



# **TULE BASIN**

## **MANAGEMENT ZONE**

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**GROUNDWATER 101:**

**WHERE DOES MY  
DRINKING WATER  
COME FROM?**

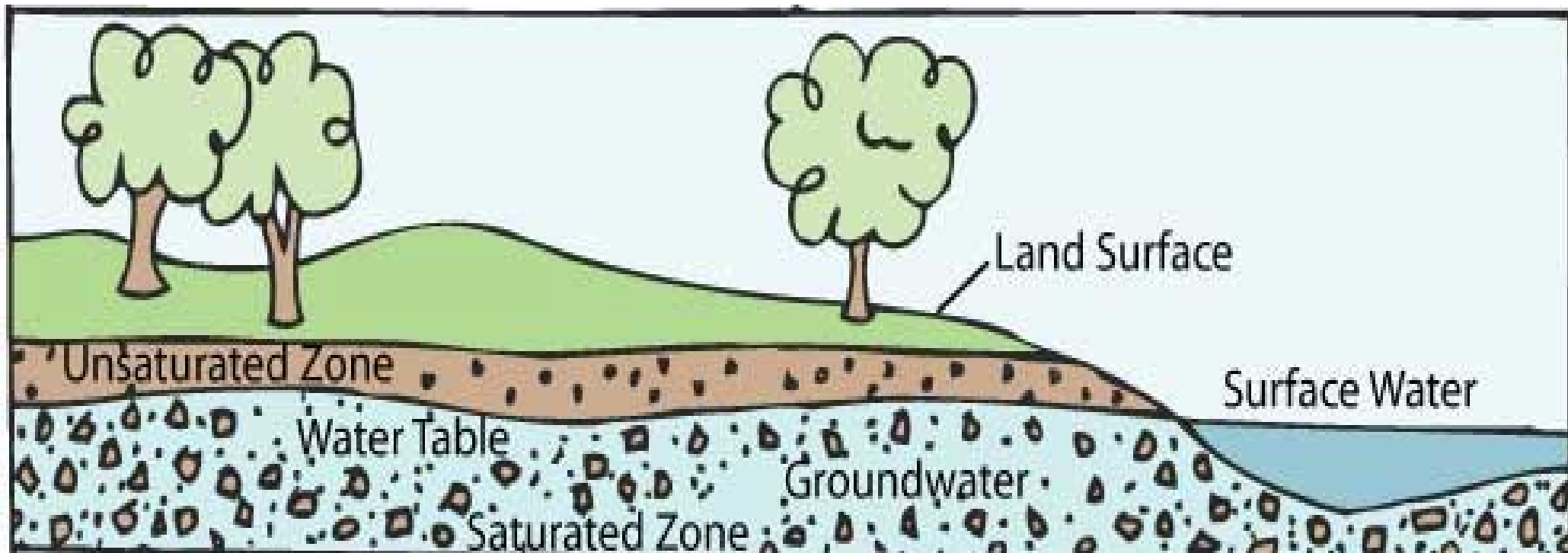
**MODULE 1**

# Where does my tap water come from?

- Tap water is provided to homes by:
  - 1) a connection to a public water system (city) or
  - 2) a private domestic well
- Tap water must meet state or federal standards to be safe to drink
  - Not all wells or public water systems meet these standards
- ~90% of Tulare County's drinking water comes from groundwater

