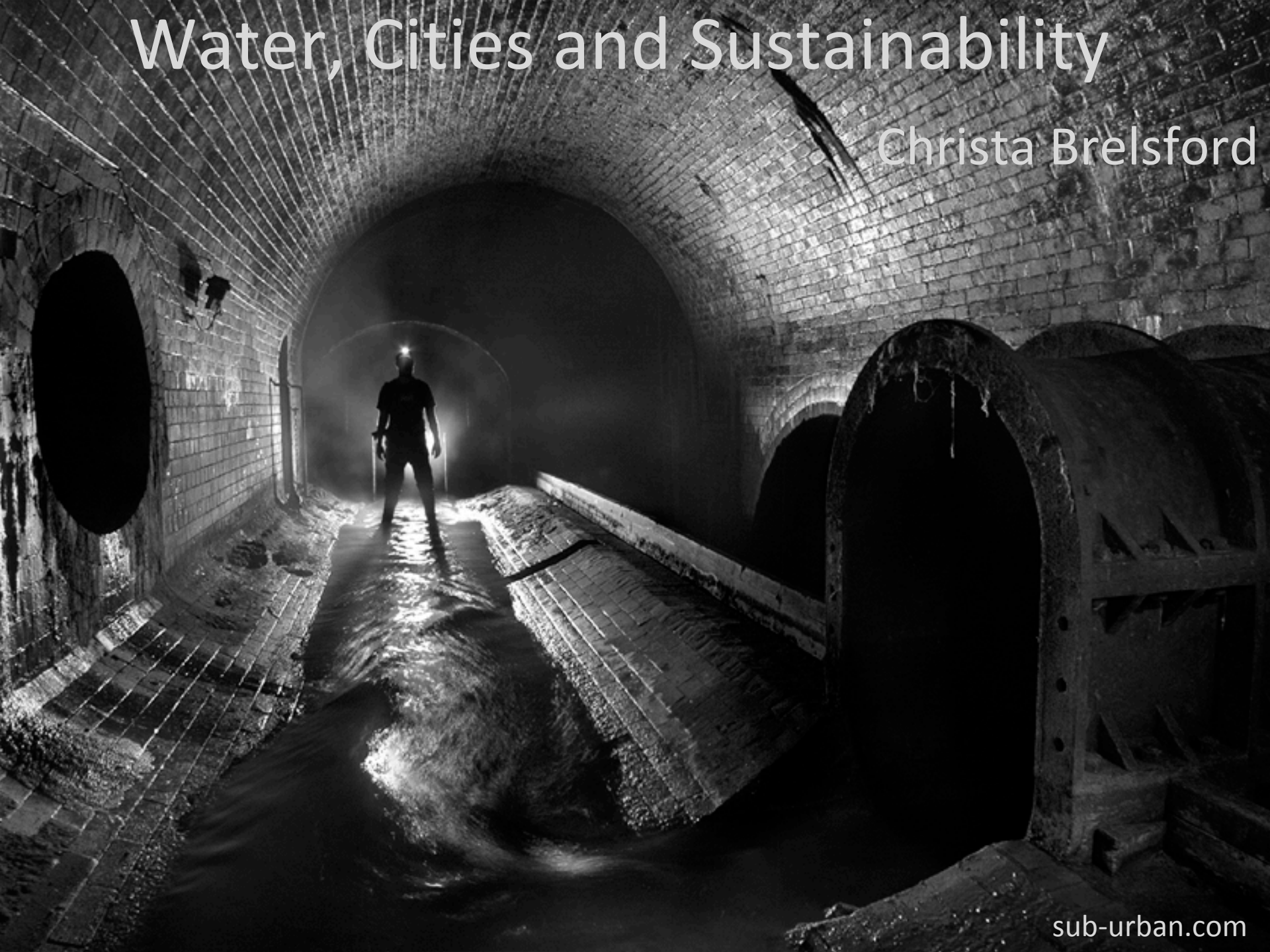


Water, Cities and Sustainability

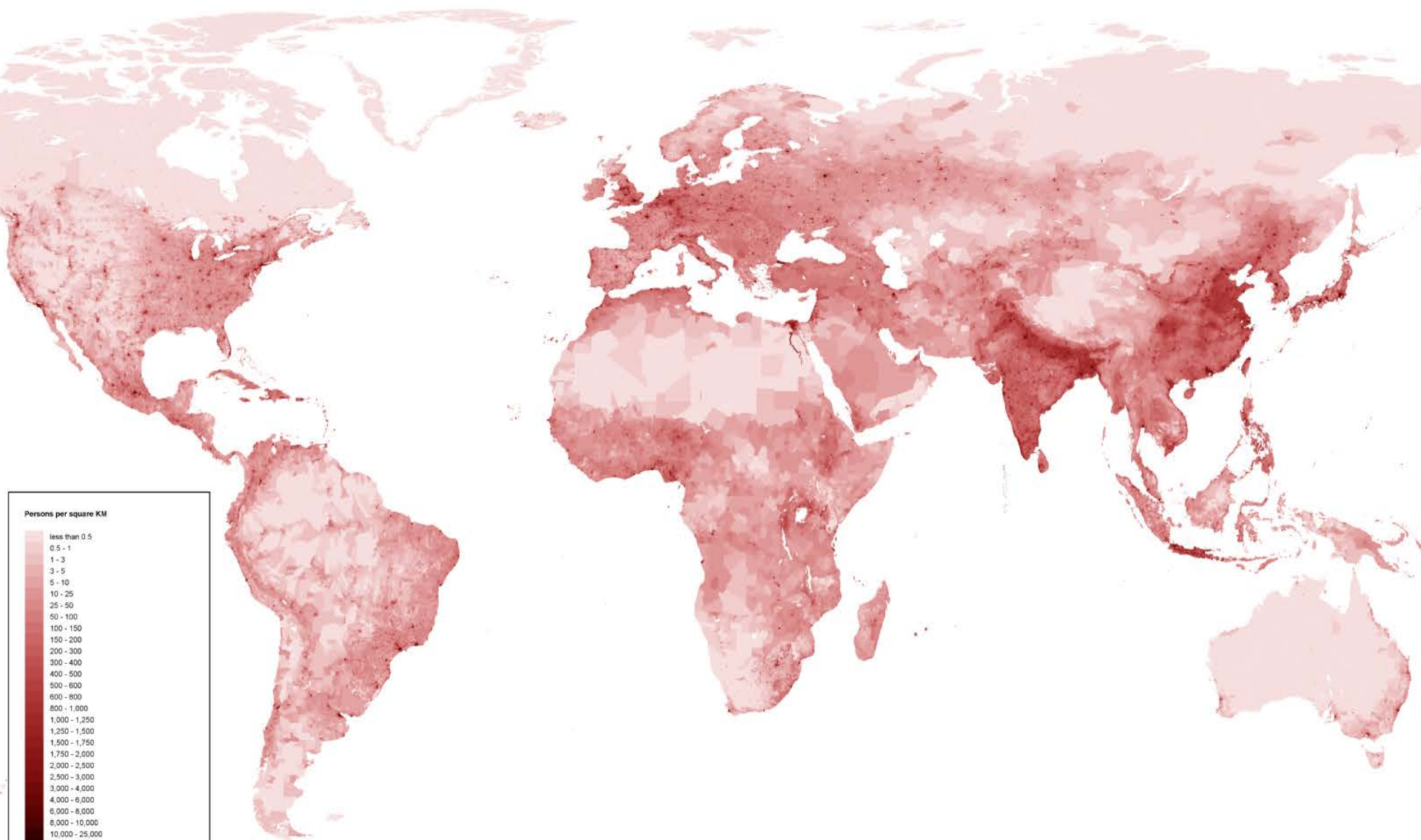
Christa Brelsford



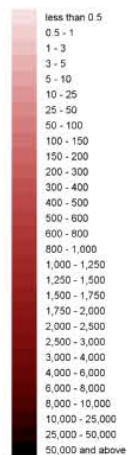








Persons per square KM



Data: Center for International Earth Science Information Network - CIESIN - Columbia University (2005).

