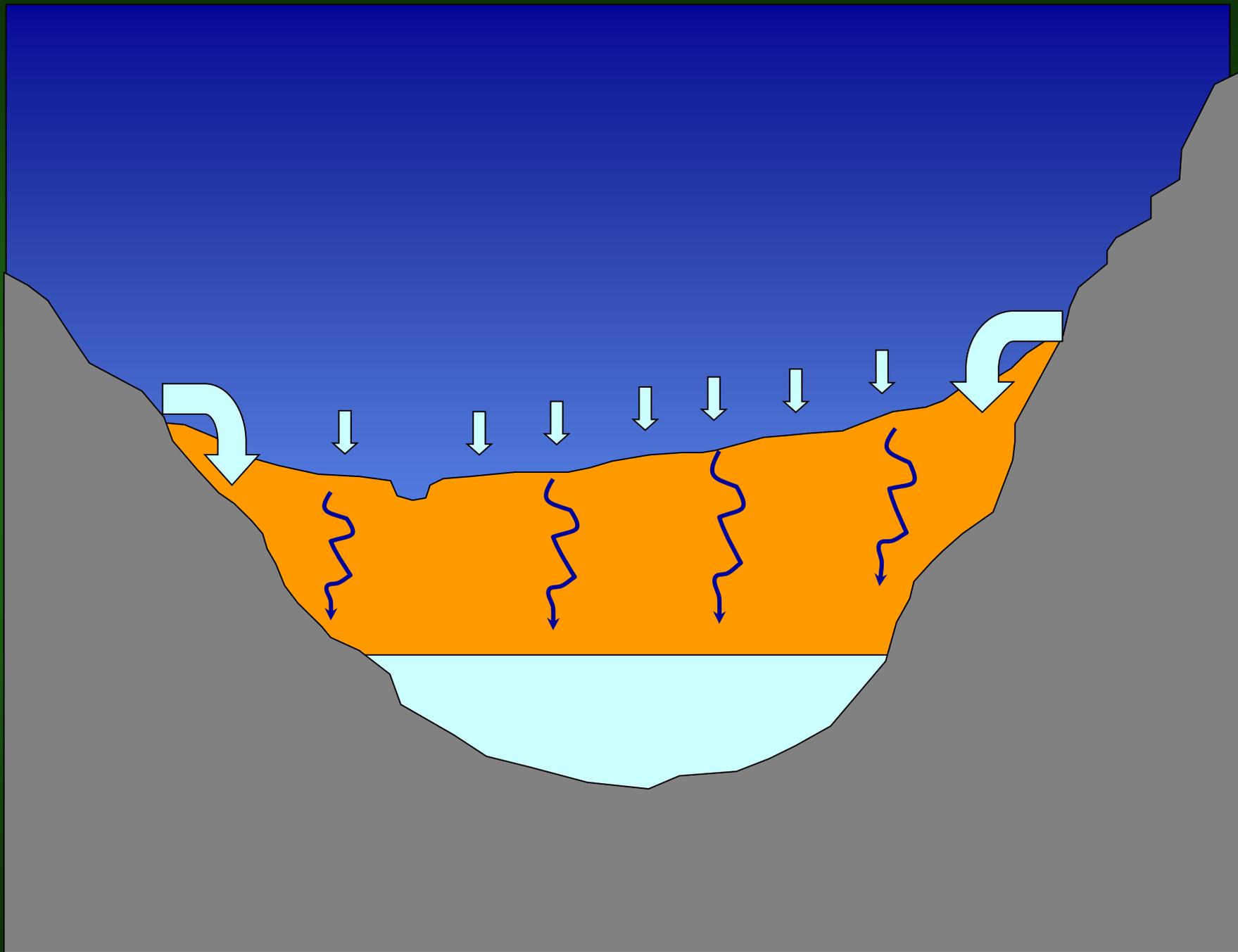


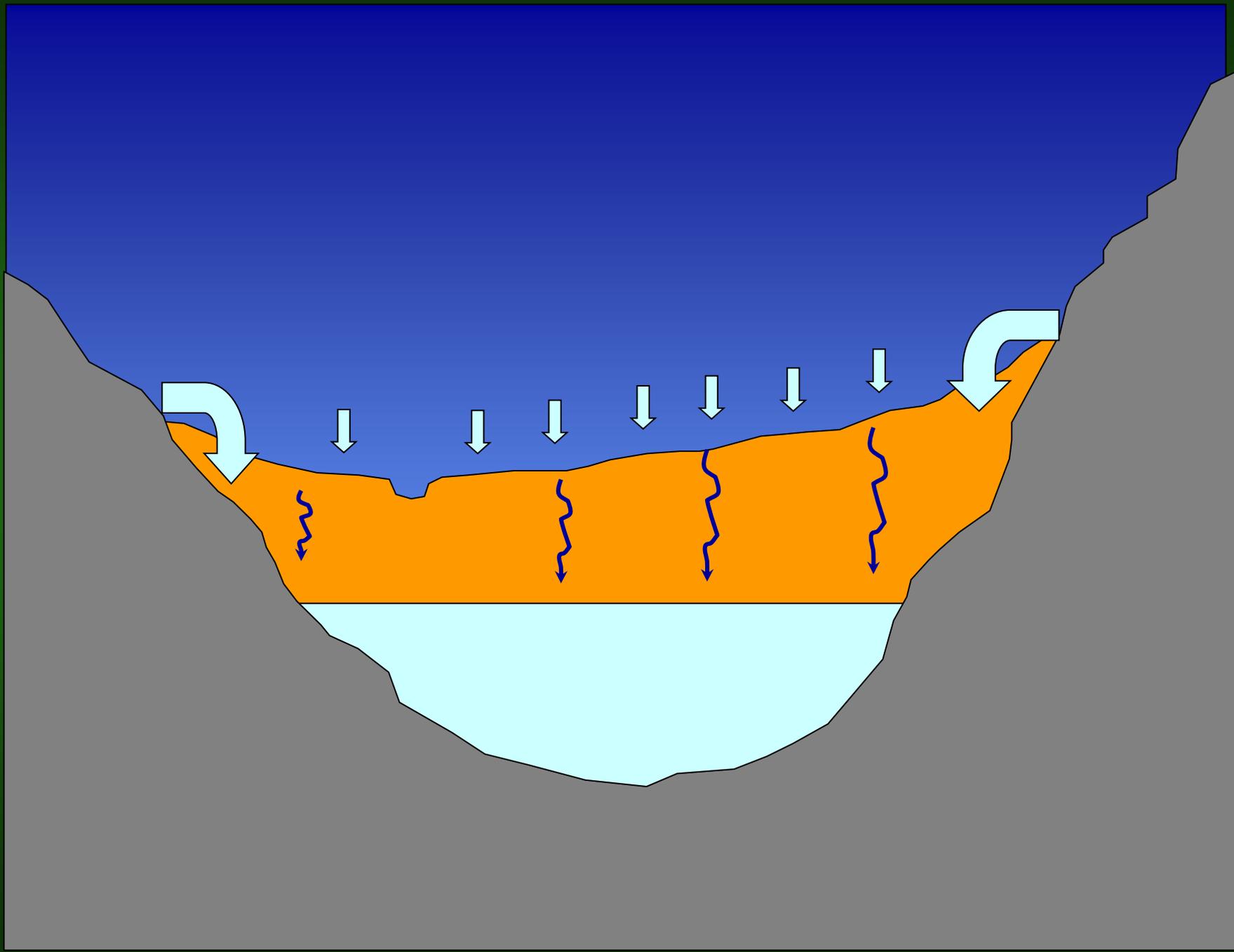
Losing  
stream

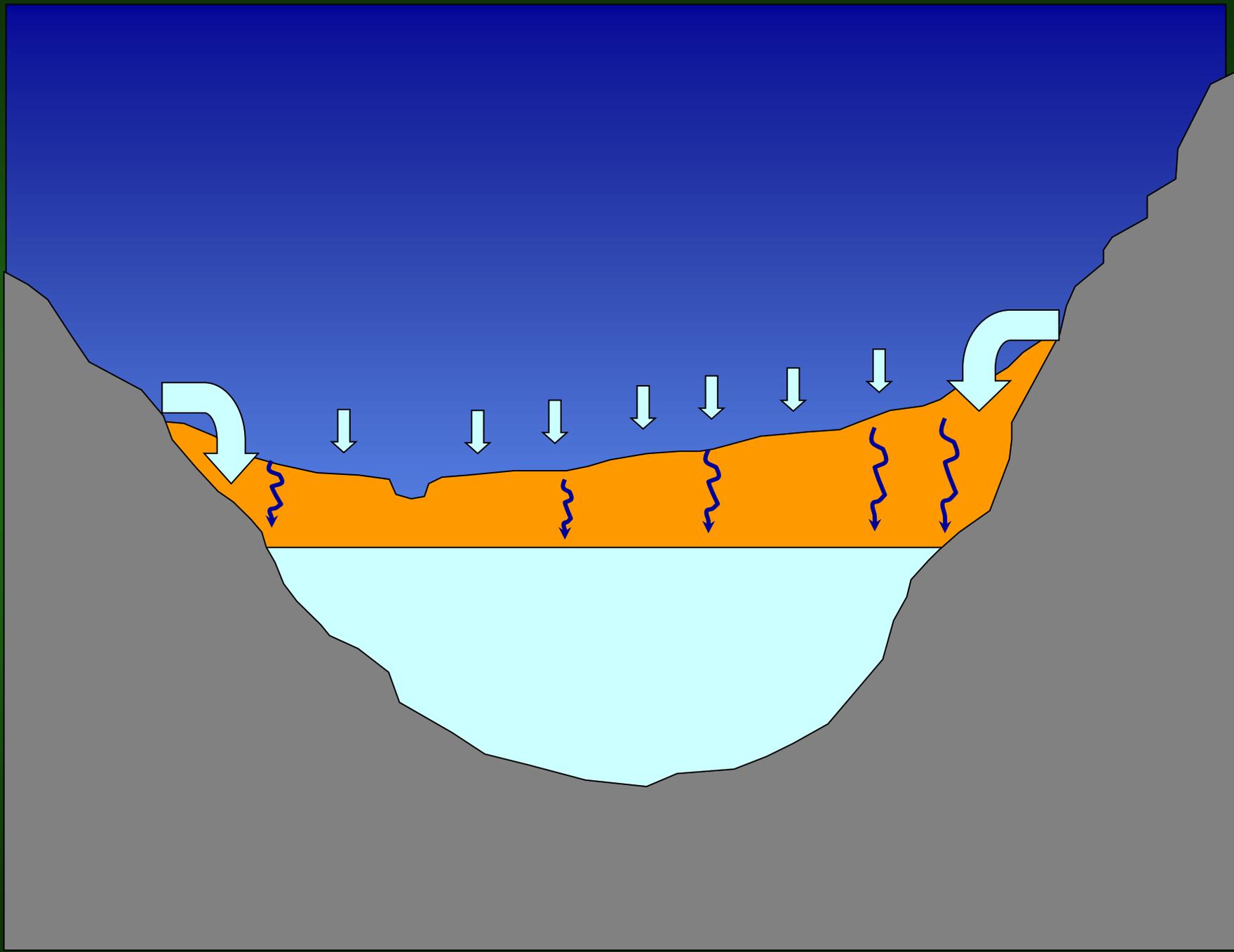


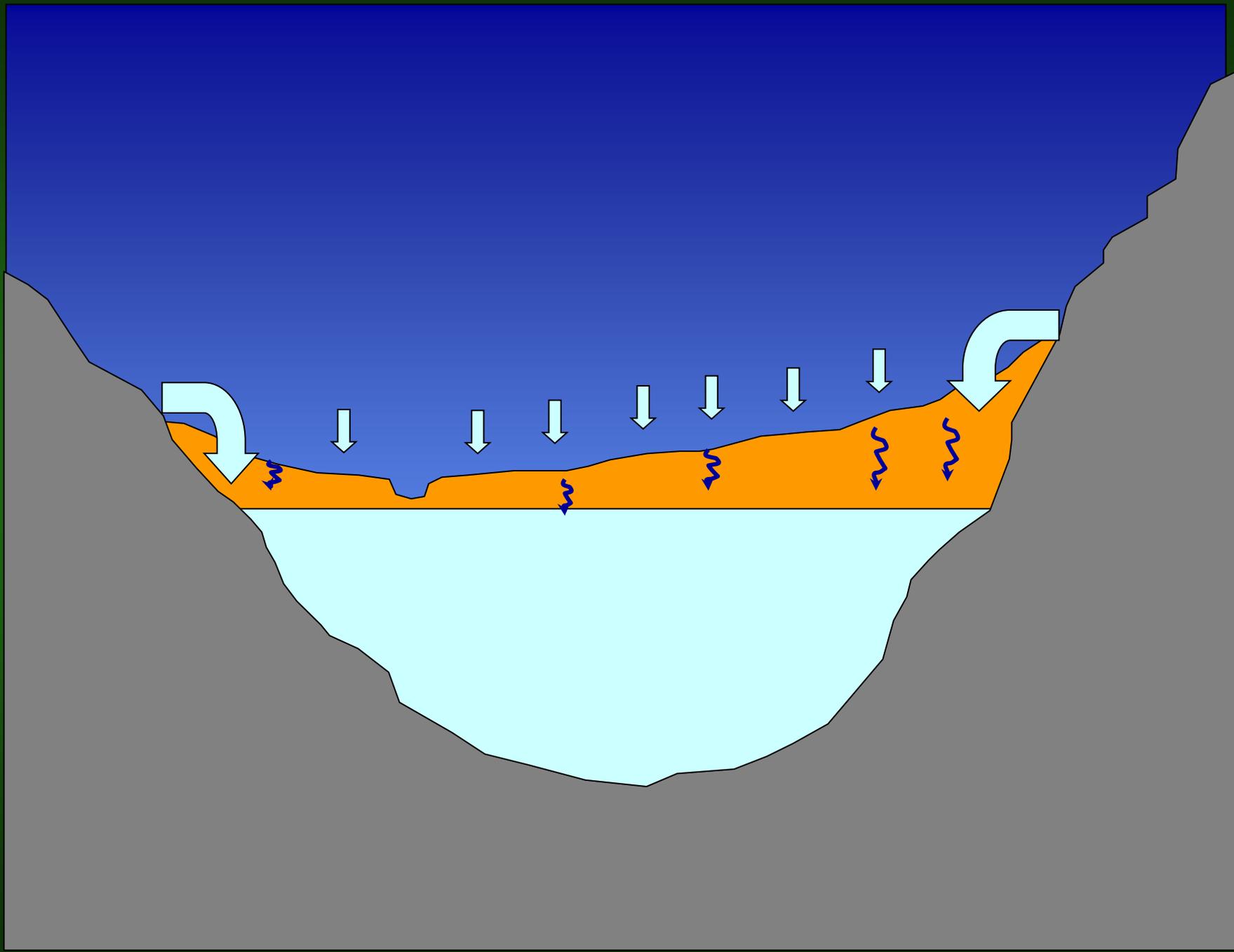
# What is Groundwater?

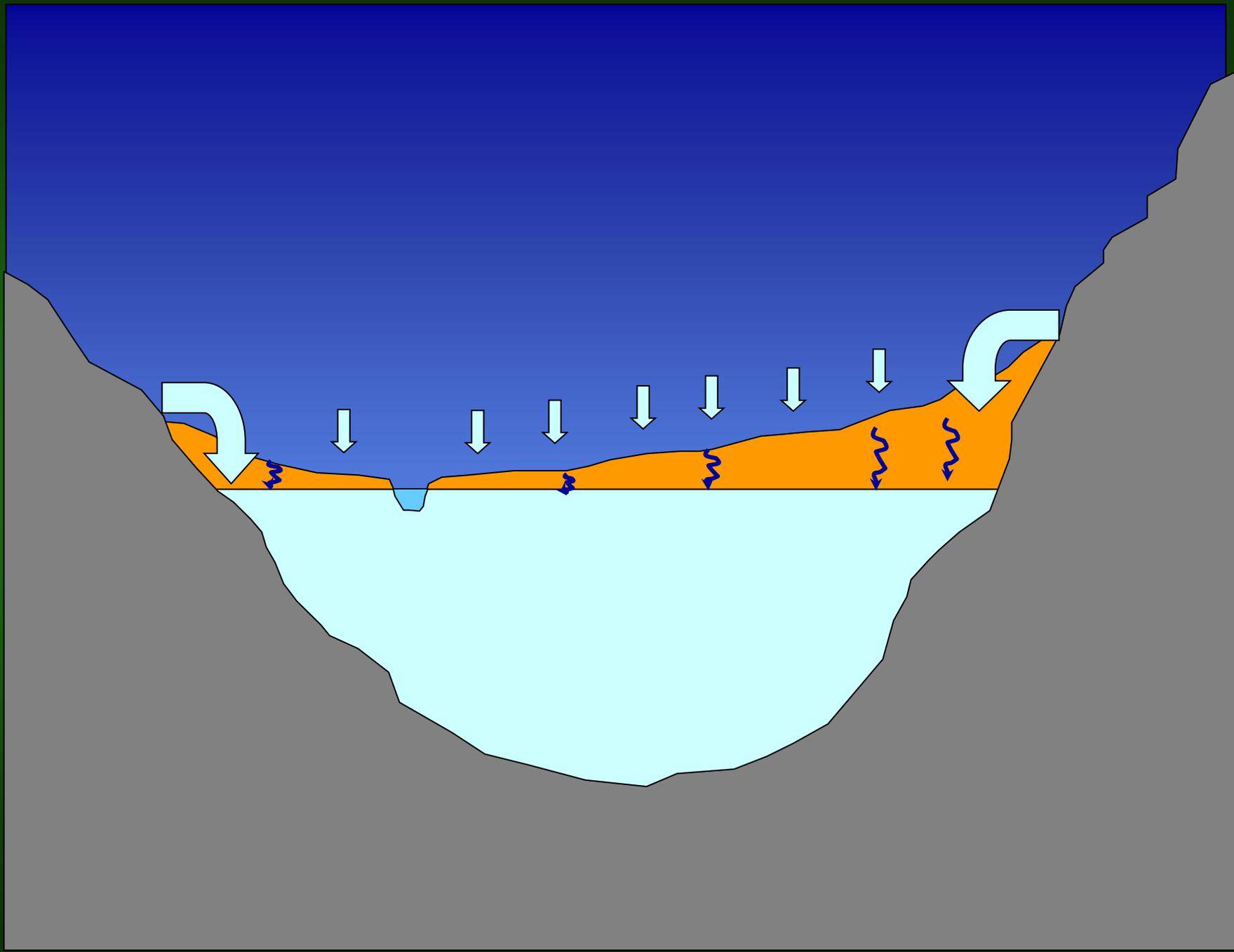


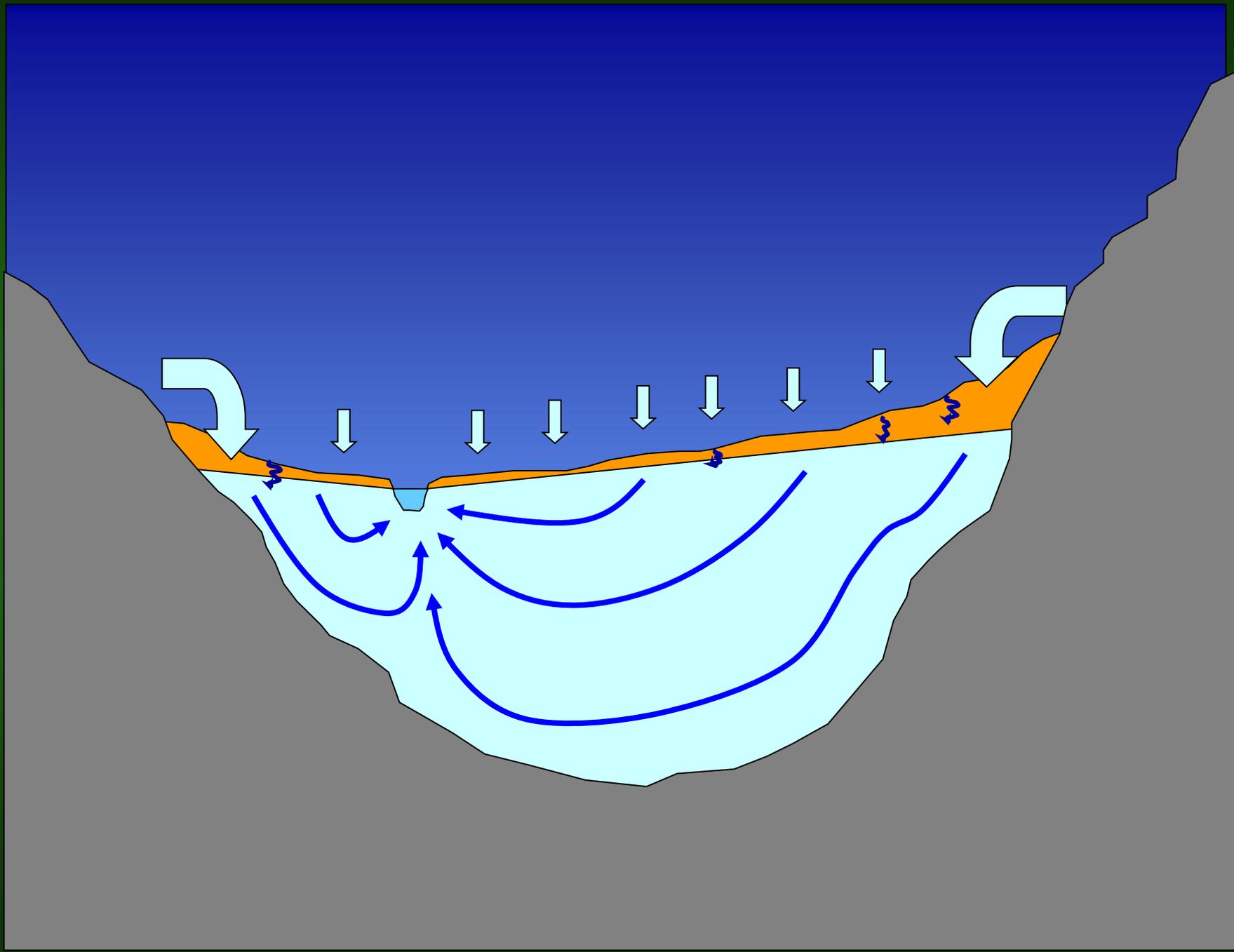






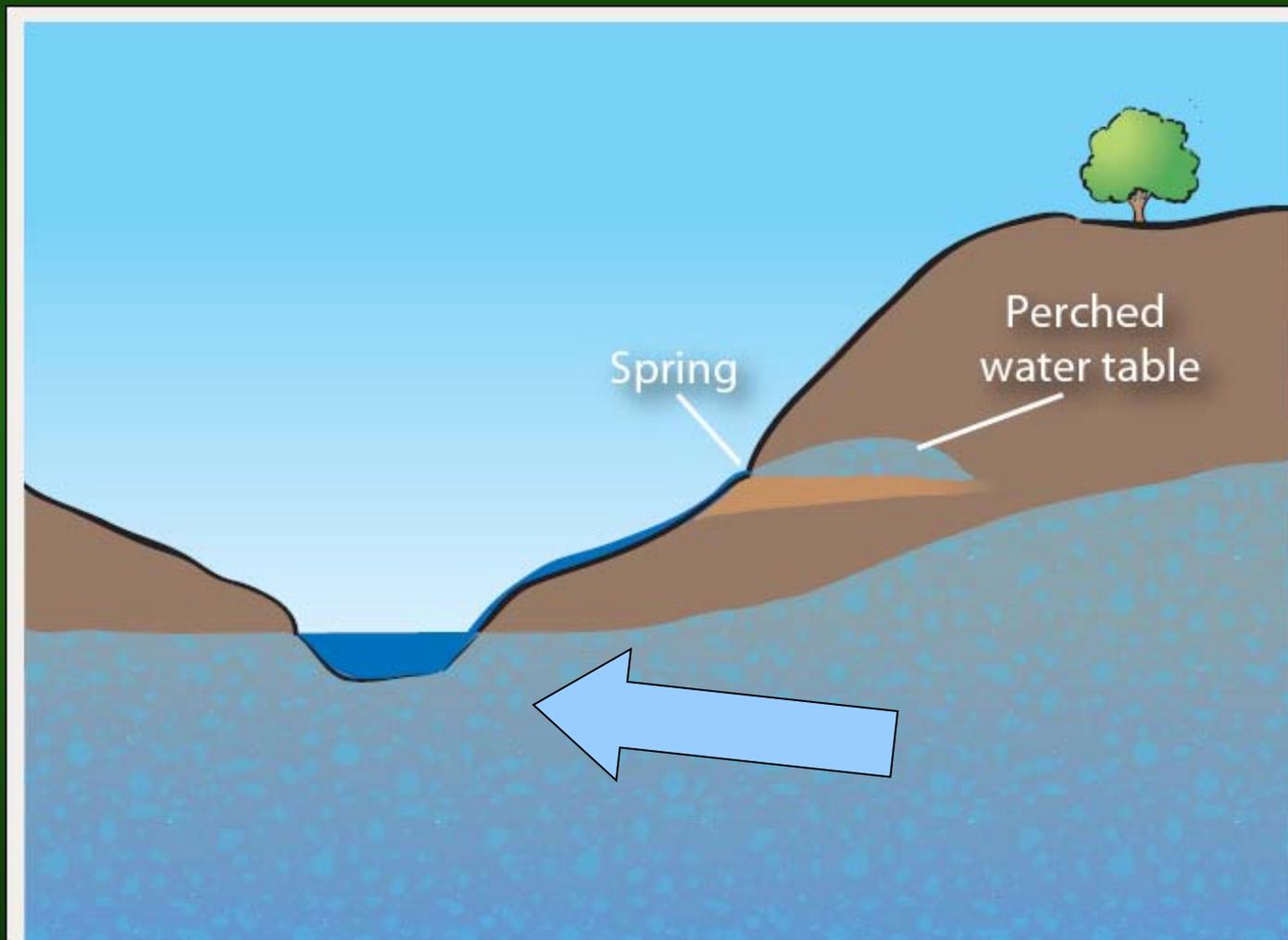








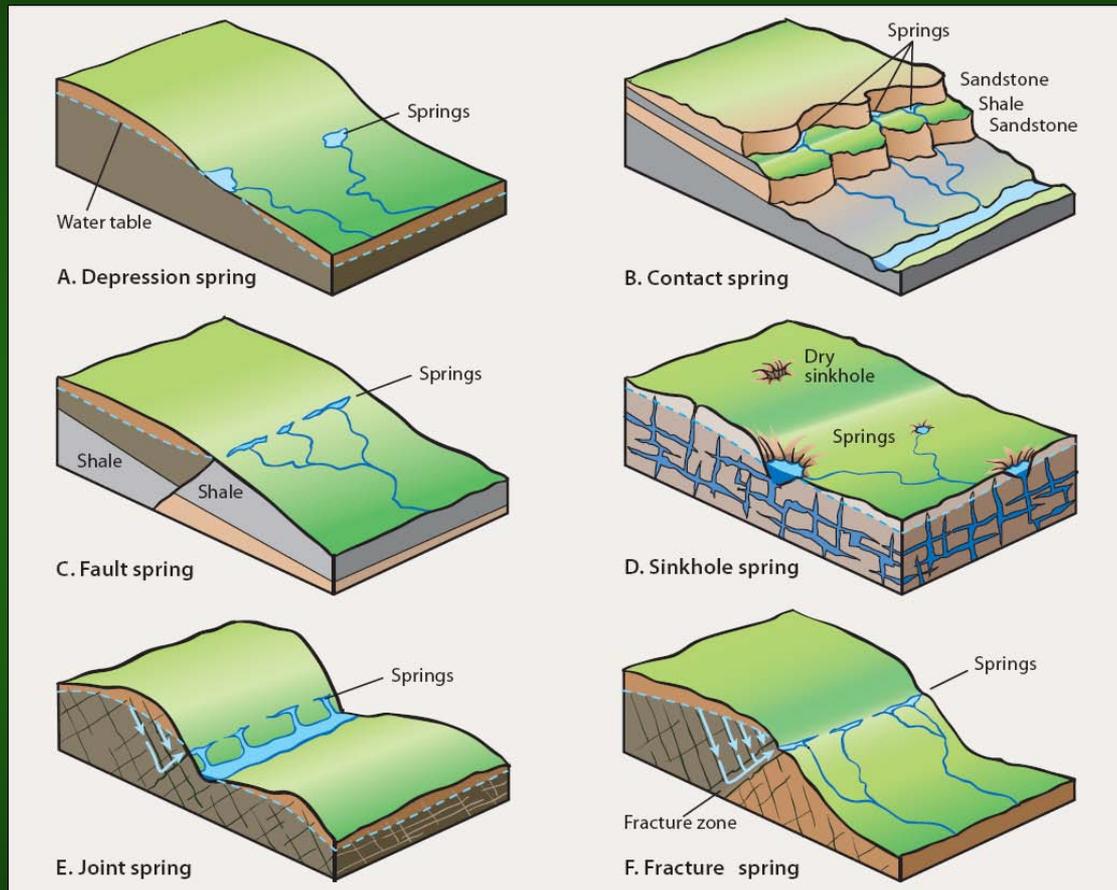
# Unconfined Aquifer



Gaining stream



# Springs



From: Harter and Rollins, *Watersheds, Groundwater, and Drinking Water - A Practical Guide*. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3497, 2008; <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/Items/3497.aspx>

