



Ministry of **Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations**  
and **Rural Development**

# Groundwater Protection: From Wells to Aquifers

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Presentation to:

**Capital Regional District, Juan de Fuca  
Electoral Area**

**January 26, 2022**



# OUTLINE



- Introduction
- Understanding your well
- Groundwater licensing
- Aquifers and groundwater protection
- Resources



# FLNR Water Protection



## **Dike & Dam Safety**

Audits and compliance

Public safety

Outreach, education

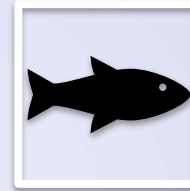


## **Groundwater Science for Water Sustainability Act implementation**

Aquifer studies

Technical support for  
water authorizations

Treaty and non-treaty  
water agreements  
(reserves)



## **Surface-groundwater monitoring/reporting**

Observation well  
network (80+ wells)

Hydrometric network

Low flow monitoring

# FLNR Water Authorizations



## **Water licensing**

Surface & groundwater  
licensing

Compliance &  
enforcement  
(unauthorized use)

Short-term use approvals  
(surface, groundwater)



## **Water Sustainability Act implementation**

Treaty and non-treaty  
water agreements  
(reserves)

Environmental Flow  
Needs

Outreach, education



## **Drought & flood monitoring & response**

Low flow monitoring

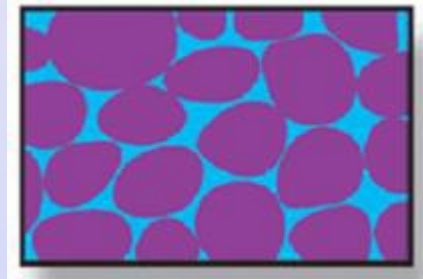
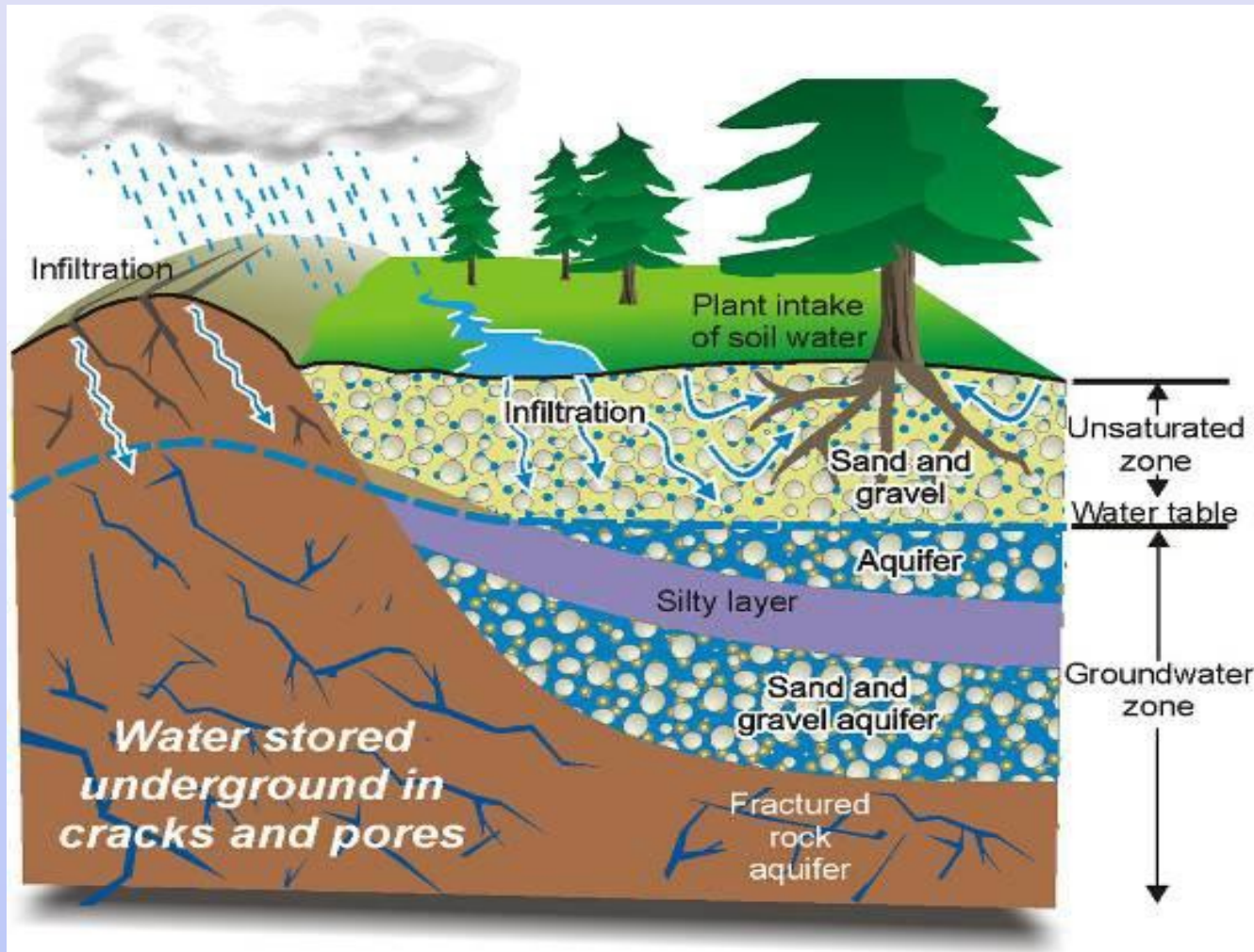
Priority streams

Drought levels

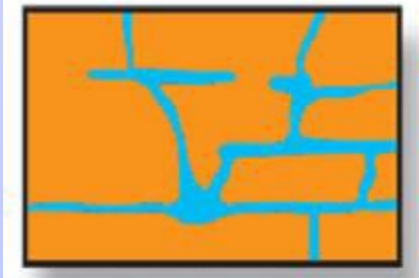
Temporary Protection  
Orders



# Understanding Groundwater



**UNCONSOLIDATED**  
Water between  
grains of sand &  
gravel



**BEDROCK**  
Water in rock  
fractures

# WELL PROTECTION



- Why be Well Smart
- Types of wells
- How does a well work
- Construction & maintenance standards
- Factors influencing groundwater quality
- Water quality sampling, disinfection, treatment

# Why be Well Smart?

- Private well owners are their own water manager
- Proper well operation & maintenance can
  - ✓ Protects water quality
    - For you & your family
    - For the community
    - For the ecosystem
- Sustains your well yield
  - ✓ Saves money on costly repairs





# What kind of well do I have?

**There are 3 common well installations in the  
West Coast Region**



**Dug Wells**



**Drilled Wells**



**Drilled Wells in Pits**

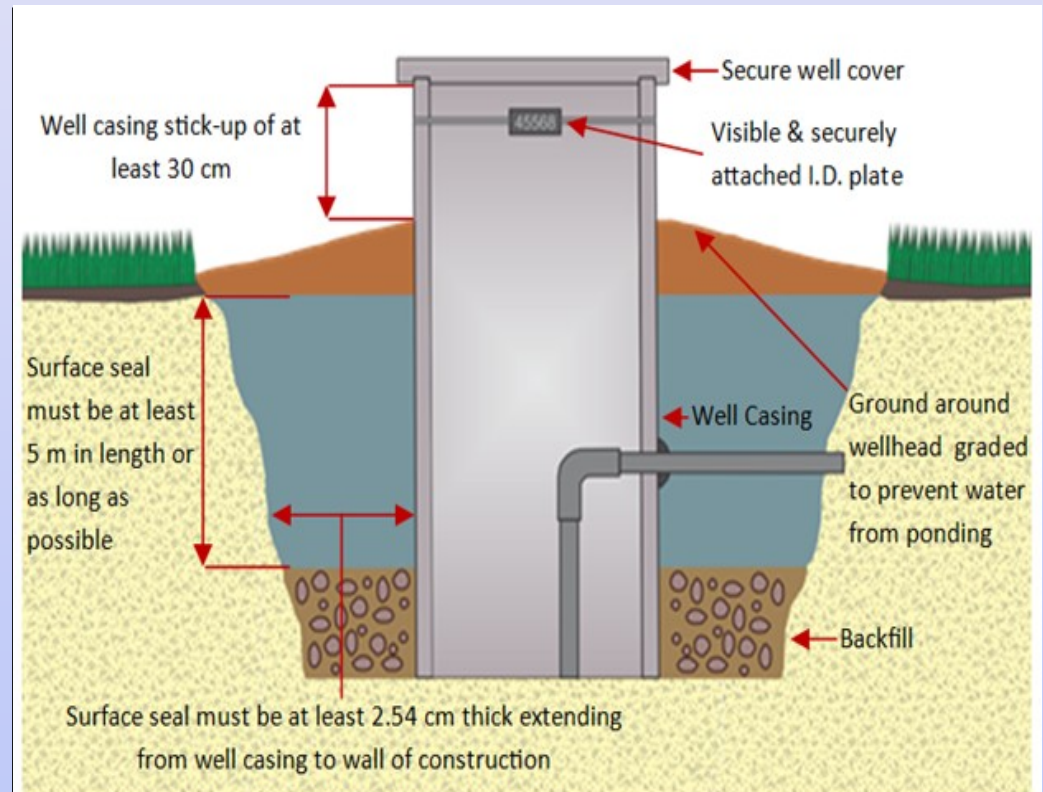


# Well Types: Dug

## Large diameter / shallow



Photo credit: BC FLNRO, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs/ Agriculture (OMAFRA)



# Well Types: Drilled

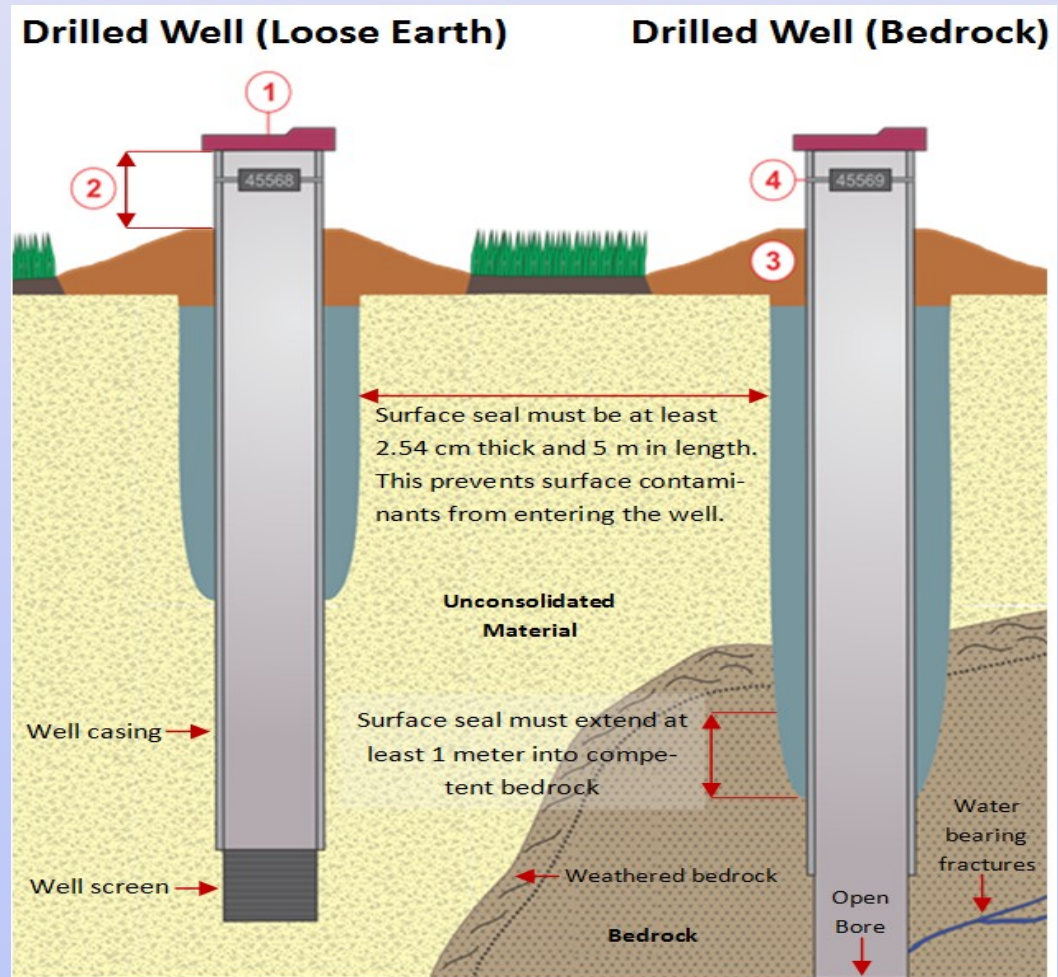
## Small diameter / deep



Photo credit: Island Health, OMAFRA

Drilled wells must have:

1. Securely attached well cap
2. Well casing stickup at least 30 cm
3. Graded surface around well head
4. Securely attached ID plate





# Well Types: Drilled Wells in Pits

- Older installations – below frost line to protect water line connections from freezing



Photo credit: Ministry of  
Environment (ENV)



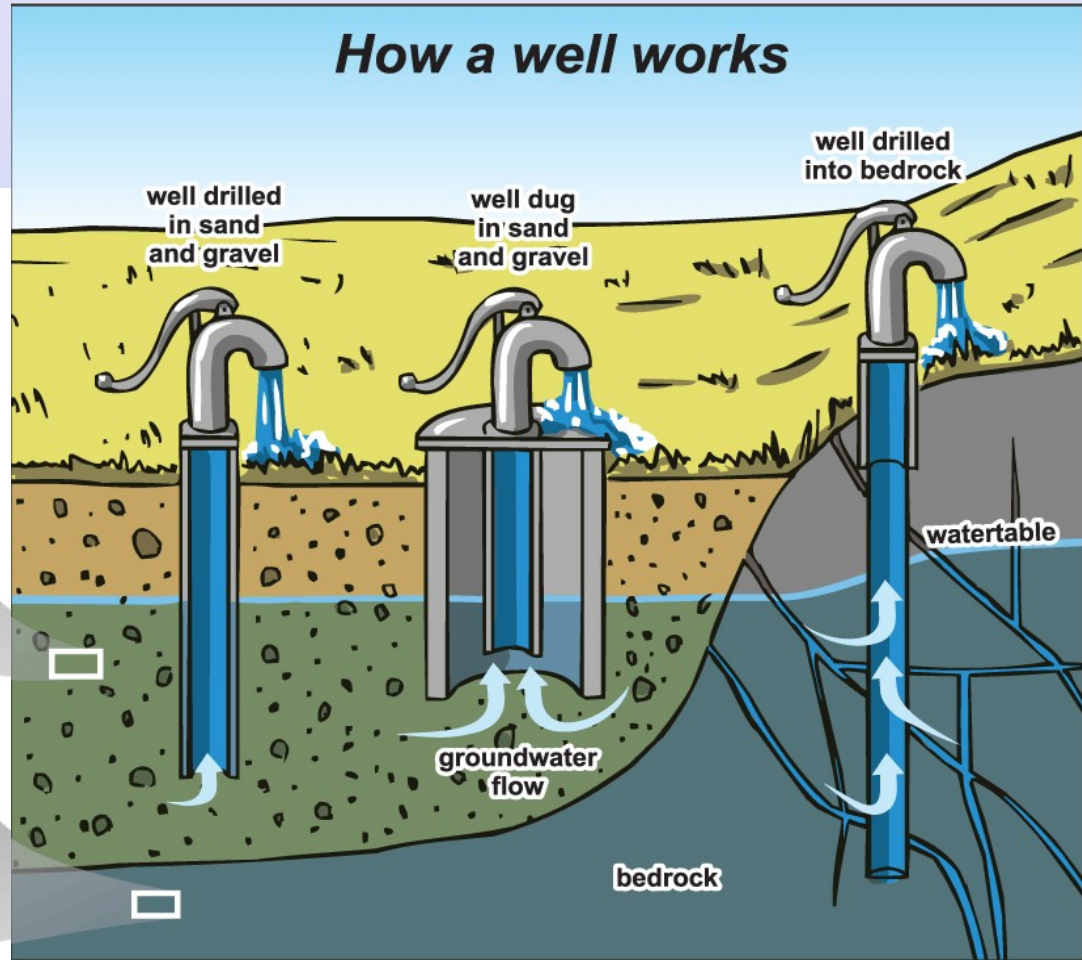
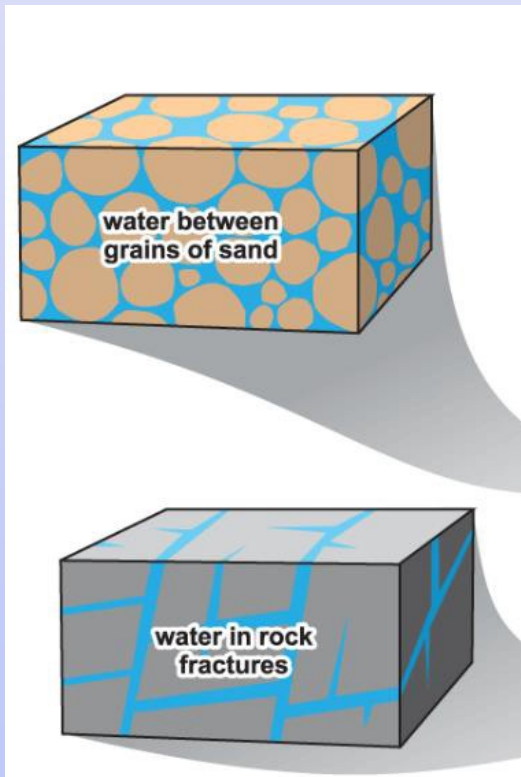
# Well Types: Drilled Wells in Pits

- Risk flooding and water collection in pit
  - Floodwater can contain debris, bacteria, pesticides, fertilizers, etc.
- Risk of asphyxiation if entering pit without proper safety gear (low oxygen, high levels of carbon dioxide)



**See ENV  
brochure  
“Upgrading  
Wells in  
Pits”**

# How a Well Works



# Well Protection

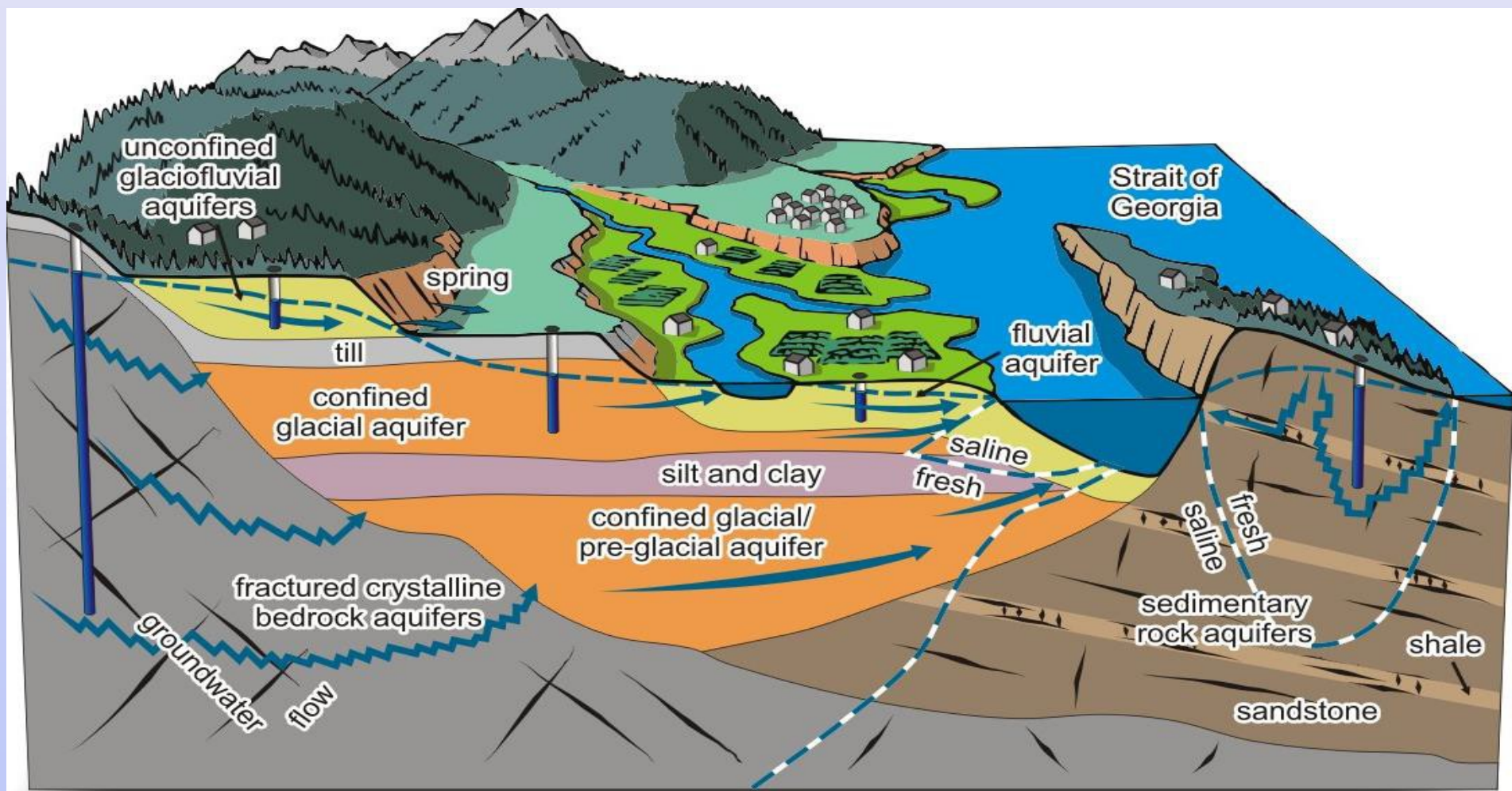
## Factors influencing water quality & quantity:

1. Aquifer properties
2. Location
3. Construction & set-up
4. Maintenance
5. Proper closure

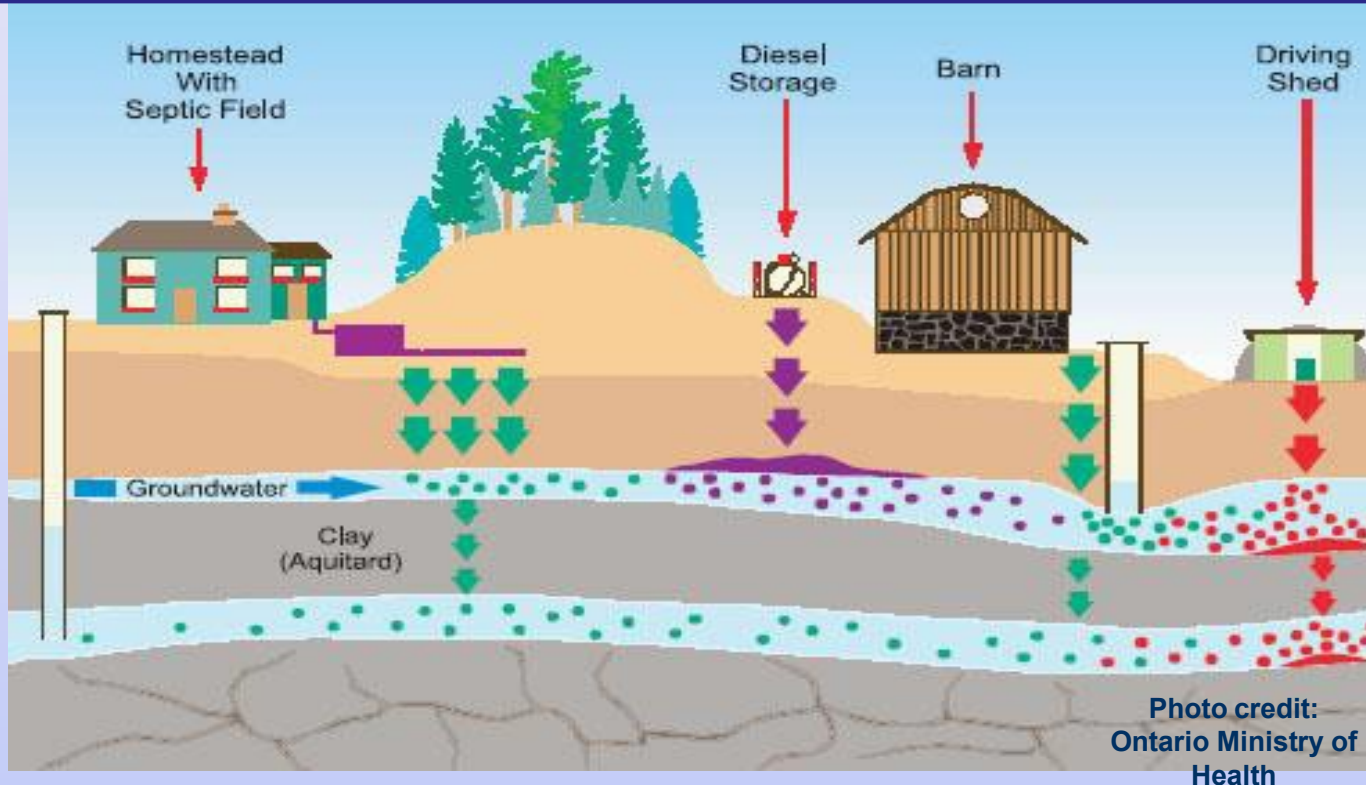




# 1. Aquifer Properties



## 2. Well Location



- Upslope area
- Secure, dry area
- Avoid wells in pits
- 30m / 100' away from potential contaminant sources
- Not in basement or surrounded by concrete