Generated by Daysleeperr for h/mapporn



New York City



quality, robustness, and getting rid of stuff



STONE BRIDGE, BROADWAY AT CANAL STREET

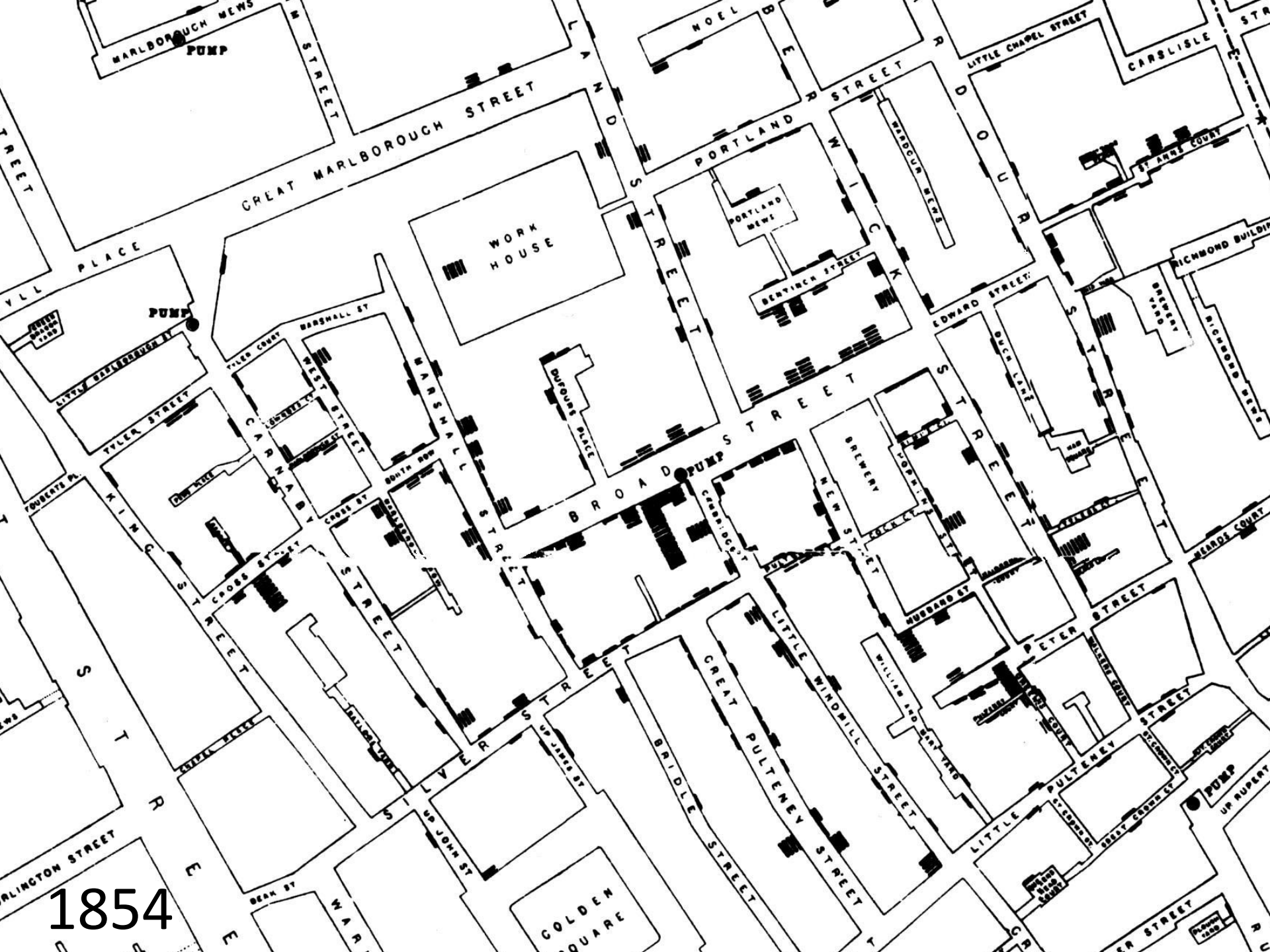
NEW YORK CITY - BRIDGES - 1800

330

1800

LIBRARY OF THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY





1854



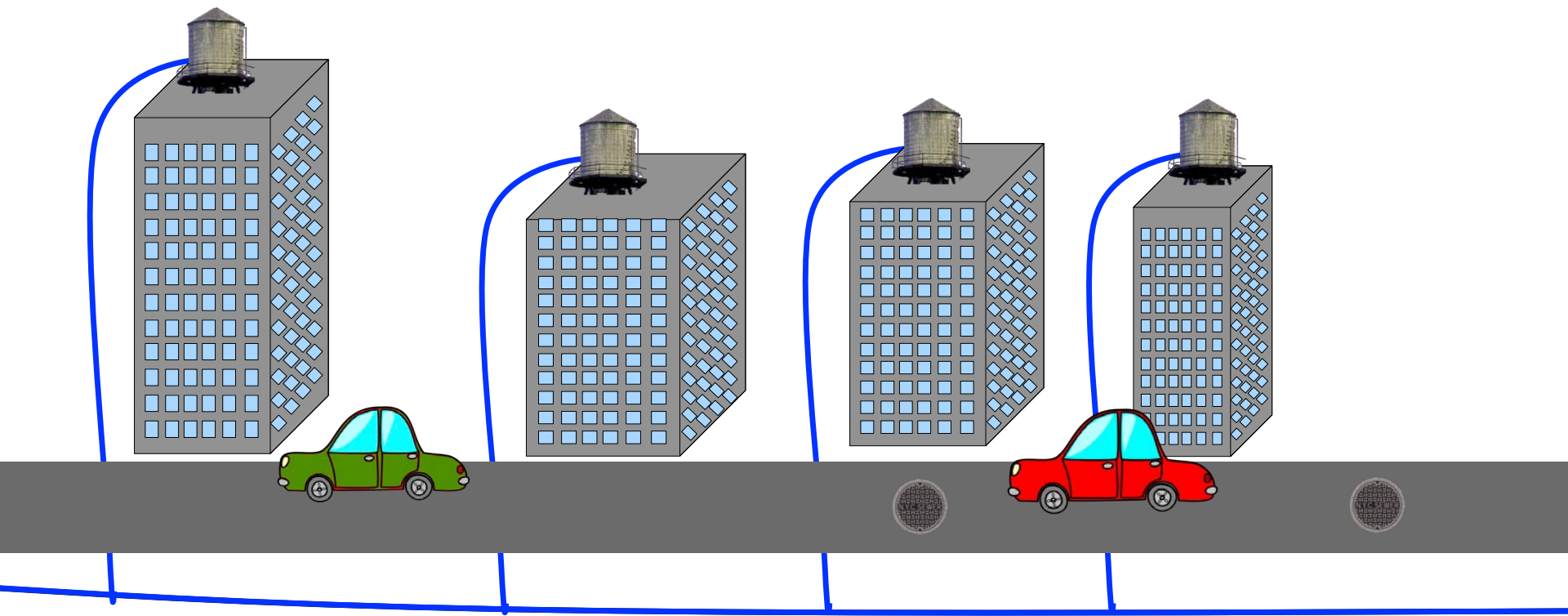


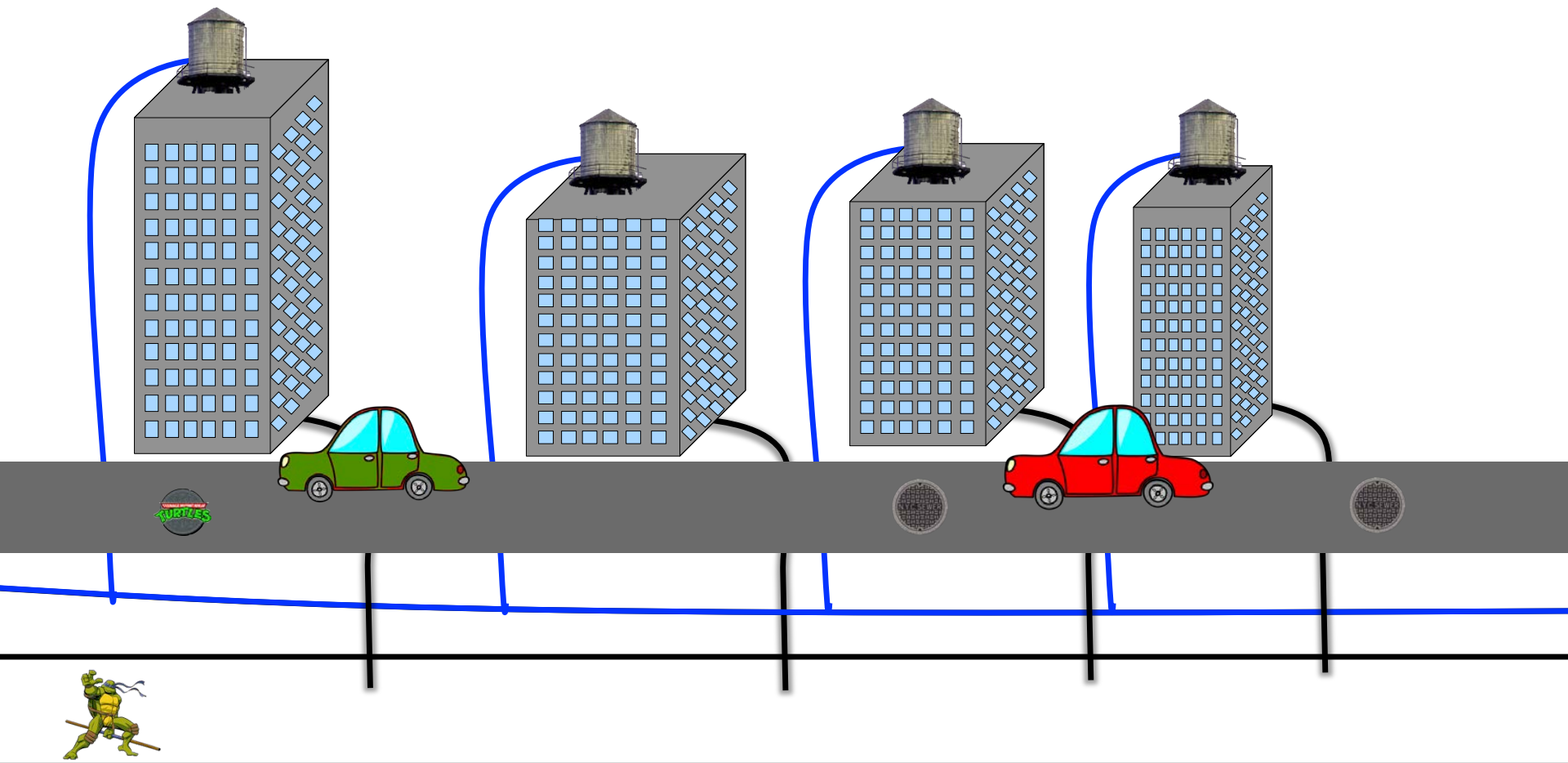
Environmental
Protection

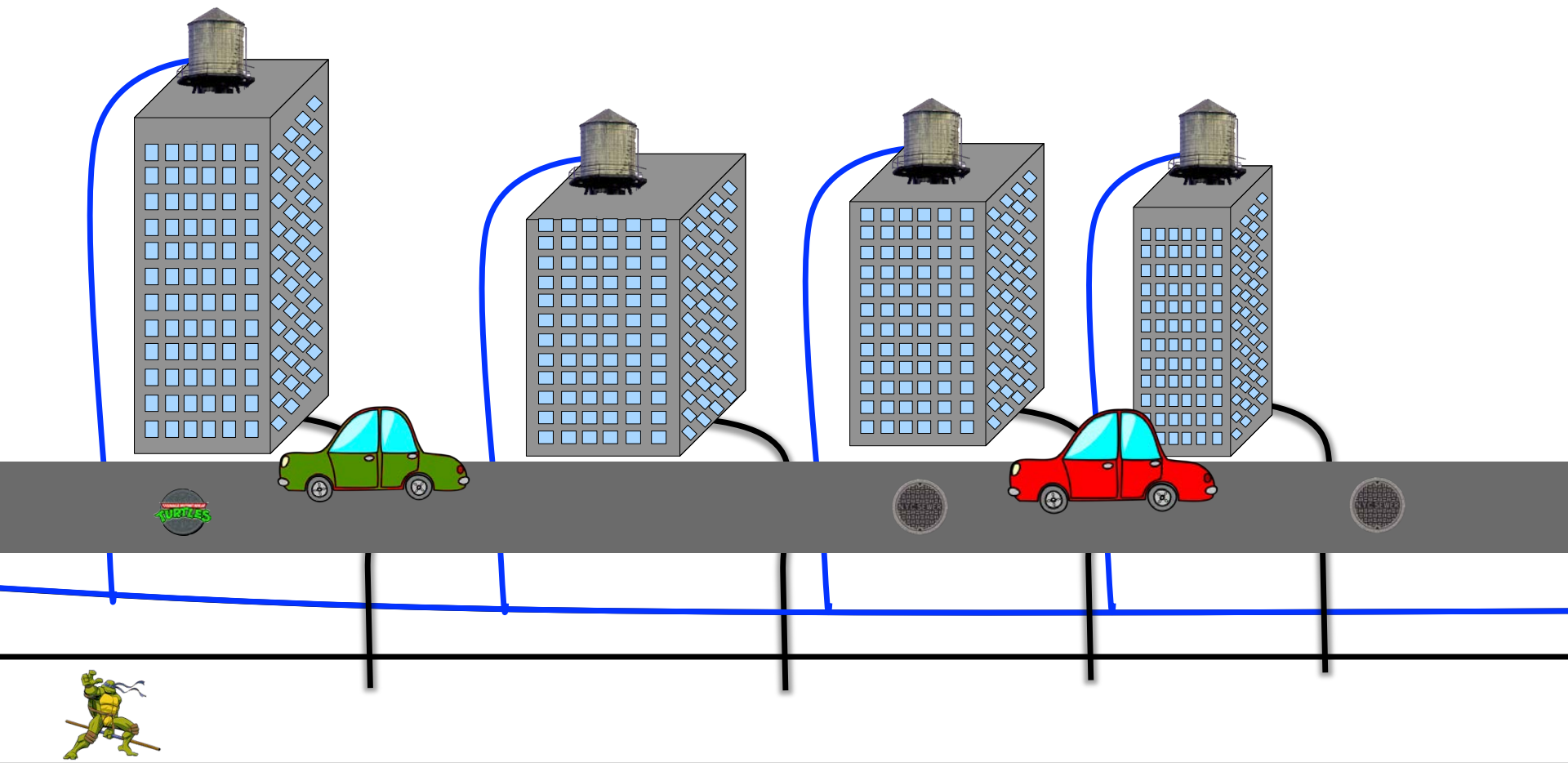
NEW YORK CITY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