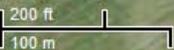


# Fall River, NE California

Basalt-flow

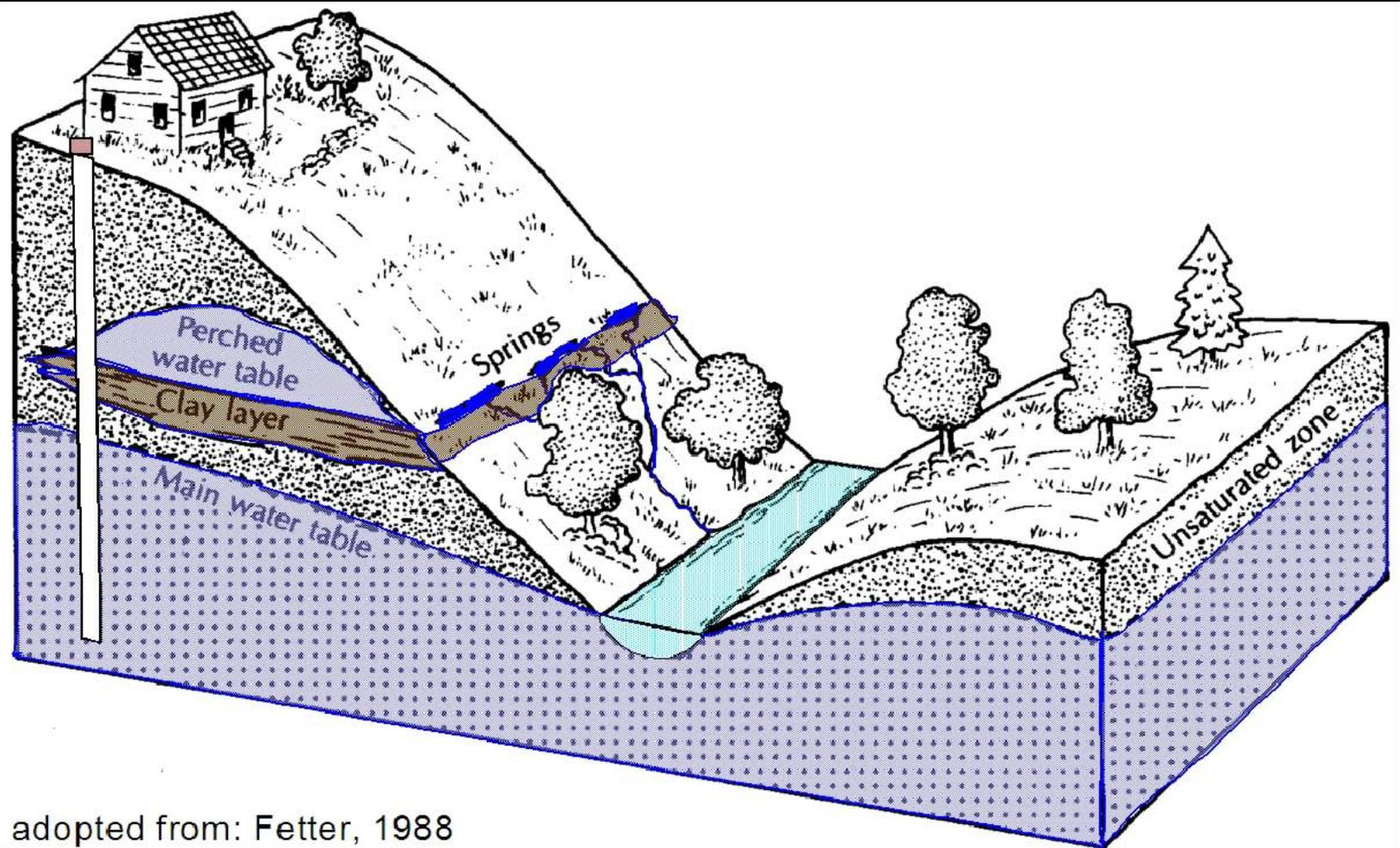


Alluvial  
Basin





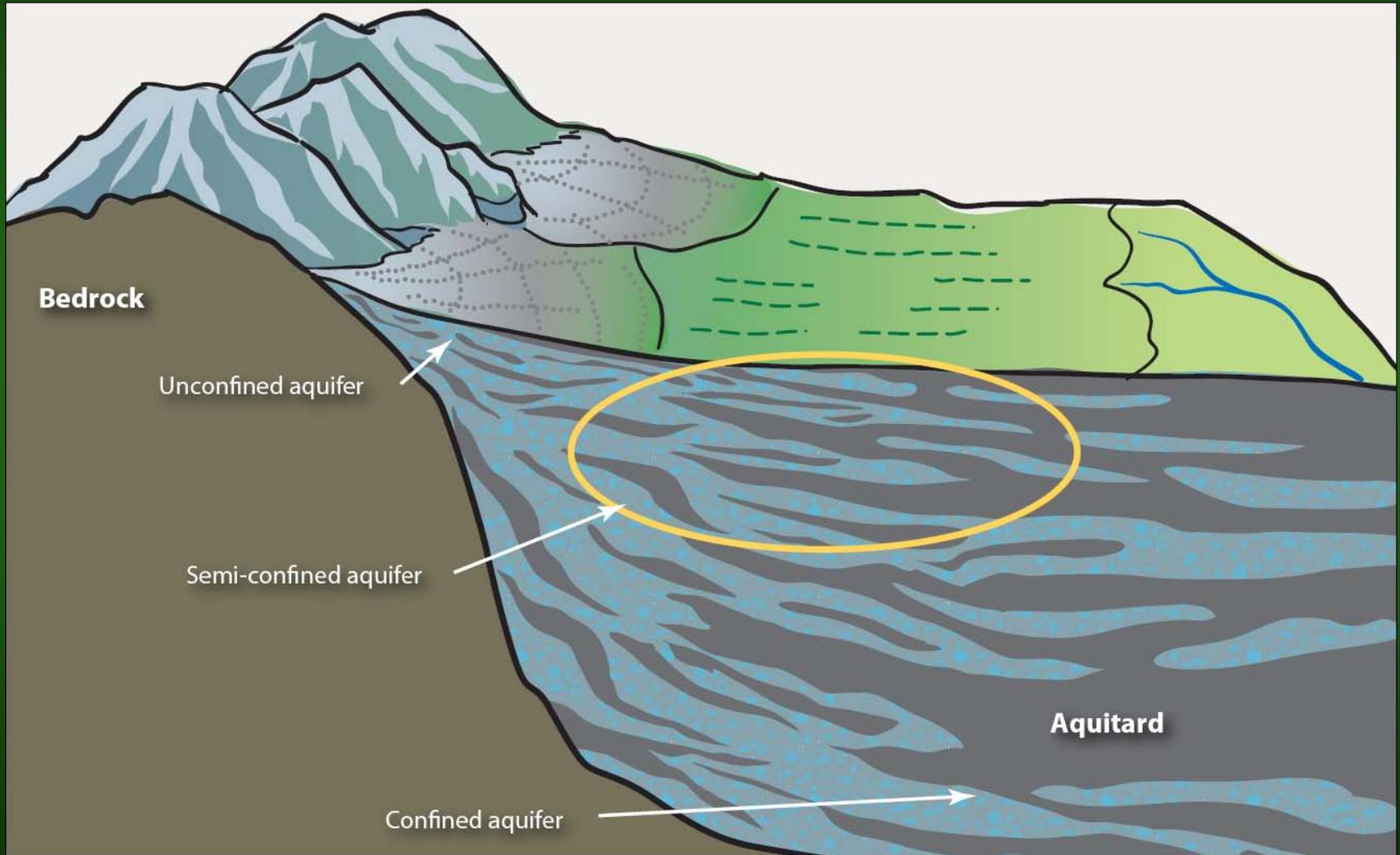
# Perched Water Table



adopted from: Fetter, 1988



# (Semi-) Confined Aquifer





# Artesian Well (Confined Aquifer)



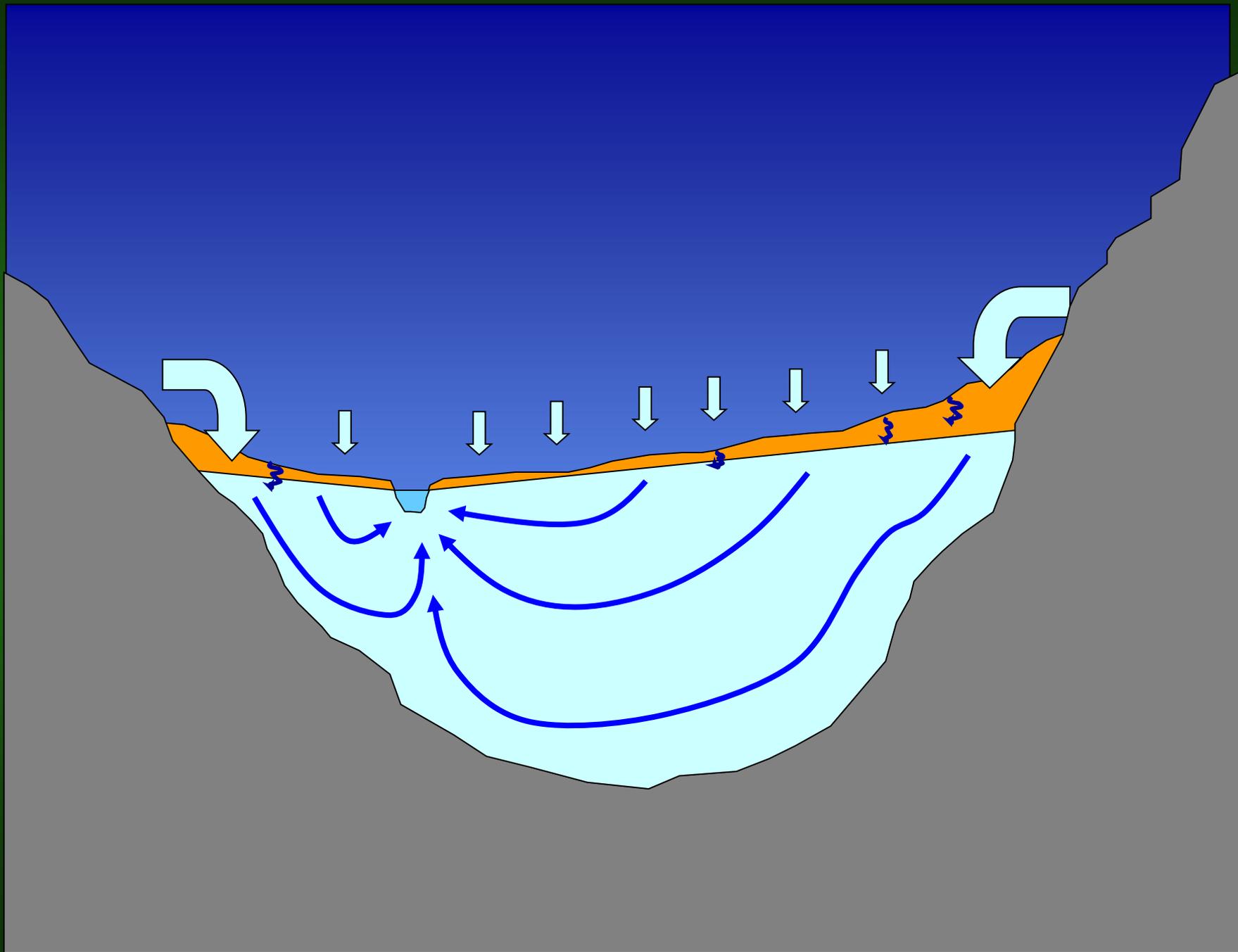


# Vernal Pools

aka

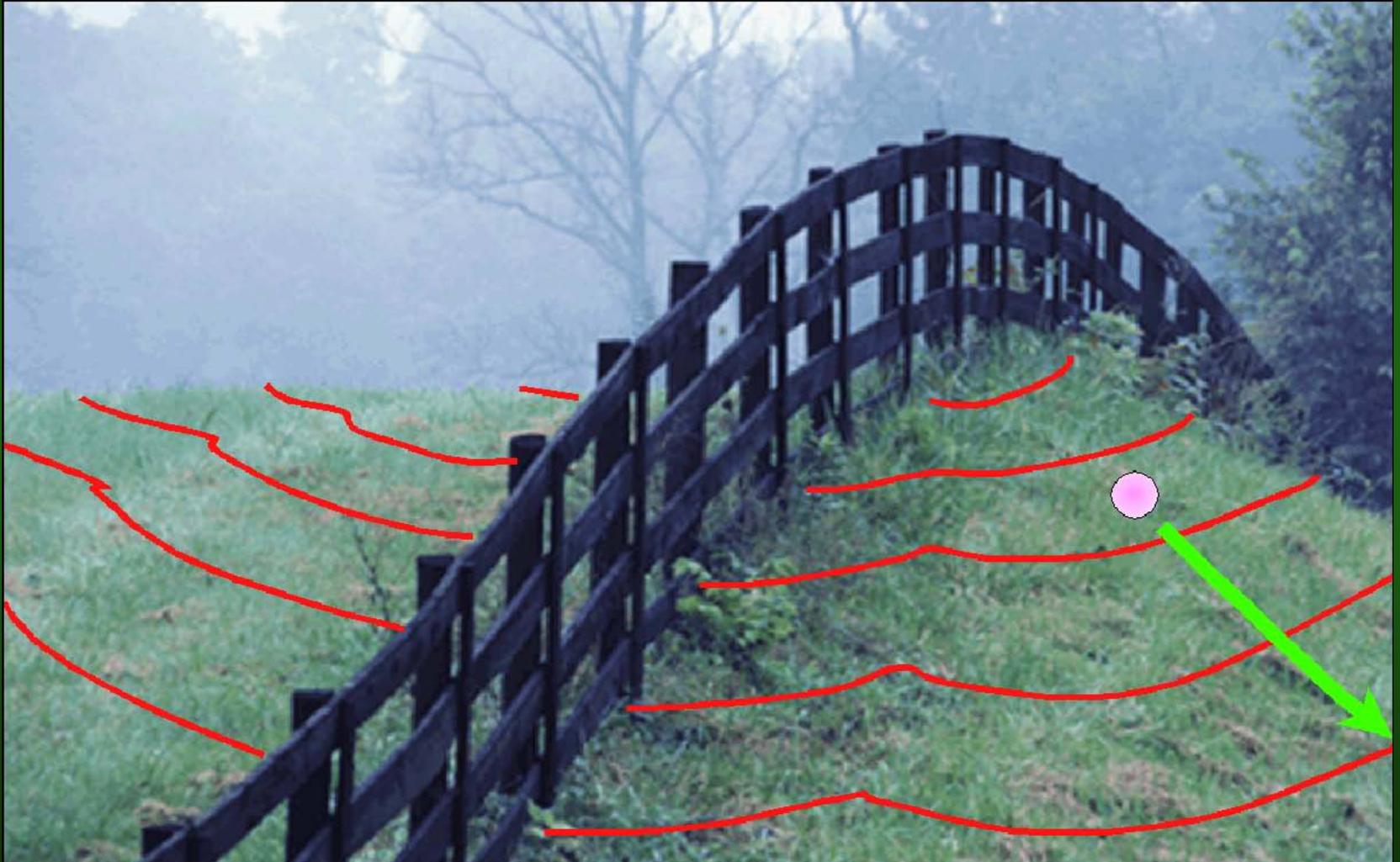
# Seasonal Wetlands







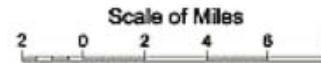
# Direction of Groundwater Flow?





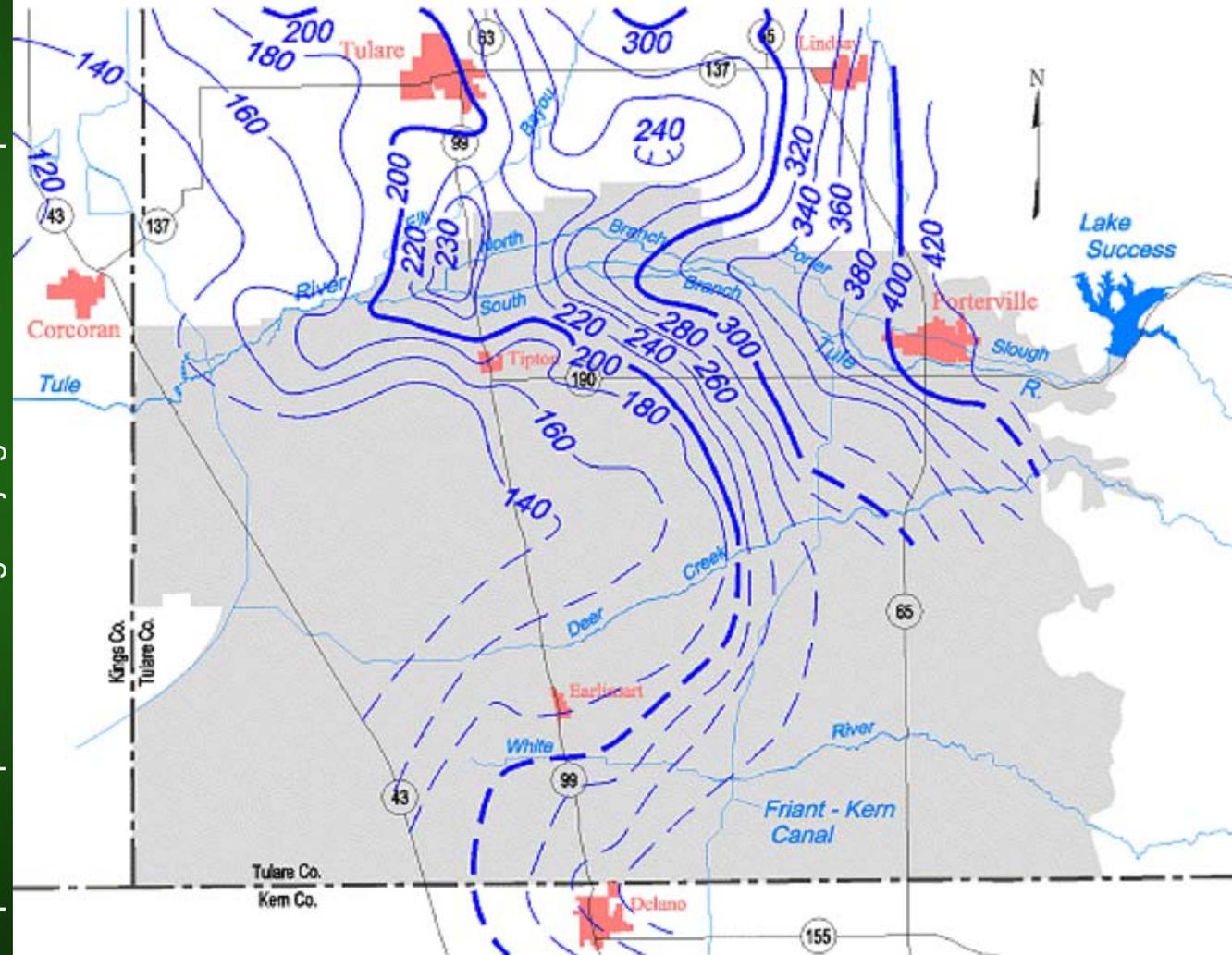
# Tule Groundwater Basin

Spring 1999, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Direction of  
Regional  
GW Flow

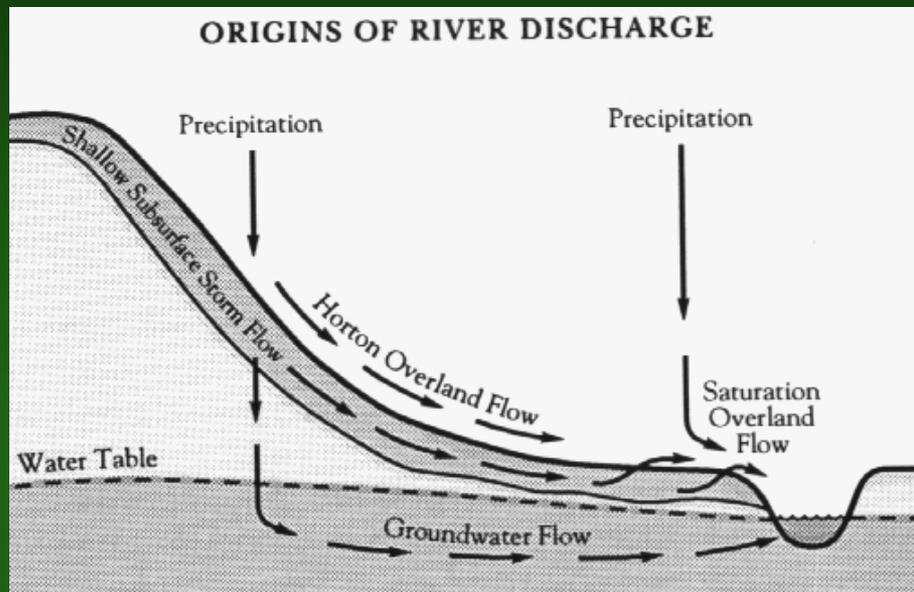
Map from:  
<http://www.dpla.water.ca.gov/sjd/groundwater/tle-emap99.html>



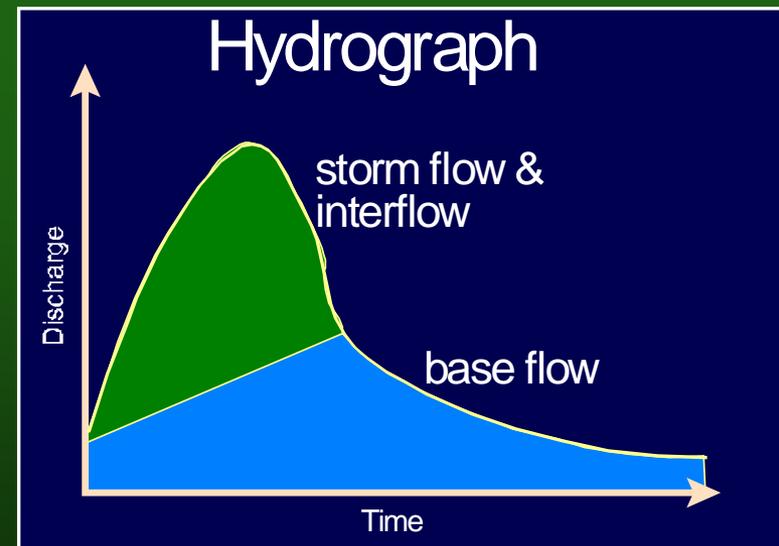
Contours are dashed where inferred. Contour interval is 10 and 20 feet.