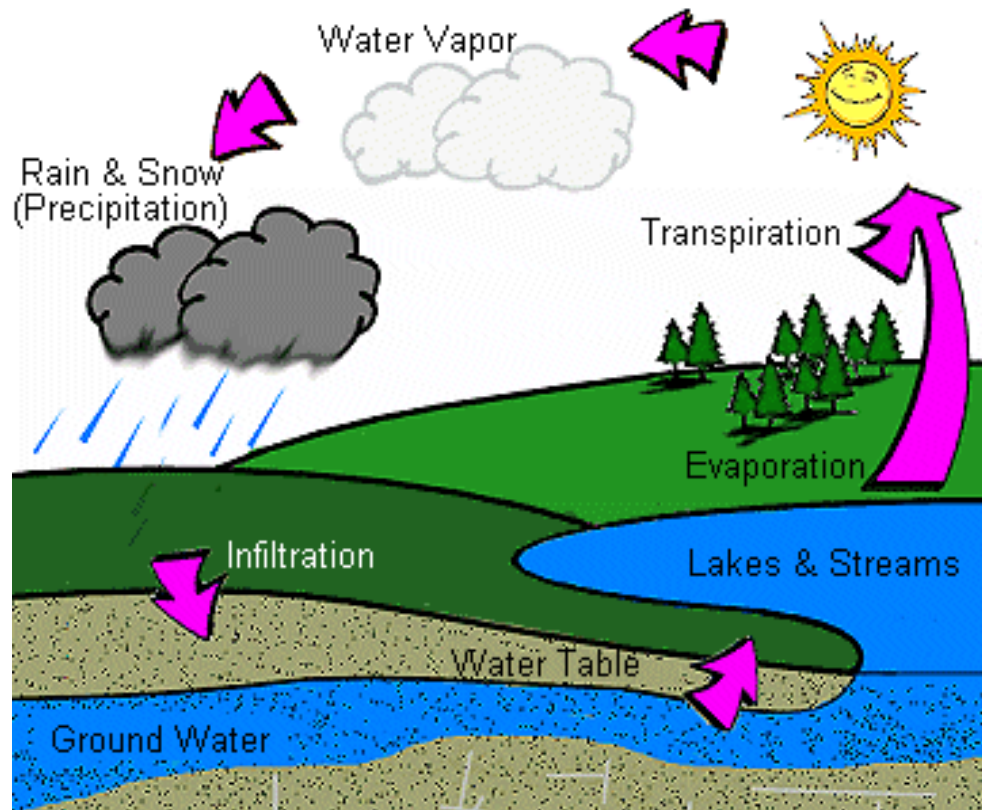


# What is Groundwater?



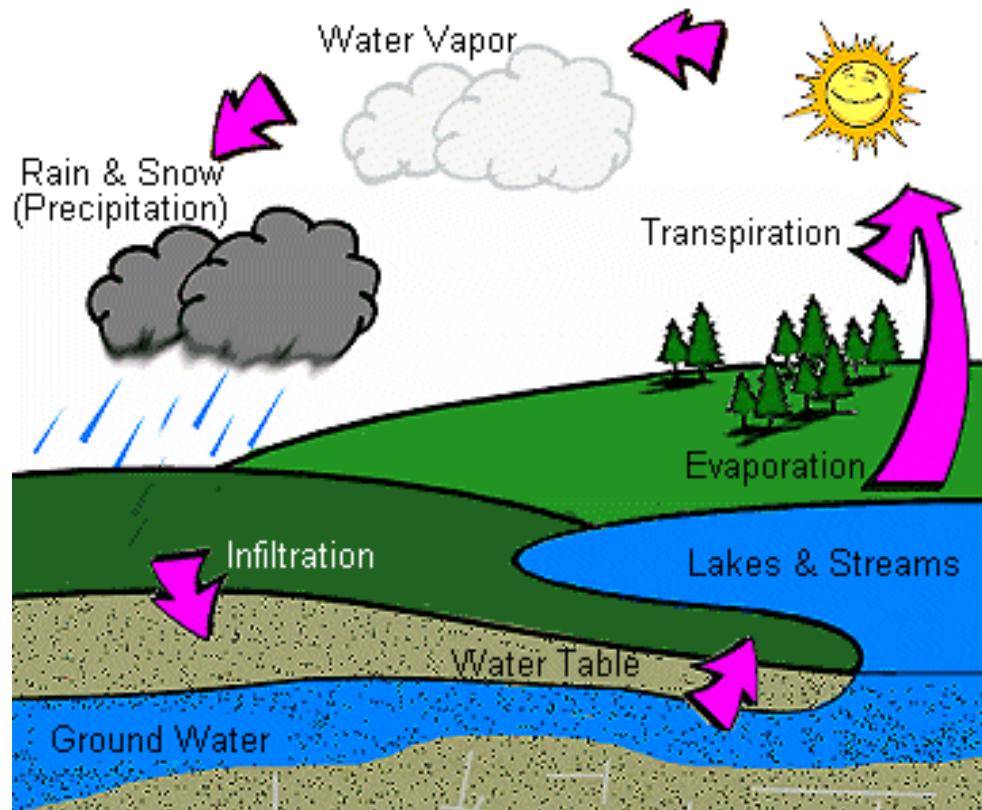
- **Groundwater** is water contained between soil particles