## 2. Well Location

**30 metres or 100 feet from  
potential contaminant sources  
including:**

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Pesticides</b>      | <b>Septic Fields</b>       |
| <b>Vehicle Parking</b> | <b>Animals</b>             |
| <b>Fertilizers</b>     | <b>Storage Tanks</b>       |
| <b>Fuel</b>            | <b>Contaminated Runoff</b> |
|                        | <b>Waste</b>               |

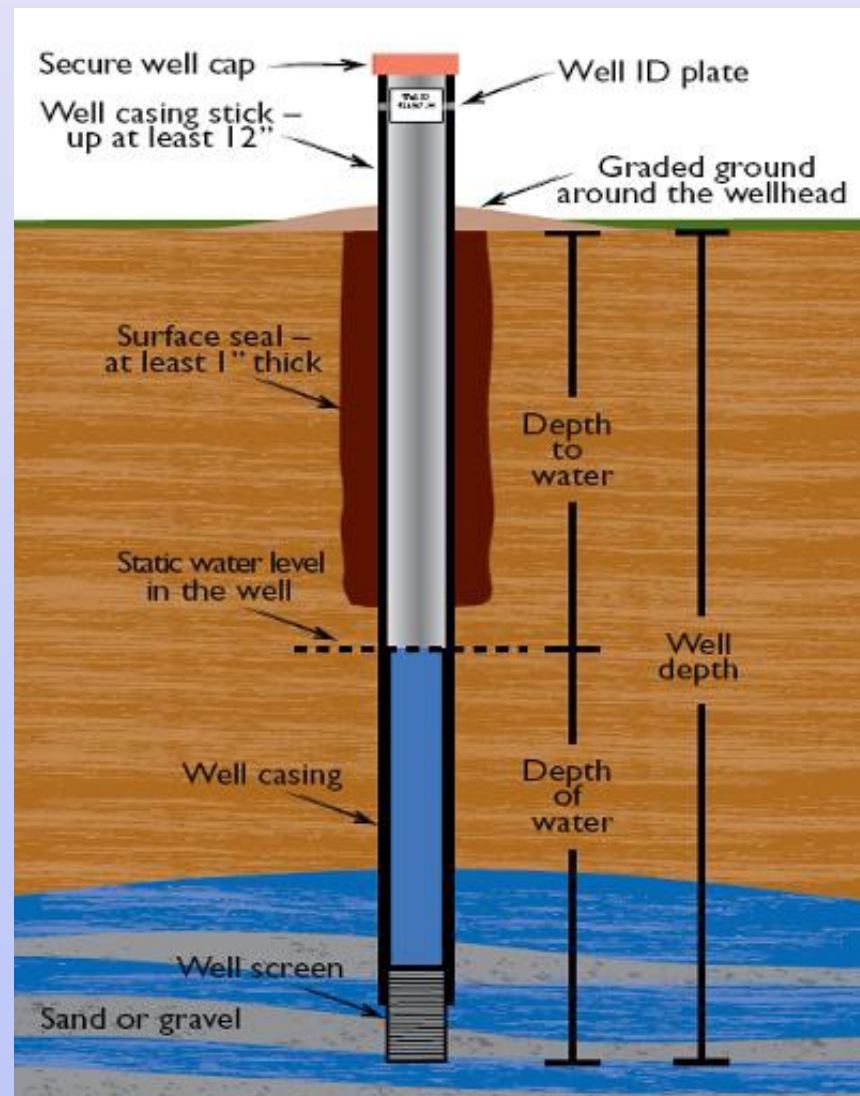


See [Public Health Act, Health Hazard Regulation](#)



### 3. Construction & Set-up

- Standards for well construction protect the health of your family and the aquifer.
- Hire registered qualified contractors
- All drilled wells, and dug wells more than 15m deep, must be constructed by a provincially registered well driller
- All pumps must be installed by a provincially registered pump installer



# 3. Construction & Set-up – Well Caps

All wells must have a water-tight, vermin-proof cap

Sanitary seal



Cast aluminum (pitless)



UV stable Plastic





# 3. Construction & Set-up – Surface Seal

- ✓ A surface seal prevents contaminants from entering a well along the outside of the casing
- ✓ Installed during drilling or may be possible to add to an existing well (consult driller)
- ✗ An improper surface seal allows contaminants into the well

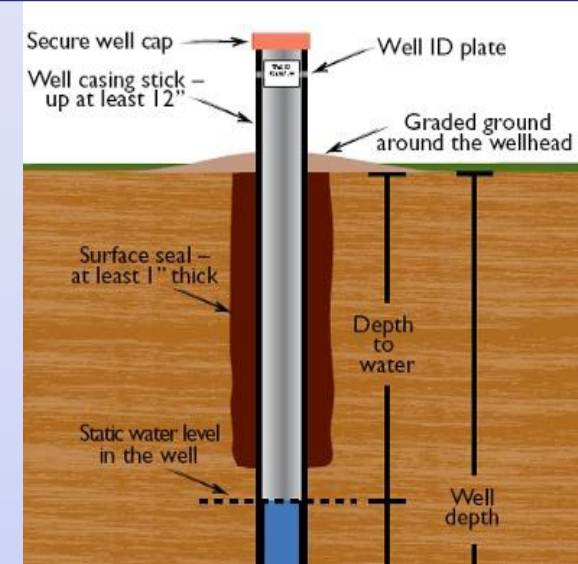


Photo credit: ENV

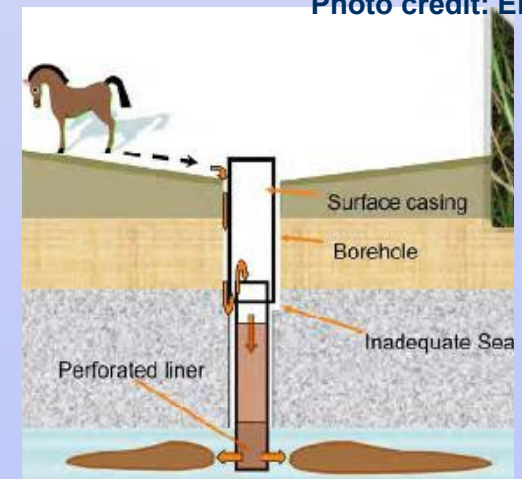


Photo credit: Alberta Working Well Program



# 3. Construction & Set-up: Artesian Flow Control

**Artesian flow must be stopped or brought under control**

## **Responsible parties:**

- Driller at time of construction
- Well owner or land owner for existing well

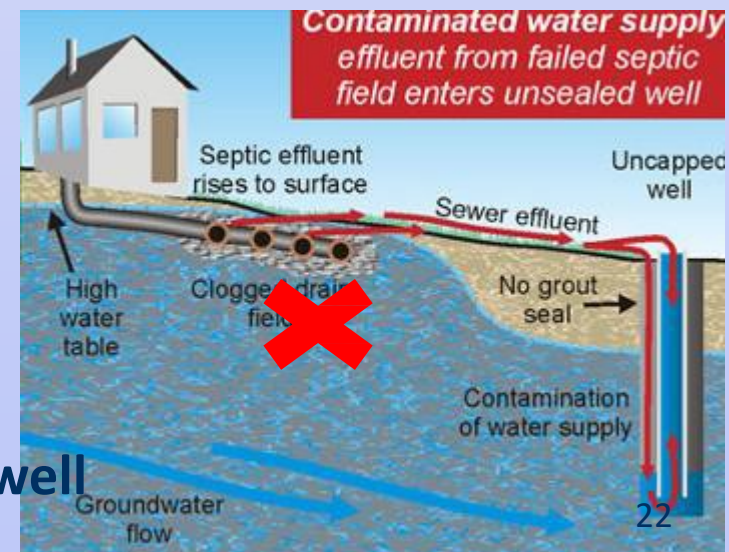
## **“Under control” means:**

- Clear of sediment
- Entirely conveyed through casing (if applicable)
- Can be turned off indefinitely
- Does not pose a threat to property, public safety or the environment



## 4. Well Protection: Good Maintenance

- ✓ Inspect the wellhead regularly
- ✓ Properly maintain septic system
- ✓ Have water quality tested on a regular basis
- ✓ Keep well head area and pump house in good repair and free of contaminants
- Disinfect the well and water system *only* if:
  - Work is done on the well
  - Water testing indicates bacterial contamination
  - After a flood if surface water entered well

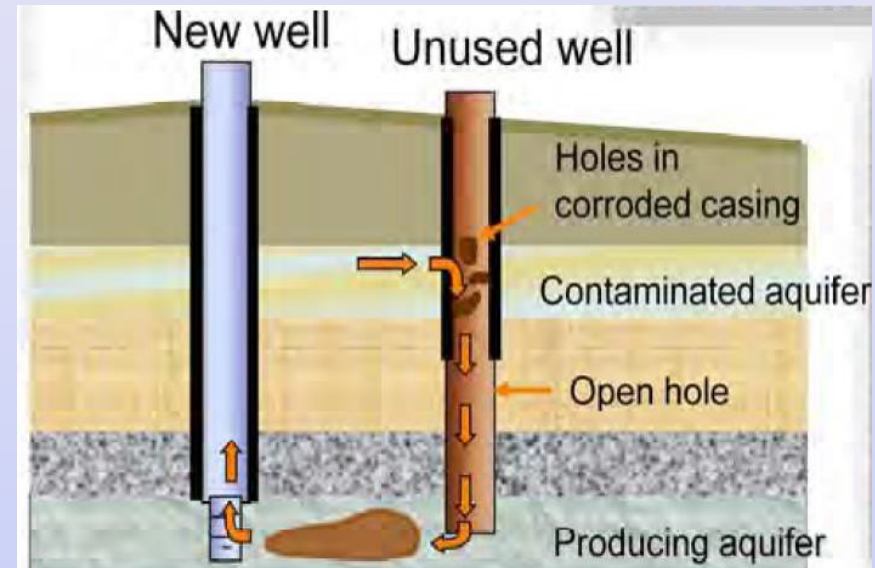


# 5. Well Protection: Properly Decomission

- ✘ Abandoned or improperly closed wells create a direct pathway for groundwater contamination

To decommission/close a well:

- Drilled wells: Must use a provincially registered and qualified well driller to complete the work
- Dug wells <15 m deep can be closed by contractor or owner
- All Wells: Must meet decommission requirements in *Water Sustainability Act*, Groundwater Protection Regulation standards and the