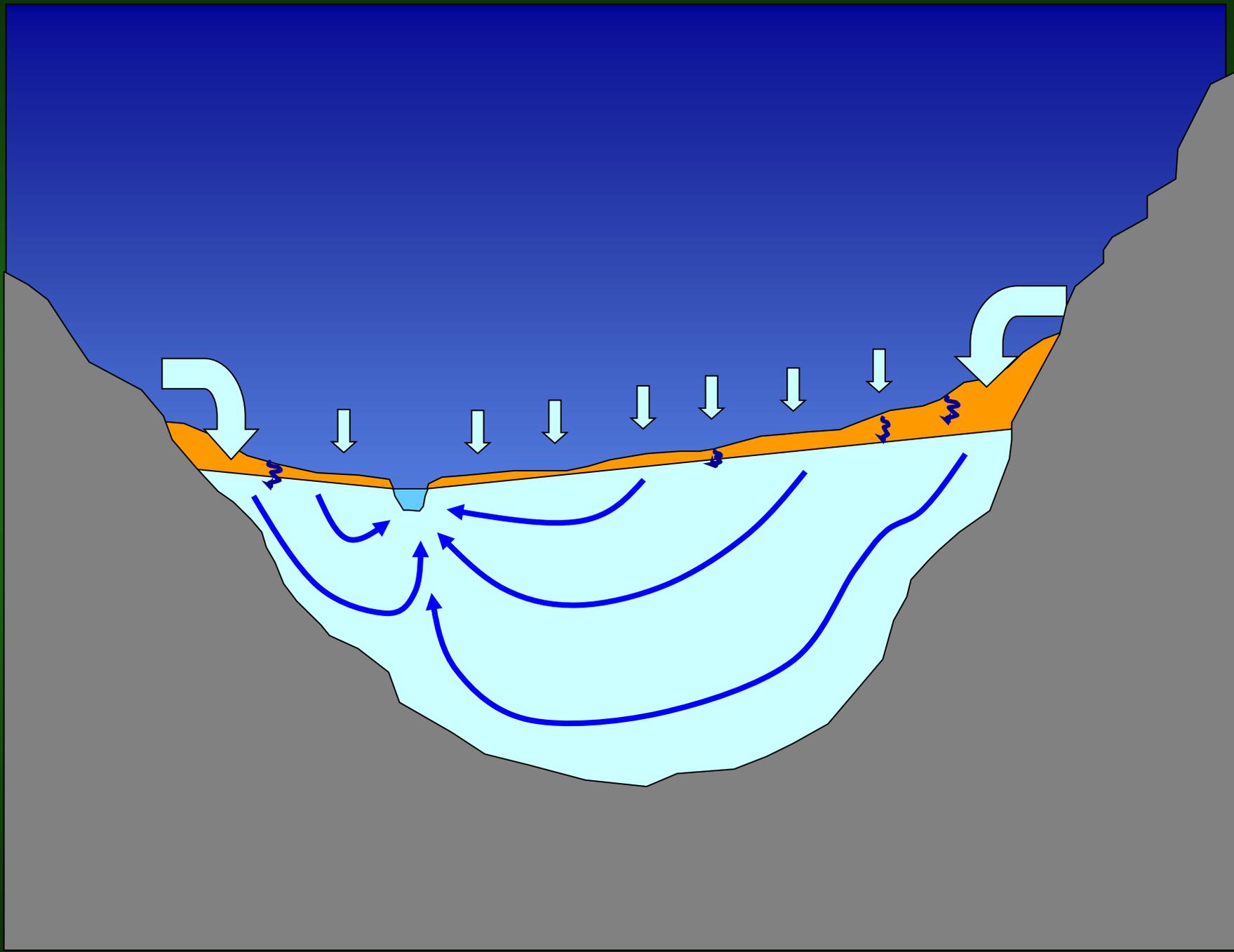


# The Classic Hydrology View



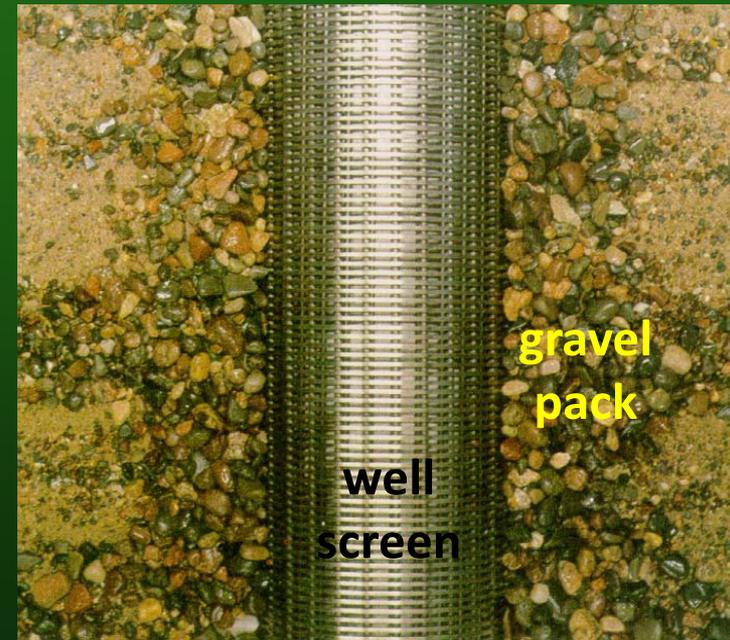
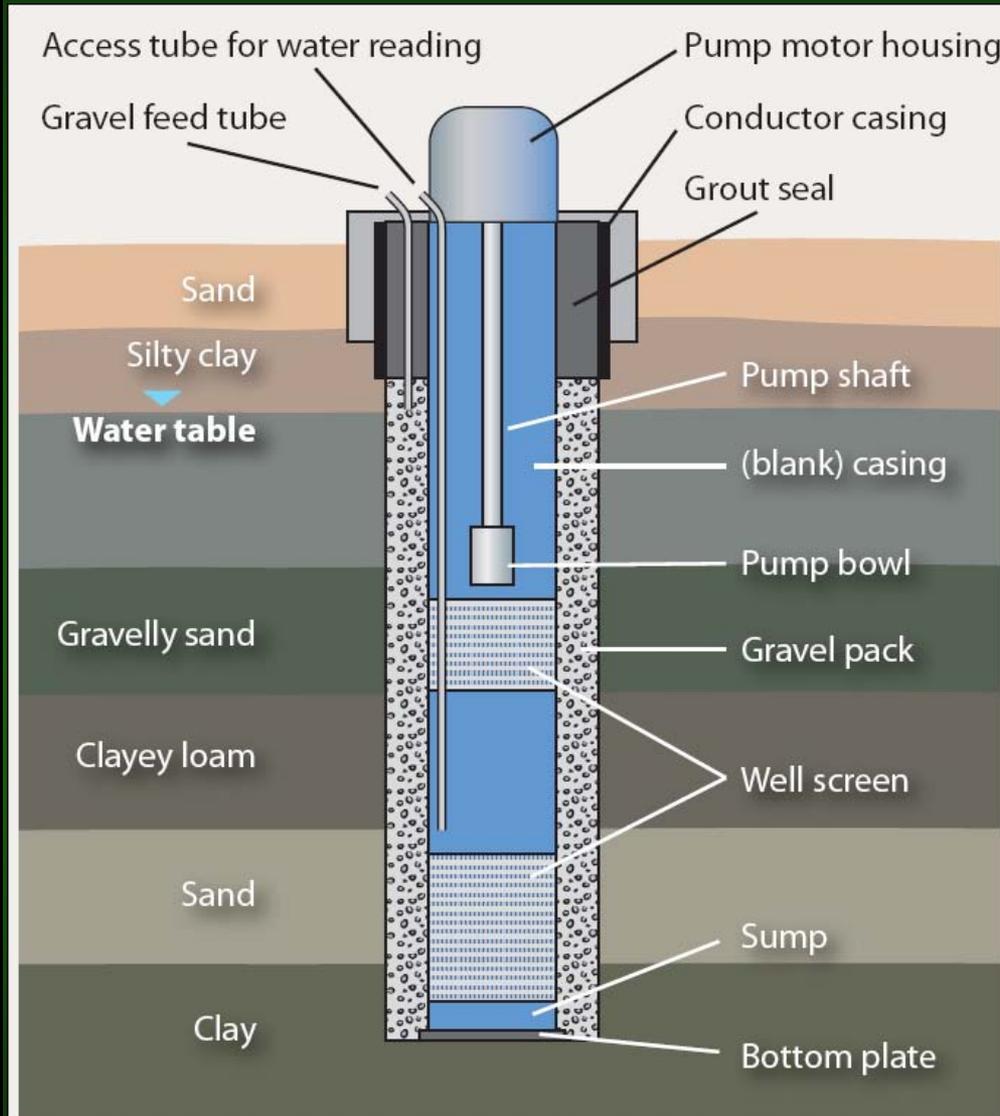
From: Jeff Mount "California Rivers and Streams"

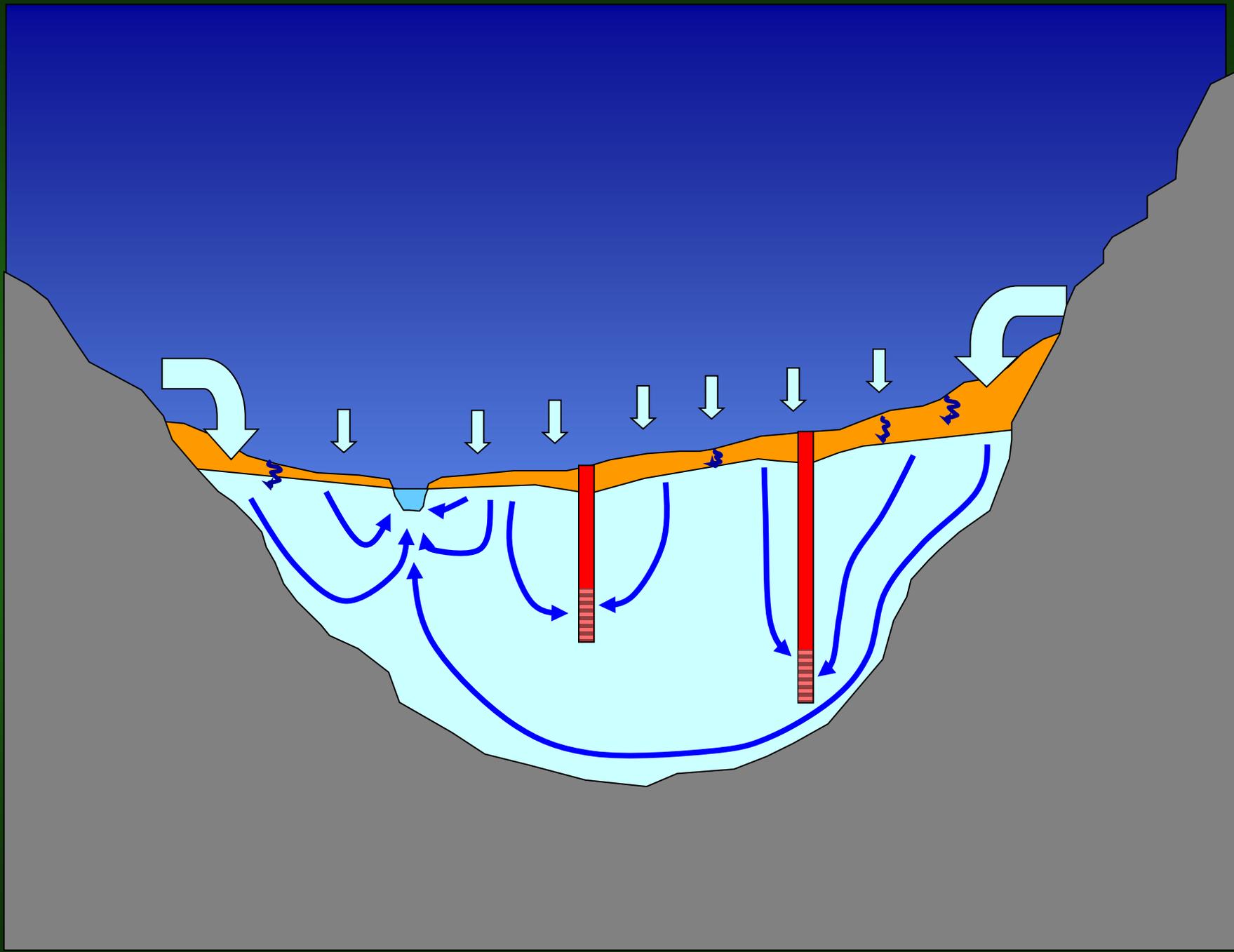






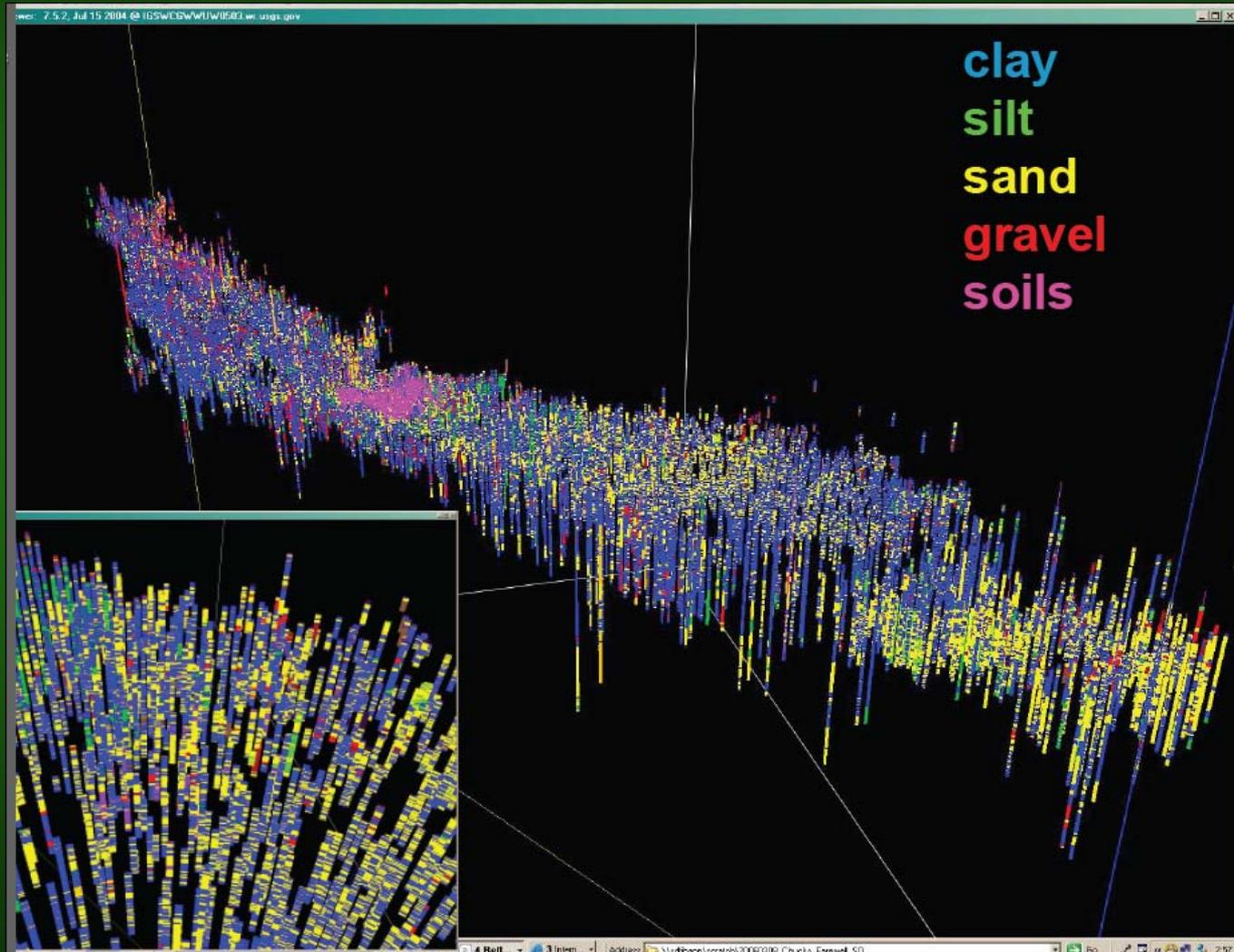
# A Groundwater Well







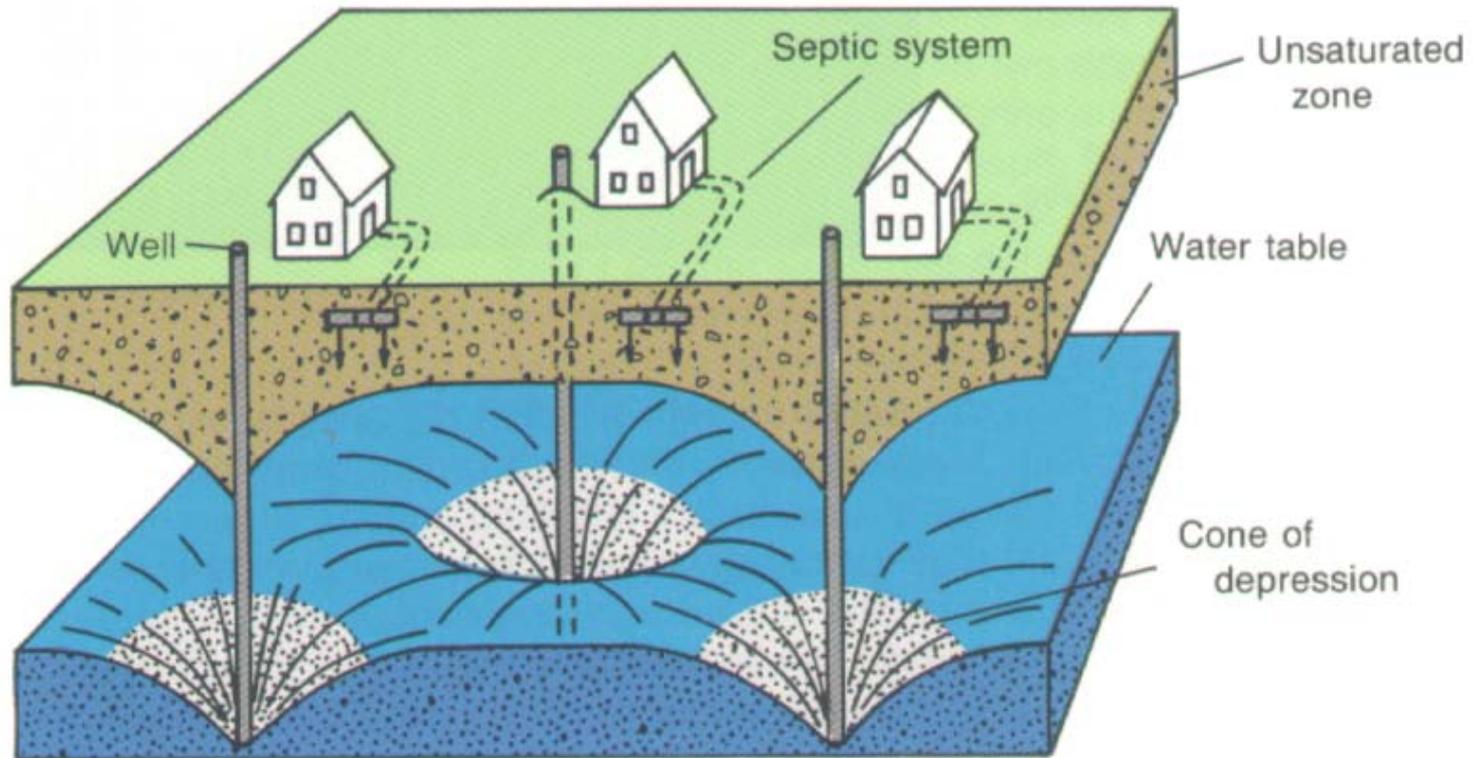
# Hydraulic Conductivity from Borehole Logs (Estimated)



Courtesy, Claudia Fawn, USGS, 2008



# Cone of Depression near a Well

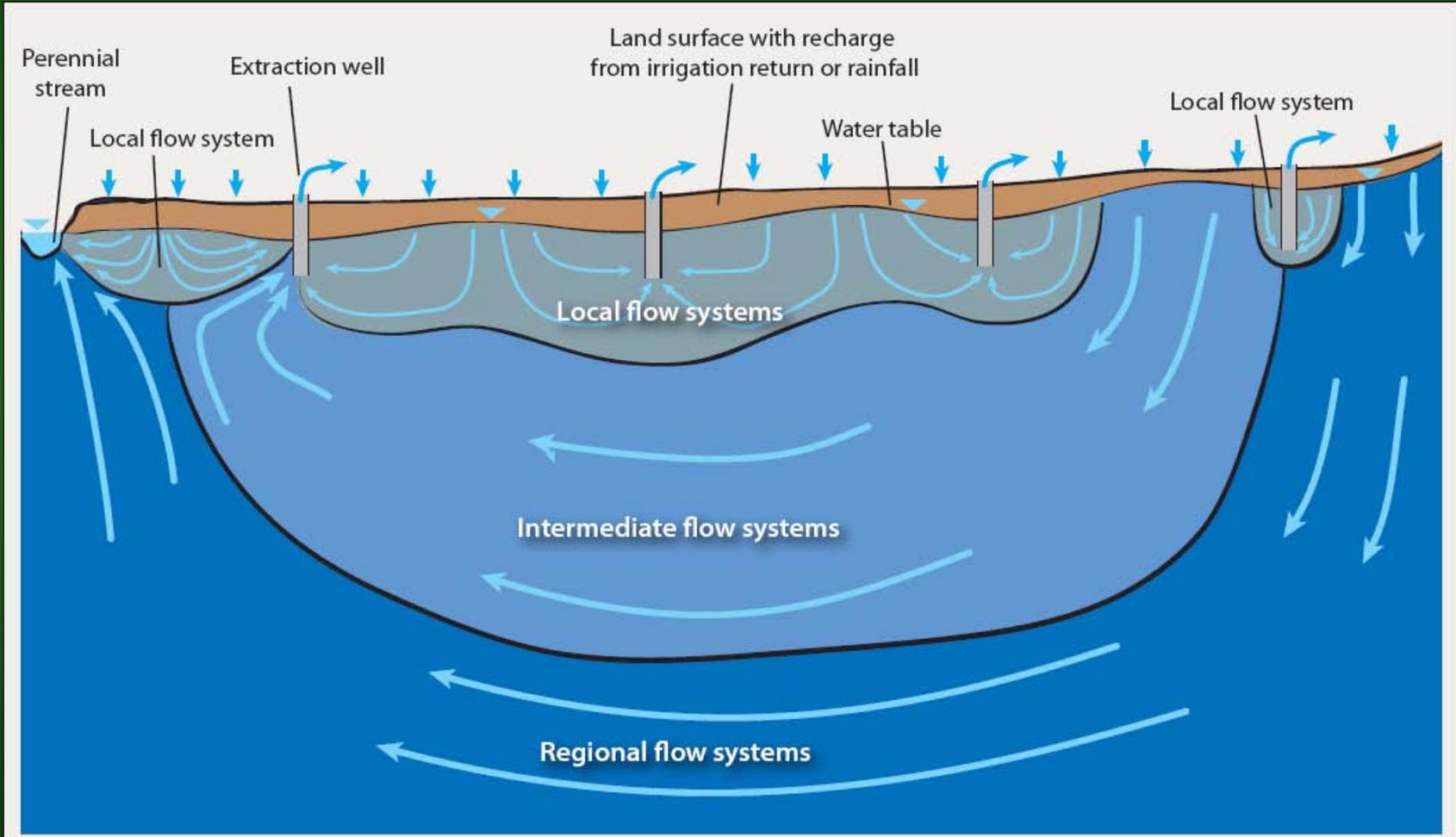


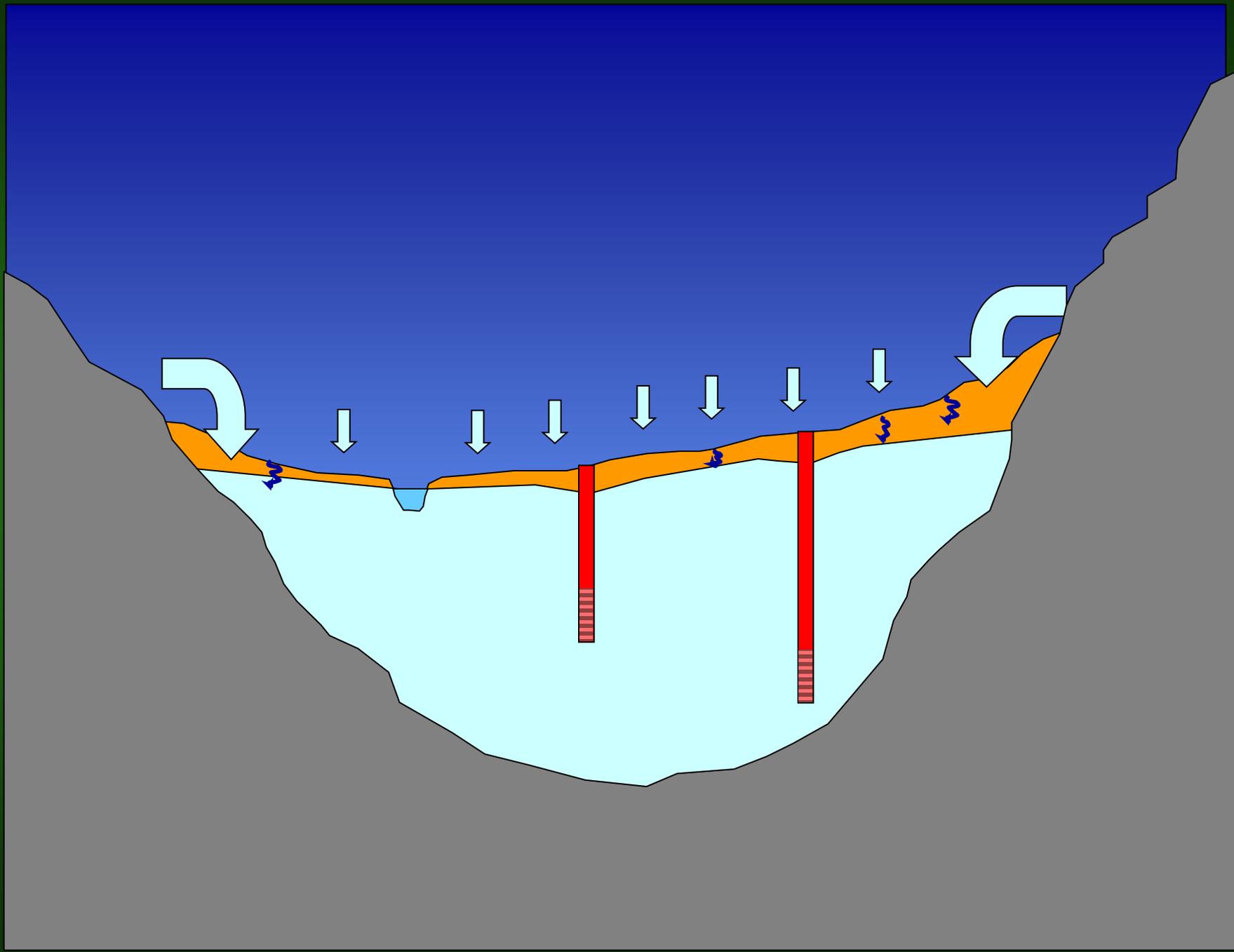
Effect of concentrated housing on ground-water level.