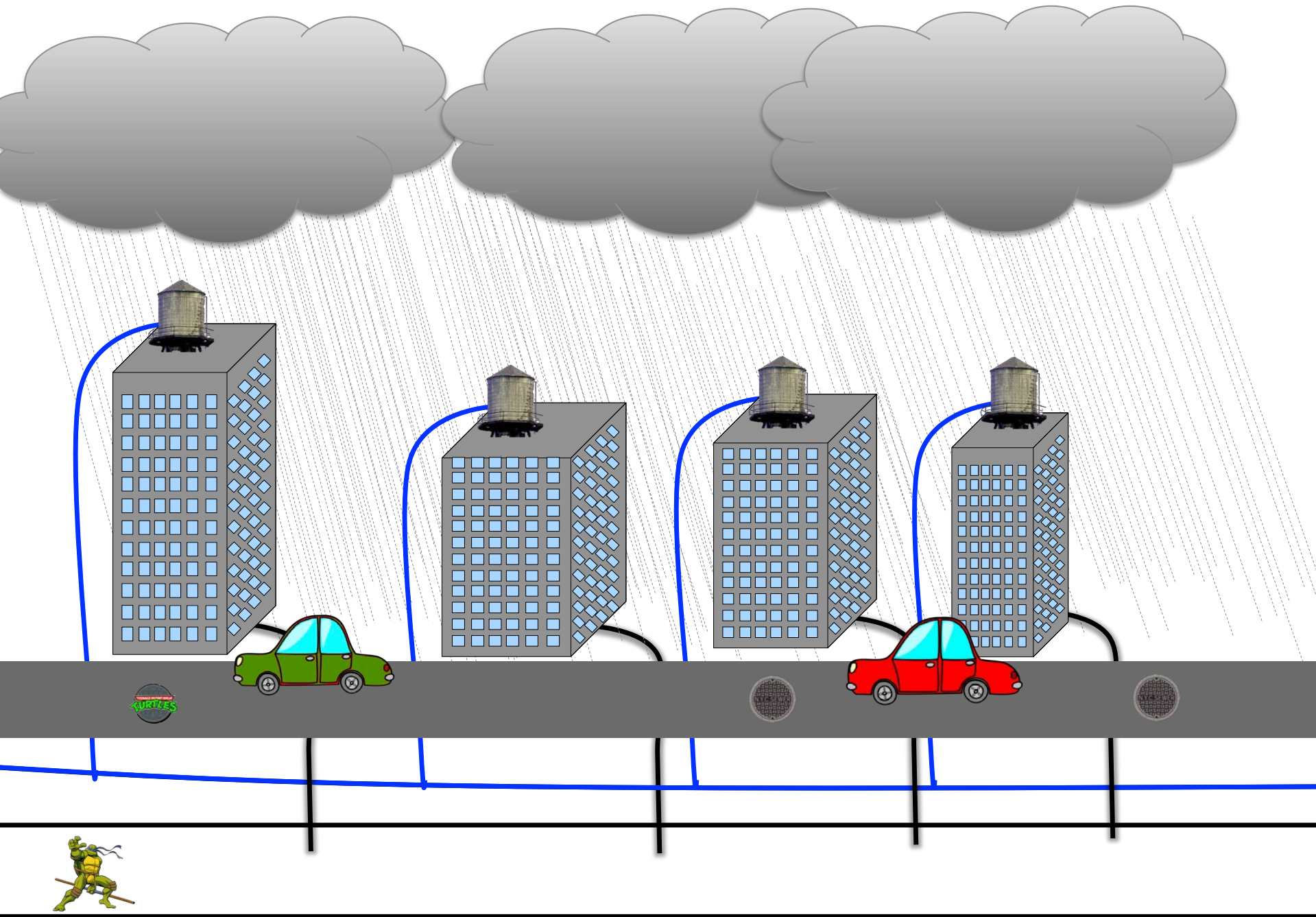


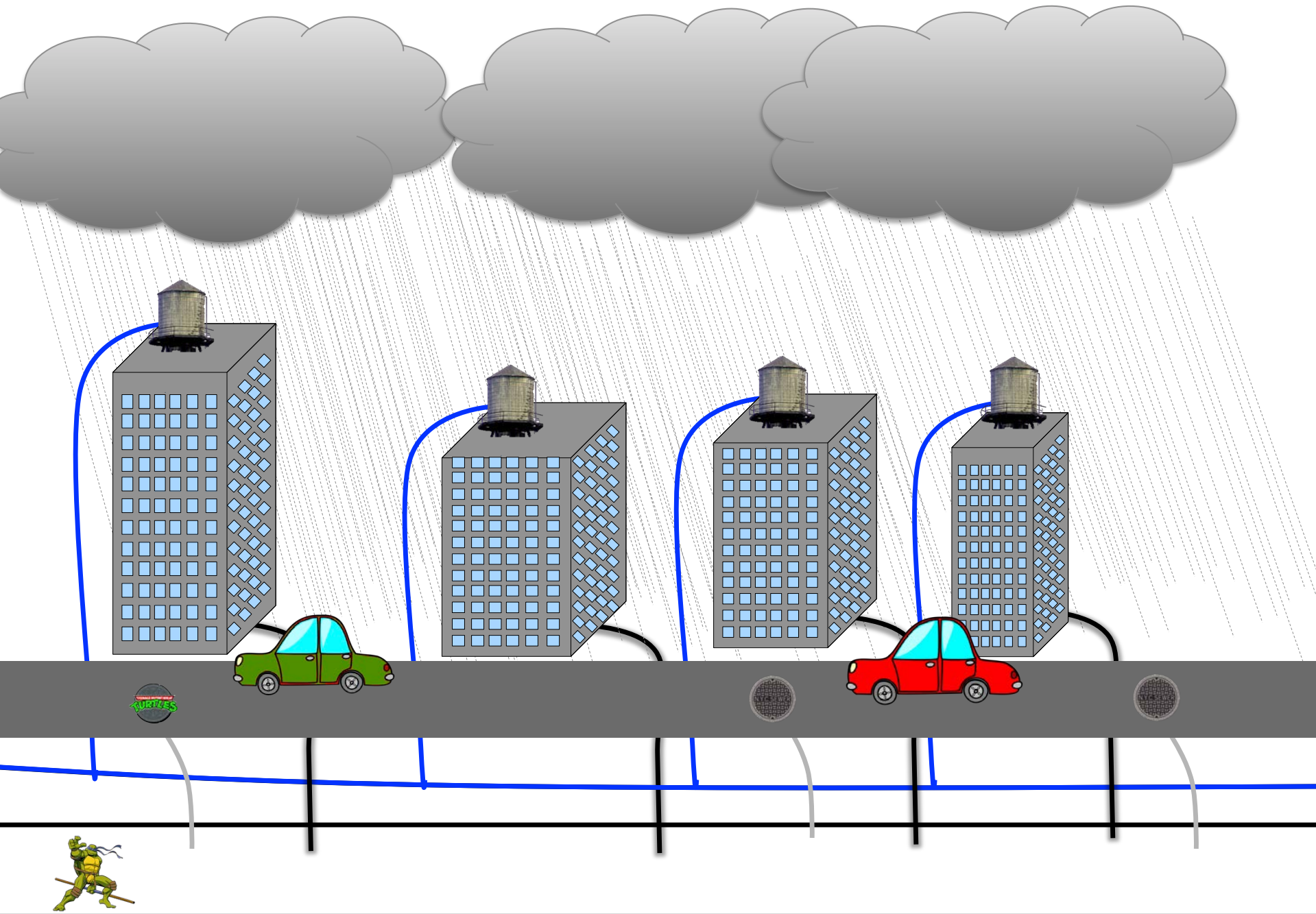


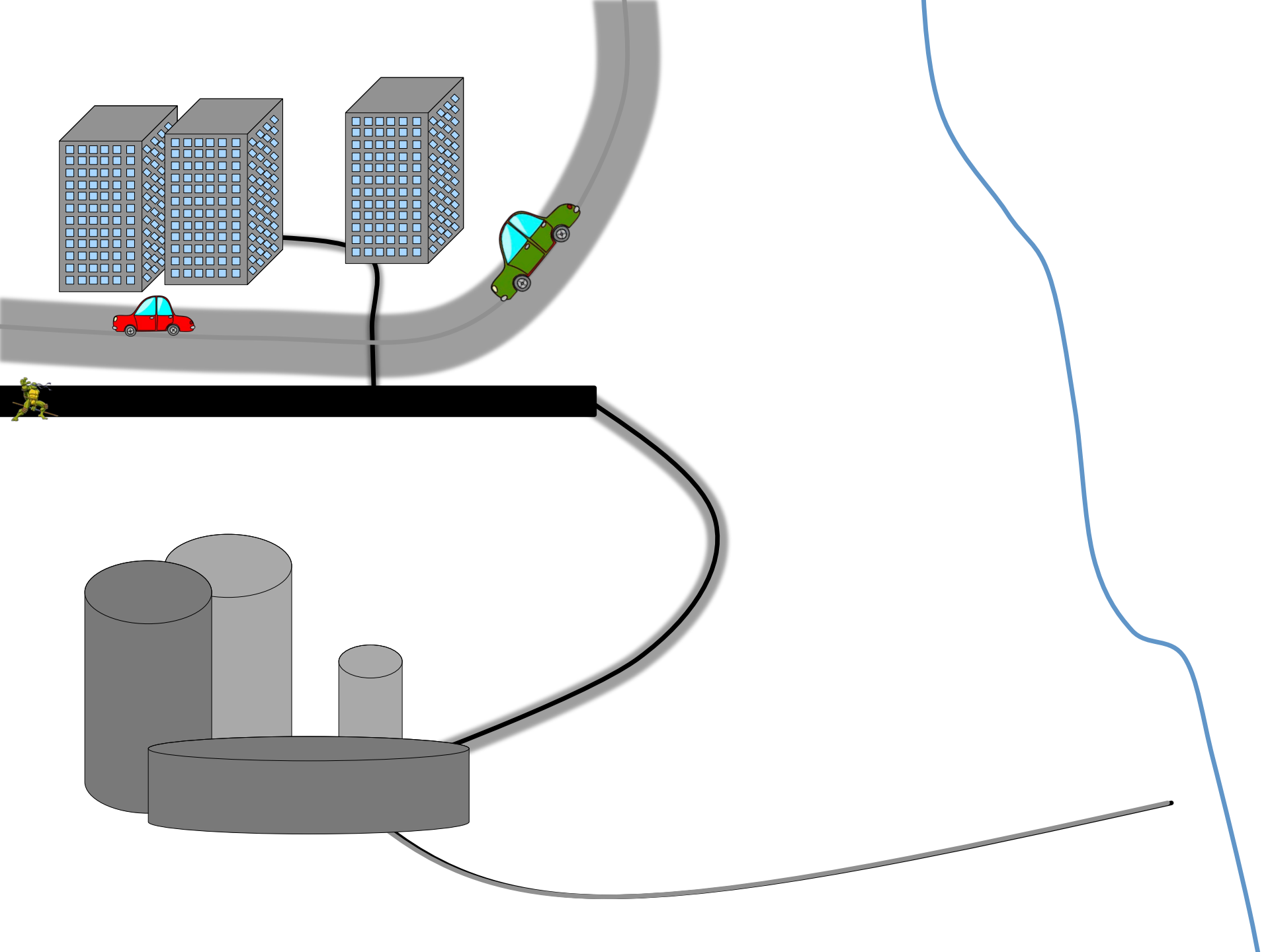


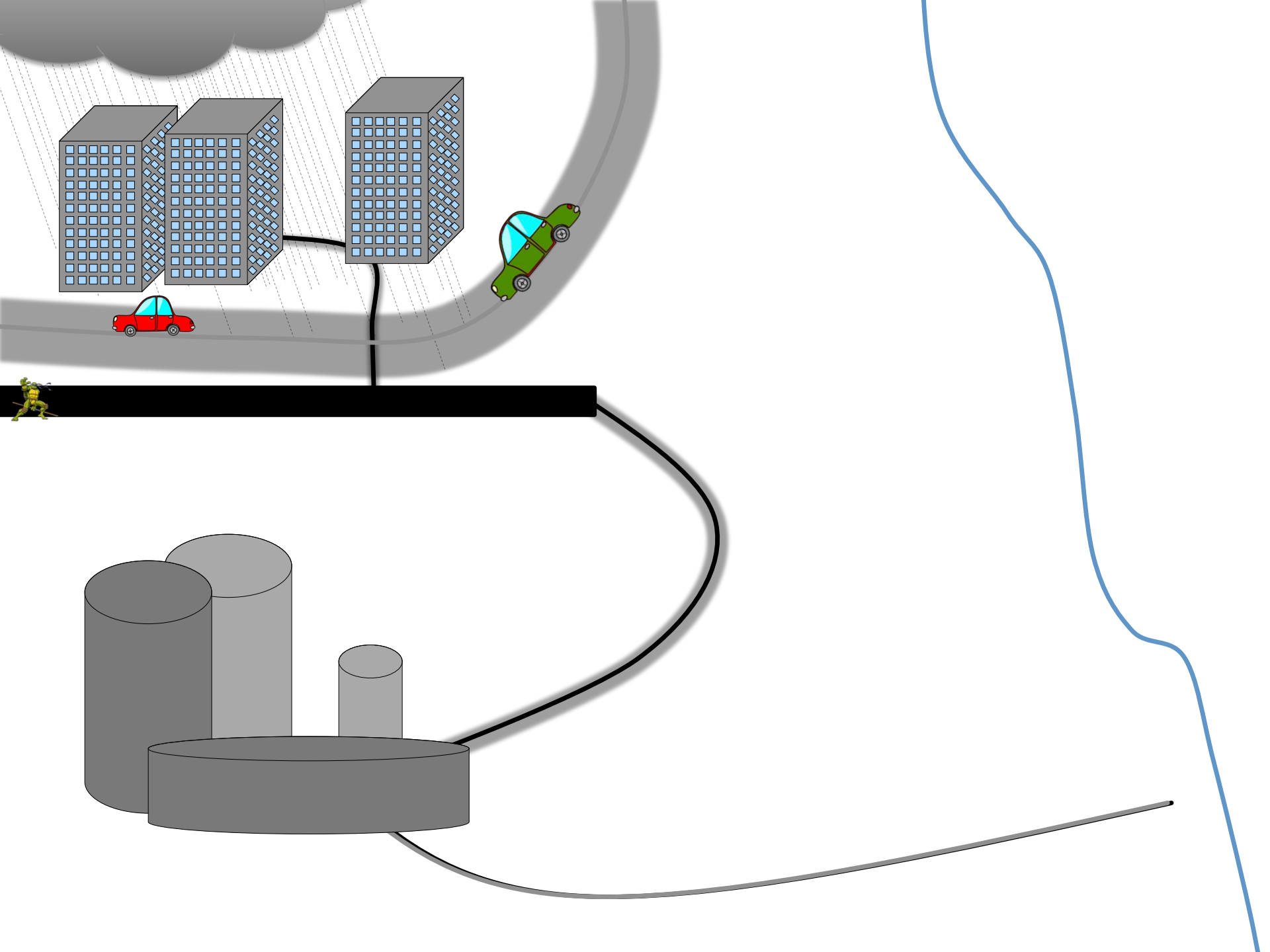


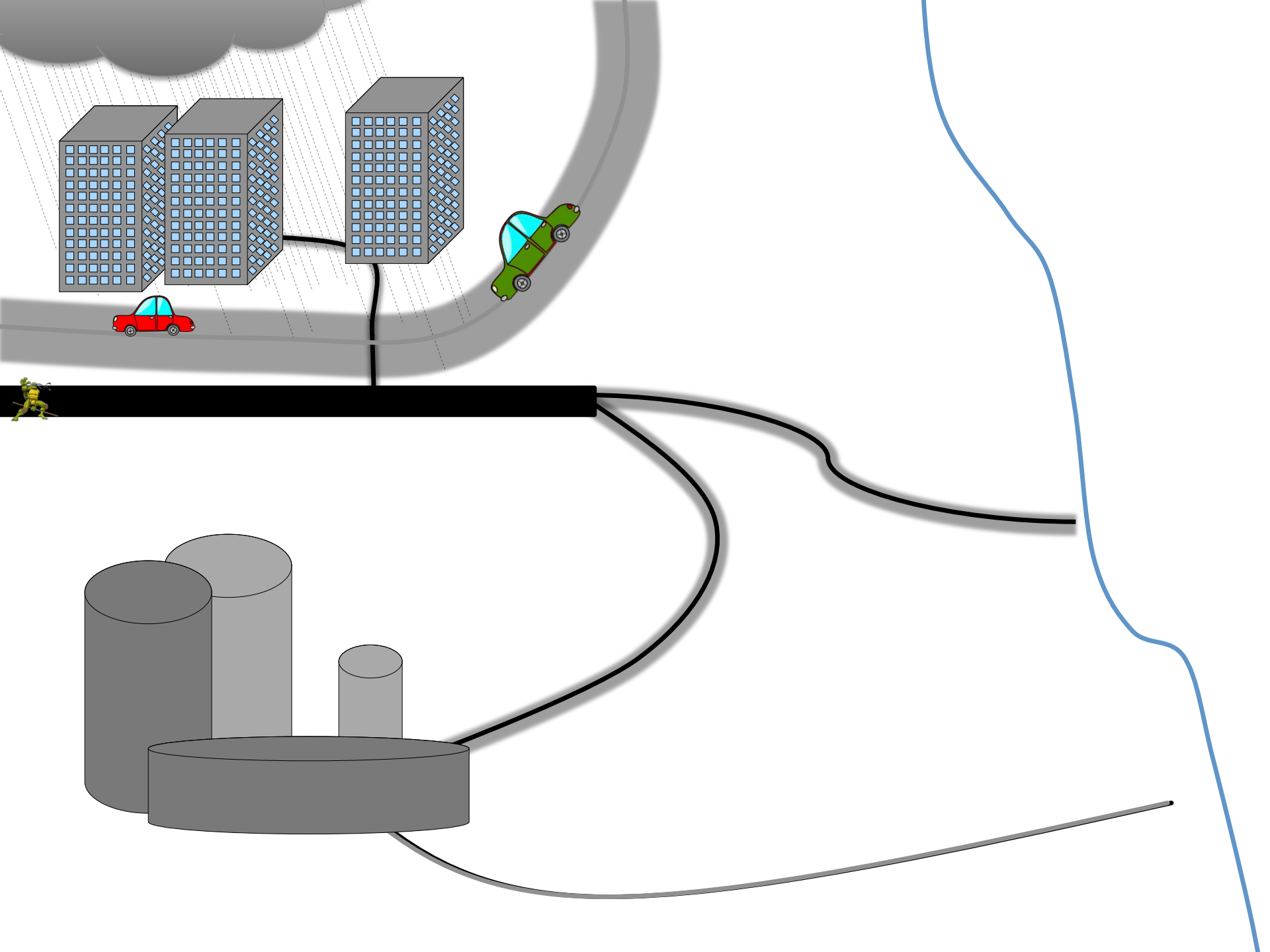




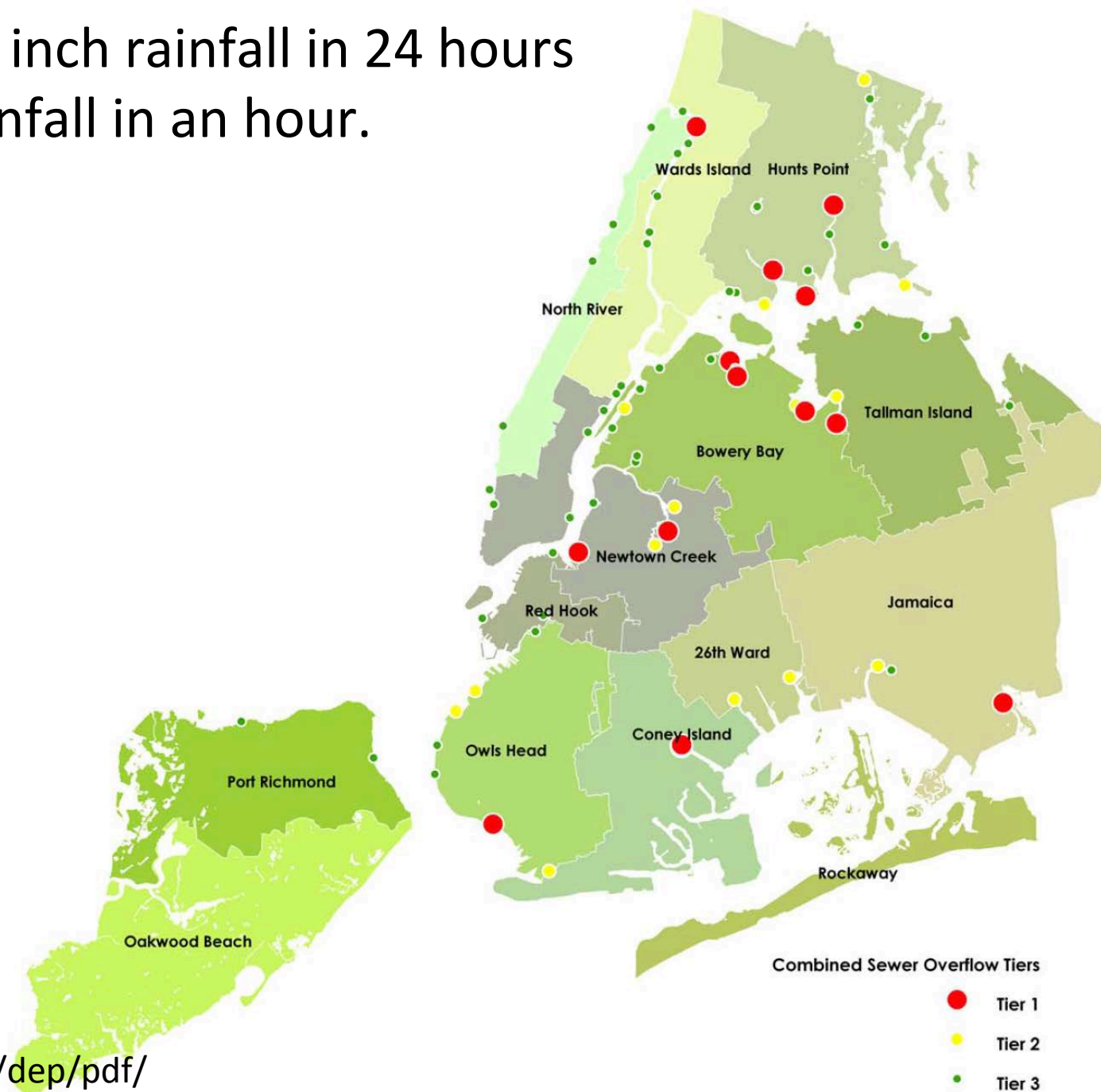








CSO's at about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch rainfall in 24 hours
or $1/10^{\text{th}}$ inch rainfall in an hour.