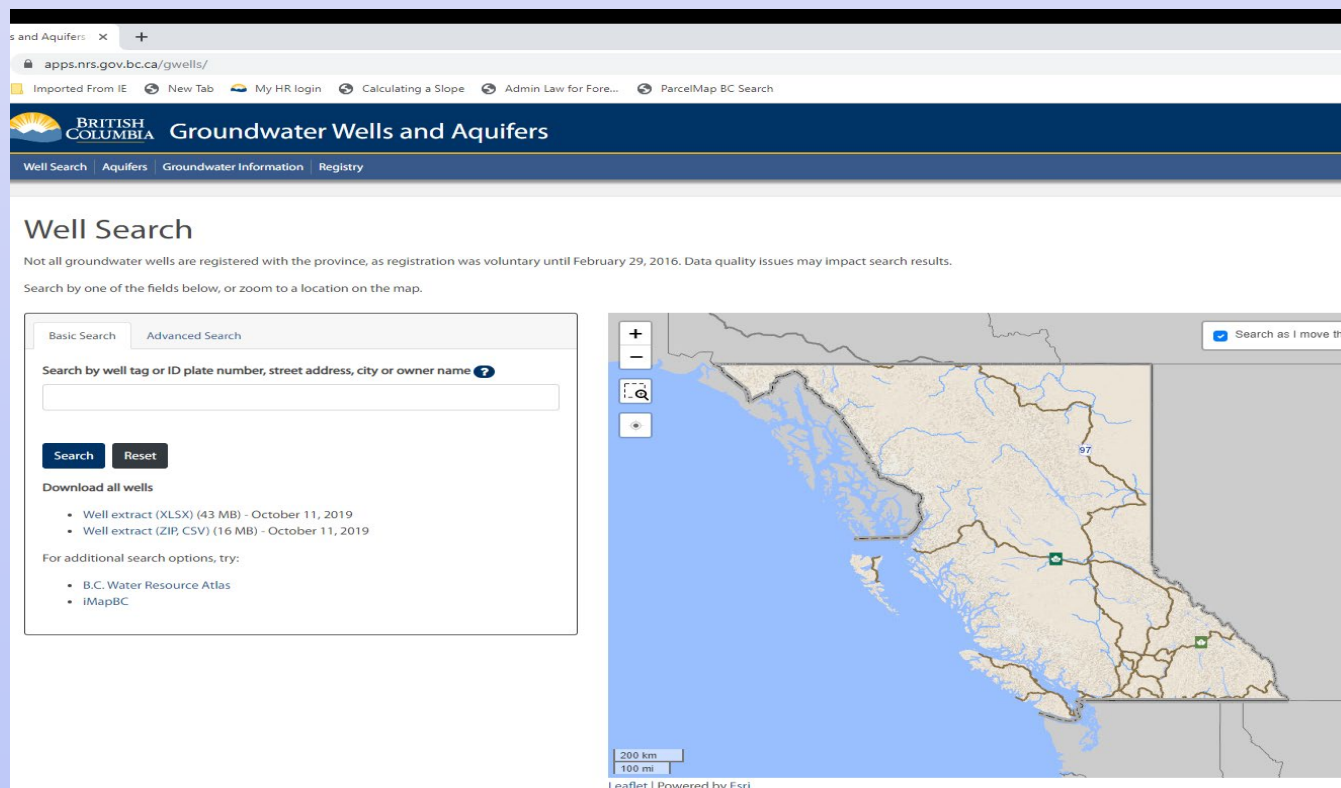


[illegible]

- Kay Rd Elyria Lot 84-85

# Well records

- Where can I find my well record?
- If your well is registered, at:  
<https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/gwells/>



# Registering your domestic well not mandatory but recommended



## Domestic Well Registration Form

This form is intended for registering groundwater wells that are used for domestic water use purpose only. Domestic use of groundwater is exempt from the requirement for obtaining a water license or use approval and paying provincial fees and rentals. Registering your well creates a record of the location of your well and your water use. It helps to ensure that your use is considered by decision makers when dealing with other licence applications.

Domestic purpose is defined in [Section 2 of the Water Sustainability Act](#) as water used for the occupants of a private residence for household uses (e.g., not a multi-family apartment building, hotel, strata or cooperative building) including: drinking water, food preparation, sanitation, fire prevention, water for animals kept for household use or as pets, or irrigation of a garden not exceeding 1000m<sup>2</sup>.

If unsure whether your use is considered to be domestic purpose, or to start your licence application if the well is used for any other purpose, please visit Front Counter BC (<http://www.frontcounterbc.ca/Start-ground-water/>).

### Owner Information

Well Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ or Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

### Well Location Information

If the address of the well location is the same as above, please check ☐

If not, at least one of the three following property descriptors must be provided

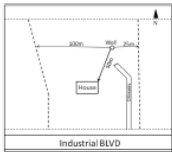
1) Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Legal description (available from the property tax assessment notice):

|                     |                 |                      |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Lot: _____          | Block: _____    | Range: _____         |
| Plan: _____         | Section: _____  | Land District: _____ |
| District Lot: _____ | Township: _____ |                      |

3) PID: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of well location on the property: \_\_\_\_\_



**Well location map.** Attach with the well registration form a sketch or diagram (e.g., property assessment drawing) showing where the well is located on the property relative to the property boundaries, a road or any other structures on the land.

Example Sketch

### GPS Coordinates of the Well

Coordinates for the well can be determined by using a GPS unit, a cell phone app, or by using a mapping application such as iMapBC or Google Earth.

Latitude (e.g., 49.20184°): \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude (e.g., 122.58376°): \_\_\_\_\_

OR

UTM Zone (NAD83): \_\_\_\_\_ UTM Easting: \_\_\_\_\_ UTM Northing: \_\_\_\_\_

Source of coordinates (check one): GPS ☐ Google Earth ☐ Other (please specify) [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

### Well Information

If the well construction report is available, please attach to this form. Attached ☐ Not Available ☐

If no well construction report is available, complete the following information:

Well Identification Plate Number (steel plate attached to some wells): \_\_\_\_\_

Date well drilled (YYYY/MM/DD): \_\_\_\_\_

If the date the well was drilled is unknown, provide the date you took possession of the property (YY/MM/DD): \_\_\_\_\_

Drilling Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Drilling: ☐ Drilled ☐ Excavated or Dug

Well depth (ft): \_\_\_\_\_ Well Diameter (in): \_\_\_\_\_

### Disclaimer

Red lettering indicates information that must be provided for the well and the domestic use to be registered.

The information provided on this form, including personal information, will be added to the Provincial WELLS Database, which is accessible to the public at <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/wells-public/>.

Information relating to the well and well owner submitted to the Deputy Comptroller in this form shall be considered part of the Provincial Government records and subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

For more information related to the [Water Sustainability Act](#) or [Groundwater Protection Regulation](#), please visit <http://gov.bc.ca/water>.

### Signature of Declaration

I have read and understand the above and declare that the information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand and consent that the information on this form will be published and made publicly available. Digital signatures are acceptable.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date (YYYY/MM/DD): \_\_\_\_\_

### Send Completed Form To

#### Before Submitting:

- ☐ Ensure your well is used for domestic purposes only.
- ☐ Complete all required information.
- ☐ Attach a sketch or map depicting where the well is located on the property.
- ☐ Provide any supporting documentation (e.g., well construction report) if available.
- ☐ Sign the well registration form.

#### Mailing Address:

Deputy Comptroller  
Ministry of Environment  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9M2

#### Email:

GroundWater@gov.bc.ca

**\*copies of  
these forms  
can be found  
online**



# Ground water quality - contaminants

## Fecal matter

- Bacteria

*e.g. E. coli, fecal coliforms, total coliforms*

- Viruses

*e.g. Norovirus*

- Parasites

*e.g. Giardia lamblia*

## Human activities

- Chemicals

*e.g. Nitrates, pesticides, hydrocarbons, pharmaceuticals*

- Minerals

*e.g. iron and/or manganese, lead, hardness (calcium & magnesium), boron, fluoride, sodium, sulphur, chloride, arsenic, or other metals*

## Minerals



# Water Quality Testing

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**Most well owners drink untreated groundwater**

**Groundwater can contain naturally occurring contaminants, or become contaminated with harmful *chemicals* or *pathogens***

**Water may taste and look fine, but contain harmful substances**

# When to Test?

**Bacteria**

3 times per  
year

After any major  
plumbing work

~\$60

**Chemicals and  
other parameters**

**Generally, twice in  
first year and every  
3-5 years after**

~\$170



# How to Take a Water Sample?



# Water Quality Tests

- Test results will give you **CLUES** regarding the sources of contamination
- ***FOR EXAMPLE ...Total Coliform present***

Can mean surface water is getting into the well or there is a problem with the well construction

If test results do not meet  
**Drinking Water Guidelines...**

Contact Island Health for advice



# Shock Chlorination

- Simple disinfection method
- Used when bacterial contamination of the well has occurred (or may have occurred, such as after pump replacement or flooding of well)
- ***Not*** recommended as a regular maintenance activity (strong oxidizing agent)
- How to? See ENV brochure “[Water Well Disinfection](#)”





# Disinfection

## Disinfection for *pathogens*

✓ **Chlorinators**

✓ **UV**

✓ **Distillers**

✓ **Ozonators**

✗ **Brita filters**

✗ **Charcoal**

✗ **Ion  
exchange**

# Treatment

Treatments for *chemical contamination* and *physical parameters*

✓ Reverse  
osmosis

✓ Activated  
carbon filters

✓ Ion exchange

✗ Chlorine  
shock

✗ UV

✗ Distillers

# Estimated Cost of Well Upgrades

| FIX                             | APPROX. COST                               |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Well Cap                        | \$55 - \$175 (usually more for a dug well) |
| Well Casing Stick-Up Extension* | \$300 - \$600                              |
| Surface Seal *                  | \$1000 - \$2000                            |
| Well Closure *                  | \$800 - \$2000                             |
| New Well *                      | \$7,000 - \$20,000                         |

**\* Work MUST be completed by a registered qualified well driller**



# Suspected Problems

On your property:

Contact Island Health or FLNRO

On a neighbours' property:

- ✓ Talk to & listen to your neighbour
- ✓ Provide information
- ✓ Identify solutions

If the issue can't be resolved,  
contact FLNRO [Natural  
Resource Violations](#) (RAPP) or  
Island Health



# Key Messages



**Groundwater is shared by your family, your neighbours, and the environment**

A circular inset image showing a portion of a water quality report table. The table has columns for Well Tag Number, Street Name, Lot, Plan, Est. Yield, Units, Depth, and Well Drilled. The data is as follows:

| Well Tag Number | Street Name            | Lot | Plan  | Est. Yield | Units | Depth | Well Drilled |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----|-------|------------|-------|-------|--------------|
| 22778           | CASSIDY MOBILE HOME PK | 2   | 29707 | 25         | GPM   | 48    |              |
| 22786           | CASSIDY RD             | 8   | 2189  | 6          | GPM   | 195   |              |
| 48226           | CASSIDY TRAILER PARK   | 2   | 29707 | 50         | GPM   | 80    |              |
| 62729           | CASSIDY                |     |       | 2000       | GPM   | 74    |              |
| 21989           | CASSIDY HOTEL          | 1   | 15453 | 10         | GPM   | 51    |              |
| 47905           | NEAR CASSIDY INN       | 2   | 15453 | 20         | GPM   | 54    |              |
| 62730           | CASSIDY                |     |       | 200        | GPM   | 80    |              |
| 10440           | NEXT TO CASSIDY HOTEL  |     |       | 10         | USGM  | 58    |              |
| 102             | 5260 CASSIDY RD        | 2   | 2189  | 2          | USGM  | 70    |              |
|                 | CASSIDY SILL           |     |       | 12         | USGM  | 83    |              |
|                 | 5311 CASSIDY RD RR 1   |     |       | 0          |       | 19    |              |
|                 | 5311 CASSIDY RD RR 1   |     |       | 50         | USGM  | 66    |              |
|                 | 5311 CASSIDY RD RR 1   |     |       | 50         | USGM  | 66    |              |

**Keep good records of water levels, water testing, chlorination, and repairs**



**Regularly:**

- Test your water
- Inspect your wellhead



**ALWAYS properly close unused wells and upgrade components that have failed**



# GROUNDWATER LICENSING



- Context
- Key dates for Existing Groundwater Users
- When is groundwater license required?
- Your groundwater license
- Consequences of not applying
- How to Apply
- Questions



# Context

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## WSA brought into force February 29, 2016

- **Allows surface water and groundwater to be managed and protected as one interconnected source**
  - **Fair and transparent system for managing use during scarcity**
- **Previously, groundwater was used under common law**
- **First 6 years have been a transition period**

# Groundwater Licensing Key Dates

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- As of Feb 29 2016, non-domestic groundwater users must apply prior to diverting and using the water

**EXISTING non-domestic groundwater users  
(using the groundwater before Feb. 29, 2016)  
have until March 1, 2022 to apply**