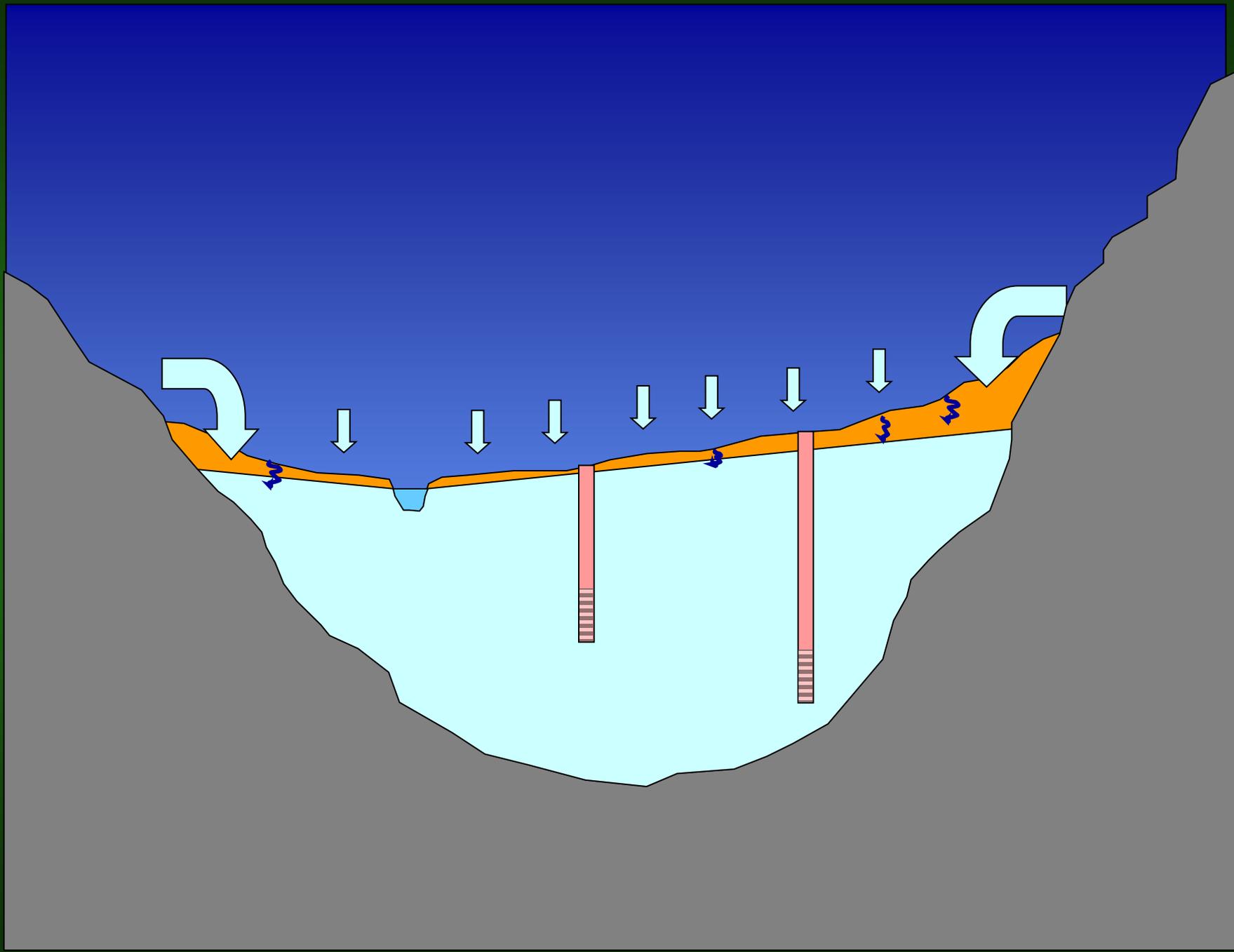
from: U.S. Geological Survey, 'Ground Water and the Rural Homeowner'