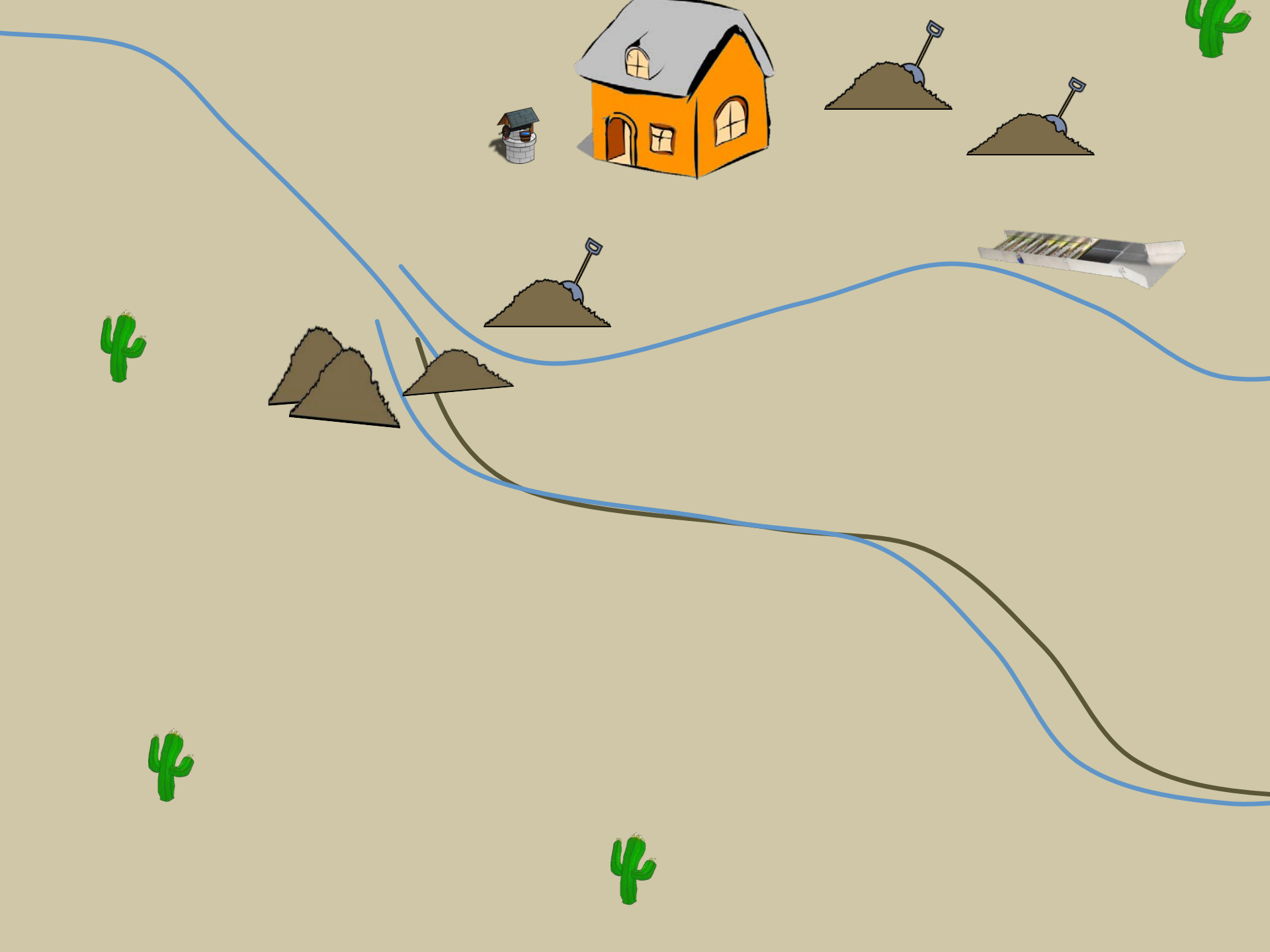


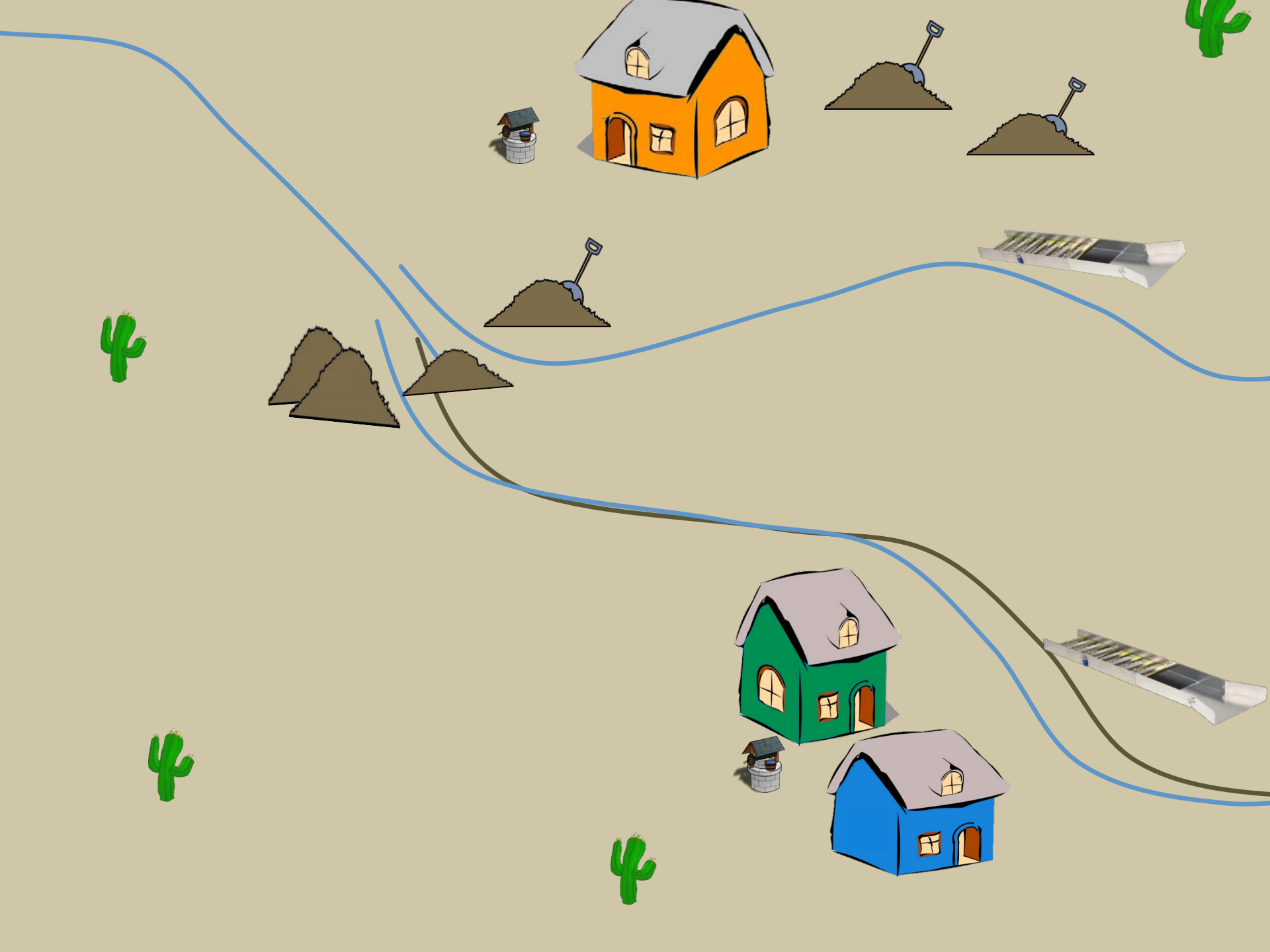
http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/green_infrastructure/cso_outfalls_map.pdf