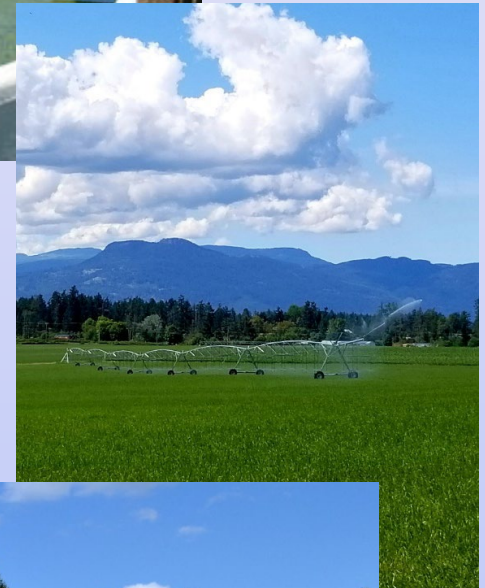
- Application fee is waived

# Non-Domestic Use

## Licence required

Examples:

- Water supply systems (small water systems, stratas, municipalities)
- Agricultural irrigation, livestock
- Commercial (stores, restaurants, campgrounds, bed and breakfasts)
- Institutional (community centres, churches)
- Industrial (hatcheries, greenhouses, golf courses)

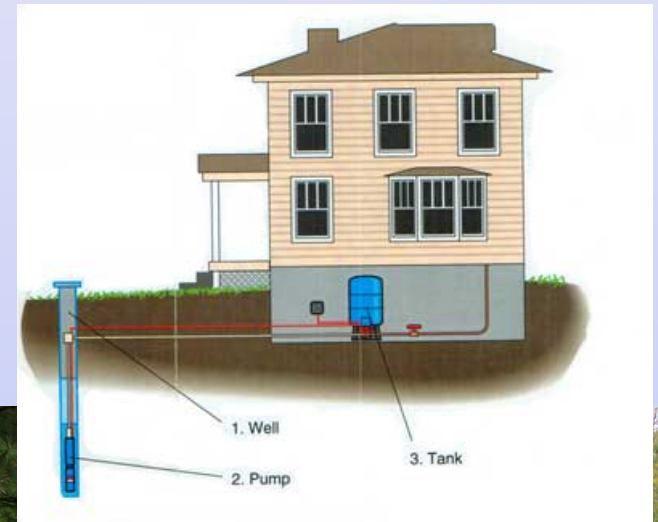




# Domestic (Single Household) Use

## No licence required

- Drinking water
- Food preparation
- Sanitation
- Fire prevention
- Water for pets and household animals or poultry
- Irrigating a garden adjoining the dwelling (under 1000 m<sup>2</sup>, 0.25 acre)



# Your Groundwater Licence

## Your license:

- Is attached to the land, not people
- Is for a specific purpose and volume to support your business
- Includes your date of first use, which will ensure your right to water is based on First-In-Time, First-In-Right (priority date)
  - Protects your use from newer users and future development
- Enhances property value
- Not the same thing as “registering a well” [Well Registration Form \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://gov.bc.ca)



# Consequences of Not Applying

**Non-domestic groundwater users that have not applied  
by March 1, 2022:**

- 1. Will be committing an offence under the WSA**
- 2. May be subject to fines and penalties**
- 3. May be ordered to cease using water**
- 4. Will need to apply as a New User**
  - Lose historical rights**
  - Application could be refused**



# How to Apply!

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## 1. Register for a BCeID

[www.bceid.ca](http://www.bceid.ca)

Allows you to begin your application and return to it later, if needed

- ## 2. For application form, required information, fees, links and tips, please visit: [groundwater.gov.bc.ca](http://groundwater.gov.bc.ca)
- ## 3. Allow for about 2 hours to complete your application online; apply early to avoid technical issues

*Call FrontCounterBC for assistance*

*1-877-855-3222*



# AQUIFER PROTECTION



- Water-related laws
- Groundwater on Vancouver Island and in Juan de Fuca Area
- Aquifer mapping & data sources
- Monitoring
- Well testing
- Surface-groundwater linkages
- Water budgets & technical studies
- Current themes in water management

# Water Related Laws in BC

## Water Sustainability Act, Groundwater Protection Regulation

- Requires all wells to be properly constructed, maintained, and closed at end of service (FLNRO)

## Environmental Management Act

- Prohibits pollution releases without permit (ENV)

## Drinking Water Protection Act

- Standards for public water suppliers
- Prohibits contamination of a water source (Island Health, Ministry of Health)

## Public Health Act

- Protects water supplies by requiring well setbacks of 30m from potential source of contaminants (Island Health)

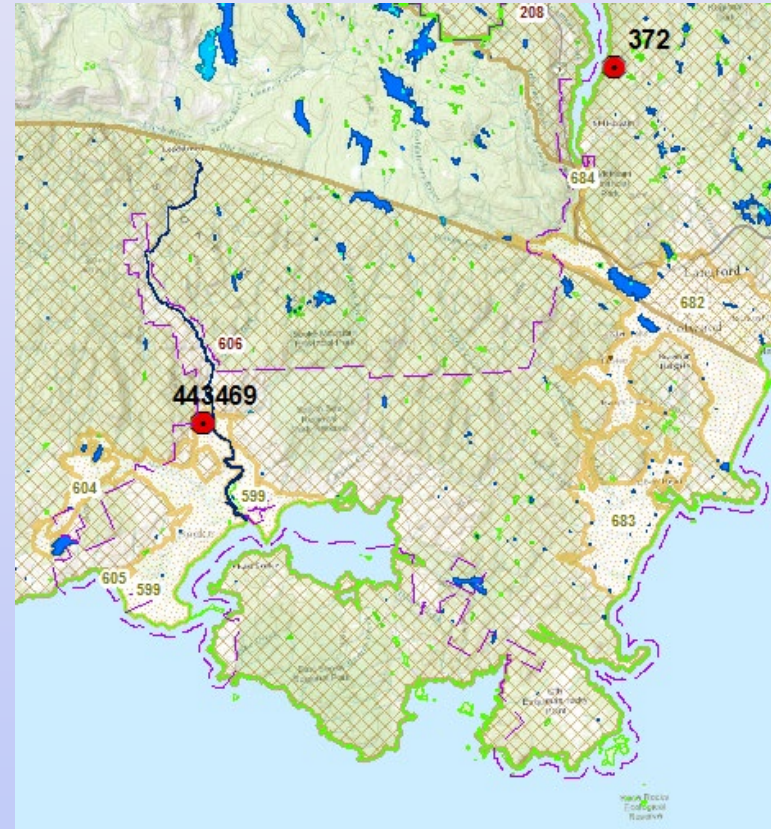
# Ground Water Use in Juan de Fuca, Sooke

## Water supply

- Ground water major source for private homes, water systems, agriculture and commercial use in rural areas
- Most wells get ground water from “fractured rock aquifers”
- Many “low yield” wells e.g., at high elevation
- Precipitation only source of recharge
- Risk of seawater intrusion in coastal areas

## Ecosystems - wetlands and fish-bearing streams

- GW base flow in periods of low rainfall
- Cool stream temperatures in summer



# Ground water quantity concerns

- **Low well yields**

Low producing bedrock aquifers, deep & tight fractures

- **Interference between adjacent well users**

Mainly localized due to low aquifer permeability

- **Seasonal water shortages**

Dug wells

Water demands may exceed water supply in dry months

- **Aquifer overuse or depletion**

Sea water intrusion



Photo credit: Natural Resources  
Canada



# Water Quantity

The amount of water a well can produce is influenced by:

- Geology
- Aquifer type
- Precipitation / recharge
- Well depth
- Pumping rate

Groundwater & surface water are connected: Over pumping of the groundwater can impact stream base flow

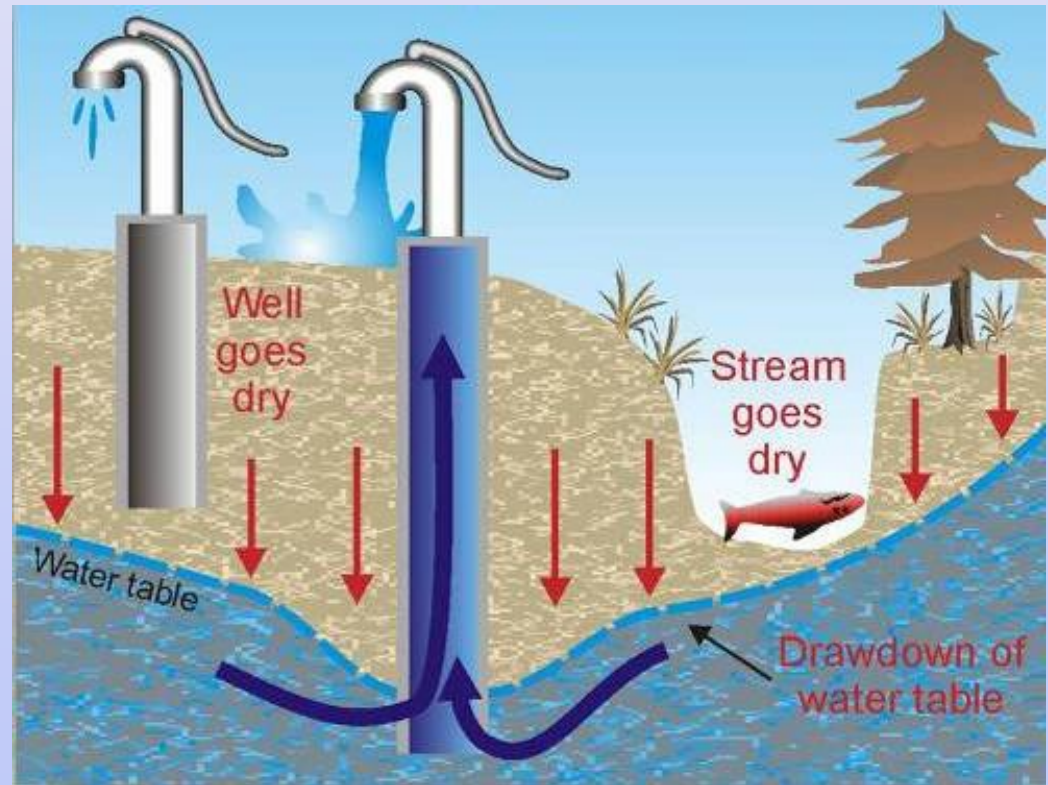


Photo credit: Natural Resources Canada

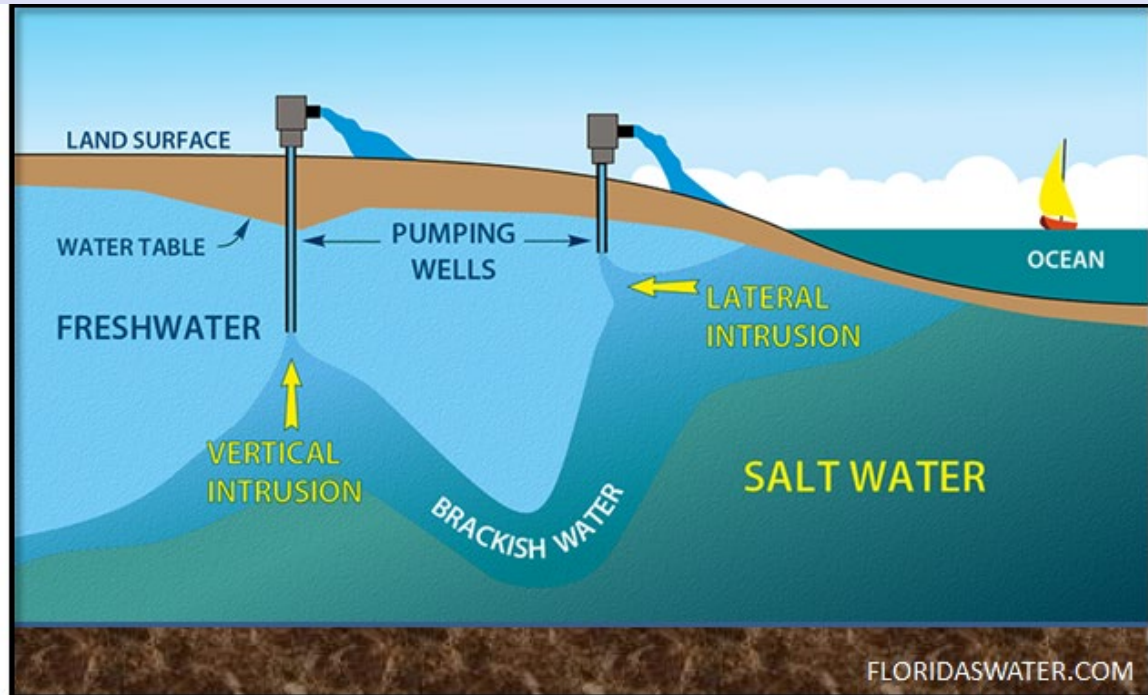
# Seasonal Low Supplies

- If you are at risk of running out of water put contingency plans in place before water shortages occur
  - Identify alternate water sources
- Never use your well to store hauled water - buy or rent cisterns / storage tanks
  - Stored water may need disinfection
  - Clean and maintain tanks regularly