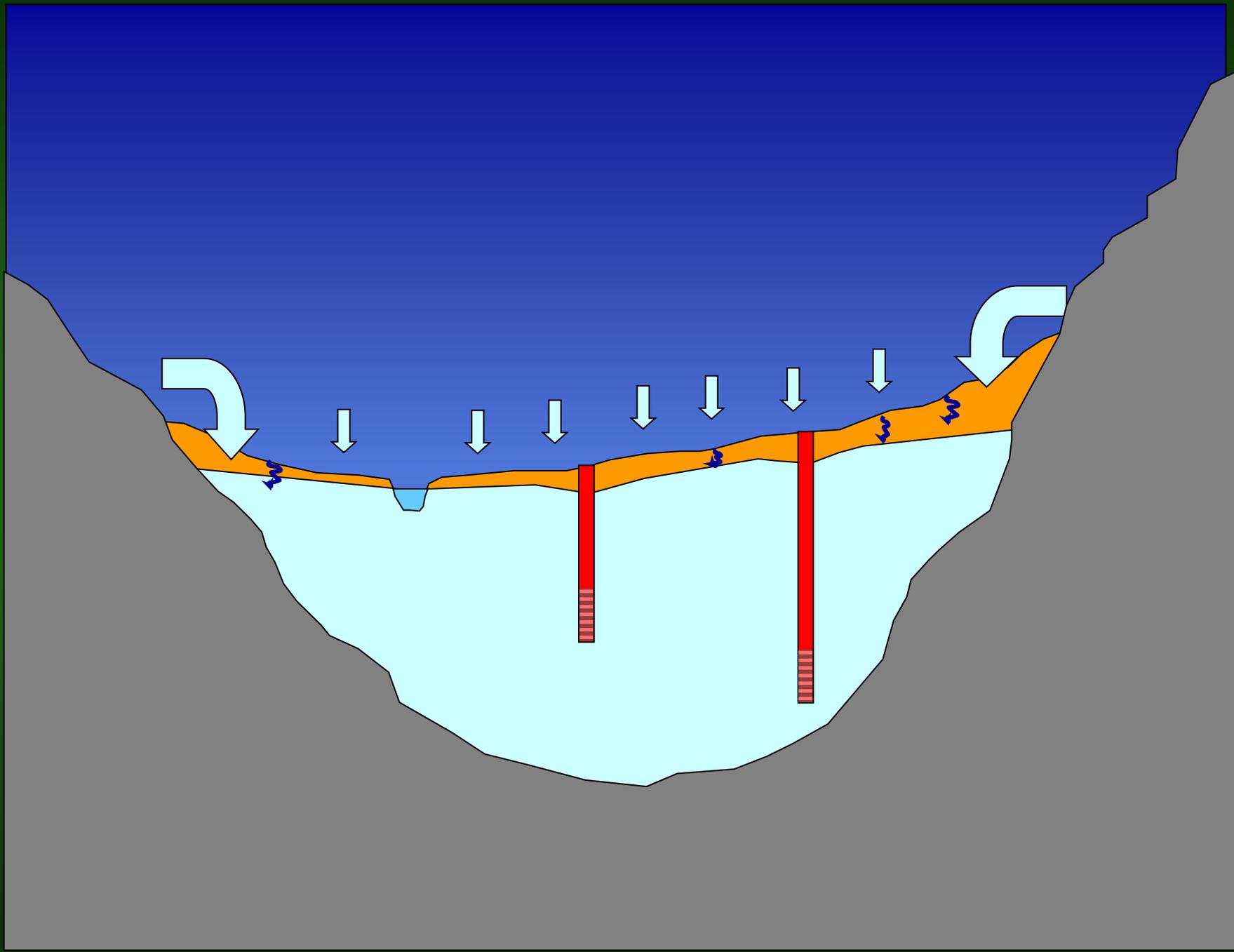


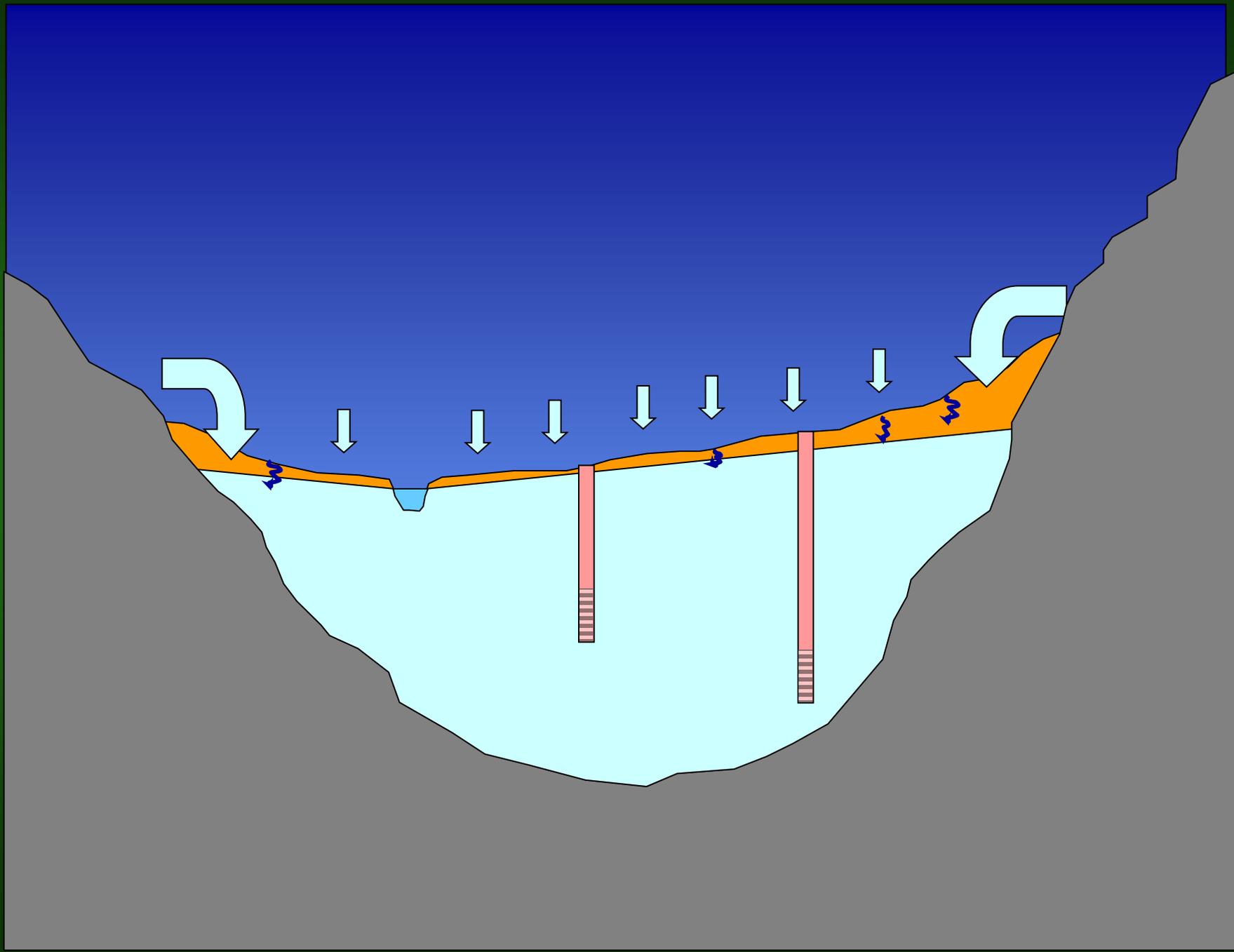
# Local & Regional Groundwater Flow

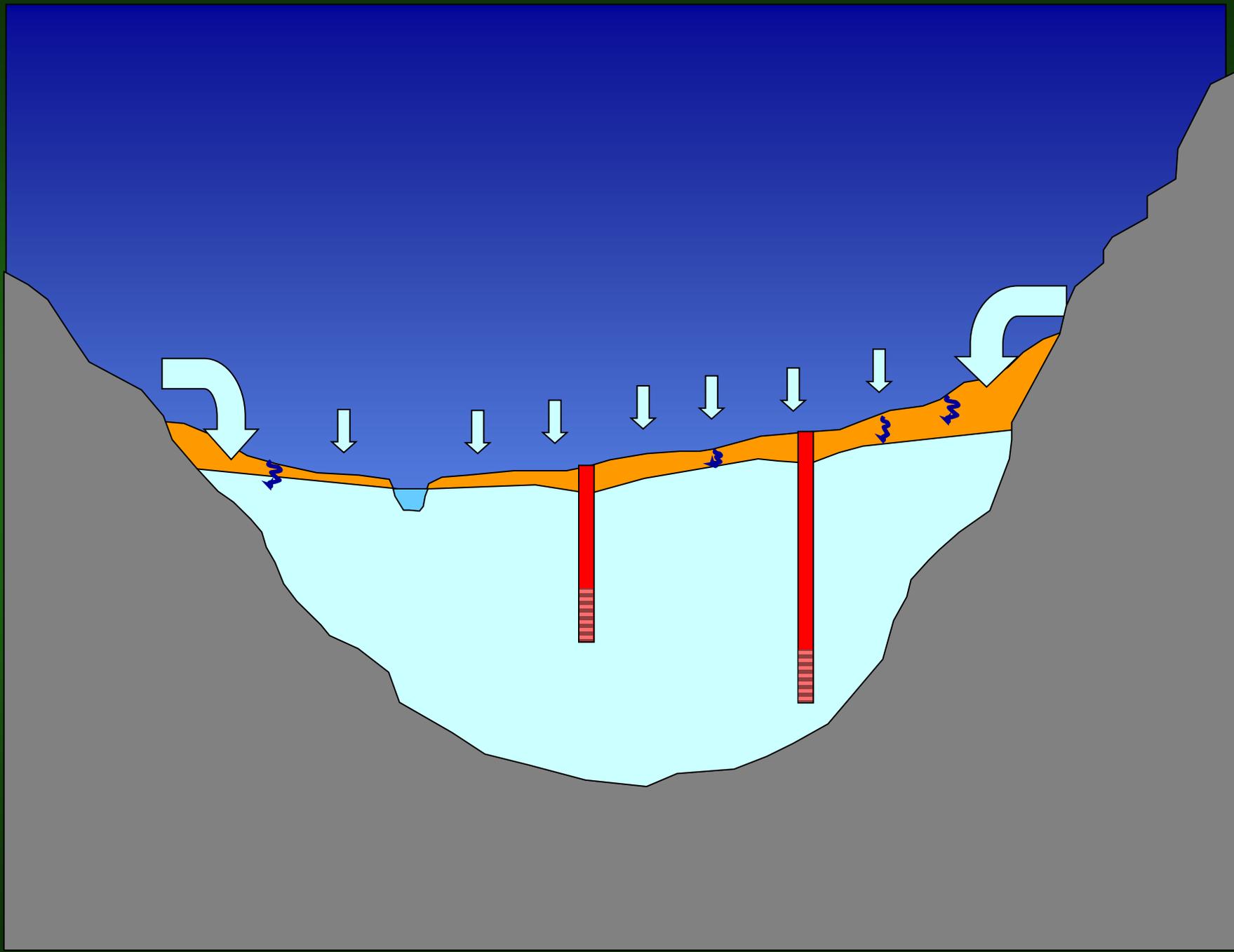


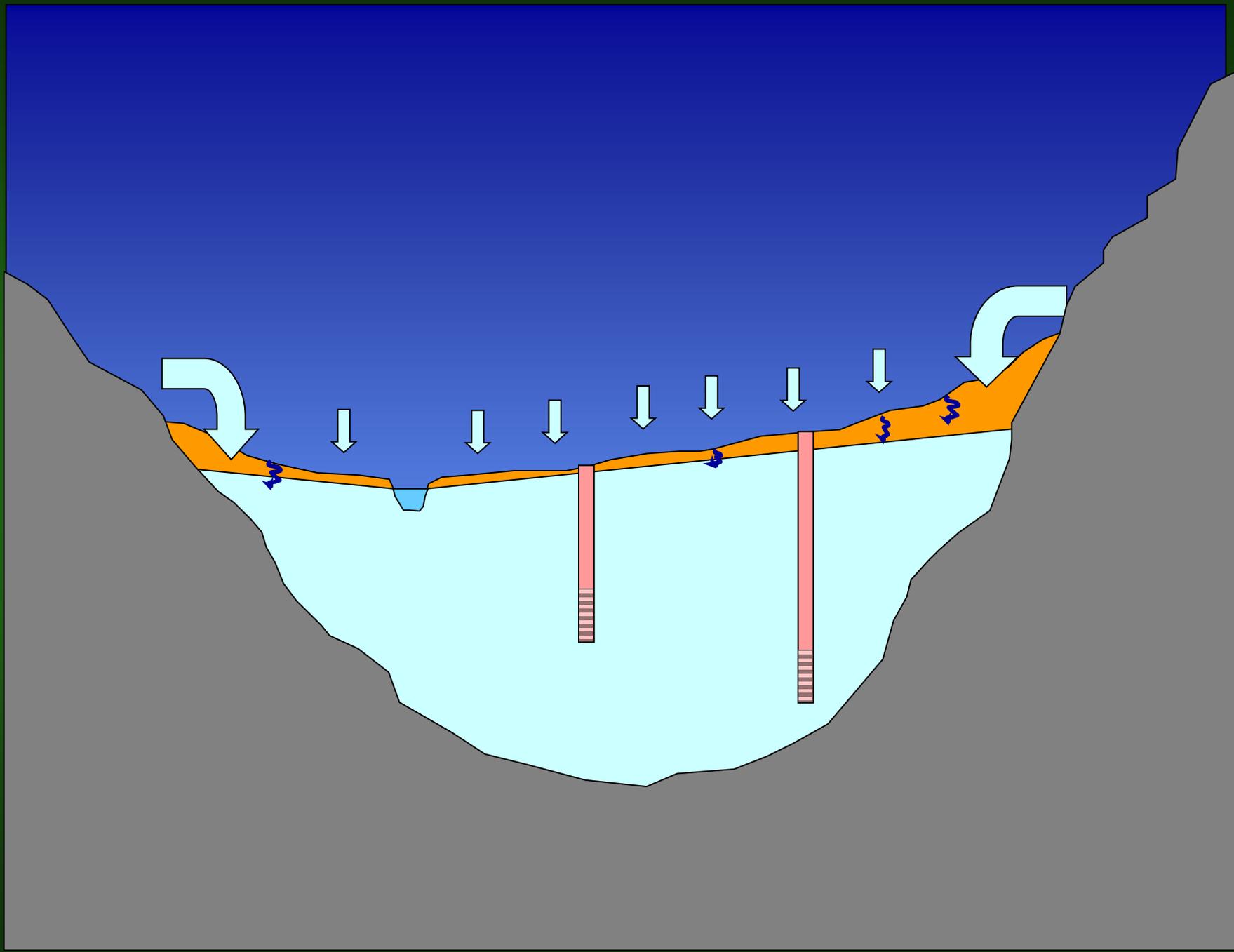


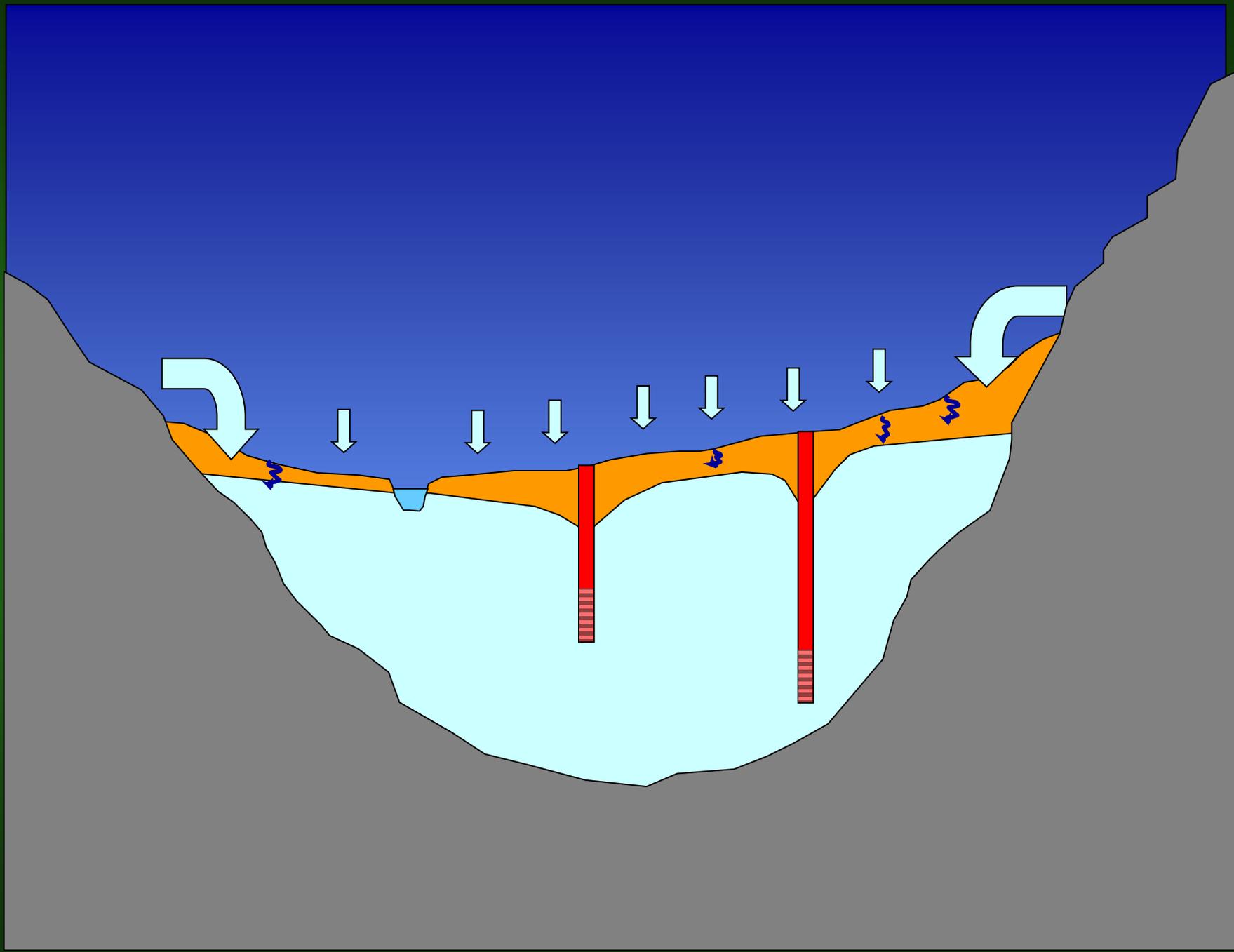


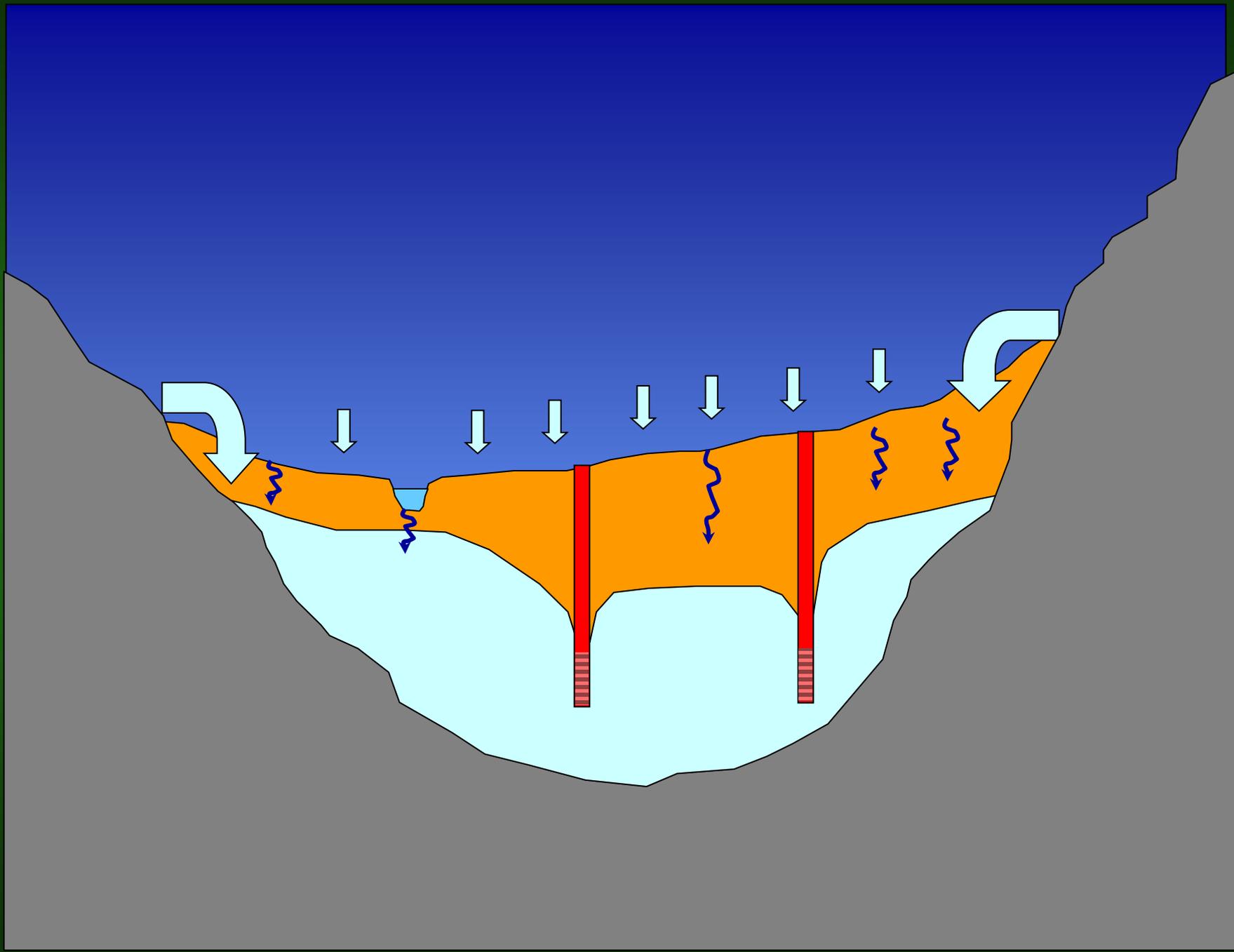


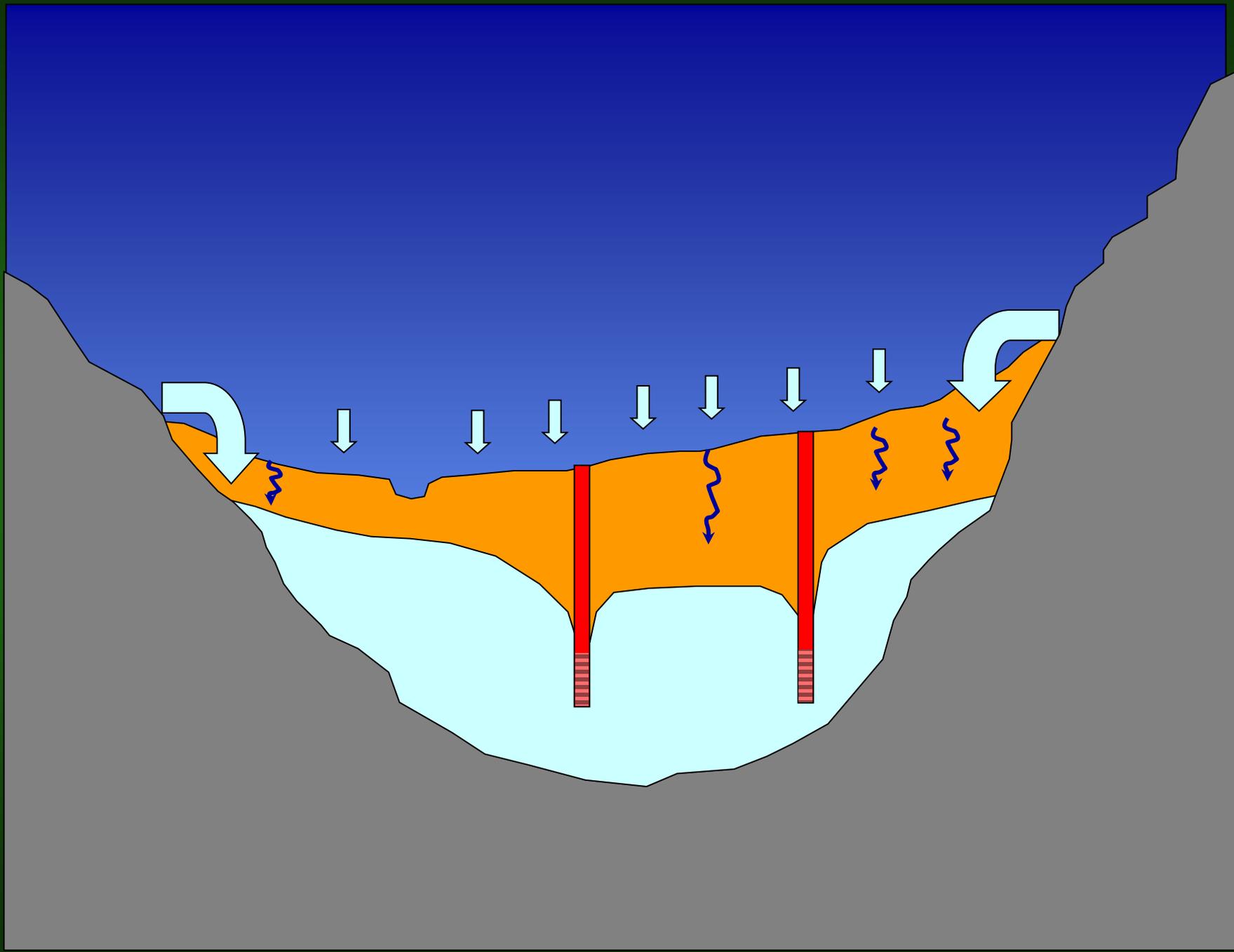














# Gaining Stream



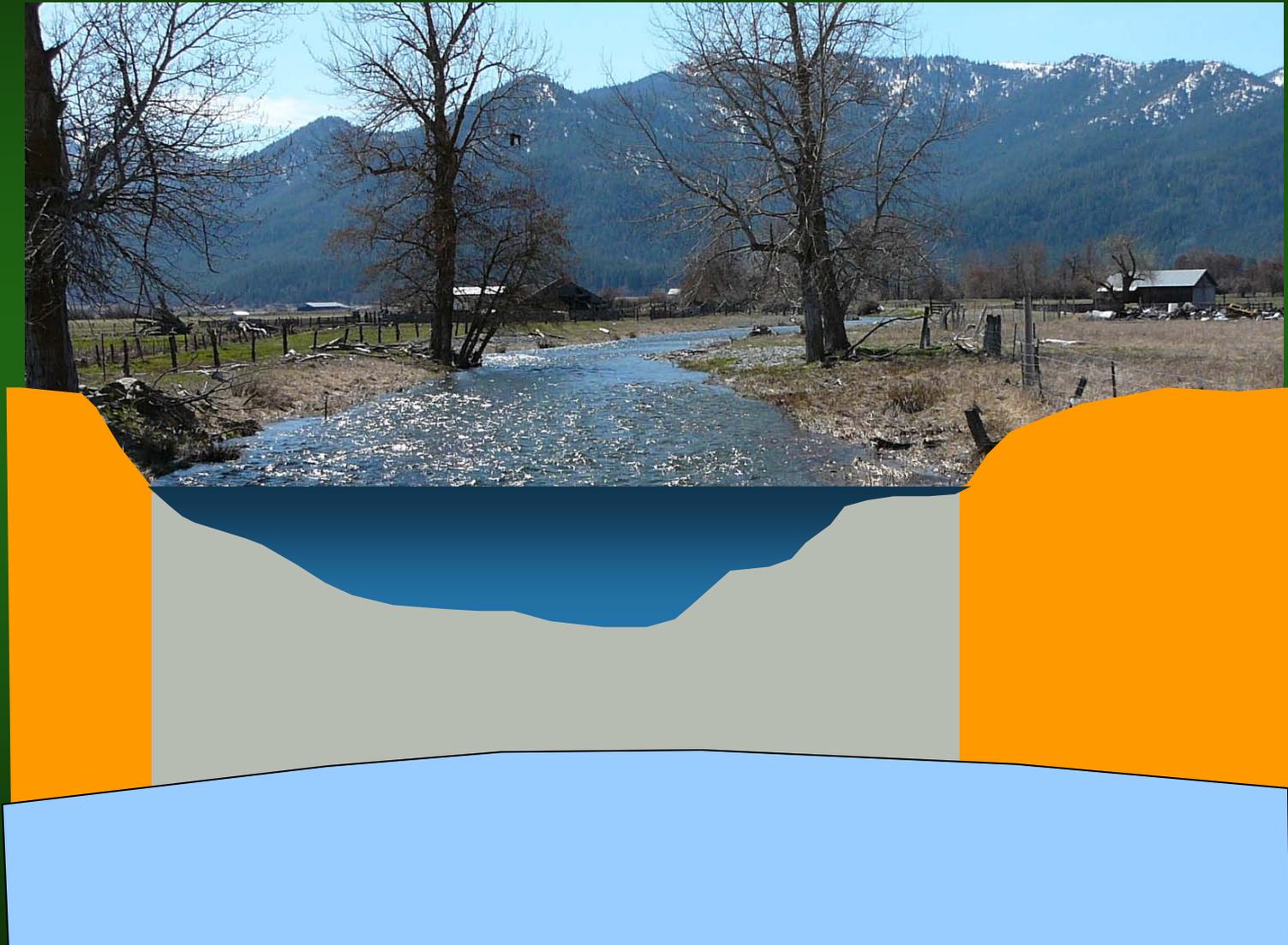


# Losing Stream



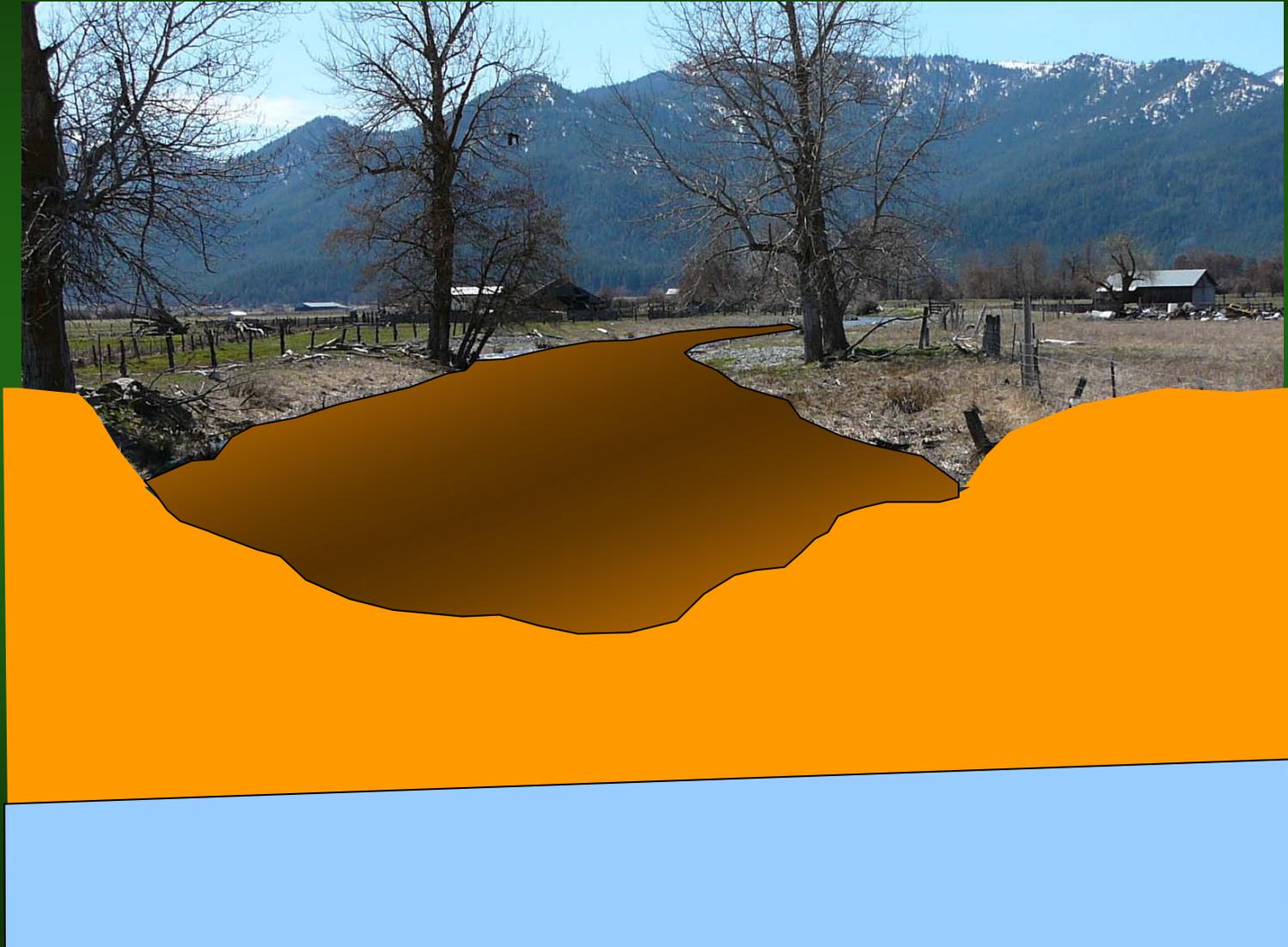


# Disconnected Stream





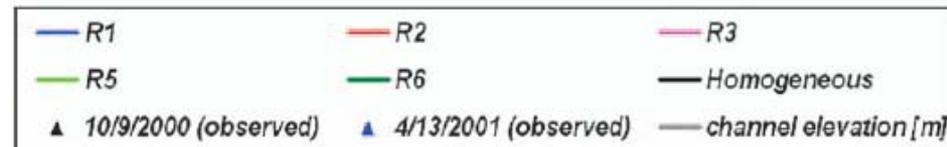
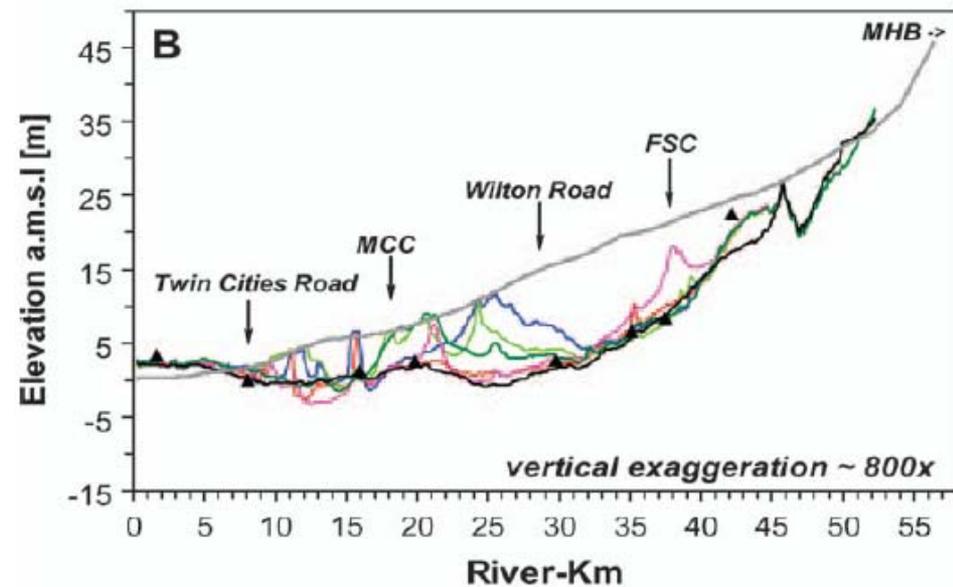
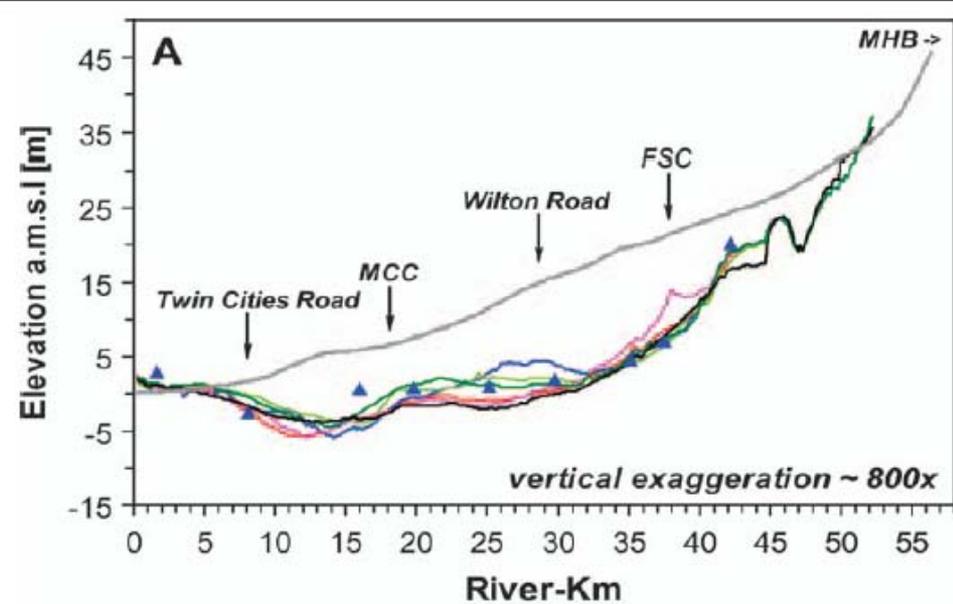
# Dry Stream





# Reconnecting Groundwater to Surface Water:

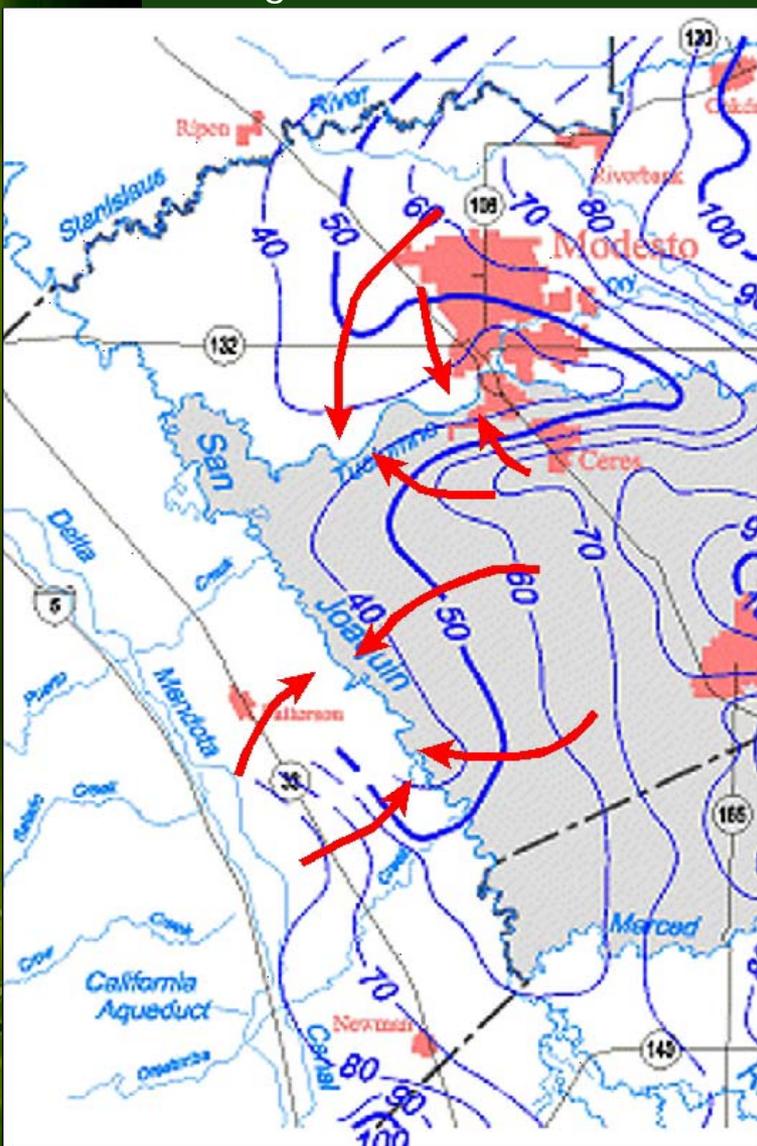
## Role of Aquifer Heterogeneity



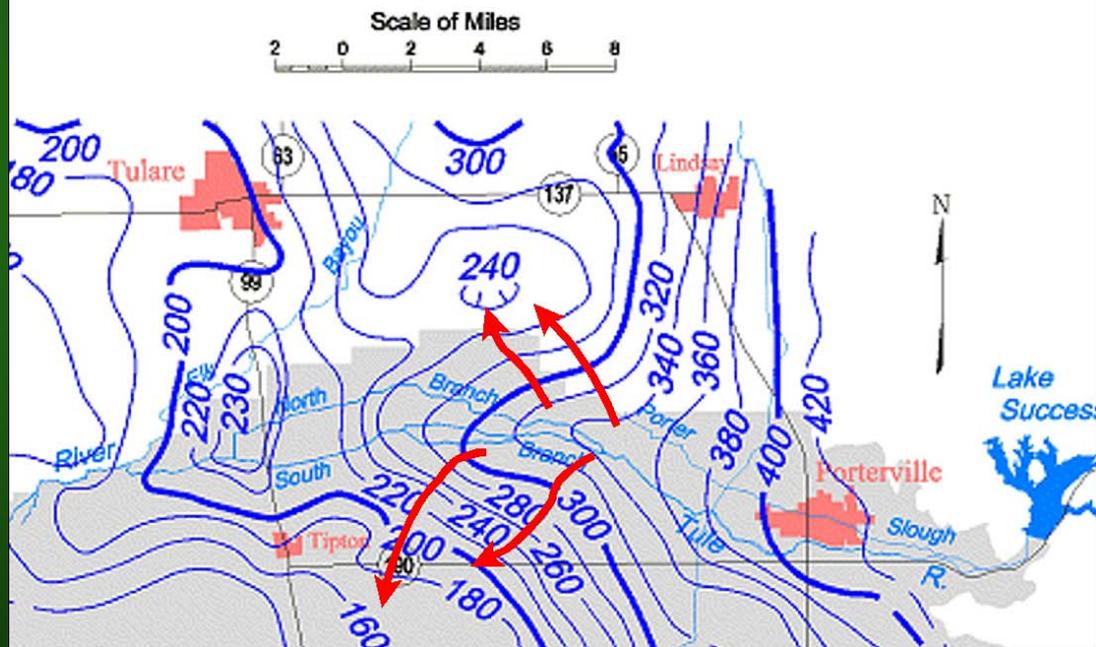


# Stream-Aquifer Connection at the Regional Scale

Gaining Stream



Spring 1999, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Losing or Disconnected Stream

