

# Seawater intrusion

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larly the 7 counties listed above, to take a close look at the adequacy of potable water supplies before issuing building permits.

The Department of Ecology has formed a seawater intrusion team to develop a strategy for prevention and control of the problem. A seawater intrusion policy is being drafted to guide the department's water rights

administration in affected areas. The policy relies on water quality testing and aquifer tests to determine potential risks. Monitoring and reporting requirements are then assigned based upon the risk category.

The seawater intrusion problem also underscores the need to develop effective water conservation measures, for we are beginning to see the limits of our ground water resources.

## Slide show available

"Understanding Seawater Intrusion," a 30-minute slide show, is available from the Department of Ecology's Water Resources Program. For more information contact Brian Walsh, Water Resources Planner at (206) 438-7471.

— Brian Walsh

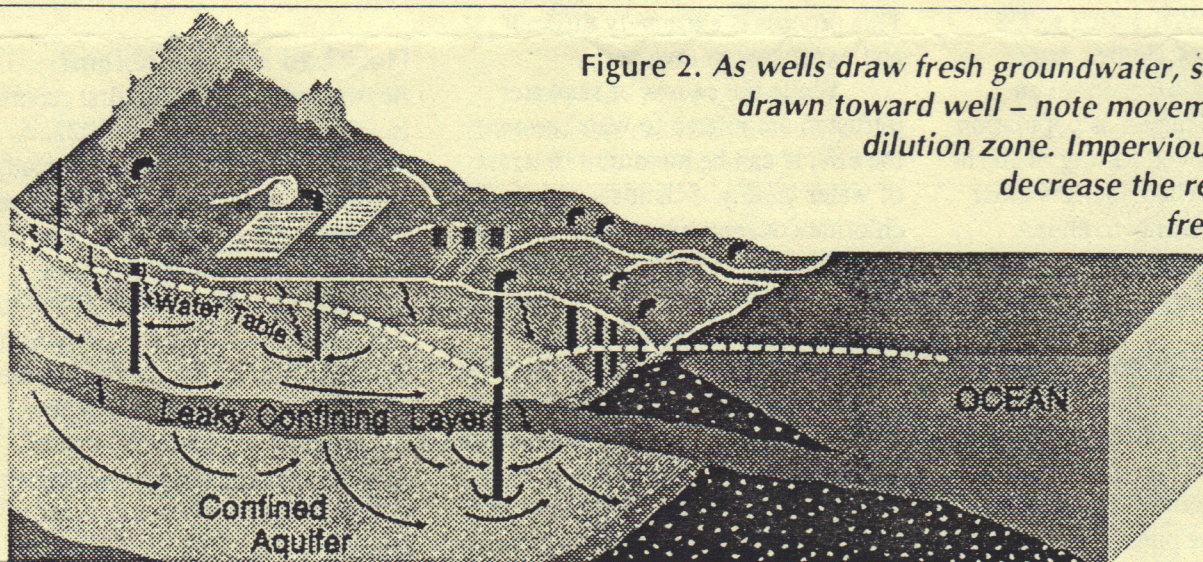


Figure 2. As wells draw fresh groundwater, seawater is drawn toward well – note movement of the dilution zone. Impervious surfaces decrease the recharge of fresh ground water.