**Follow water conservation practices consistent with local restrictions**

# Sea Water Intrusion



Sea water intrusion is process of saline or brackish water from ocean contaminating fresh ground water

Caused by:

- Drilling into saline groundwater zone
- Over pumping from one well or many wells in an area
- Natural vulnerability due to coastal geography
- Climate change (storms, sea level rise)
- Indicators: Chloride >150 mg/L

- Impact of SWI on freshwater may be long-term or permanent
- Well operation causing sea water intrusion into a fresh aquifer is a violation of WSA, S. 58

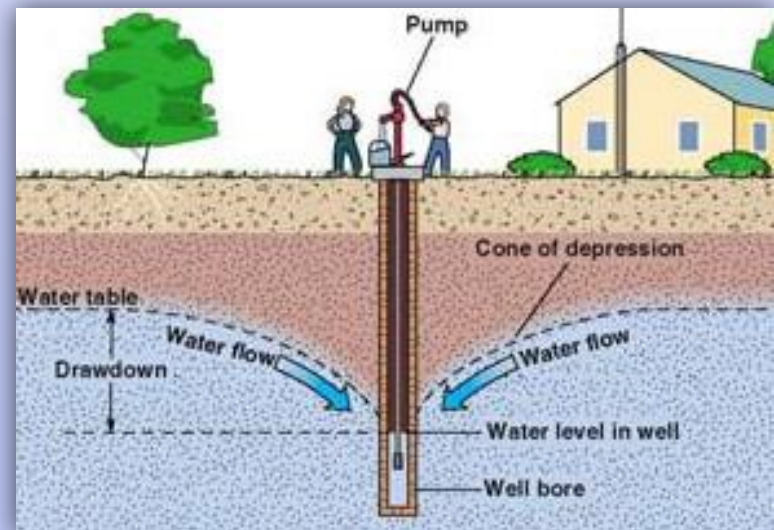
Refer to [Best Practices for Prevention of Sea Water Intrusion](#)



# Climate Change

## What can we expect?

- Changing precipitation
- Longer 'dry' seasons with drought conditions
- More intense storms
- Multi-year droughts?
- More groundwater use



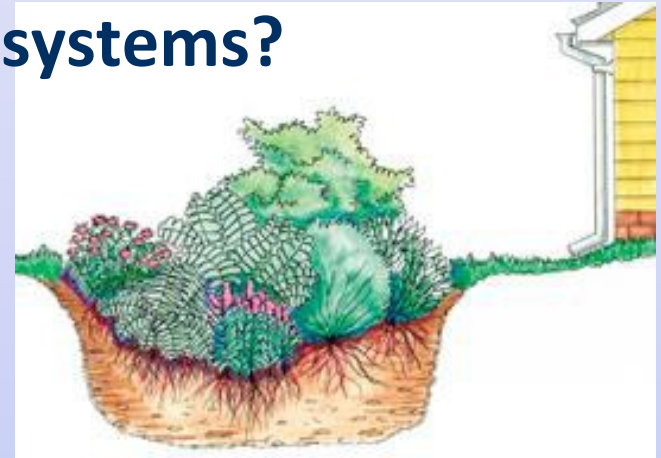
Below photo credit: wellmanager.com



# Climate Change & Drought Management

What can a private well owner do to better prepare and manage their water systems?

- Reduce water use
  - ie. convert to low-flow fixtures
- Increase storage capacity on property
- Diversify water source
  - ie. add rainwater collection
- Change landscaping
  - ie. xeriscaping, rain gardens



# Aquifer mapping data sources

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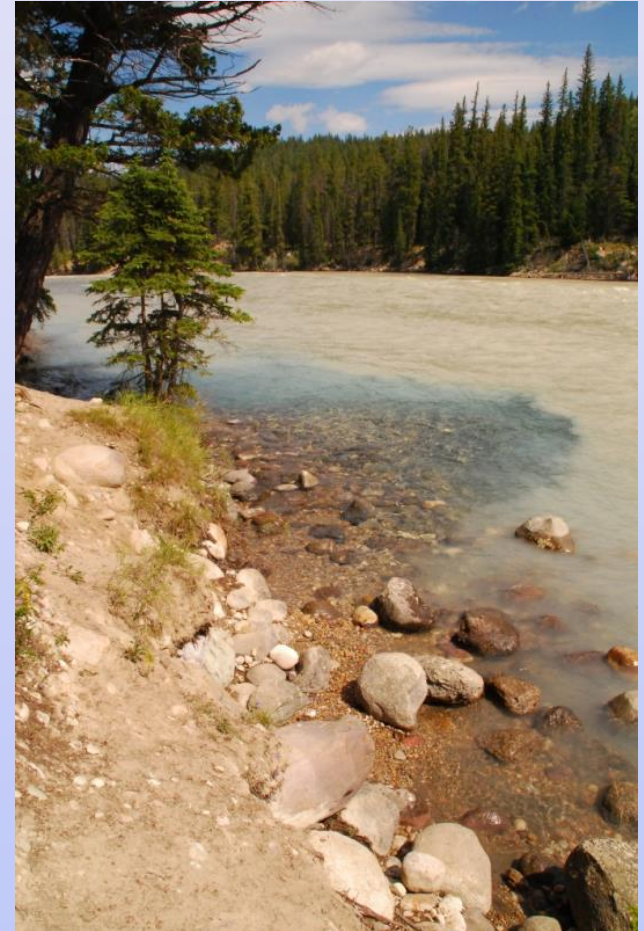
- Groundwater wells and aquifers database (GWELLS)
  - [Aquifer search](#)
  - Aquifer summaries
  - Aquifer worksheets
- [Water Science Series publications](#)
- [Ecological reports catalogue](#)

## Examples

- [AQ599](#)
- [AQ449](#)
- [AQ606](#)

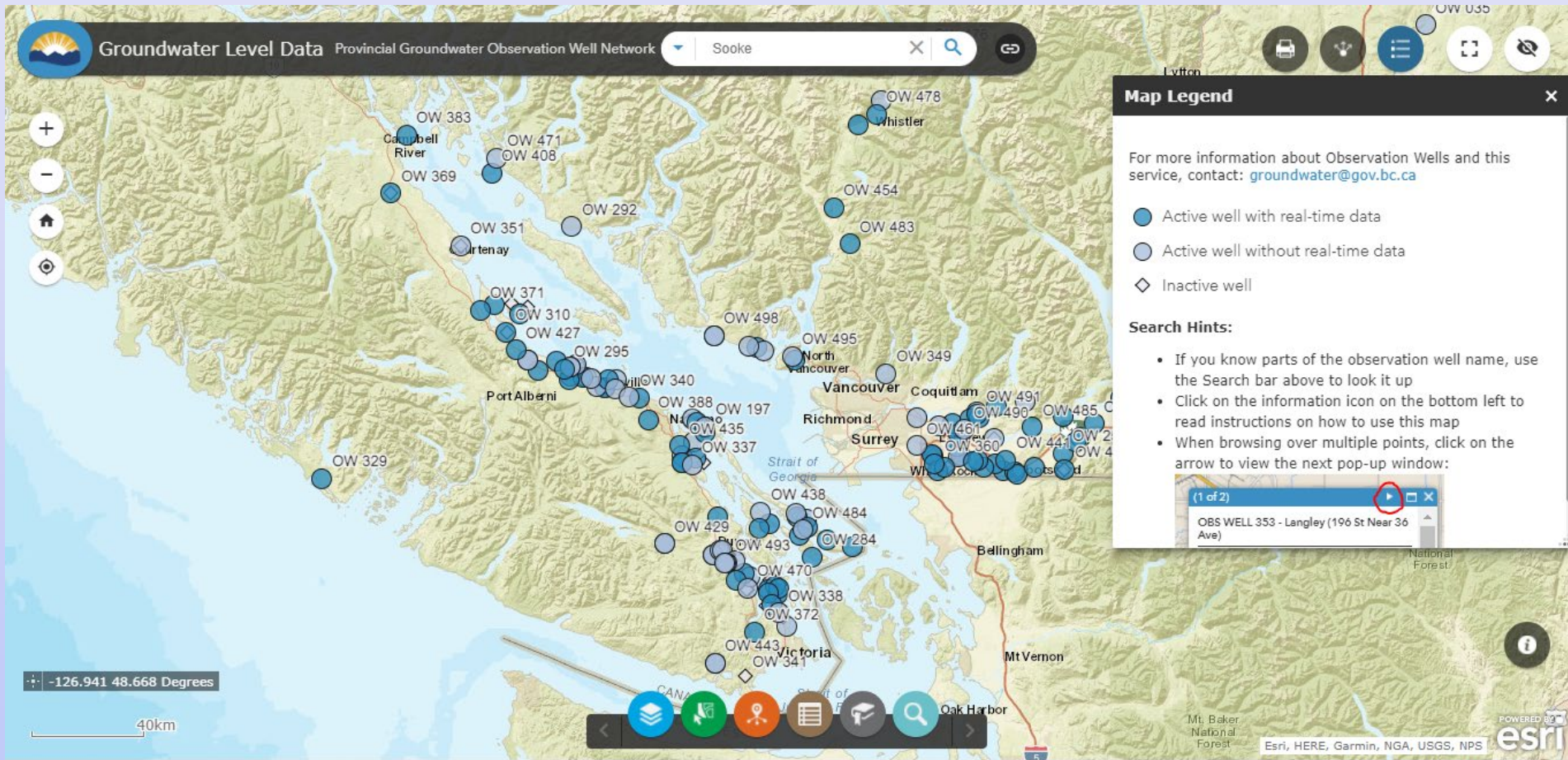
# Evaluating Ground Water Sustainability

1. Environmental monitoring
  - ✓ Observation wells measuring groundwater levels over time (seasonal variation, pumping interference, long-term trends)
  - ✓ Streamflow (esp. low flow)
  - ✓ Climate (weather)
2. Pumping tests and well assessments
  - ✓ Pump well and measure aquifer response
  - ✓ Groundwater levels and water use (demand/supply)
3. Technical studies – water budgets, aquifer characterization, modelling





# Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network

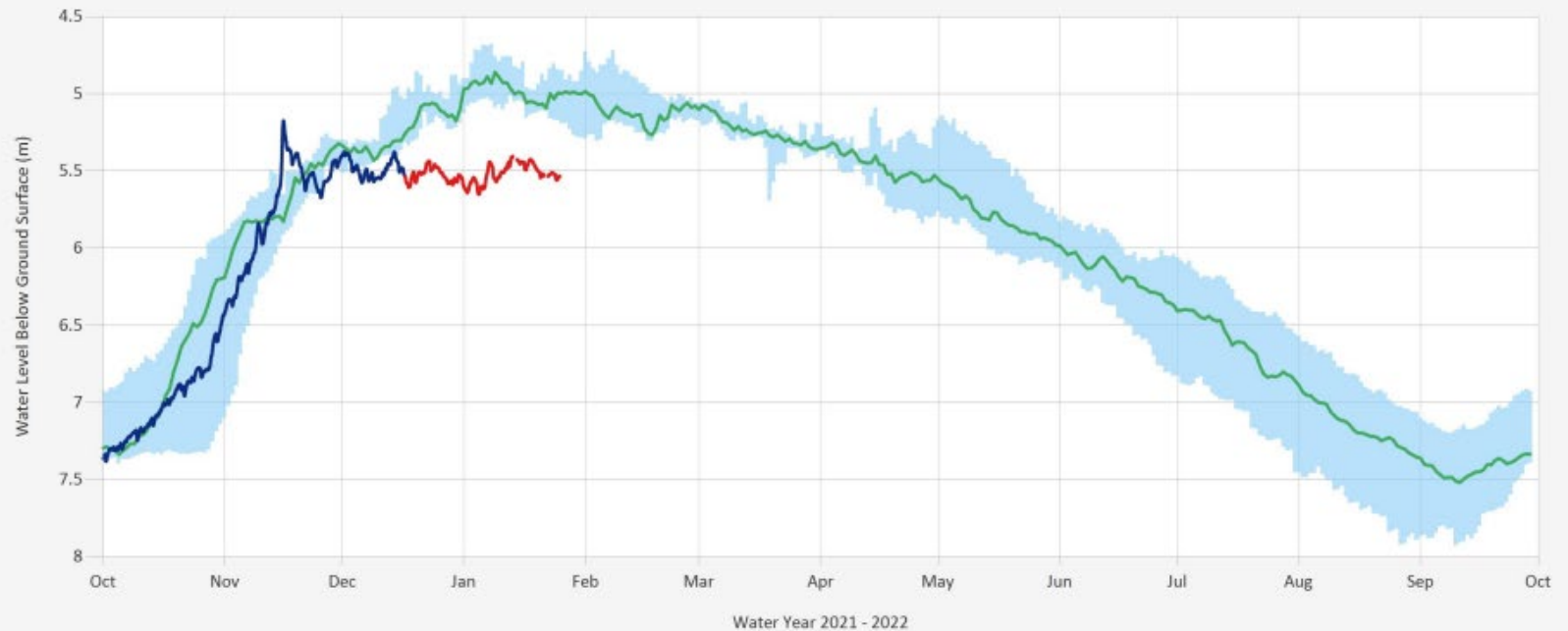


[Groundwater Level Data Interactive Map - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://groundwater.gov.bc.ca)



Source Data: SGWLWorking@OW469

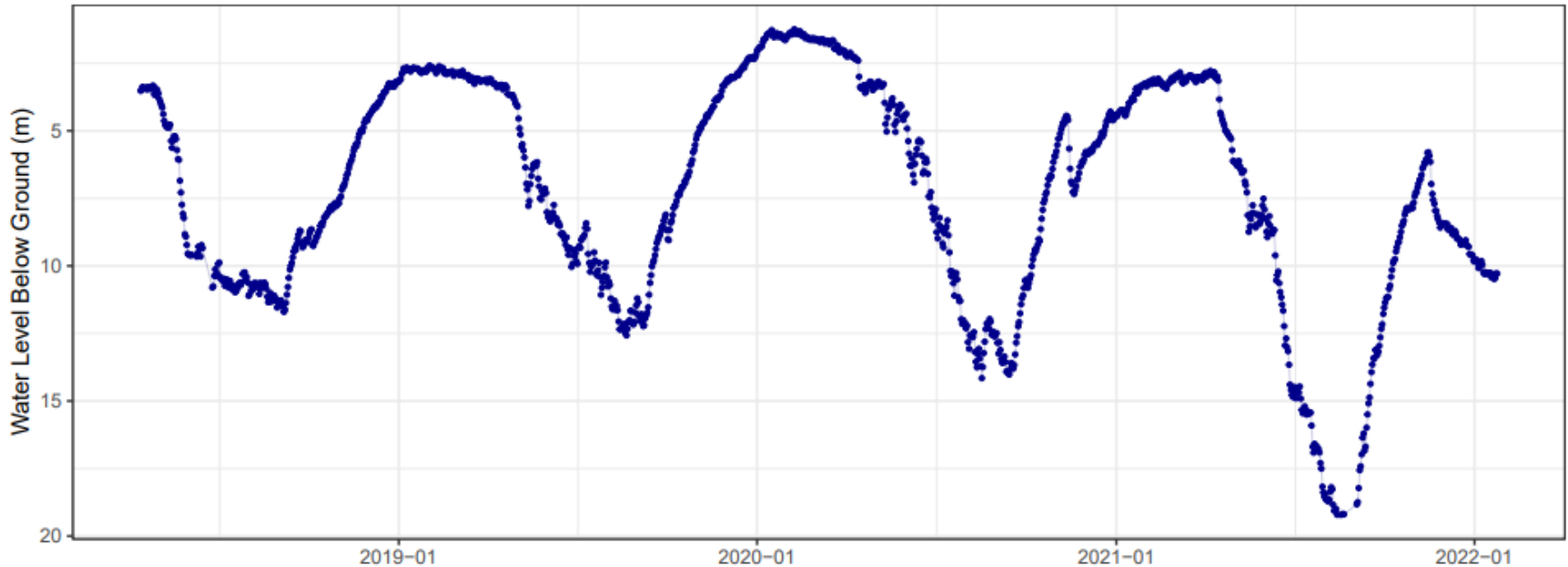
Location: OBS WELL 469 - SOOKE (PHILLIPS RD SHALLOW), Latitude: 48.412798, Longitude: -123.717004, Elevation: : 46.6 m



- OW469 Sooke (Phillips Road, Shallow)
- Aquifer: **599**
- Aquifer type: **Unconsolidated, confined (subtype 4b)**
- Well depth: **28 m (93 ft)**
- Period of record: **April 2018- present**

## OBS WELL 443

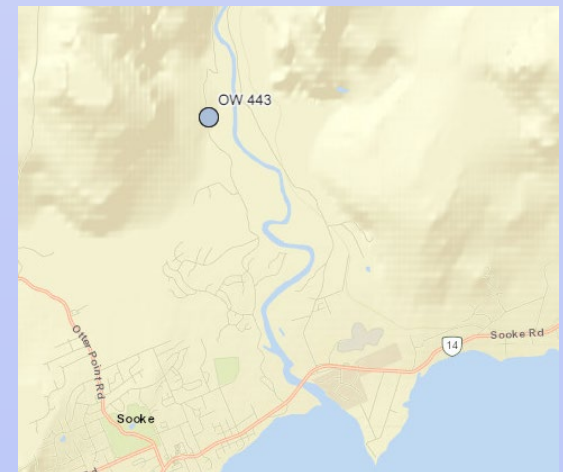
### Water Level Snapshot



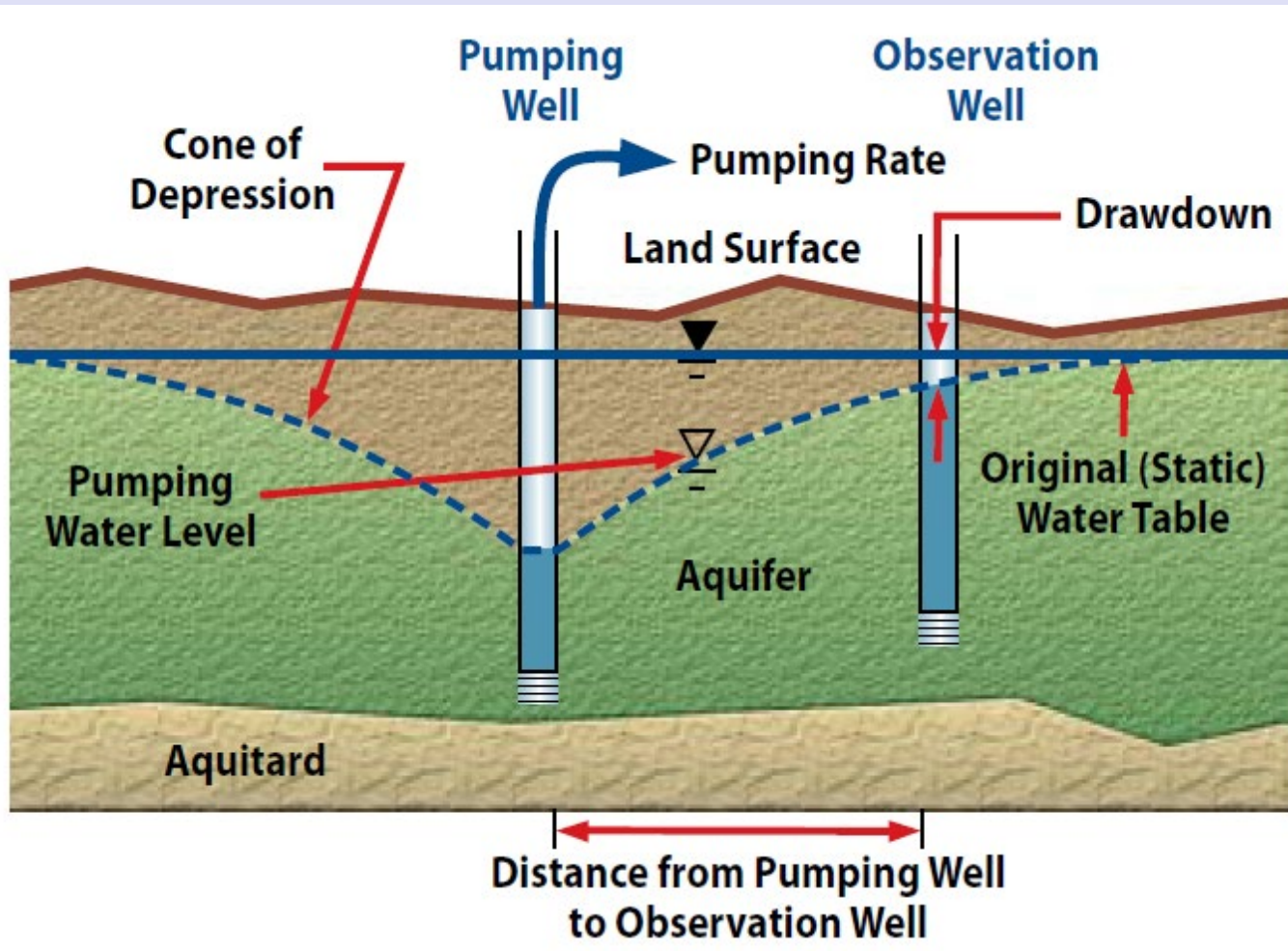
*Note: True data are marked with a dot, the thin line connecting points is a visual aid only and does not represent true observations. The full data set can be downloaded via the BC Data Catalogue or the BC Real-time Water Data tool.*



- OW443 Sooke (Phillips Road, Deep)
- Aquifer: **606**
- Aquifer type: **Unconsolidated, confined (subtype 6b)**
- Well depth: **214 m (702 ft)**
- Period of record: **April 2018- present**



# Well testing



Measures the effect of well pumping on aquifer and adjacent wells

Required for GW licence applications above a certain volume

Refer to: [Guidance for Technical Assessments in Support of an Application for Groundwater Use in British Columbia \(Version 2\)](#)