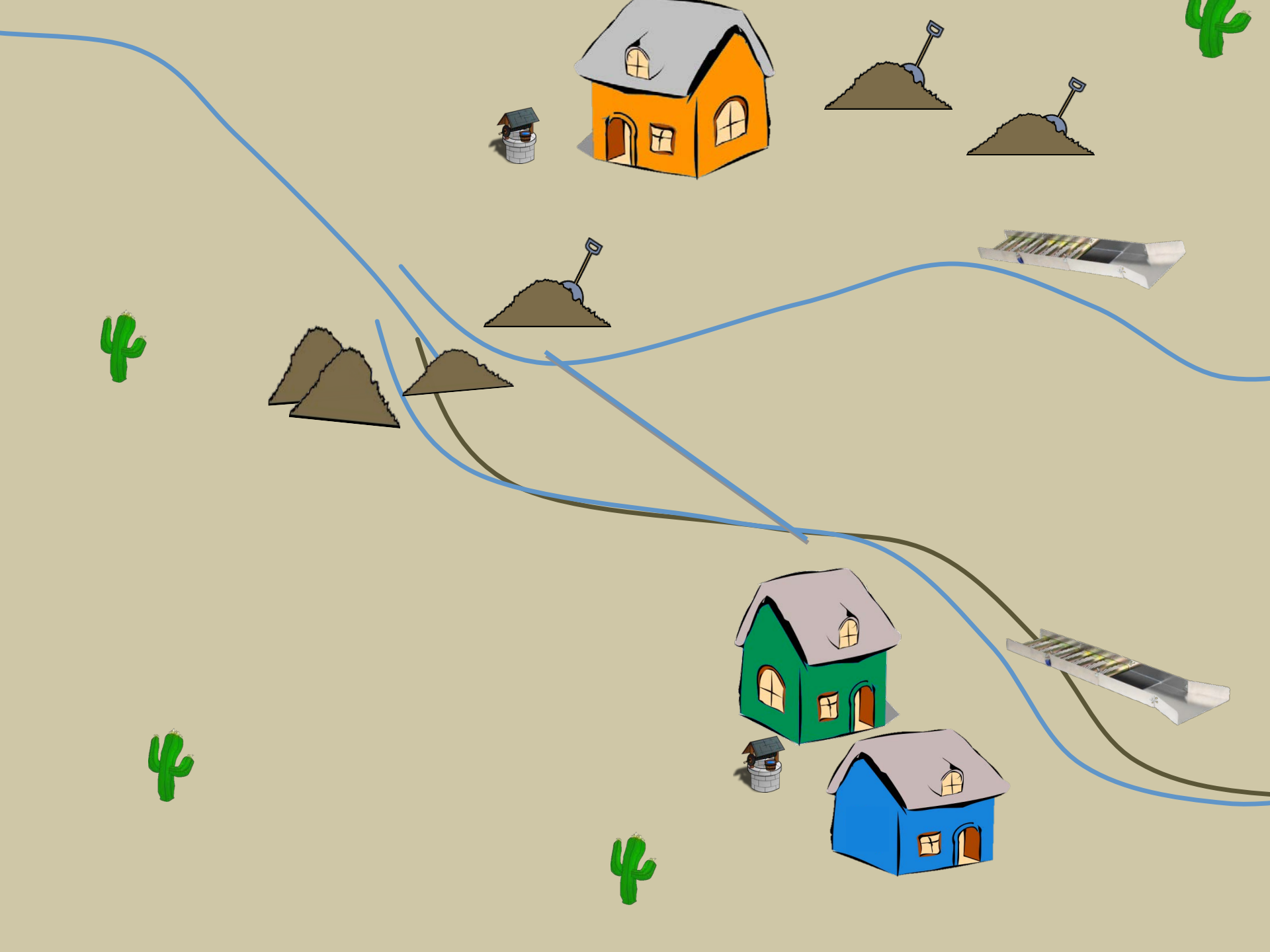
Riparian Water Law



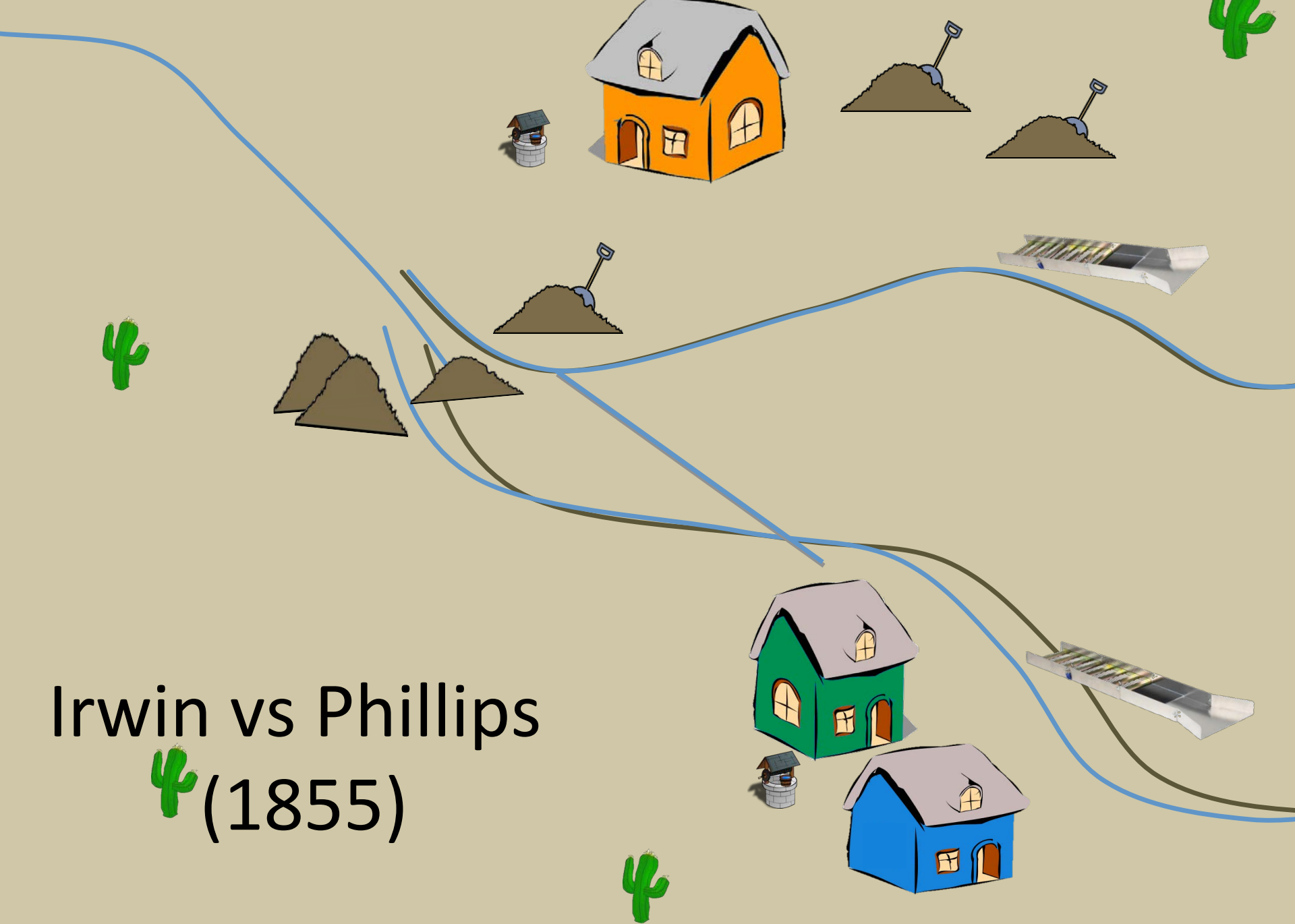


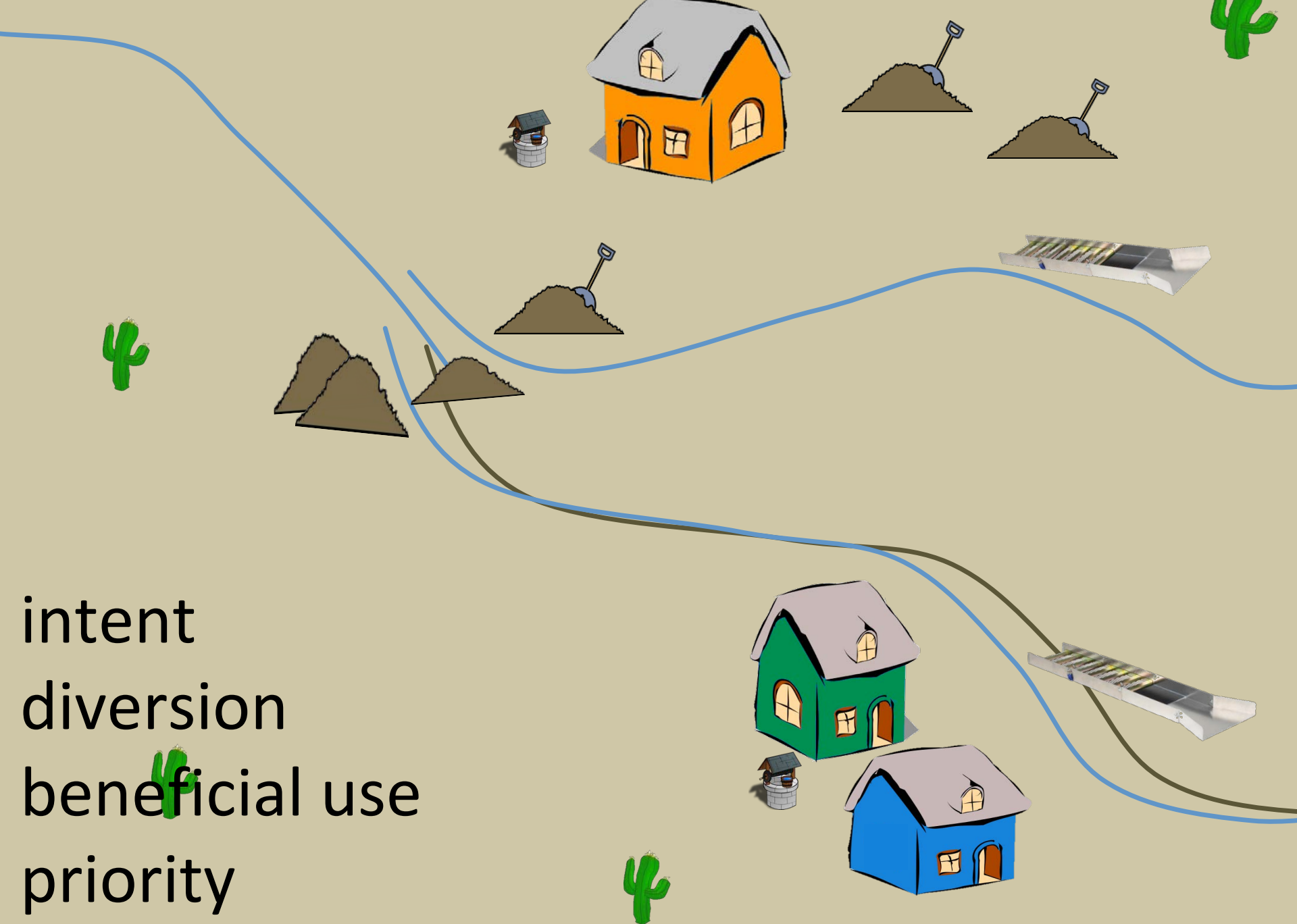






Irwin vs Phillips (1855)





intent
diversion
beneficial use
priority

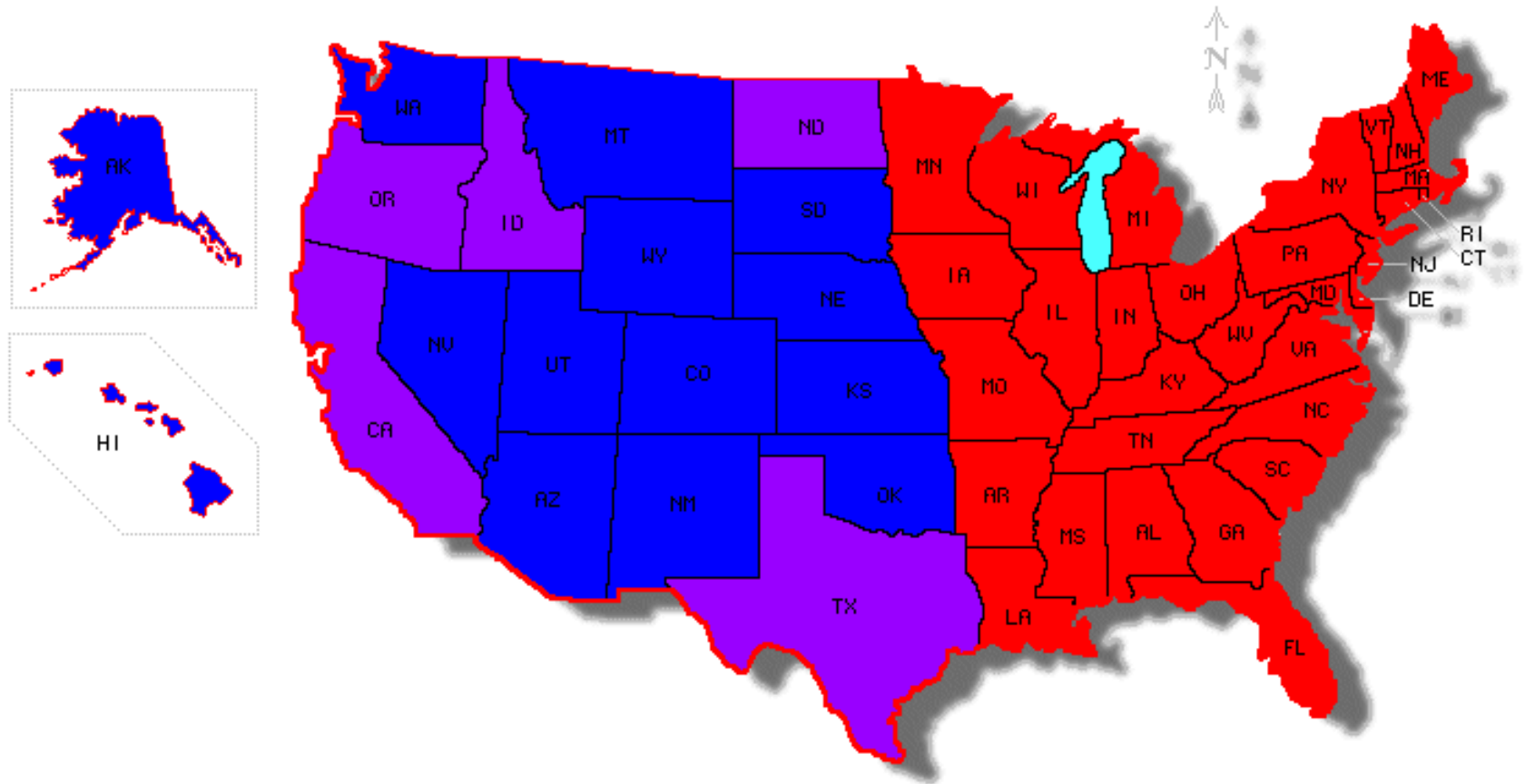
Doctrine of Prior Appropriation





allocation systems

- - Prior Appropriation
- - Riparian
- - Combined





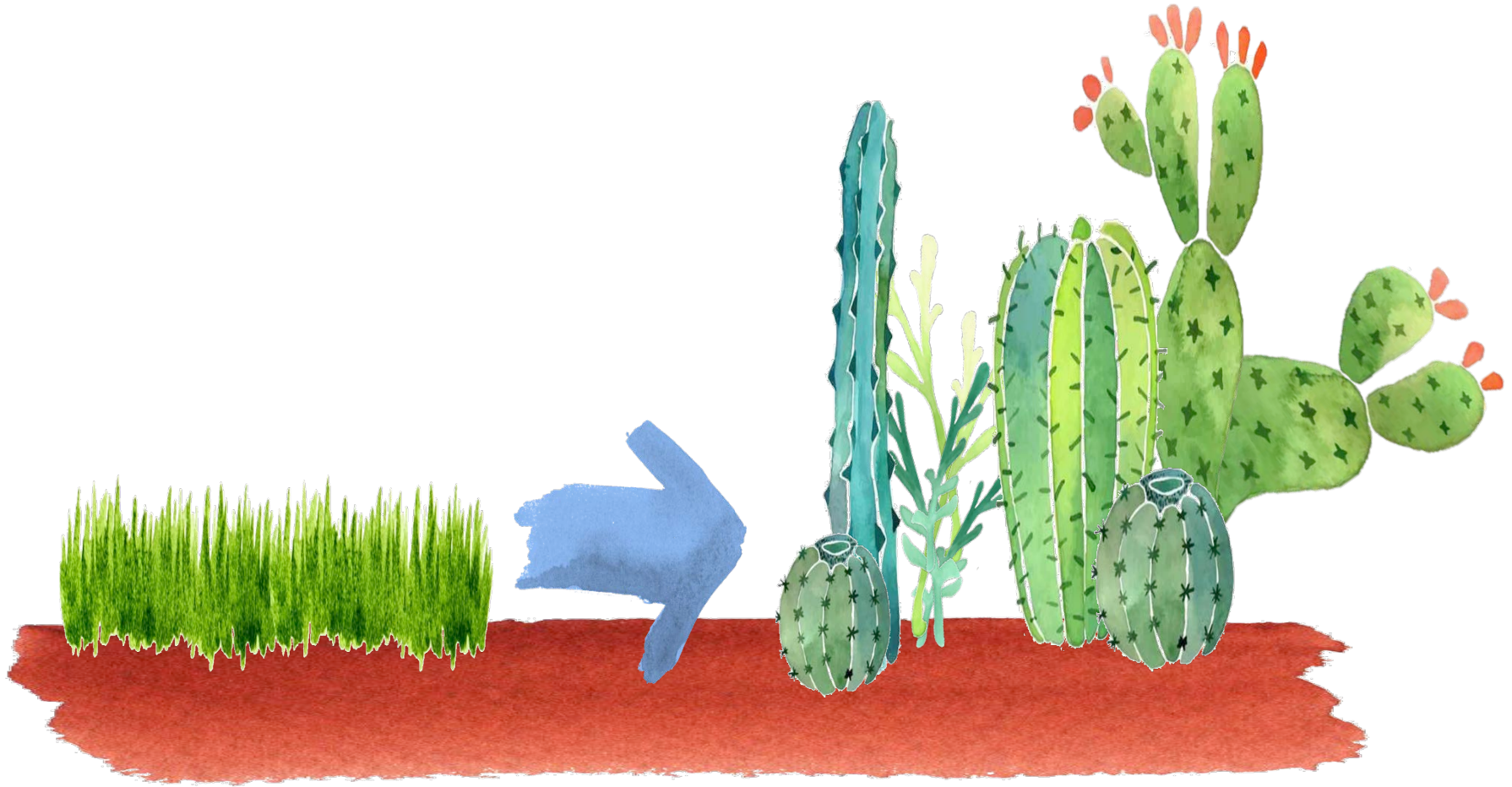
Whiskey is for Drinking;