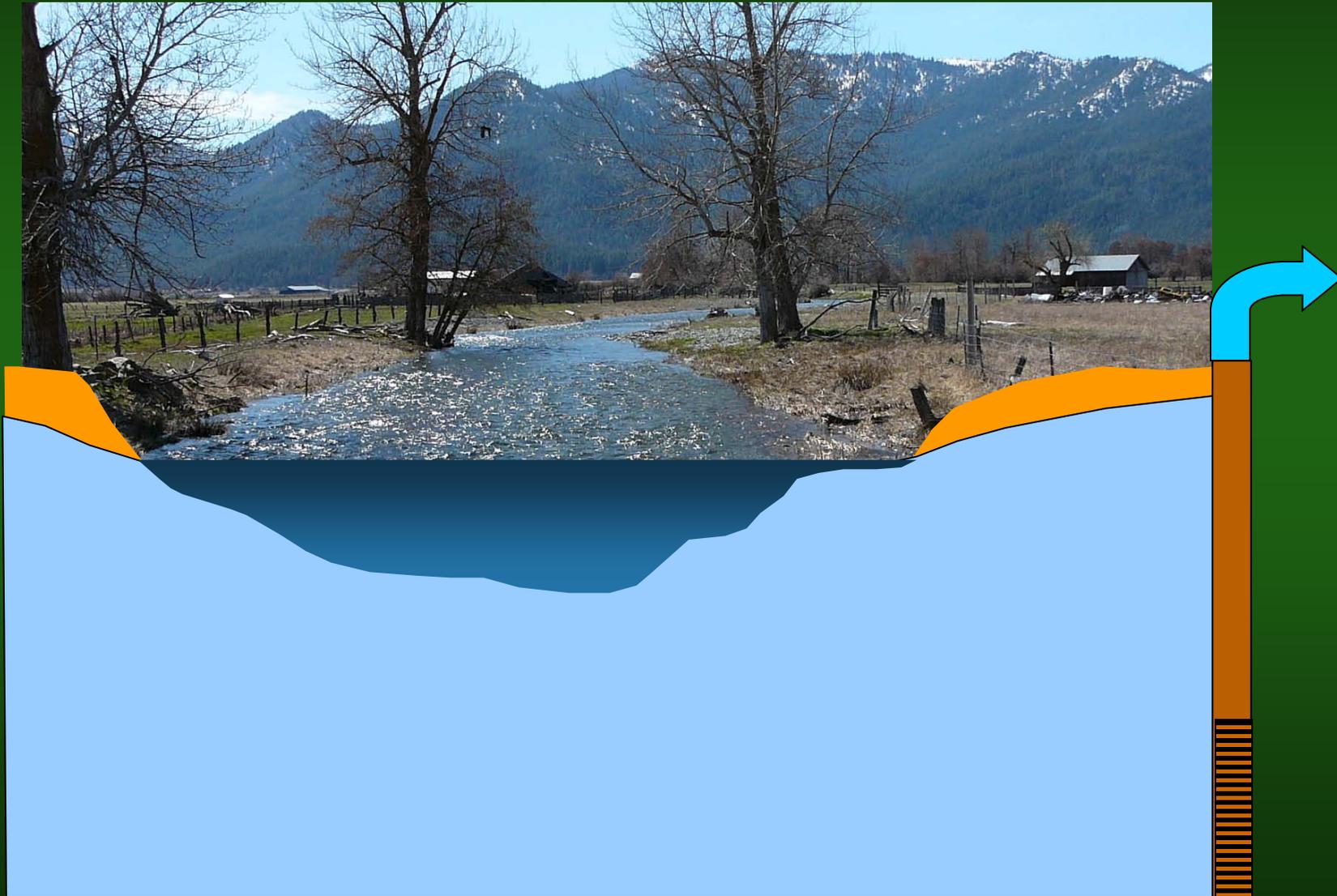


# Well Near a Stream



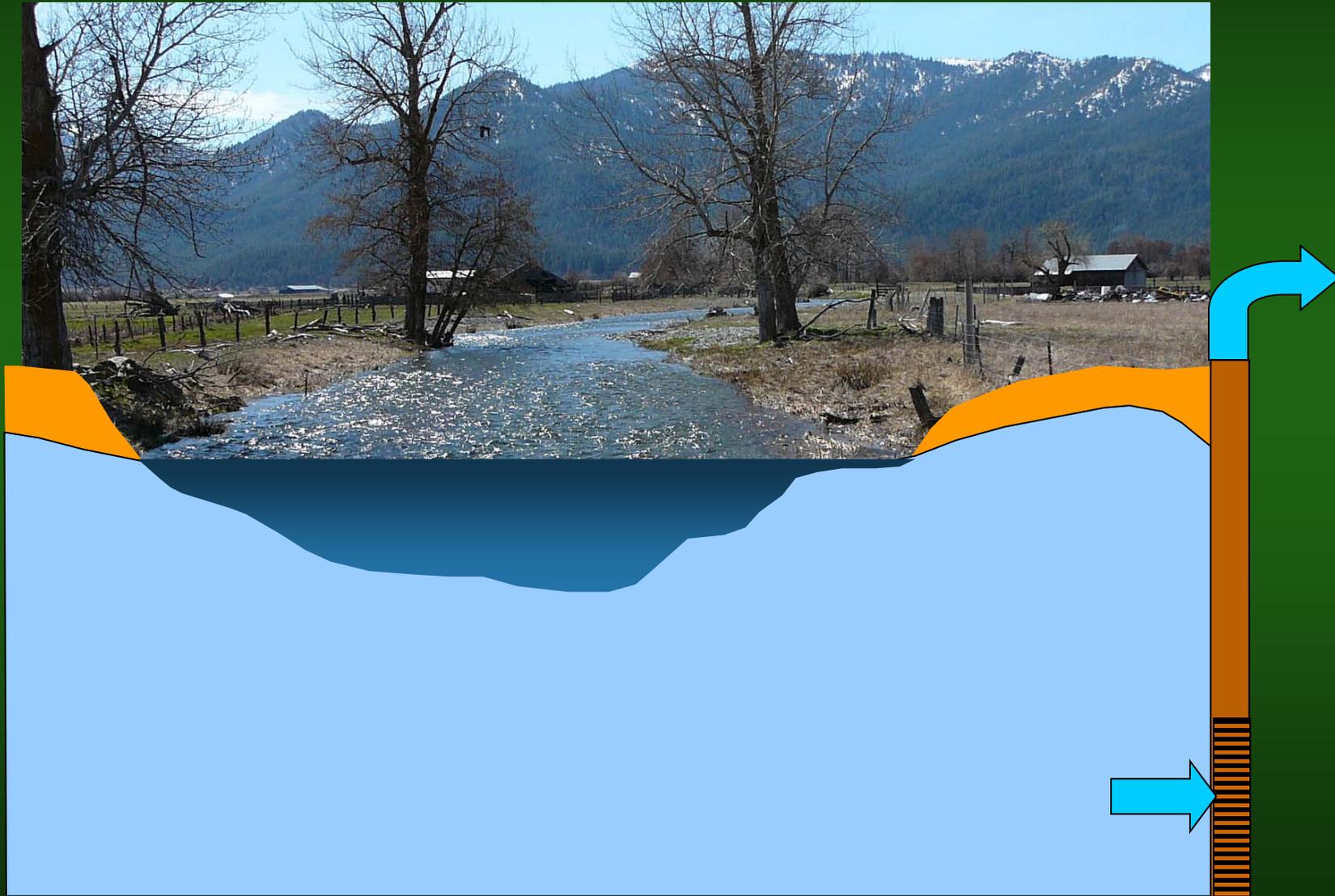


# Well Near a Stream



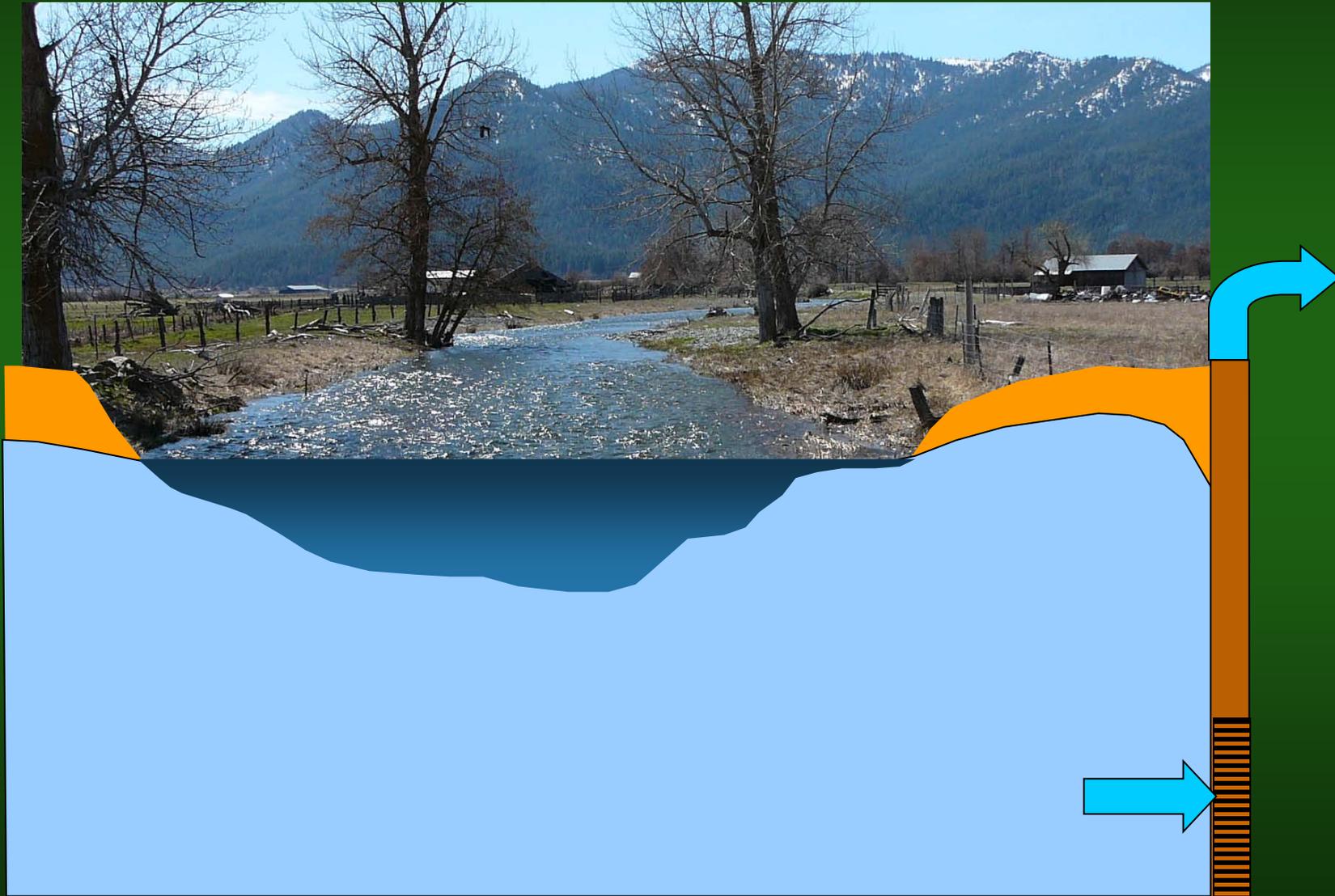


# Well Near a Stream



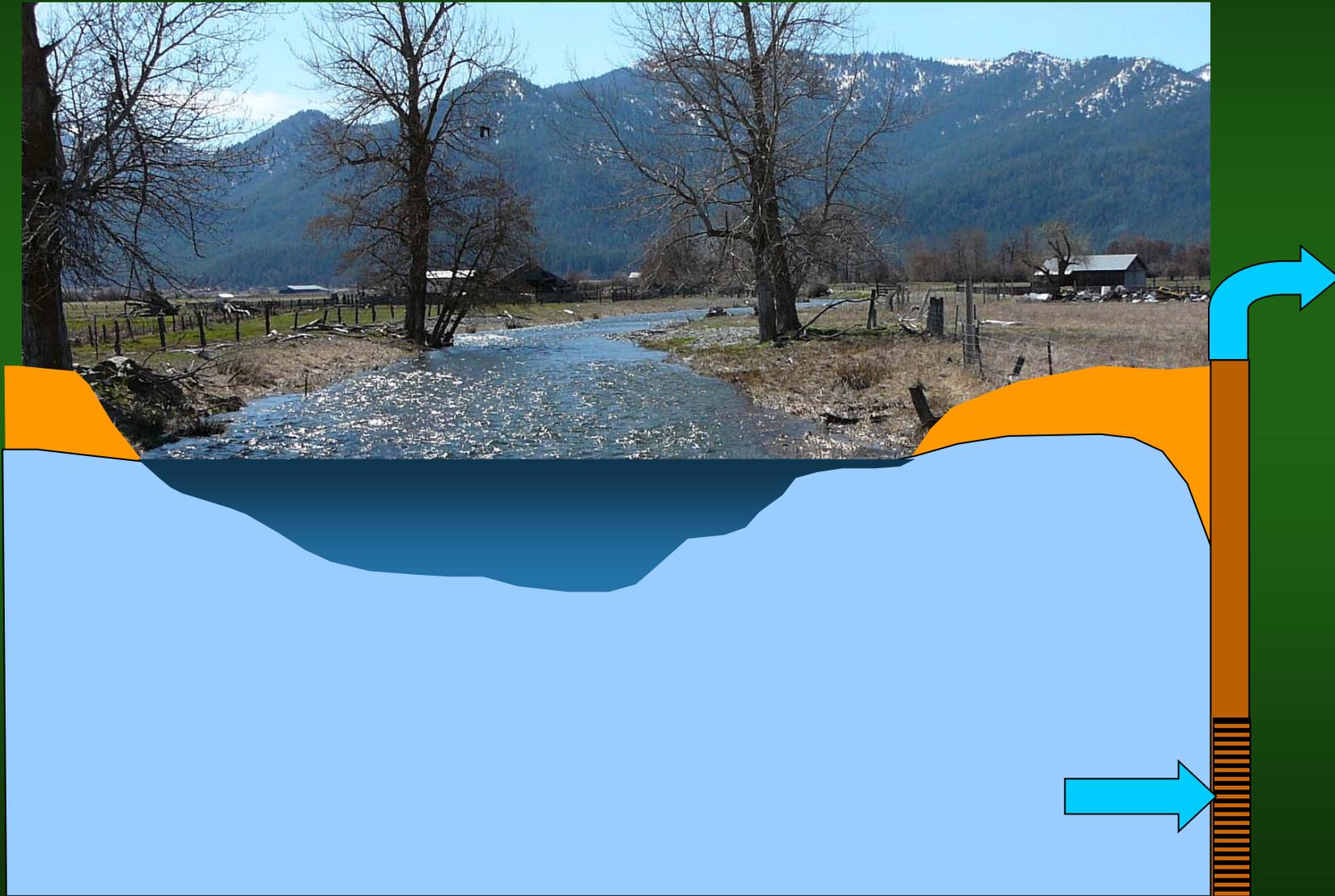


# Well Near a Stream



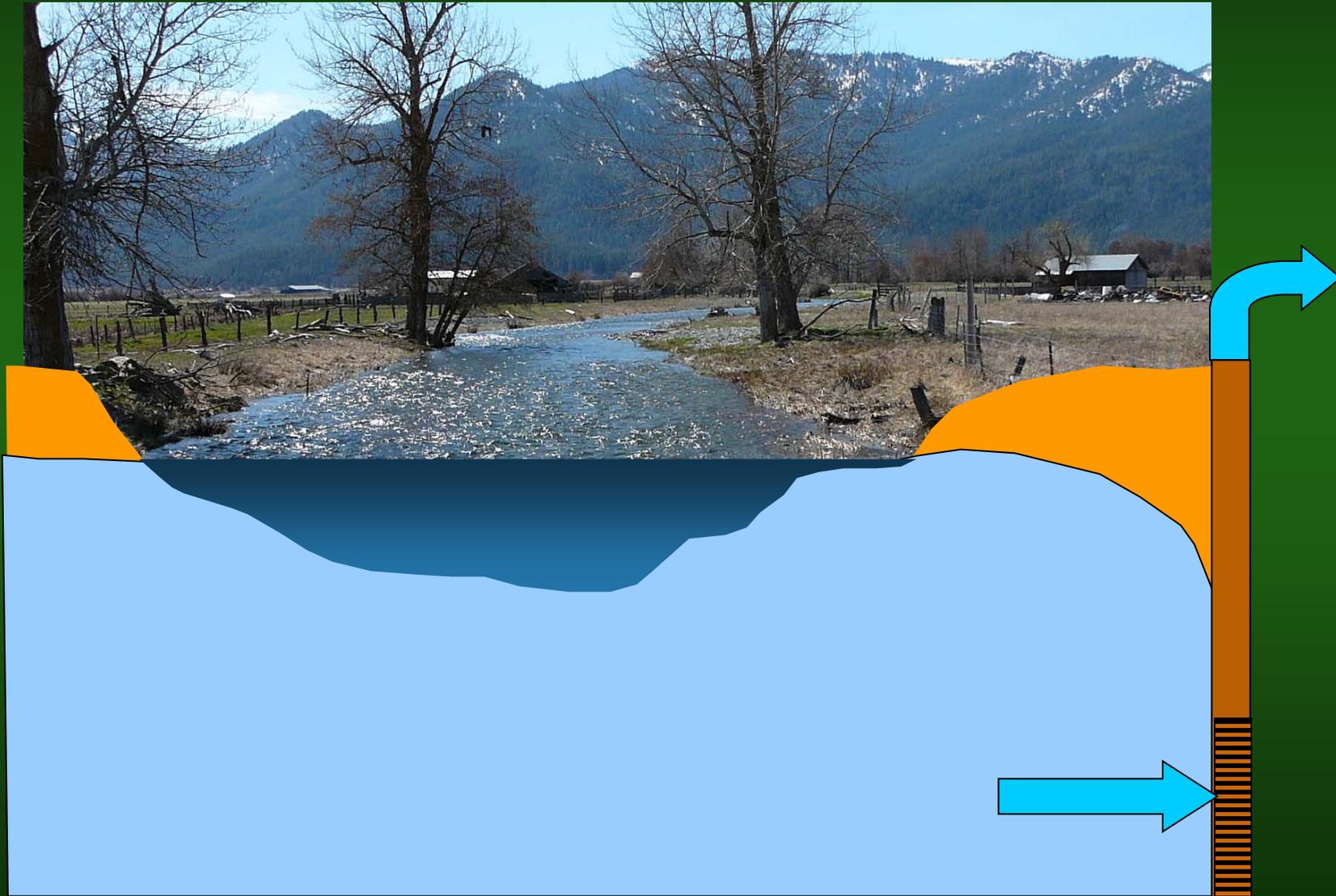


# Well Near a Stream



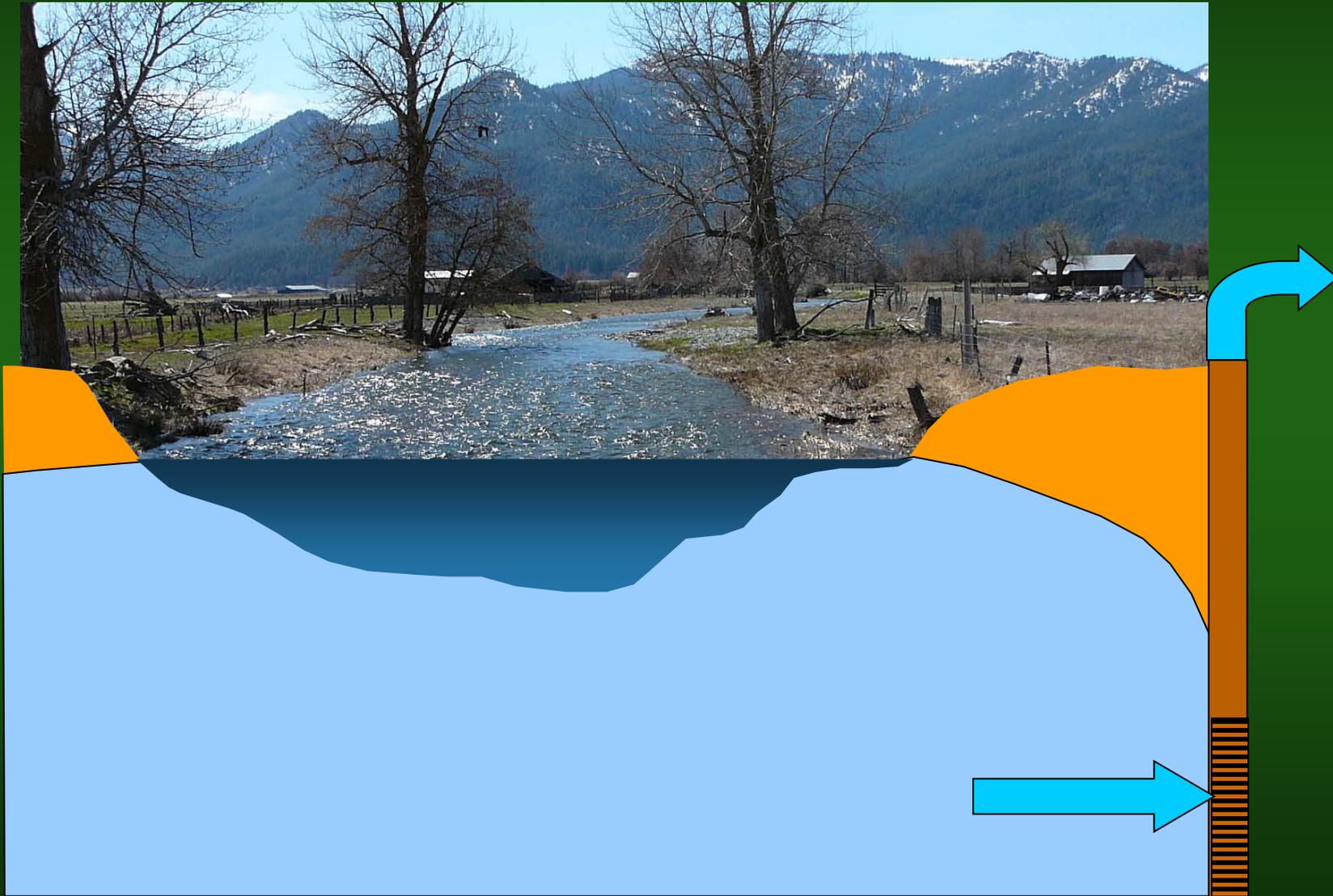


# Well Near a Stream



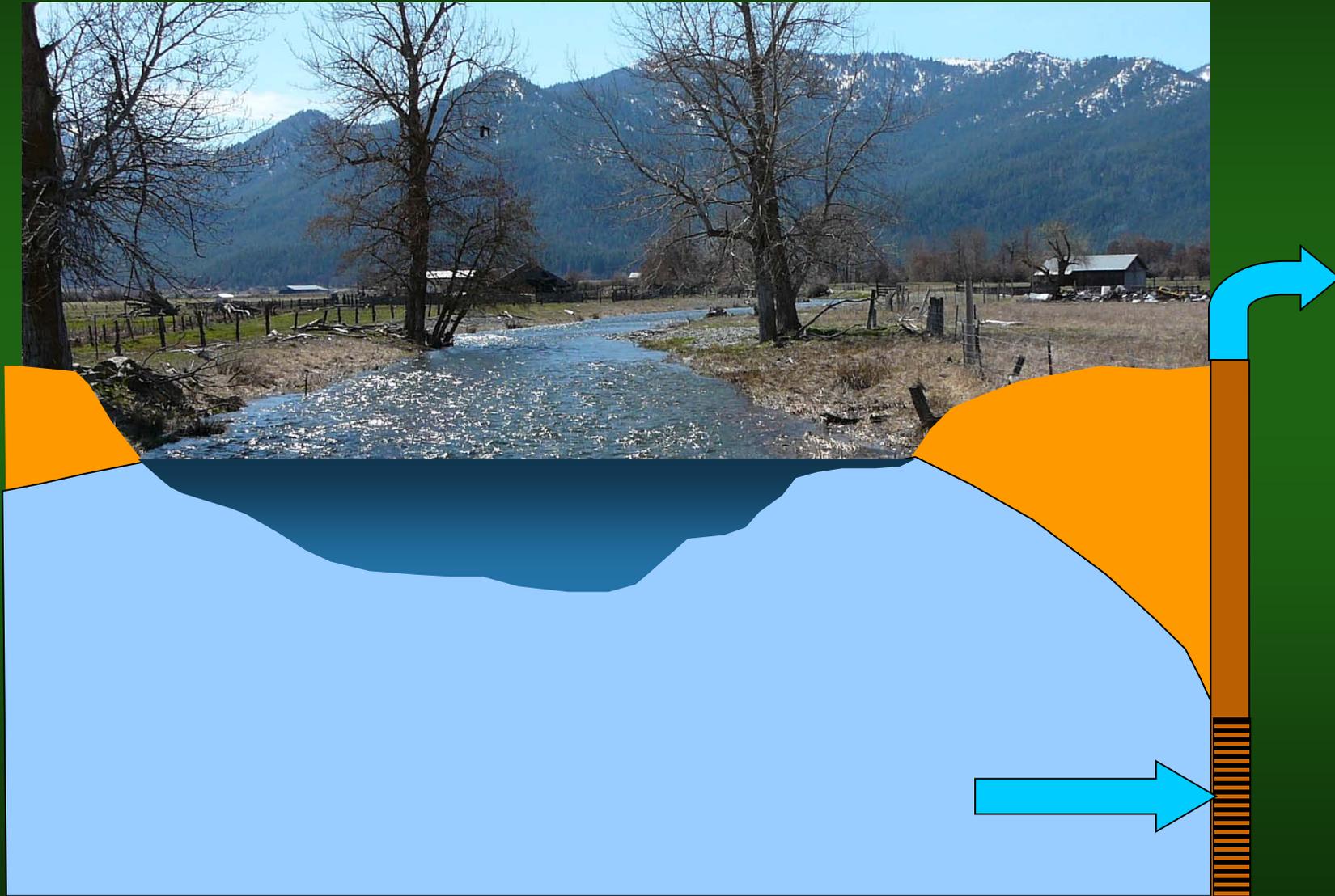


# Well Near a Stream



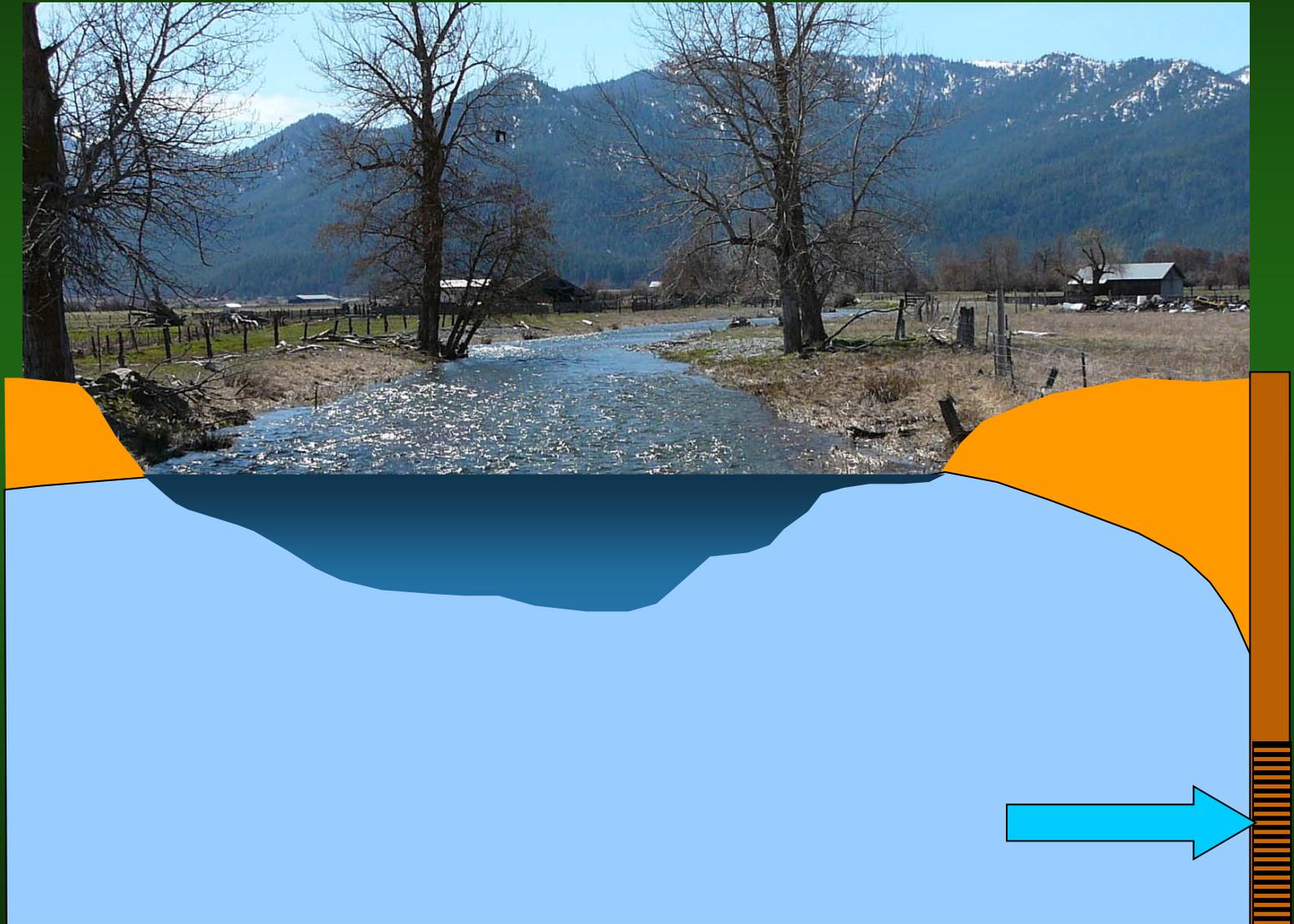


# Well Near a Stream



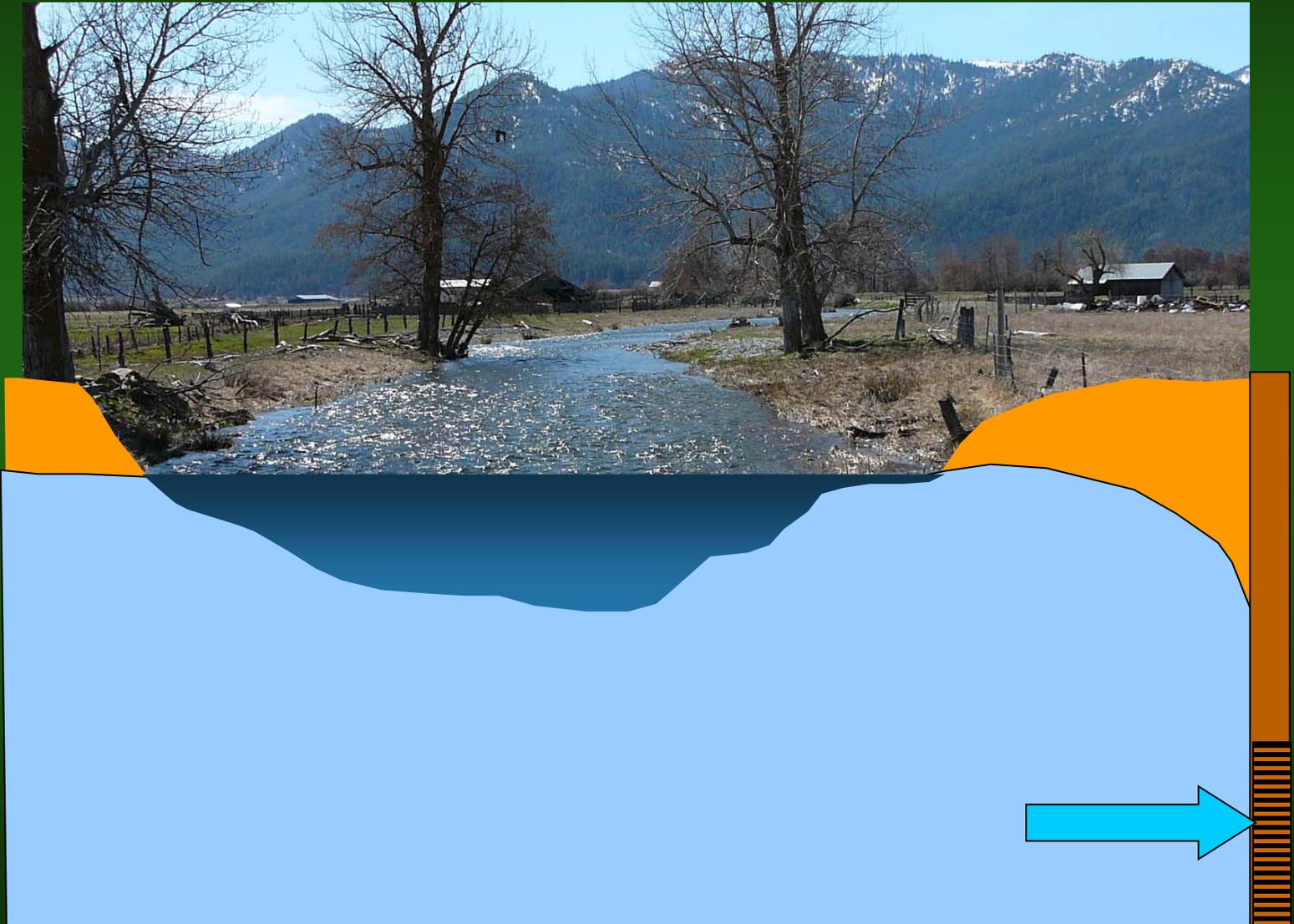