# Groundwater recharge

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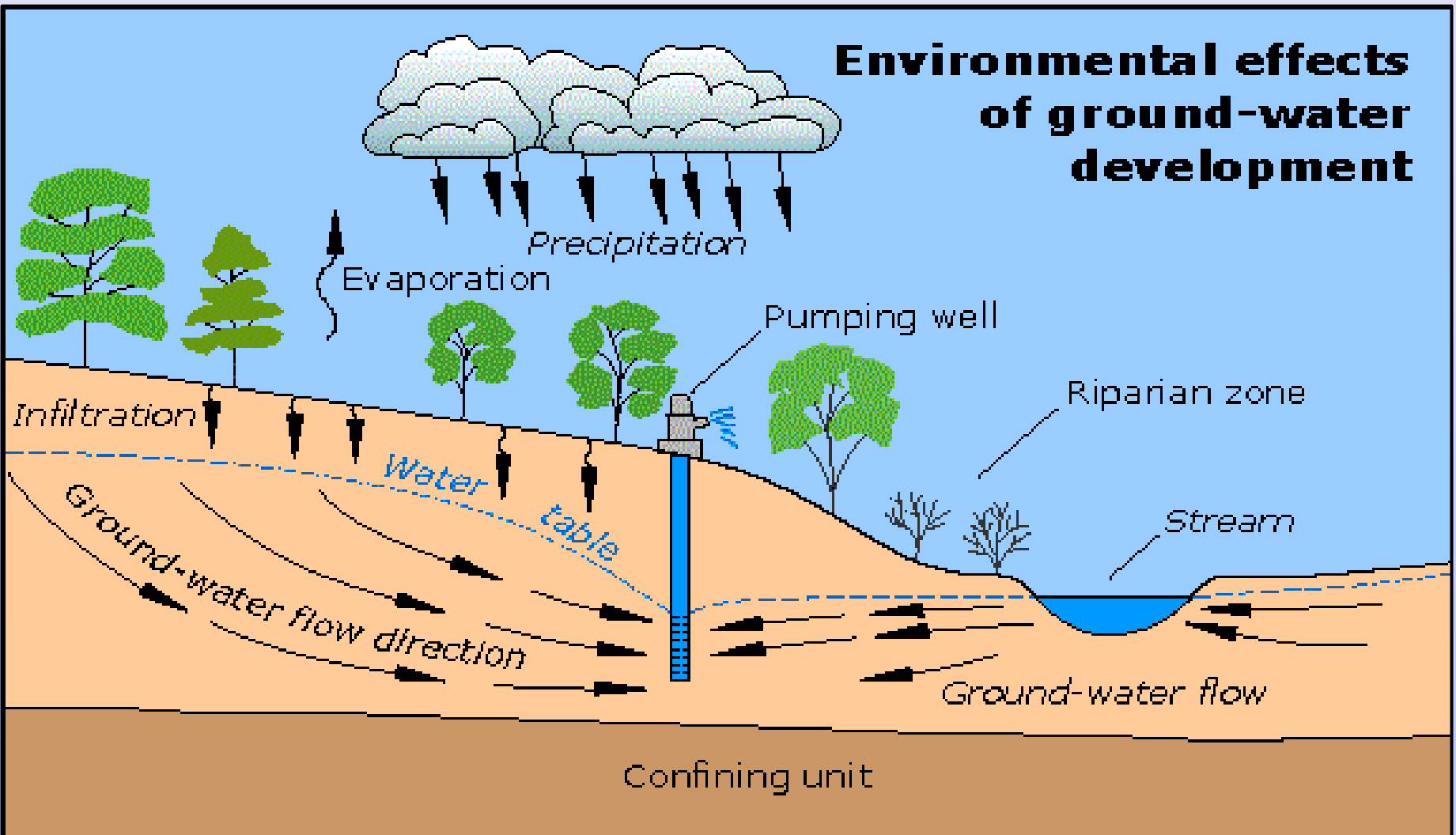
Recharge into an aquifer depends on factors including:

- Precipitation - Amount, intensity timing (rainfall, snowmelt)
- Topography, slope, depressions in land surface
- Surficial materials and soil properties
- Hydraulic connectivity with river systems (e.g. losing streams)
- Groundwater pumping
- Evapotranspiration and other losses



# Impacts on environmental flows in streams

## Environmental effects of ground-water development

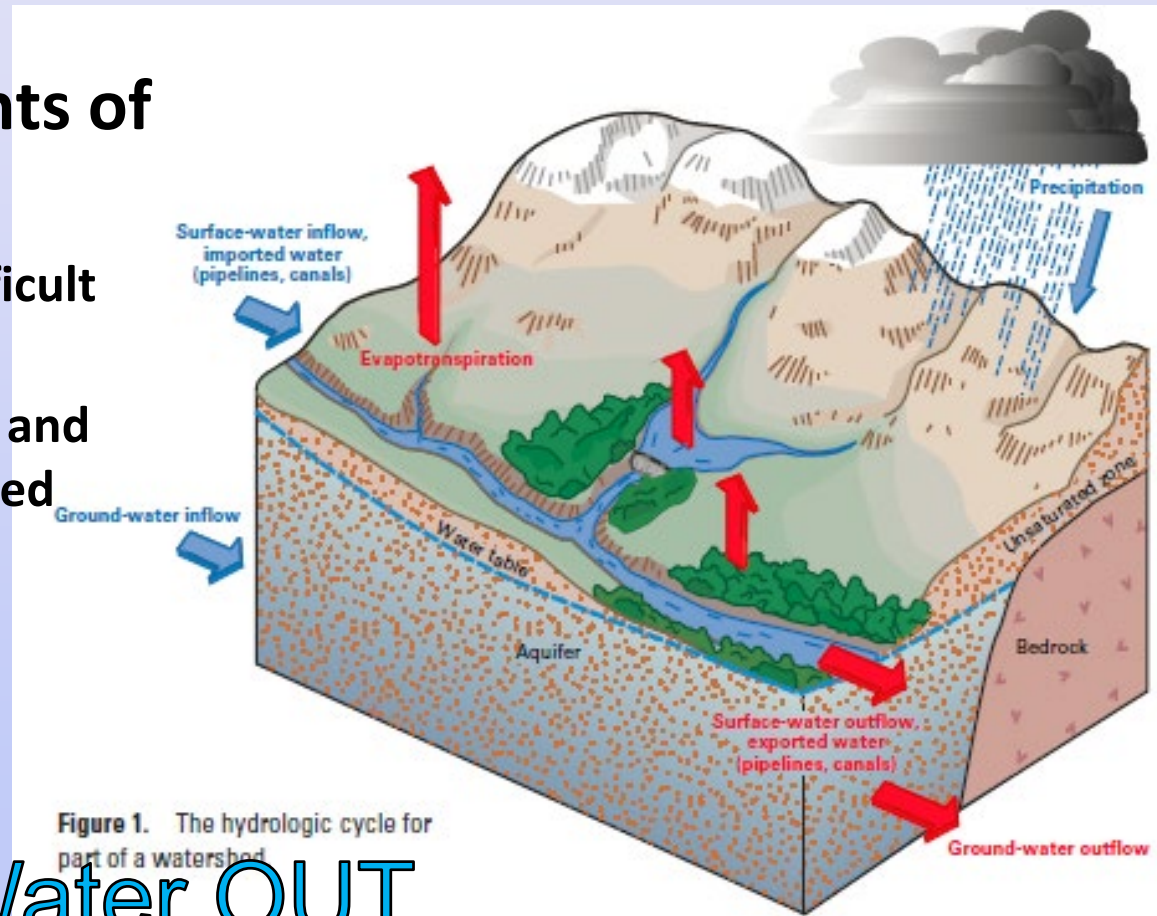


# Water budgets

Estimates fluxes  
between components of  
water cycle

- ✓ In practice often difficult to measure
- ✓ Baseline monitoring and data collection needed
  - Well inventory
  - Water use
  - Climate
  - Streamflow

Water IN = Water OUT  
+/- Change in Storage



Source: Water Budgets, Circular 1308, USGS

# Partnerships and Roles

## Role of local government

- Land use planning
- Identifying & protecting water supply sources (e.g. as purveyors)
- Bylaw development
- Subdivision approvals & proof of potable water
- Riparian Areas protection
- Compliance and enforcement (referrals of WSA violations)
- Predicting future problems (quality/quantity)

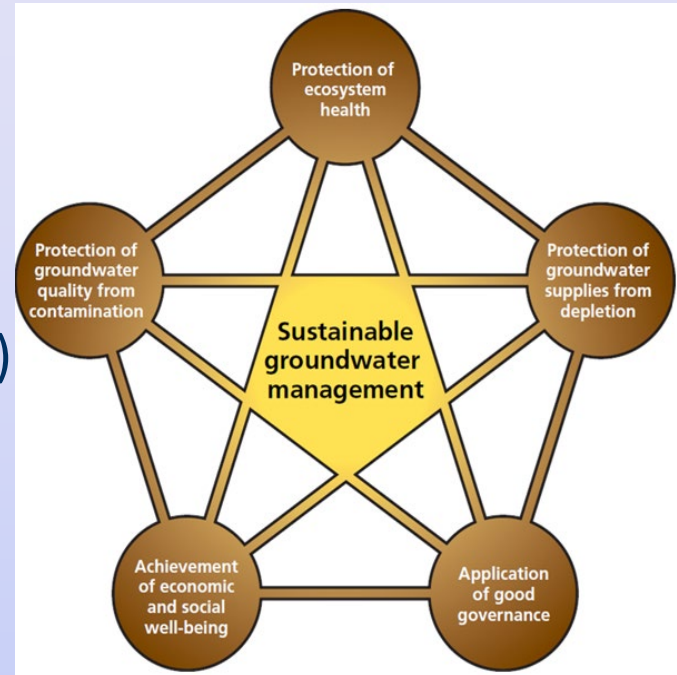
## Tools & assistance from FLNRO / ENV

- Aquifer mapping
- IMAP/BC Water Resources Atlas
- Model bylaws e.g. for closure of unused wells
- Technical advice and guidance documents e.g. guide to applying for a CPCN for utilities; GWUDI/GARP\* guidelines
- Compliance enforcement (WSA)
- Observation well network
- Ground water science (studies)

*\*GWUDI Groundwater under direct influence of surface water or at risk of containing pathogens*  
*CPCN: Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity*

# Current Themes in Water Management

- Blue Ecology – Interweaving indigenous knowledge, values with western science (see: [www.waterbucket.ca](http://www.waterbucket.ca))
- Regional-based watershed protection programs (Nanaimo, Highlands, Islands Trust)
- Community monitoring networks
- Education – value of water literacy and awareness
- One water – identifying links between surface and groundwater sources
- Recognizing land use impacts on water resources
- First Nations Stewardship and Water Governance Opportunities





[Learn More](#) ▾[Written submission criteria](#)

## What is this engagement about?

Protecting our watersheds is one of the most important things we can do as a province to create a healthier and more resilient future for all living things. The Watershed Security Strategy and Fund will build on efforts inside and outside of government to ensure our water and watersheds are respected and valued for all they provide. Government's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples will be foundational to this work.

**Timeline:** Feedback on the discussion paper is invited between January 25 and March 18, 2022 at 4 PM through this online questionnaire or written submissions.

[Learn more about this project](#)

**Watershed Security – Government of British Columbia**  
**<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/watershedsecurity>**

## How to participate

# Contacts

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## **Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (FLNRO)**

*Information on legislation, regulations, local groundwater resources and your well*

Nanaimo Regional Office:

[www.gov.bc.ca/for](http://www.gov.bc.ca/for)

250-751-7220

## **Island Health (Vancouver Island Health Authority) Environmental Protection**

*Information on water quality test results and your well*

Victoria Gateway Office: 250-519-3401

[www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/drinking-water](http://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/drinking-water)

## **Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy (ENV)**

*Information on legislation, regulations, aquifers, and your well*

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/water>

## **Reporting of Natural Resource Violations (Report All Poachers and Polluters)**

[www.for.gov.bc.ca/hen/nrv/report.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hen/nrv/report.htm)

**1 877 952-7277**

# Resources

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## Real Time Water Data - Hydrometric and Observation well networks

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-science-data/water-data-tools/real-time-water-data-reporting>

## Drought Information Portal

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/drought-information>

## Water information (laws, licensing& rights, well owners info)

[www.gov.bc.ca/water](http://www.gov.bc.ca/water)

## B.C. Agricultural Water Calculator

<http://bcwatercalculator.ca/agriculture/welcome>

## Mapping tools (iMap)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/geographic-data-services/web-based-mapping/imapbc>

# Thanks & Discussion

**West Coast Water  
Protection &  
Authorizations  
250-751-7220**



## Acknowledgments:

# Regional District of Nanaimo Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program – Well Smart











# Acoustic well sounder



[www.enoscientific.com](http://www.enoscientific.com)

|   |   |  |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
|  <p><b>Well Sounder 2010 PRO</b><br/>\$995.00 ★<br/>★★★★★<br/><a href="#">Add to Cart</a></p> |  <p><b>Well Watch 660 DL</b><br/>\$479.00 ★<br/>★★★★★<br/><a href="#">Add to Cart</a></p> |  <p><b>Well Watch 660</b><br/>\$345.00 ★<br/>★★★★★<br/><a href="#">Add to Cart</a></p> |  <p><b>Well Watch 660 with 310 Remote Display</b><br/>\$485.00 ★<br/><a href="#">Add to Cart</a></p> |  <p><b>WS2100 Flow Meter Kit w/ Well Sounder 2010 PRO</b><br/>\$1,799.00 ★<br/><a href="#">Add to Cart</a></p> |  <p><b>Solar Power Kit</b><br/>\$249.00 ★<br/><a href="#">Add to Cart</a></p> |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|

Protection Program ★ US funds