# The Water Cycle: Groundwater's Source



- Precipitation falls from clouds, infiltrates into groundwater and surface water where it is stored or evaporates, then condenses again in clouds, and repeats the water cycle
- Any water that flows across the ground surface (for example: rain, snow, or irrigation water), seeps into the spaces between soil particles to create groundwater

# The Water Cycle: Groundwater's Source (con't)



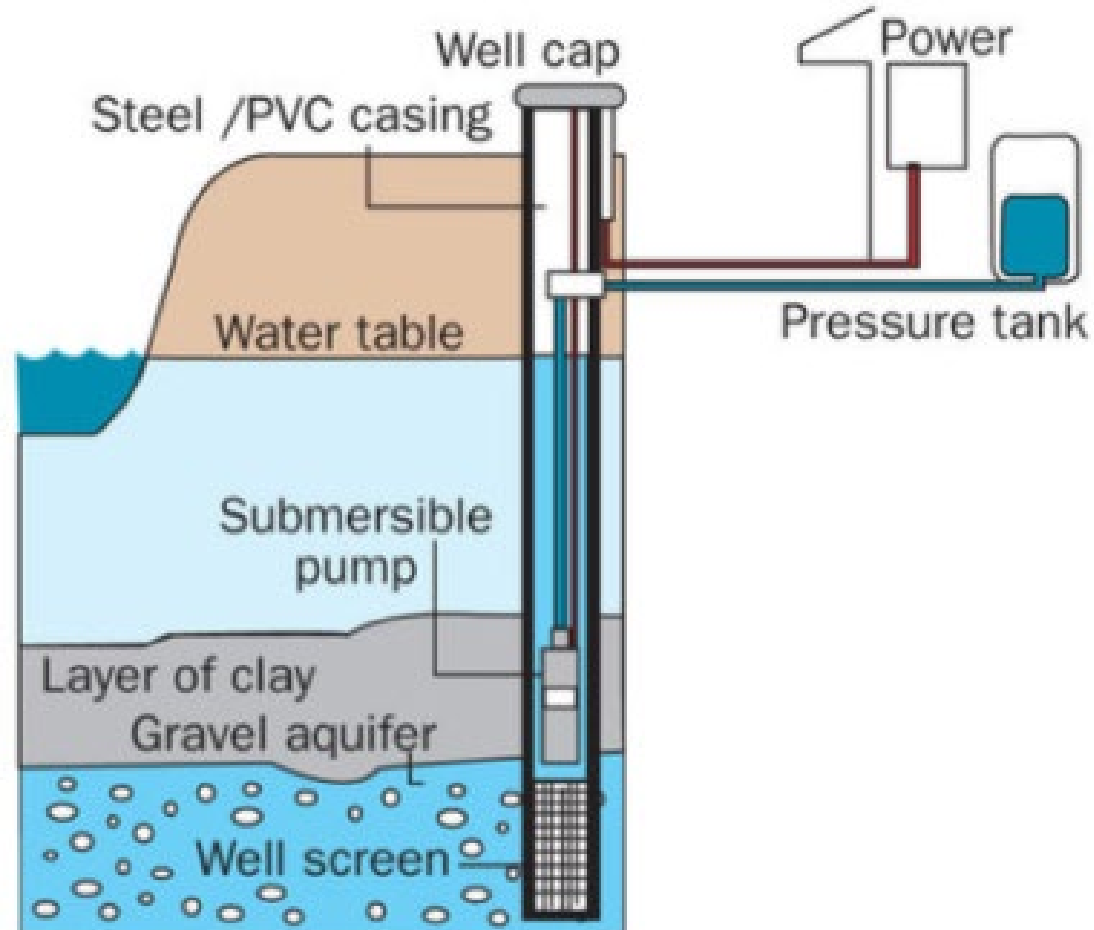
- Groundwater accumulates over long periods of time to create a storage unit called an “aquifer”

# How is Groundwater Used for Drinking Water?

- Groundwater is pumped to the surface by wells
- The quality of groundwater can be different depending on the location and depth of the well
  - Typically, domestic wells are shallower and community water system or irrigation wells are deeper



# How Does a Well Provide Drinking Water?



# How Does a Well Provide Drinking Water?

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- Wells are holes drilled into the ground held open by a pipe that extends into the aquifer
- A pump attached to the well acts like a straw to draw water to the surface
- Wells are drilled at different depths depending upon the depth to groundwater and groundwater quality
- Wells have well screens that prevent sand and soil from entering the well and well caps that prevent trash, insects, or animals from getting into the well