# Well Near a Stream





# Well Near a Stream





# Well Near a Stream





# Well Near a Stream





# Well Near a Stream





# Well Near a Stream





# Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems And the GW – SW Interface



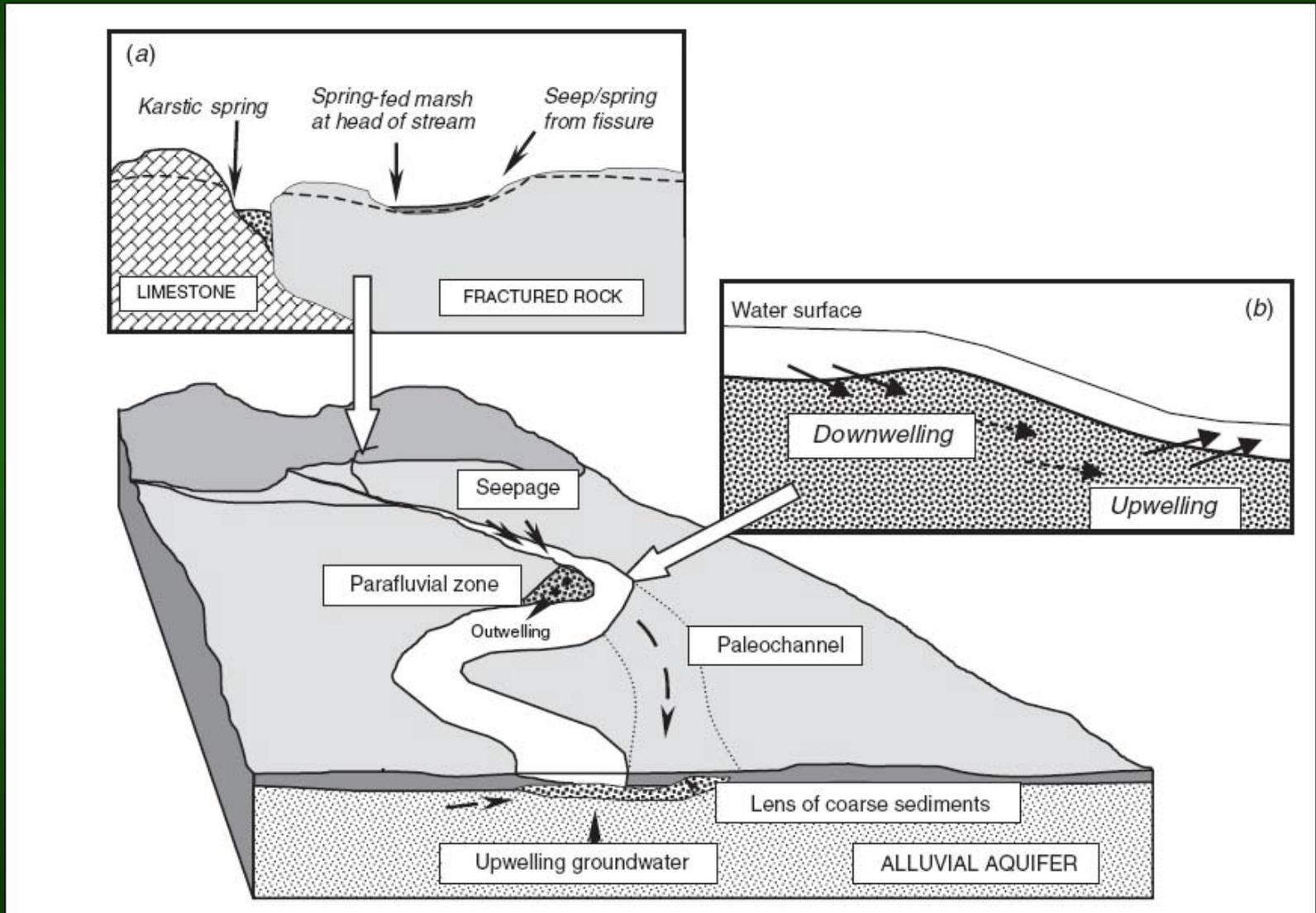


# Conjunctive Use





# Meandering Streams & Paleochannels



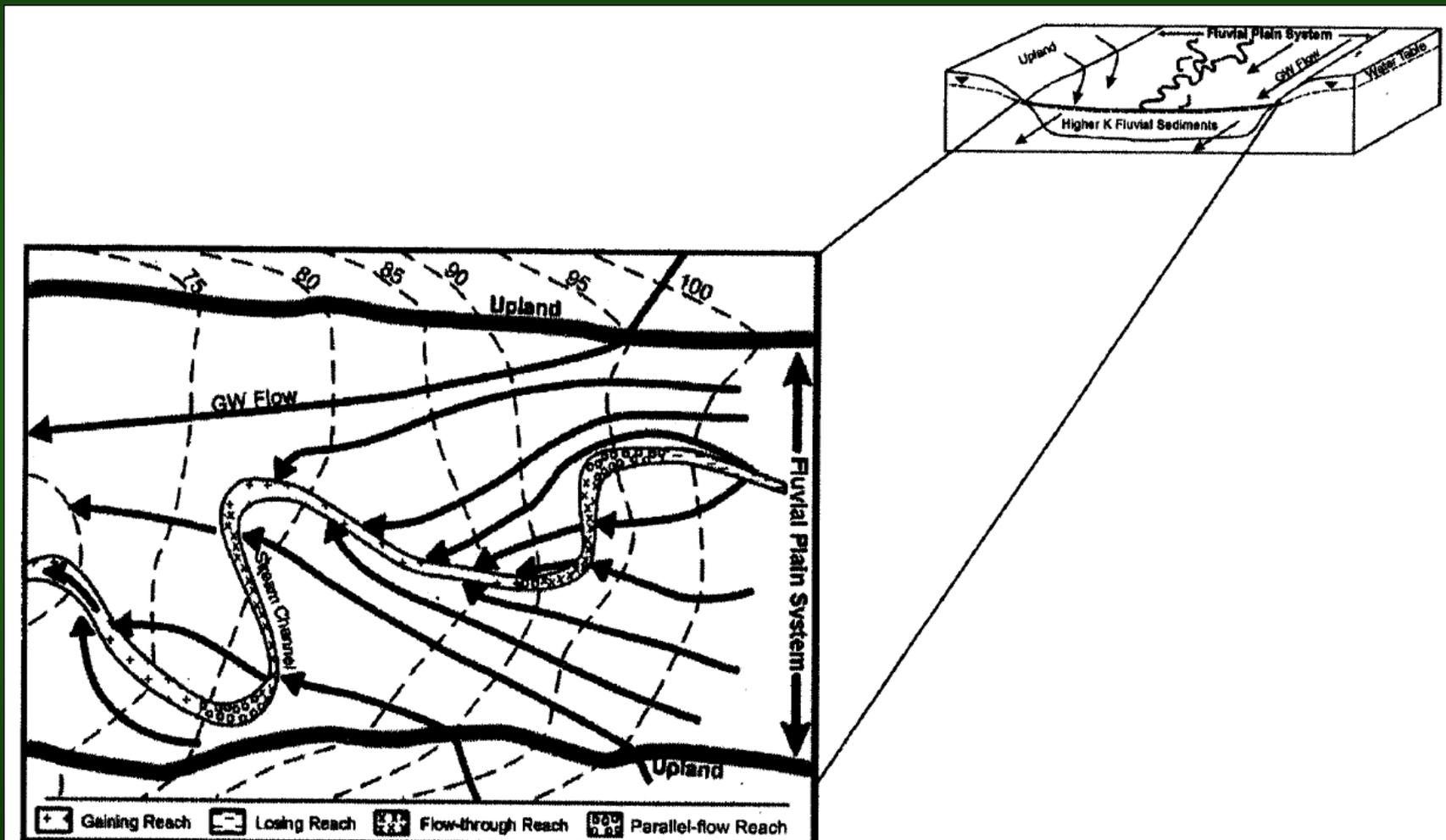


# The Hyporheic Zone





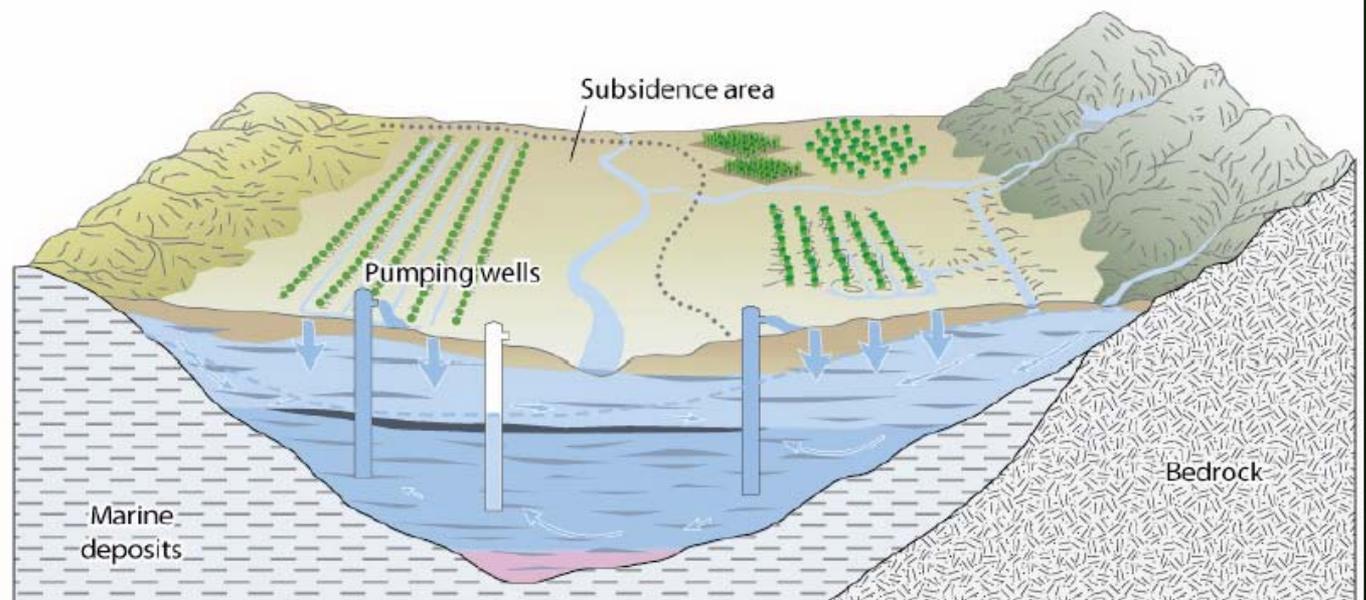
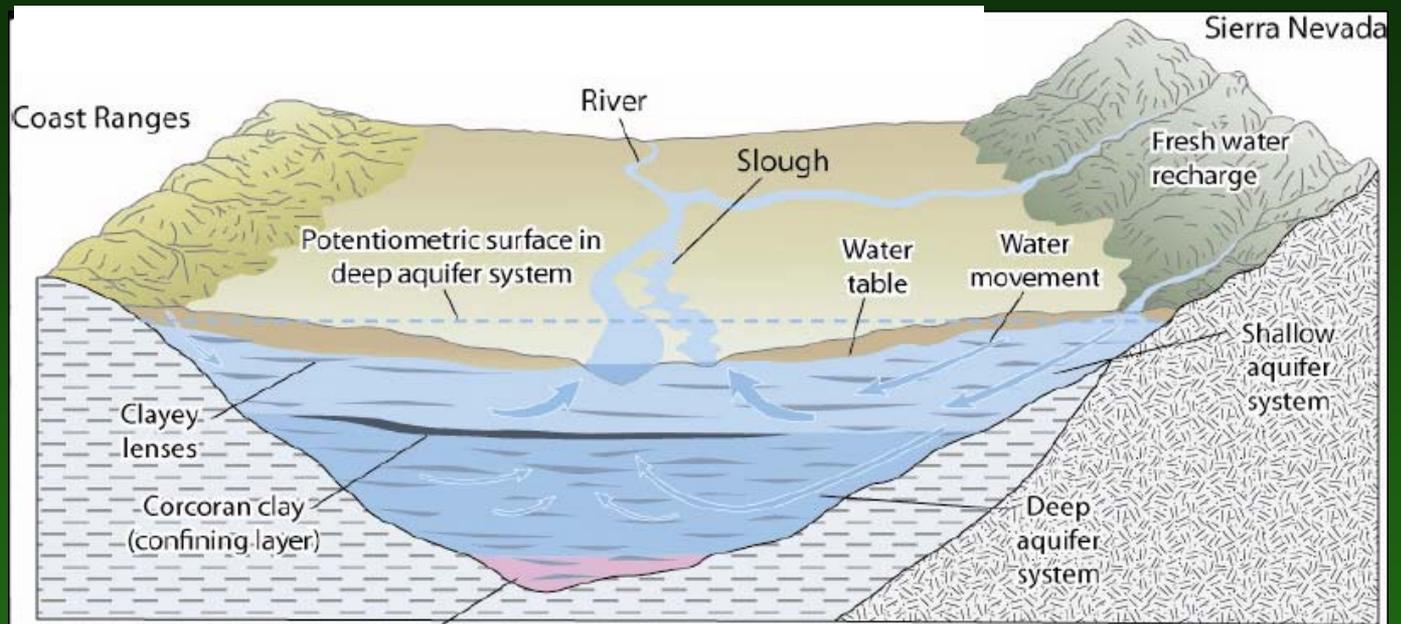
# Losing – Gaining – Flow Through