Water is for Fighting Over

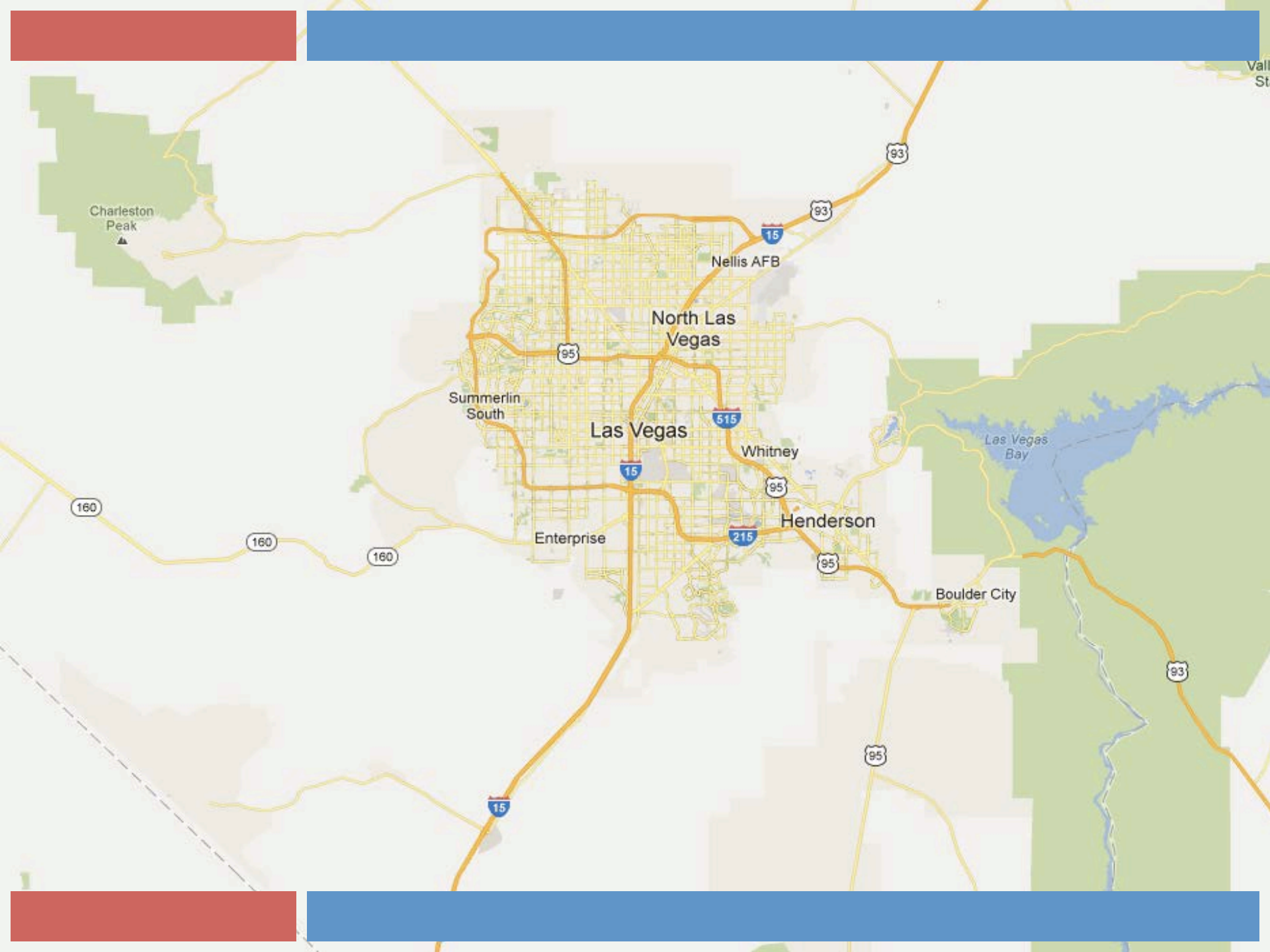


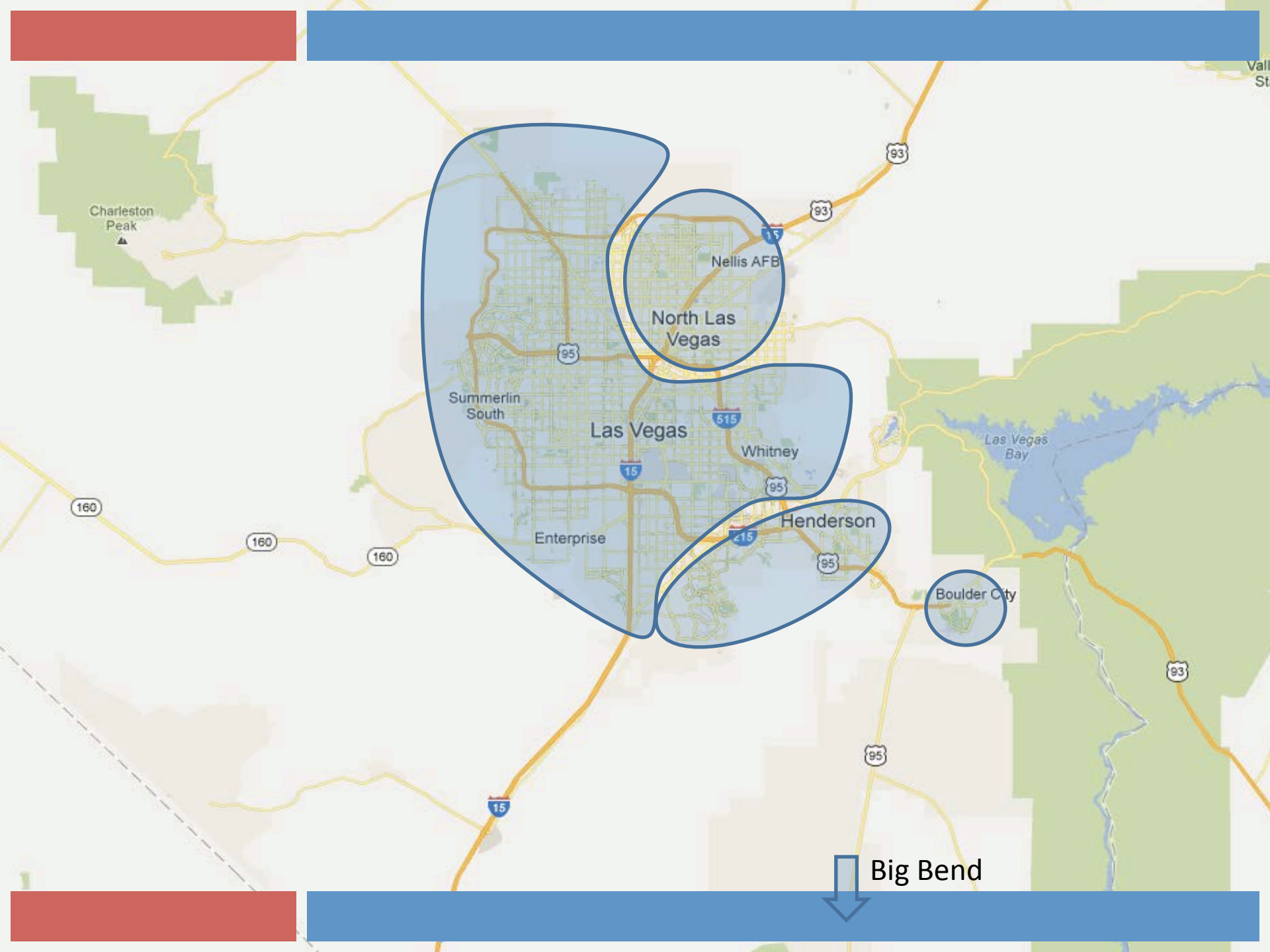
matching fixed supply with growing demand

Water Conservation in Las Vegas



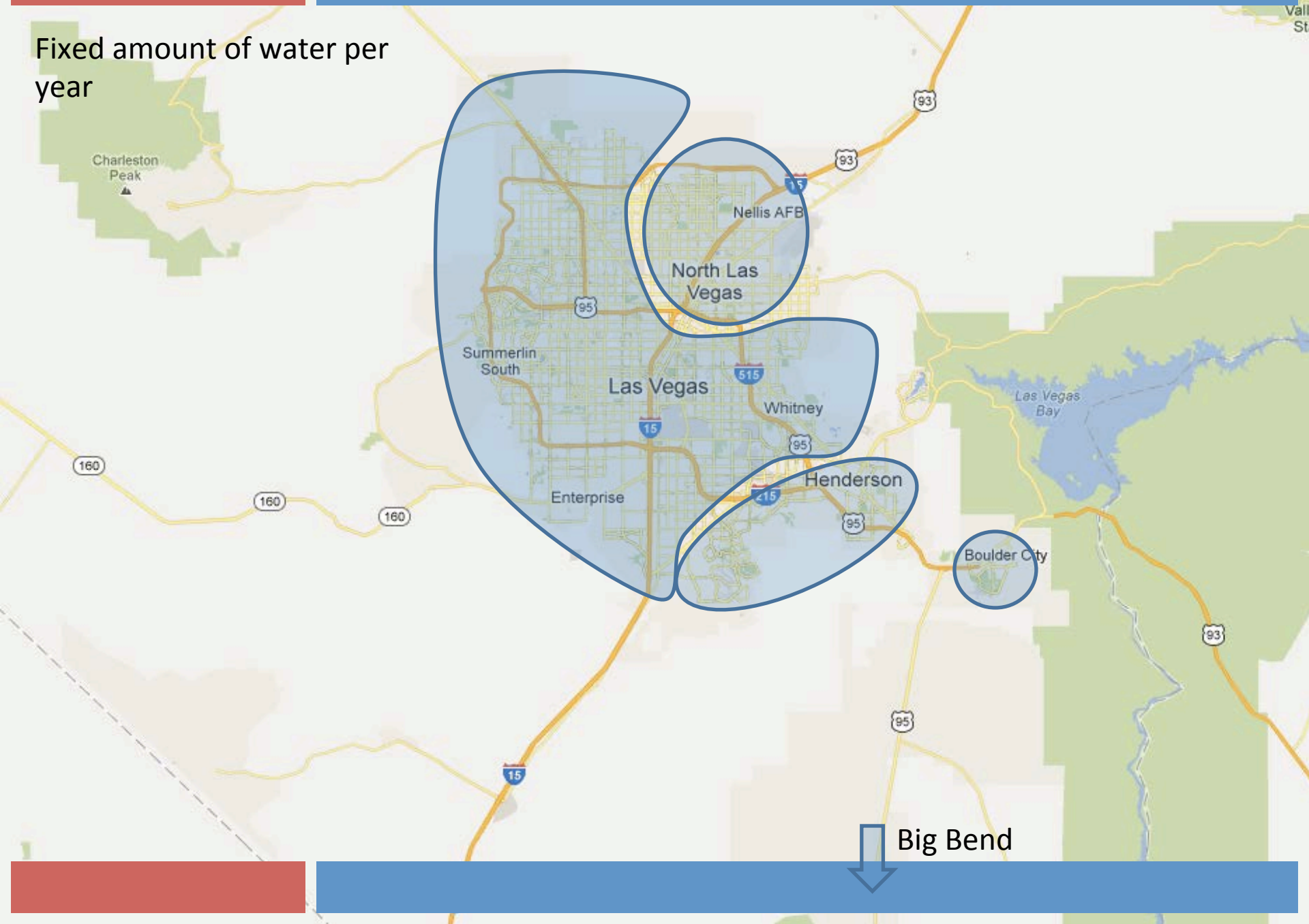
Brelsford & Abbott, *Ecological Econ.* 2016
Brelsford & De Bacco, *NETS*. 2018
Brelsford & Abbott, [in review]





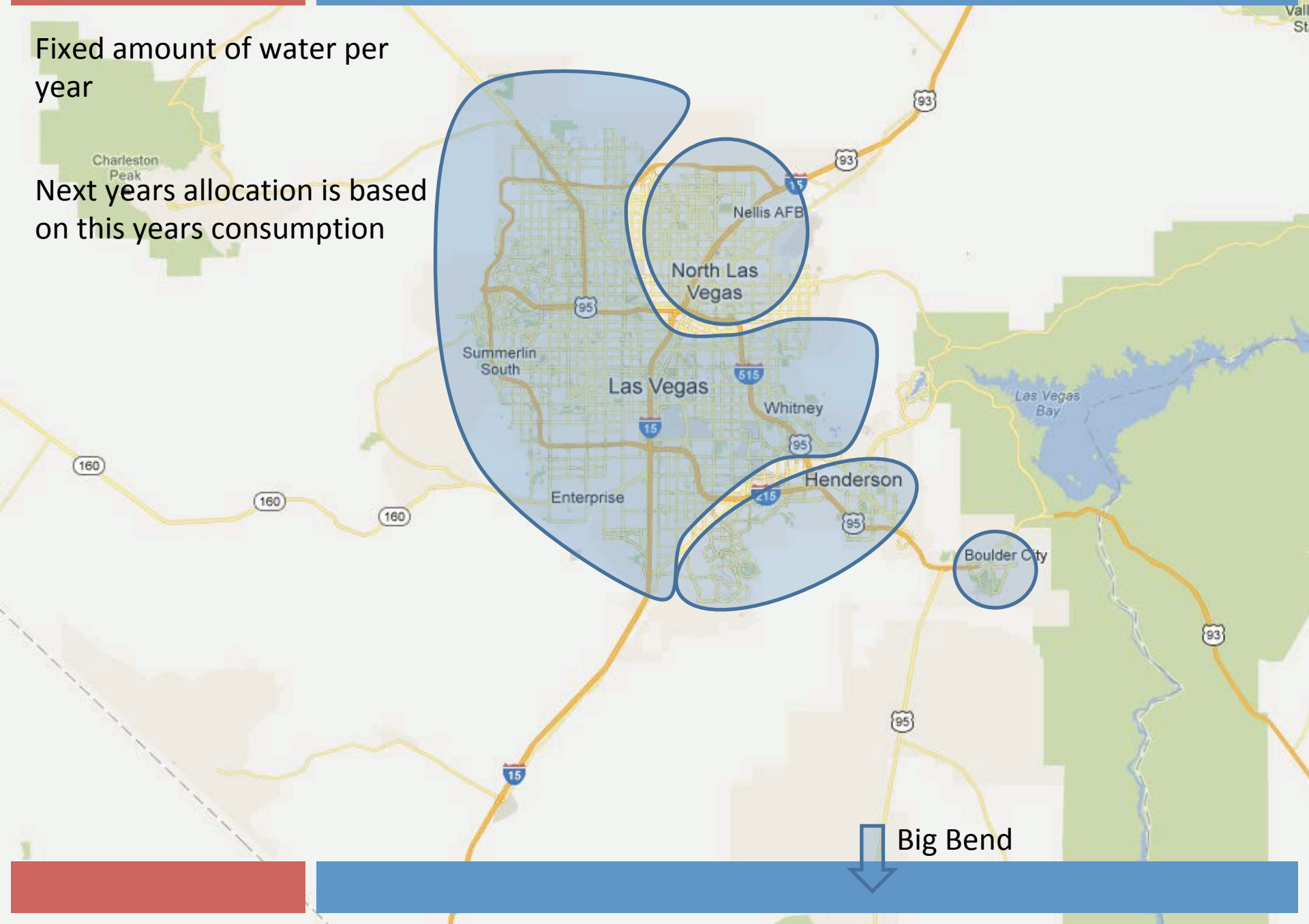
Big Bend

Fixed amount of water per
year



Fixed amount of water per year

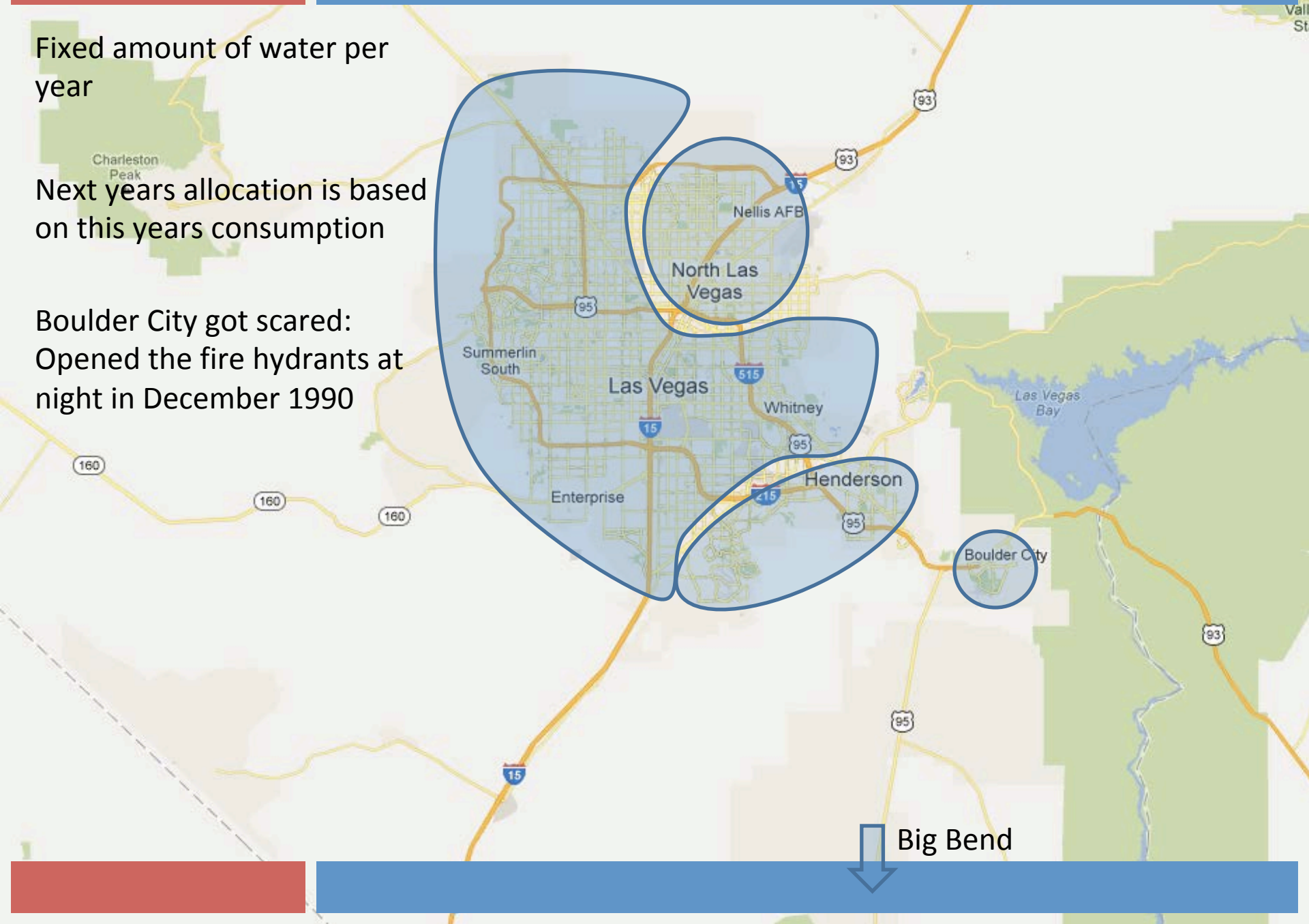
Next years allocation is based on this years consumption



Fixed amount of water per year

Next years allocation is based on this years consumption

Boulder City got scared:
Opened the fire hydrants at night in December 1990

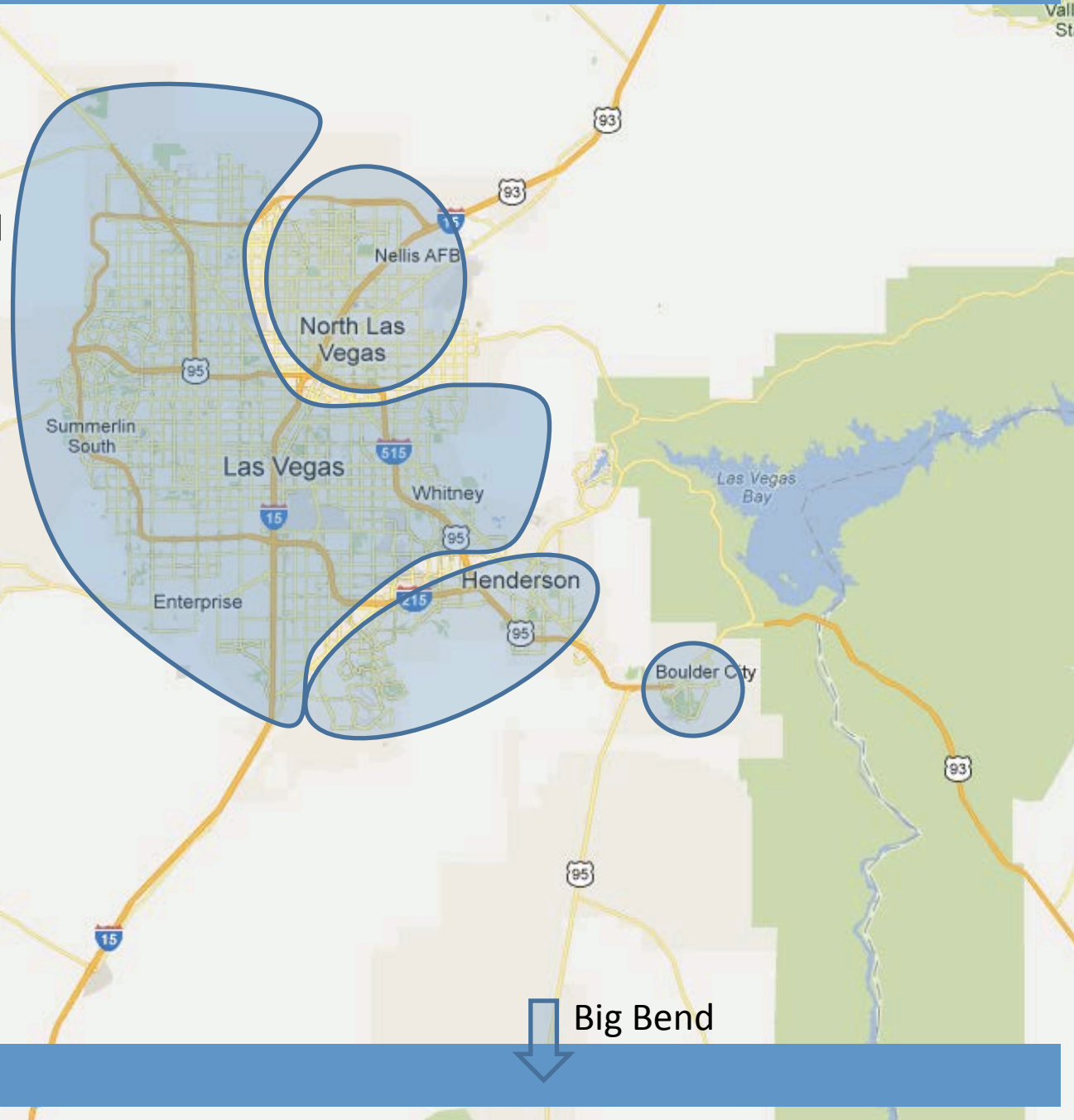


Fixed amount of water per year

Next years allocation is based on this years consumption

Boulder City got scared:
Opened the fire hydrants at night in December 1990

Feb 14th, 1991: Valentines Day Massacre



Big Bend

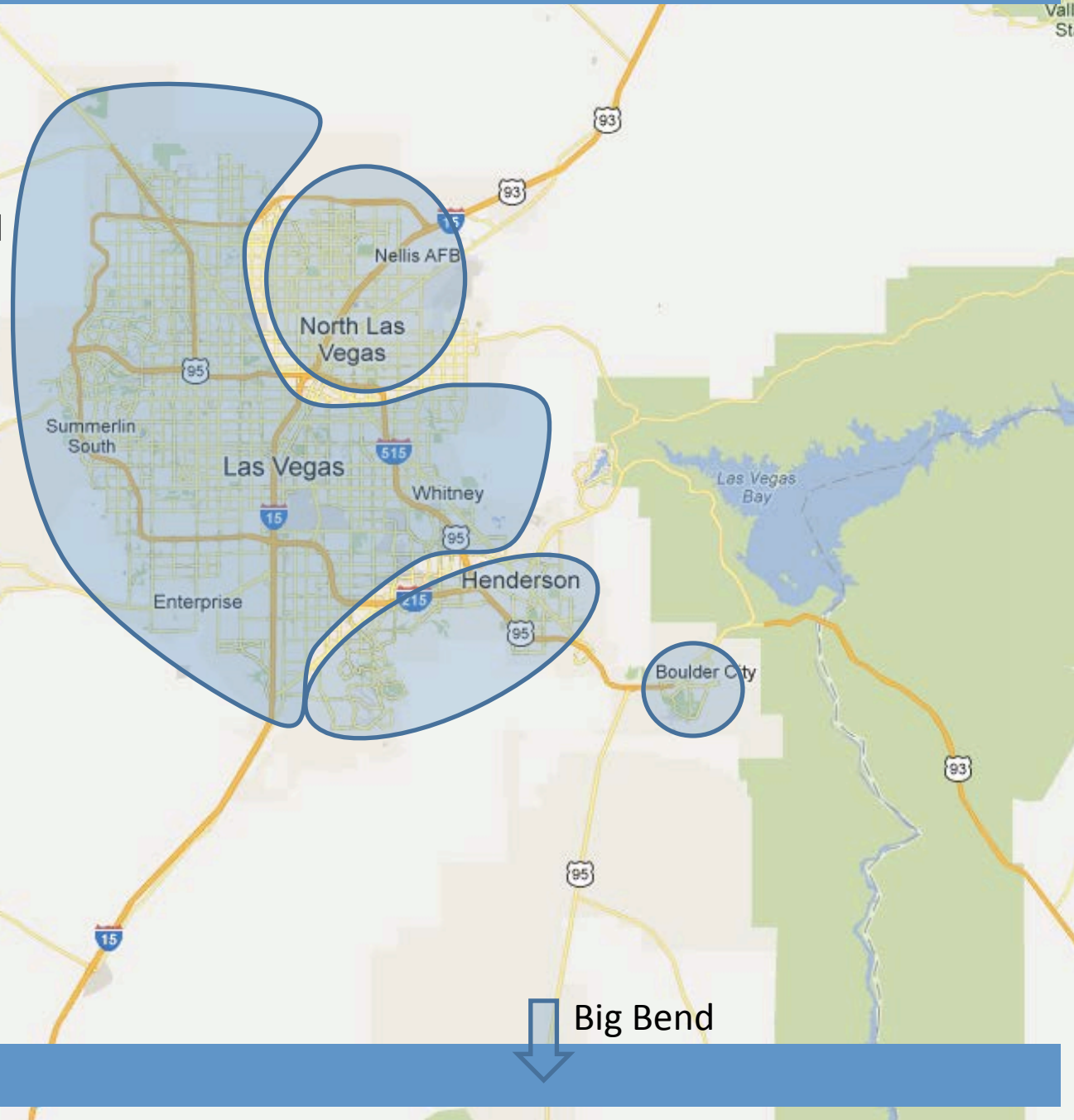
Fixed amount of water per year

Next years allocation is based on this years consumption

Boulder City got scared:
Opened the fire hydrants at night in December 1990

Feb 14th, 1991: Valentines Day Massacre

June 27th, 1991: Southern Nevada Water Authority was created.



Big Bend

Fixed amount of water per year

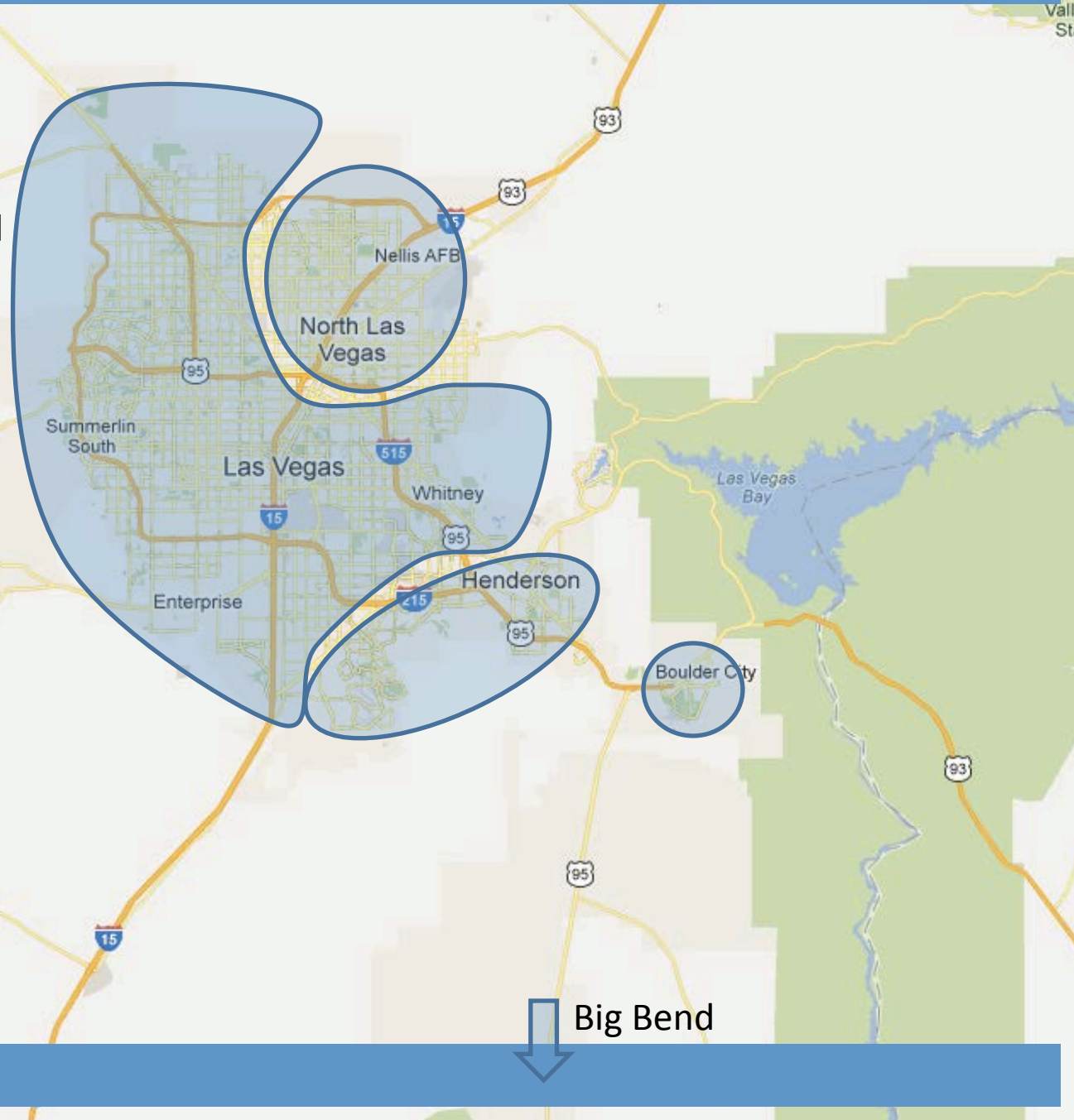
Next years allocation is based on this years consumption

Boulder City got scared:
Opened the fire hydrants at night in December 1990

Feb 14th, 1991: Valentines Day Massacre

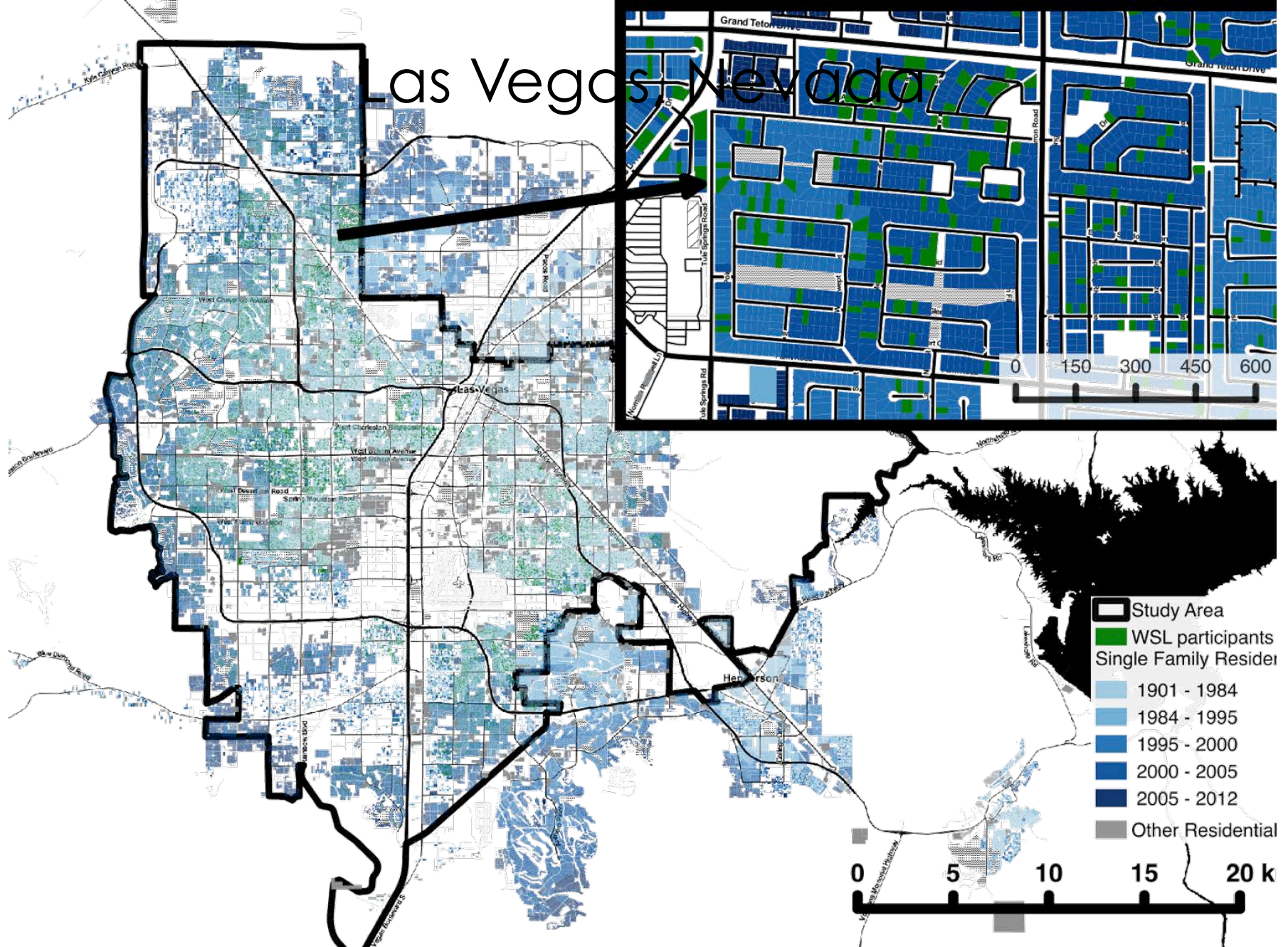
June 27th, 1991: Southern Nevada Water Authority was created.