# Where does groundwater come from and where does it eventually go?

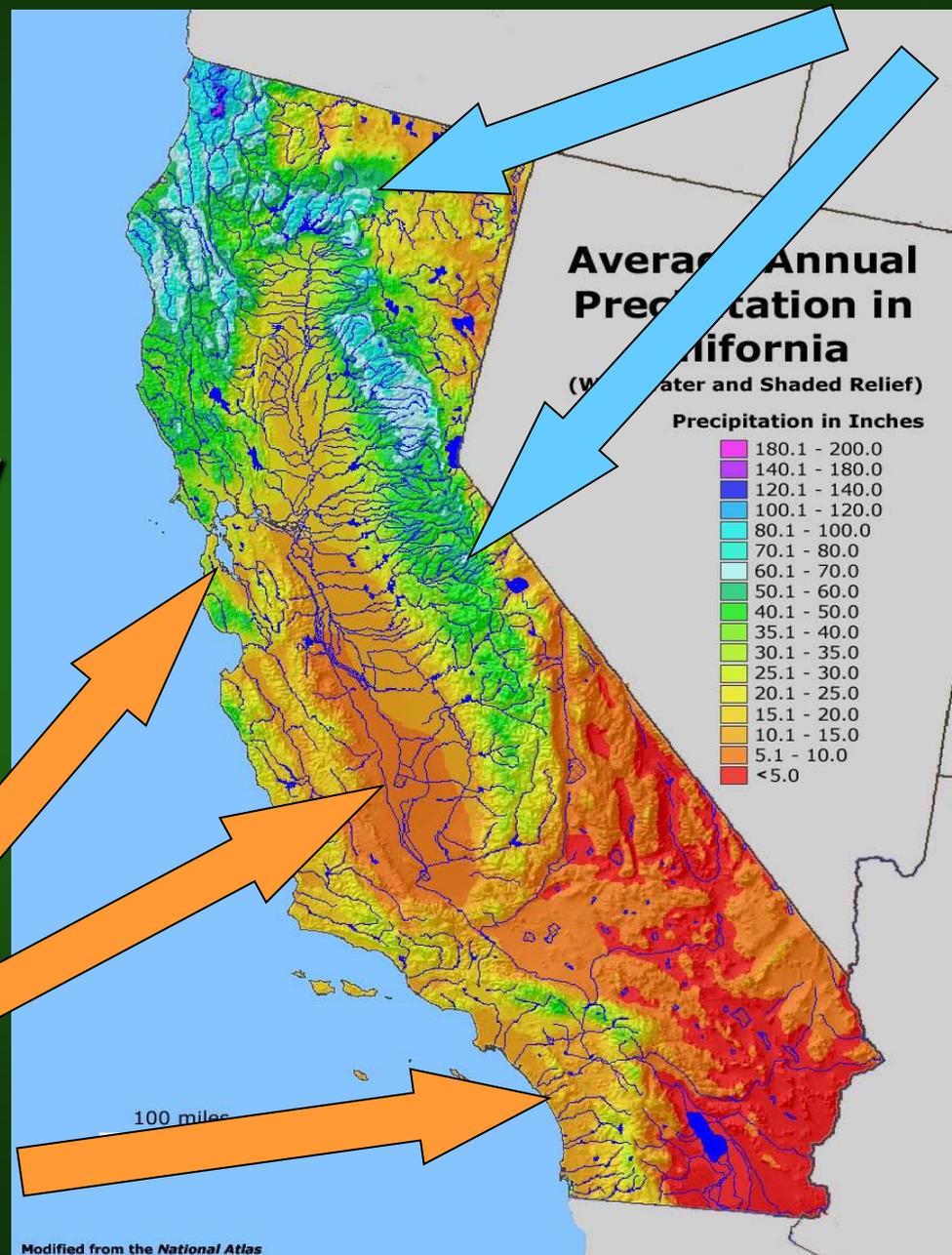
- The Hydrologic Cycle -





# RAIN

Space and Time Disconnect between Water Supply and Water Use



# WATER USERS

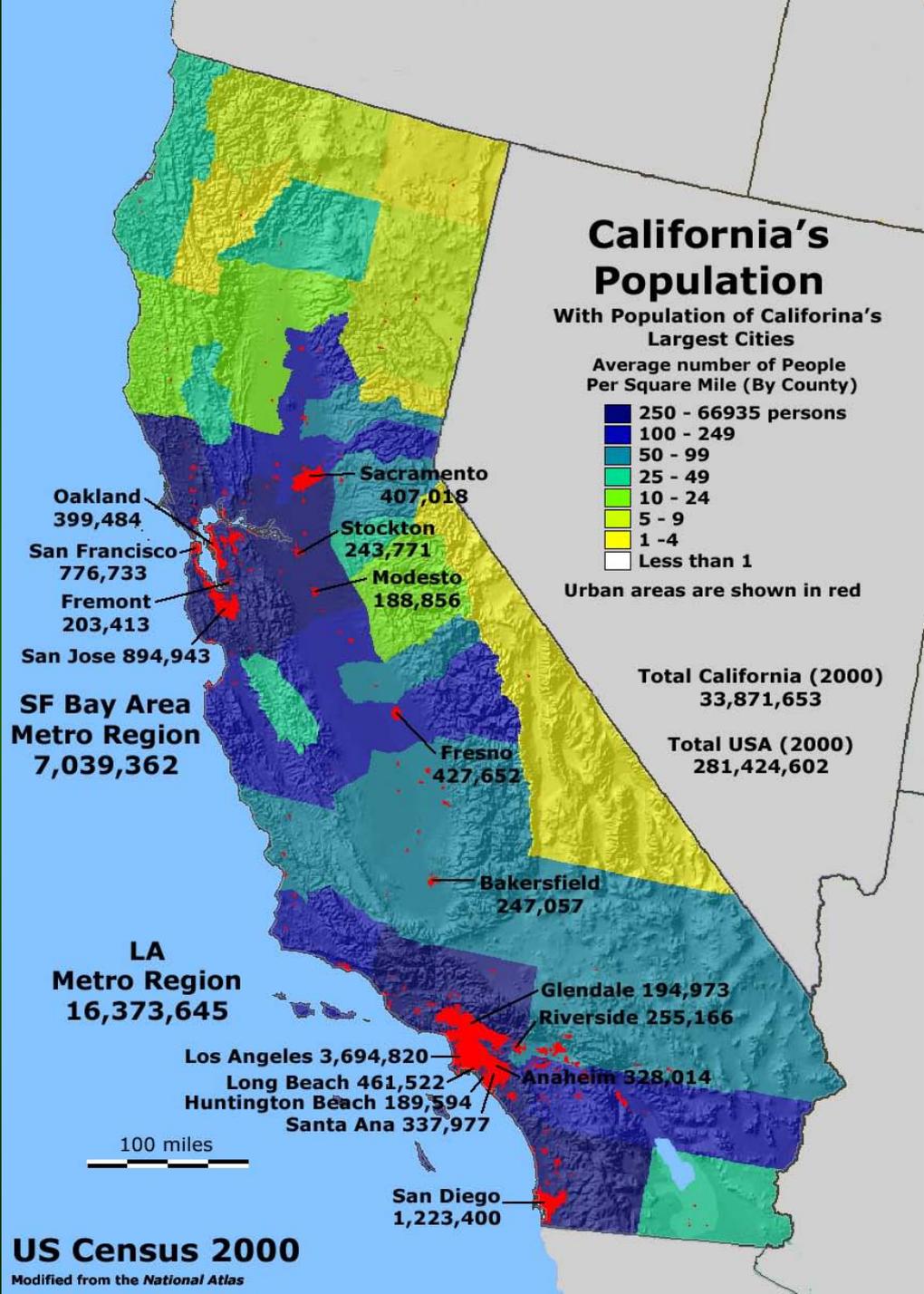


# California's Urban Water Users

Population  
(Year 2000):  
34 million

Water Use:  
8 - 9 MAF

MAF = million acre-feet





# California's Agricultural Water Users

Irrigated Acreage (Year 2000): 9.5 million acres

Water Use: 27 – 35 MAF

MAF = million acre-feet

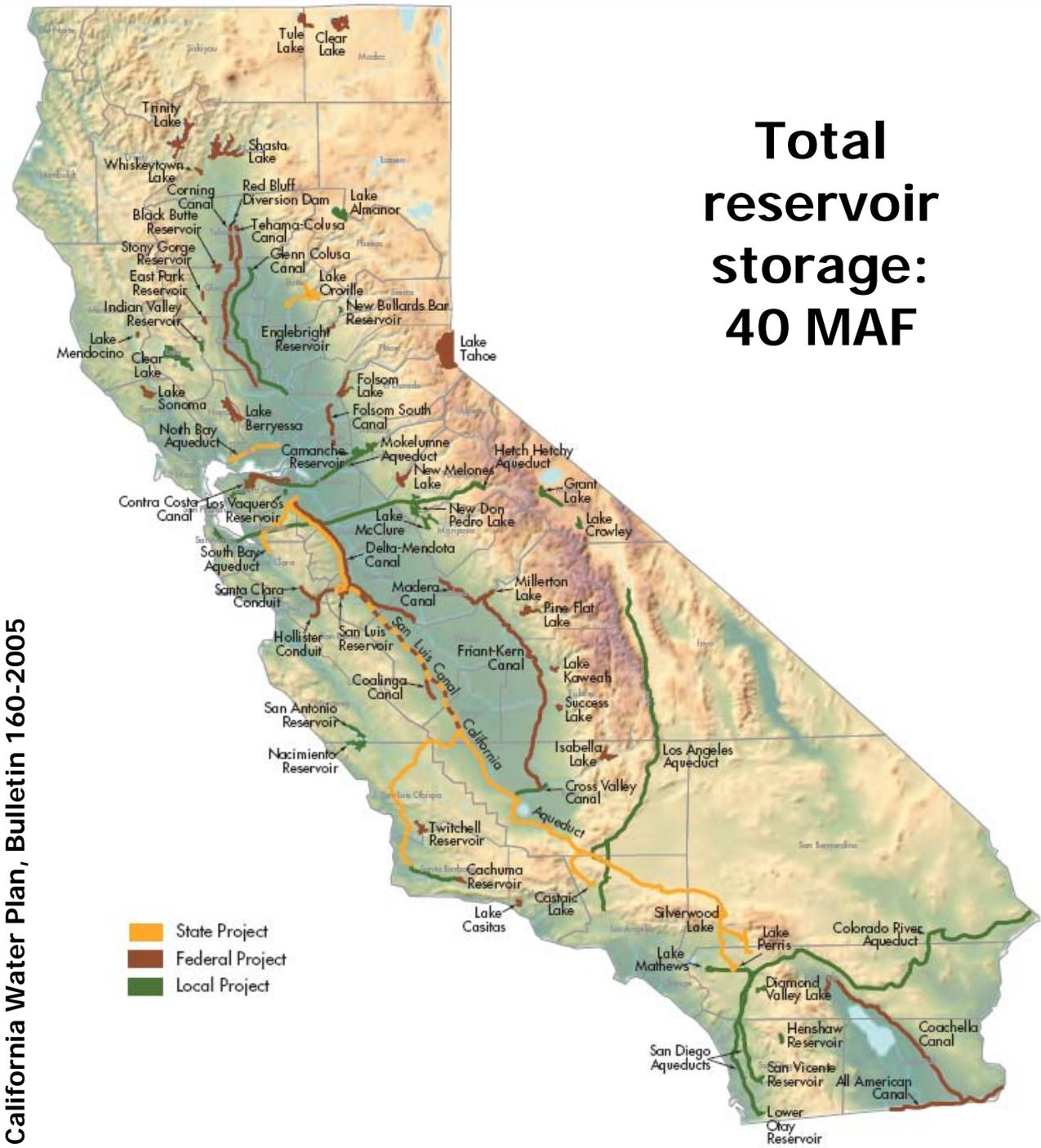




# California Water Infrastructure

## Bridging the Spatial and Temporal Disconnect between SUPPLY and USE

California Water Plan, Bulletin 160-2005

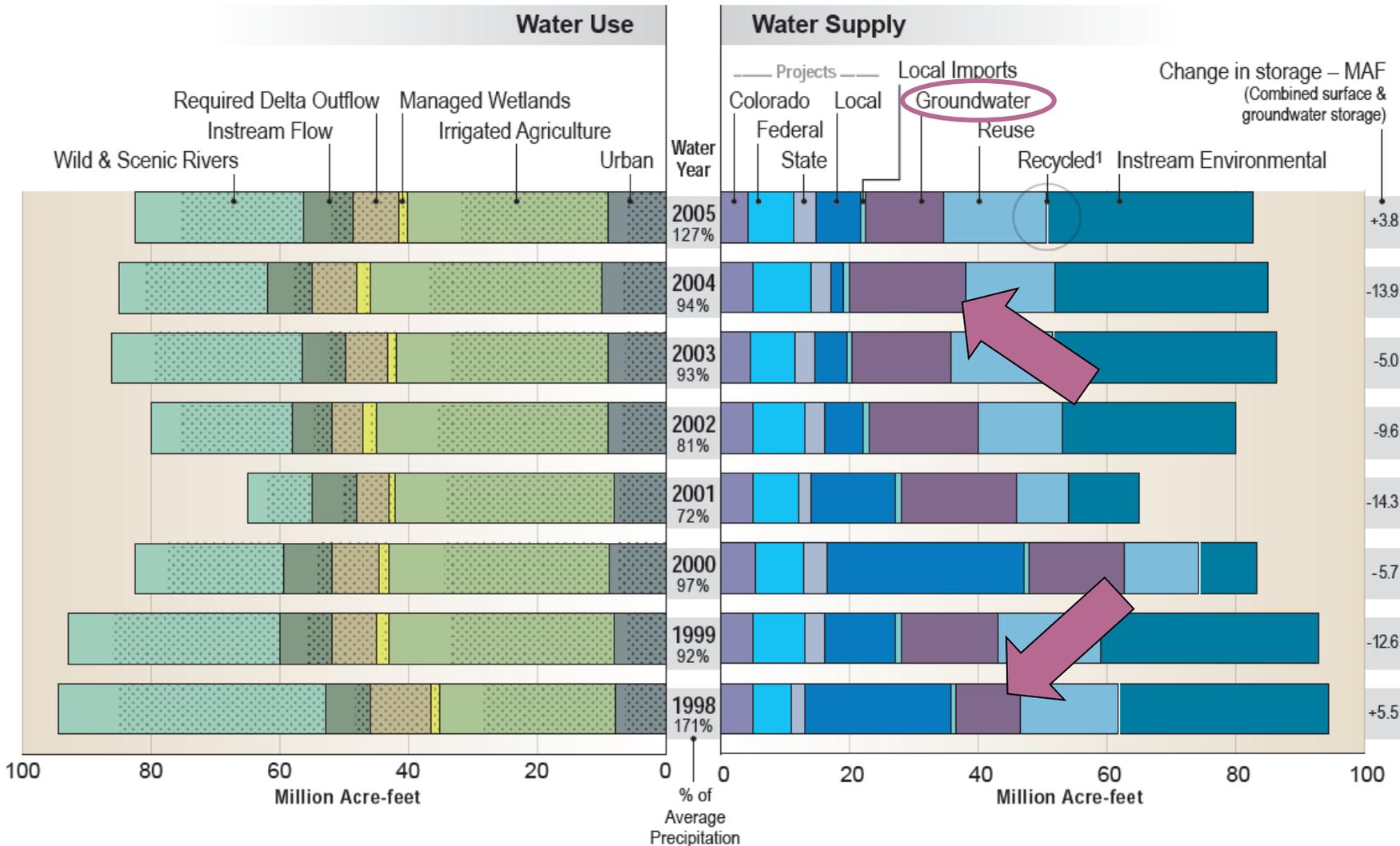


# Total reservoir storage: 40 MAF

- State Project
- Federal Project
- Local Project

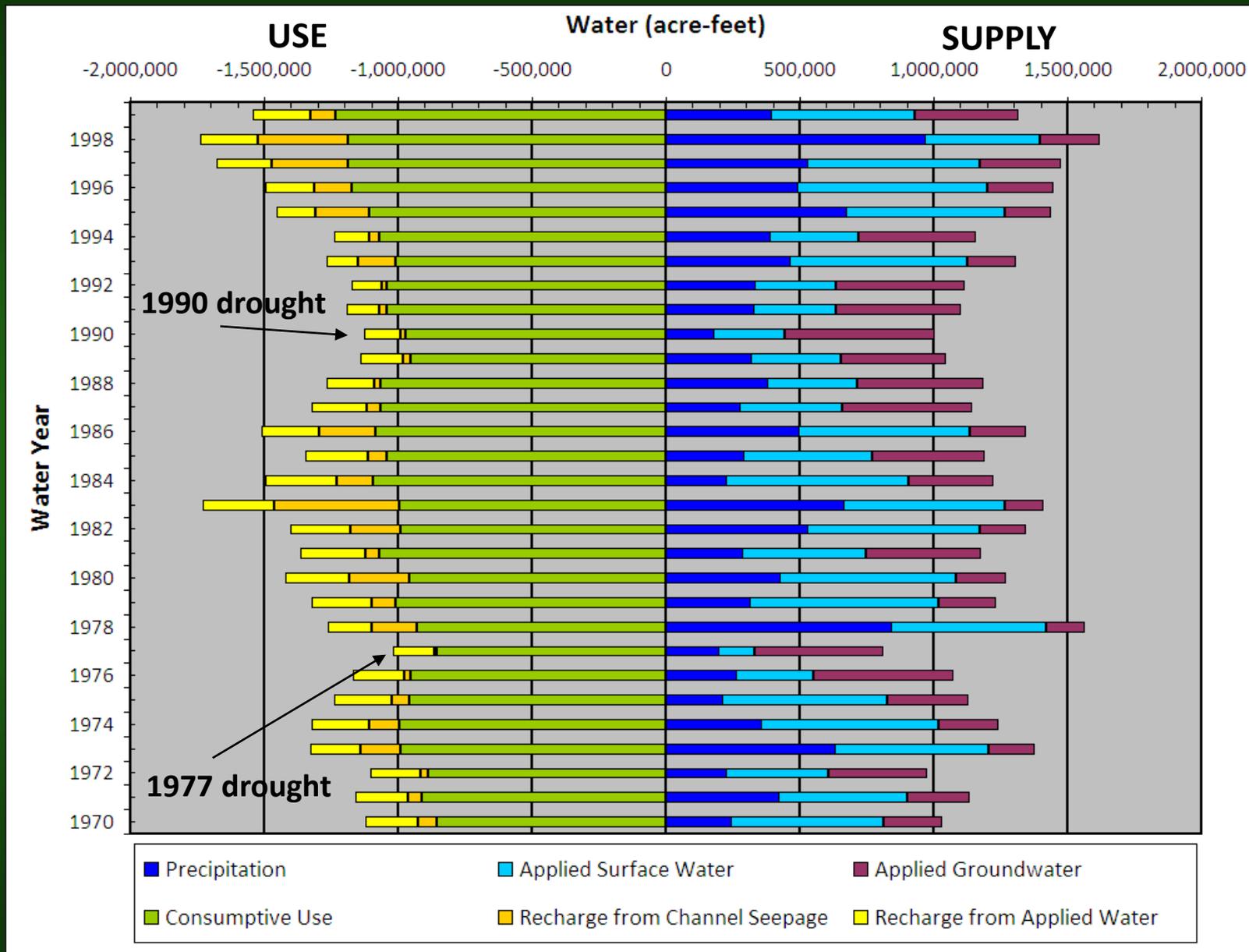


# Groundwater Use in California: The Invisible Storage Reservoir



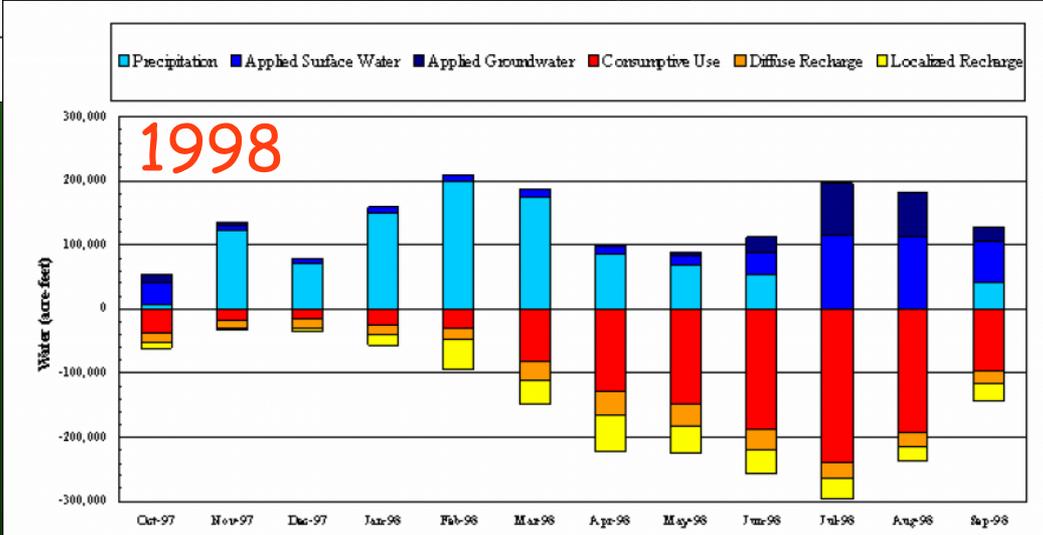
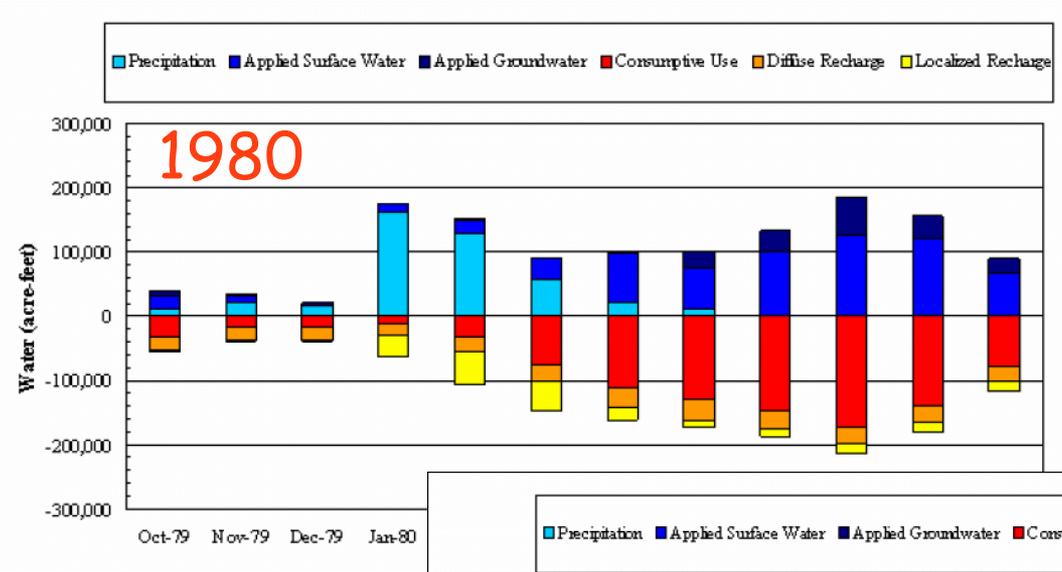
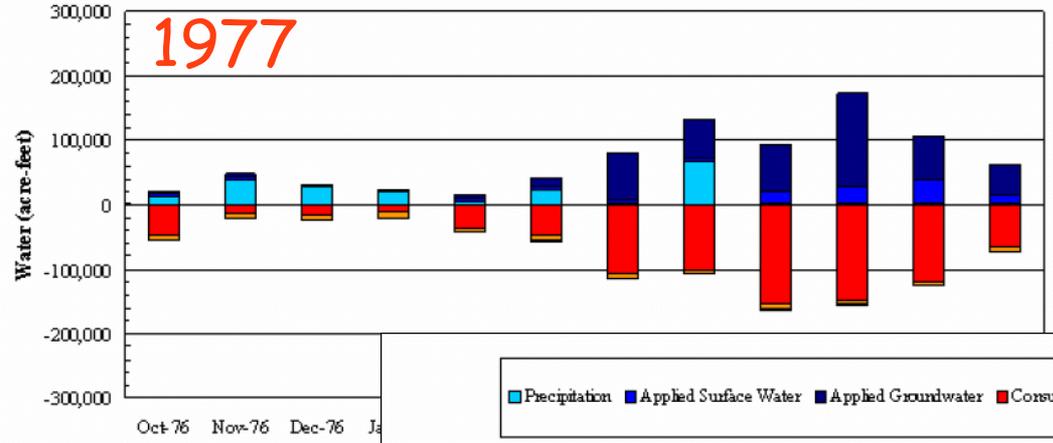


# Southern Tulare County Water Budget



# Tule River Basin: Monthly Water Budgets, Oct-Sep

Ruud, Harter et al., 2003, 2004





# Irrigation Efficiency



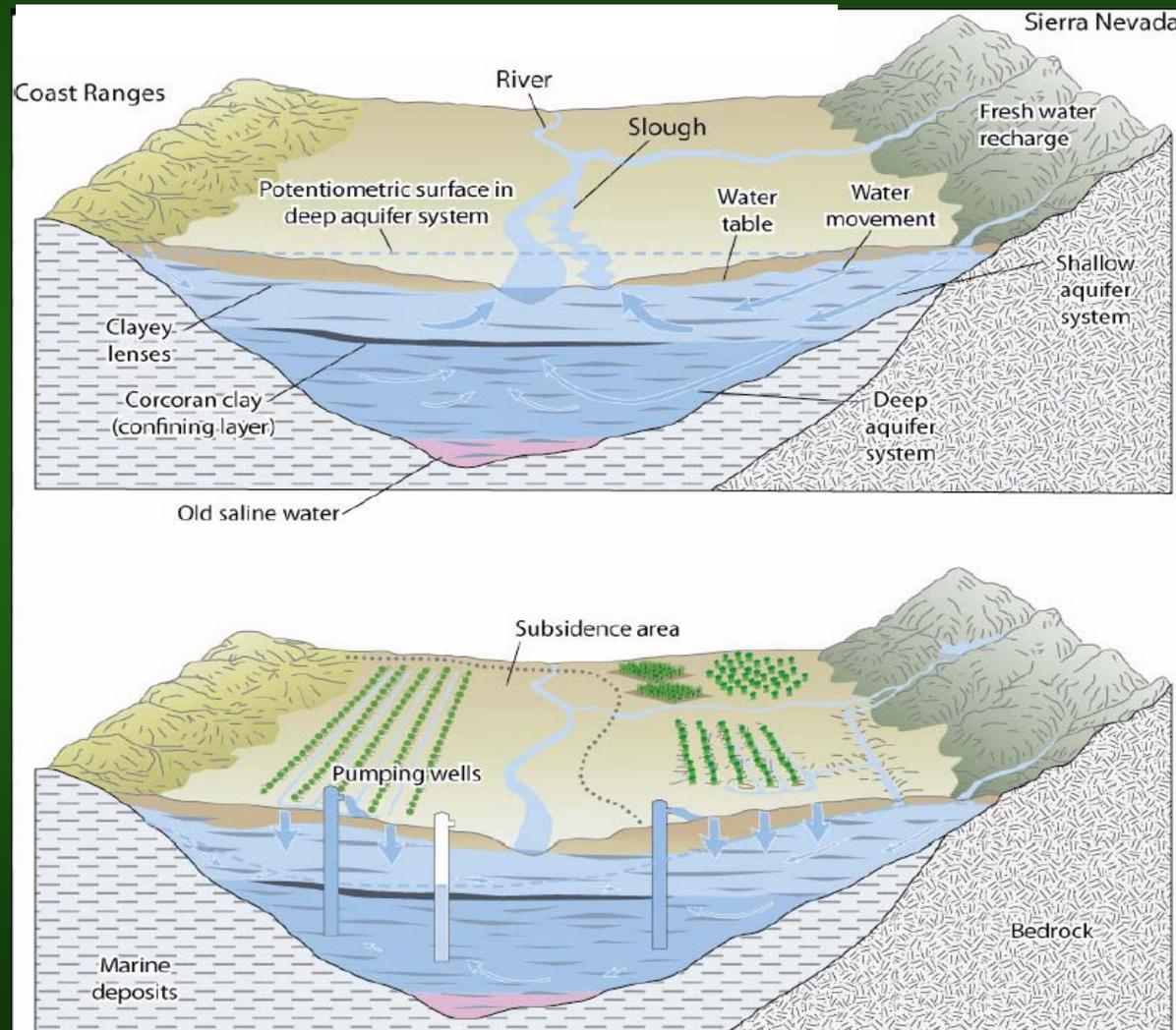


# Irrigation Efficiency



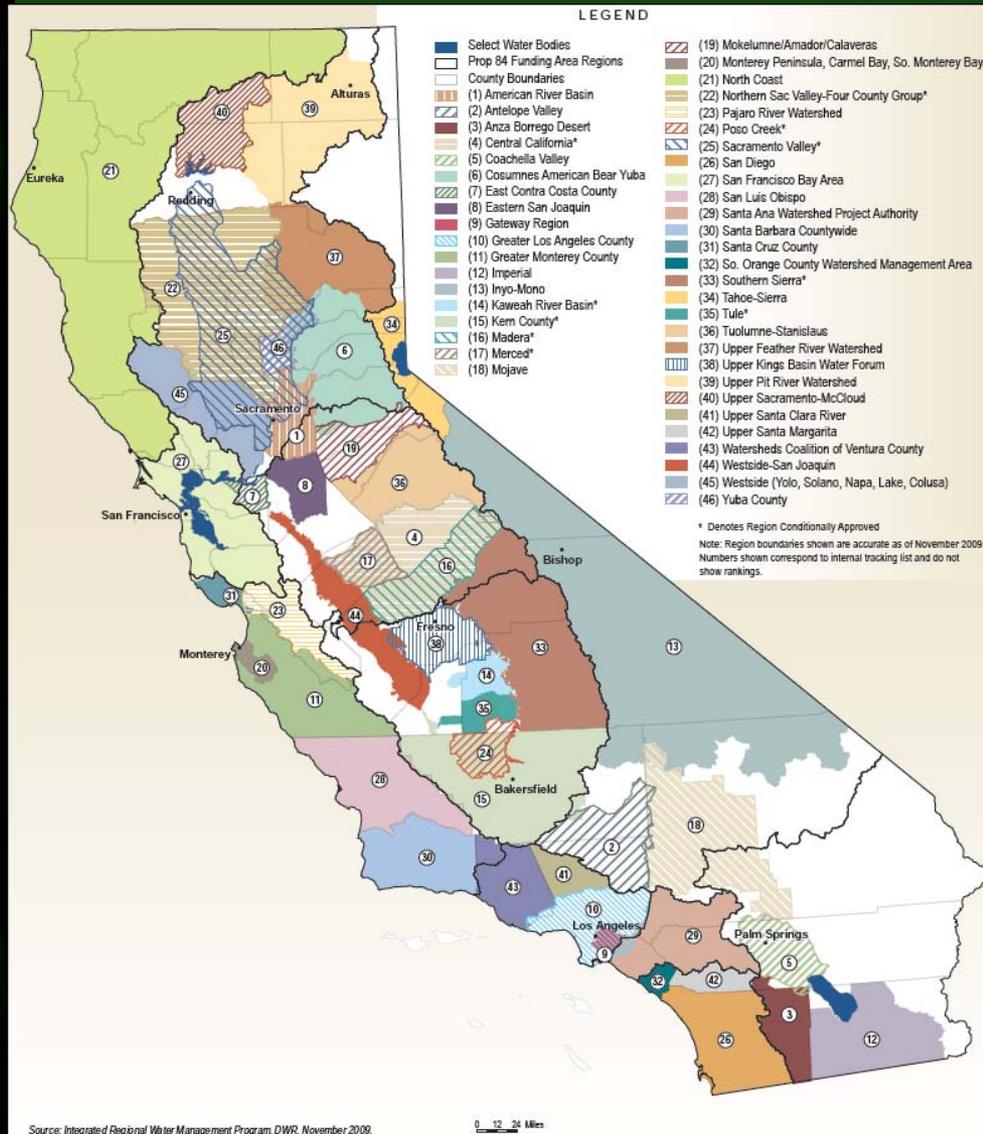


# Groundwater Management and Groundwater Quality





# Integrated Regional Water Management Planning



⇒ toward Integrated Resource Management Planning

- Groundwater
- Surface Water
- Air
- Soil quality
- Energy / Carbon
- Landuse planning

(Courtesy: Sarge Green, CSU Fresno)



**Questions?**