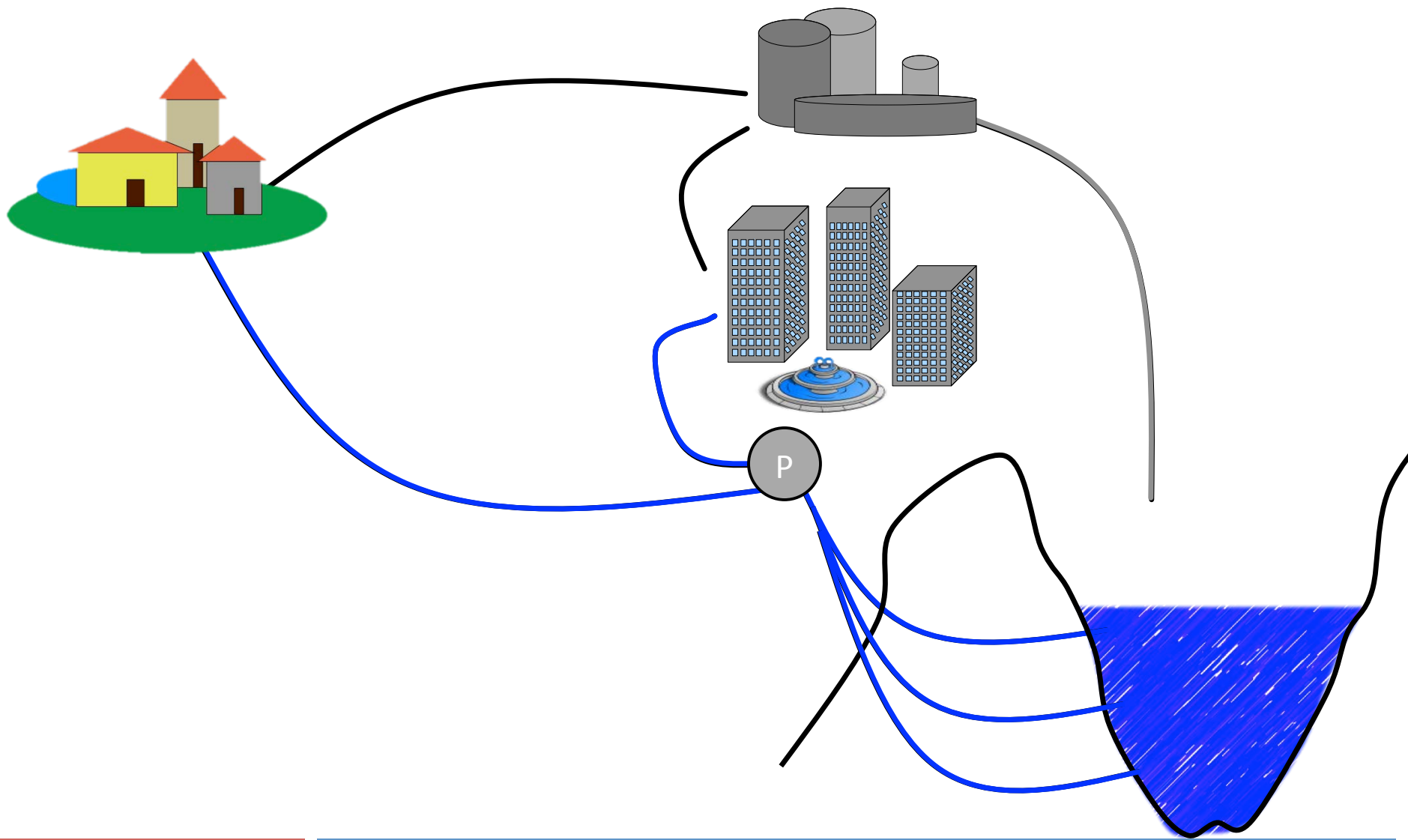
1993: Return Flow Credit Established



Big Bend

Las Vegas, Nevada









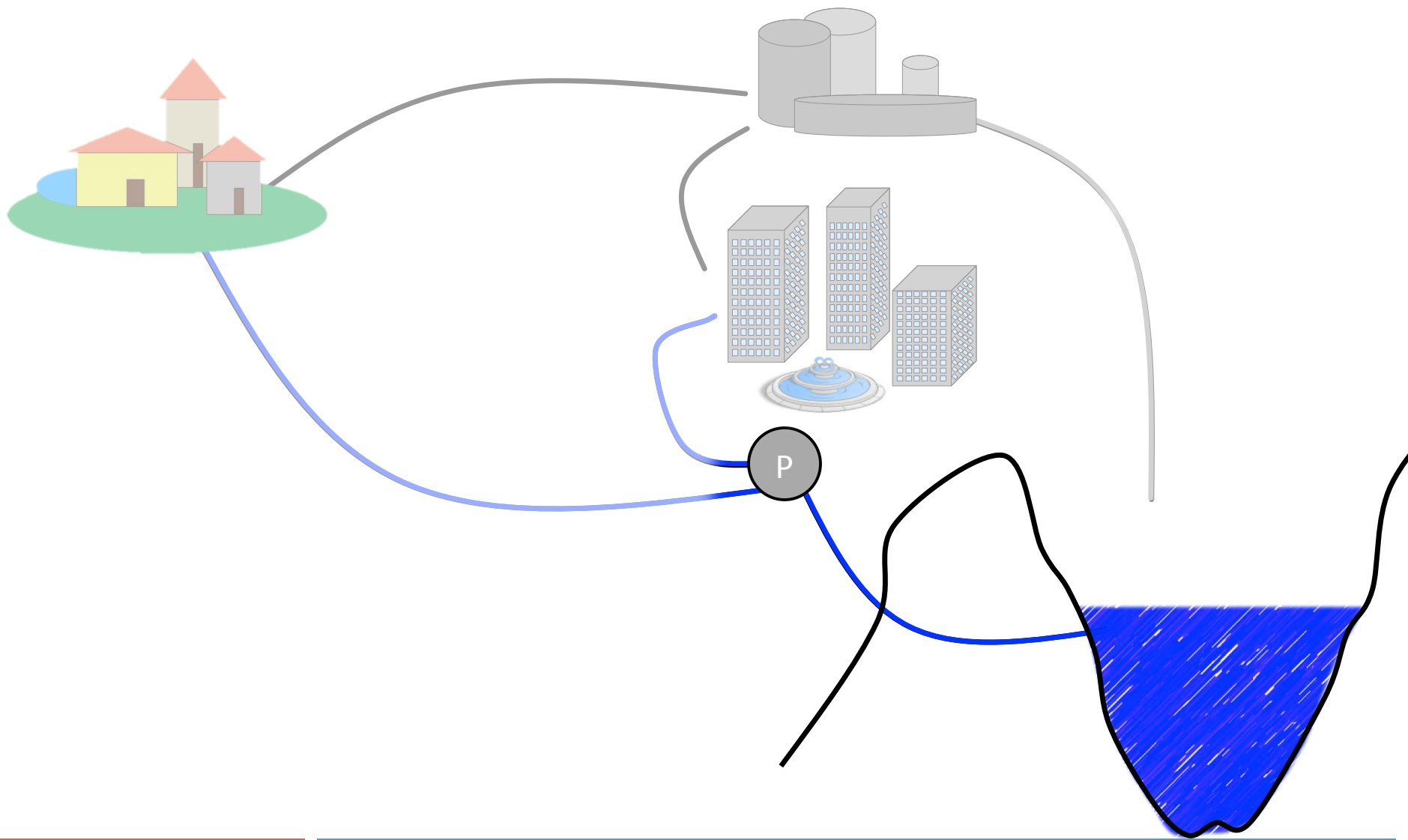
[What is "the Wash"?](#) [Why is "the Wash" important?](#) [What is being done?](#) [What can I do to help?](#)

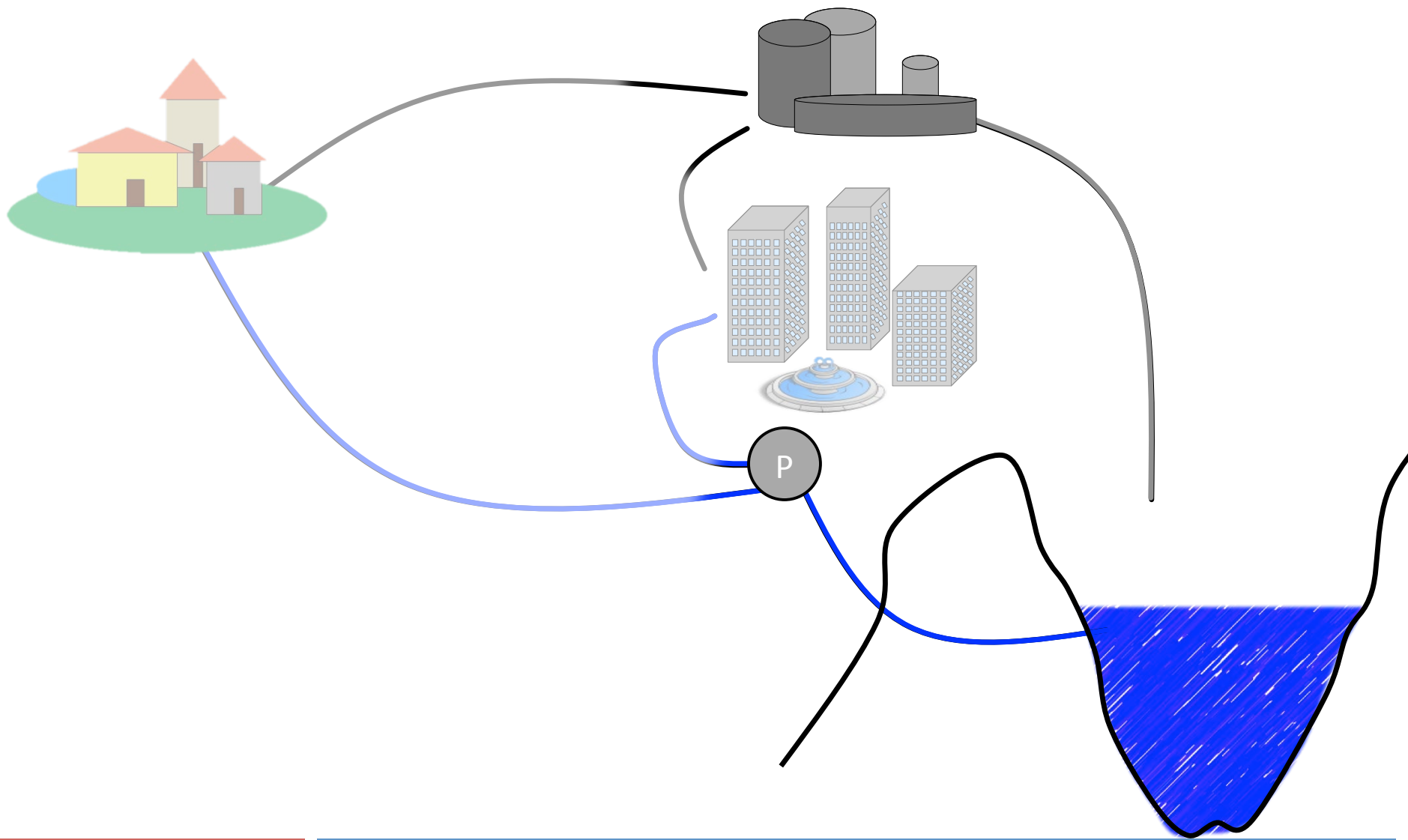
Annual bird surveys begin

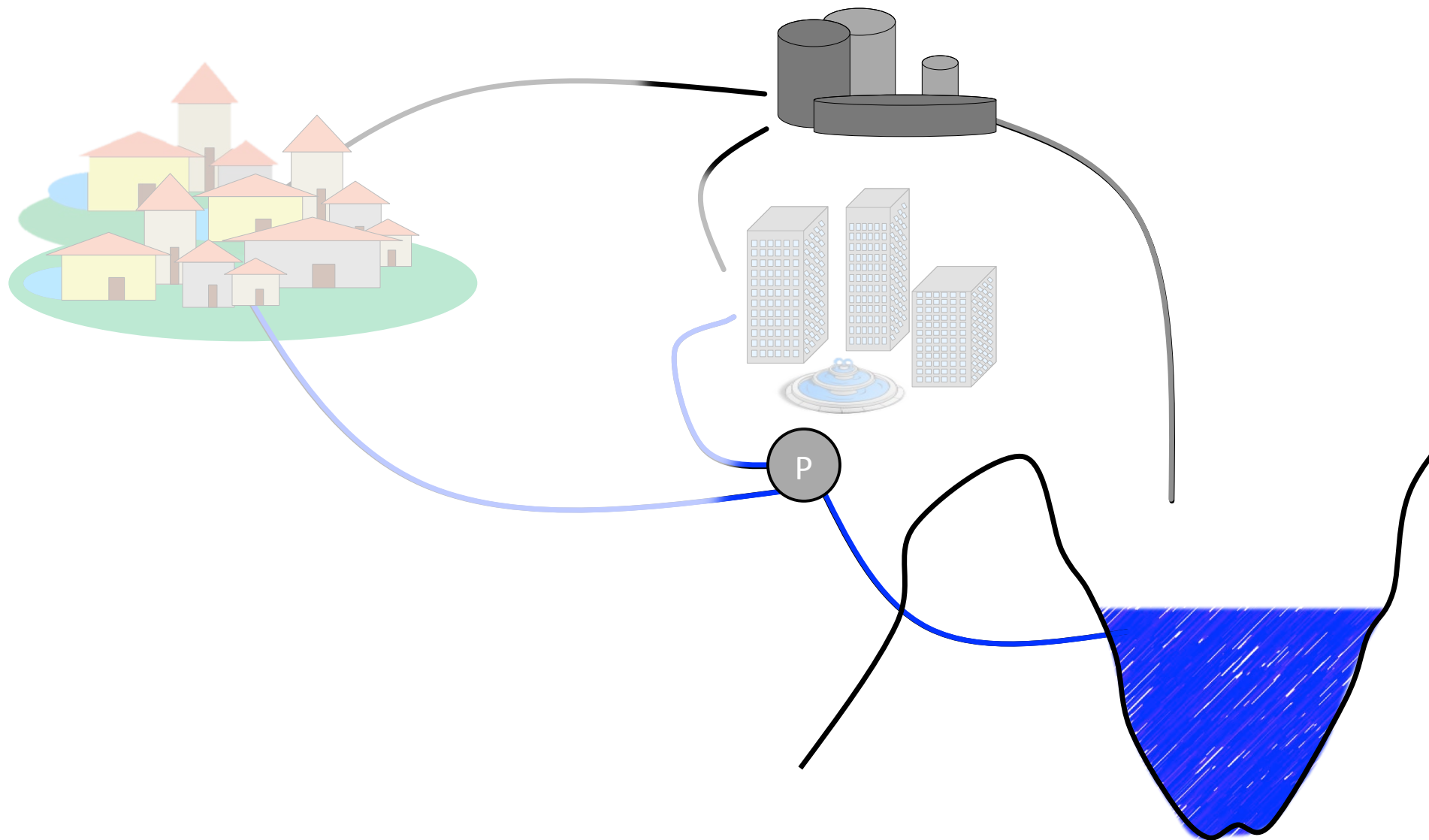


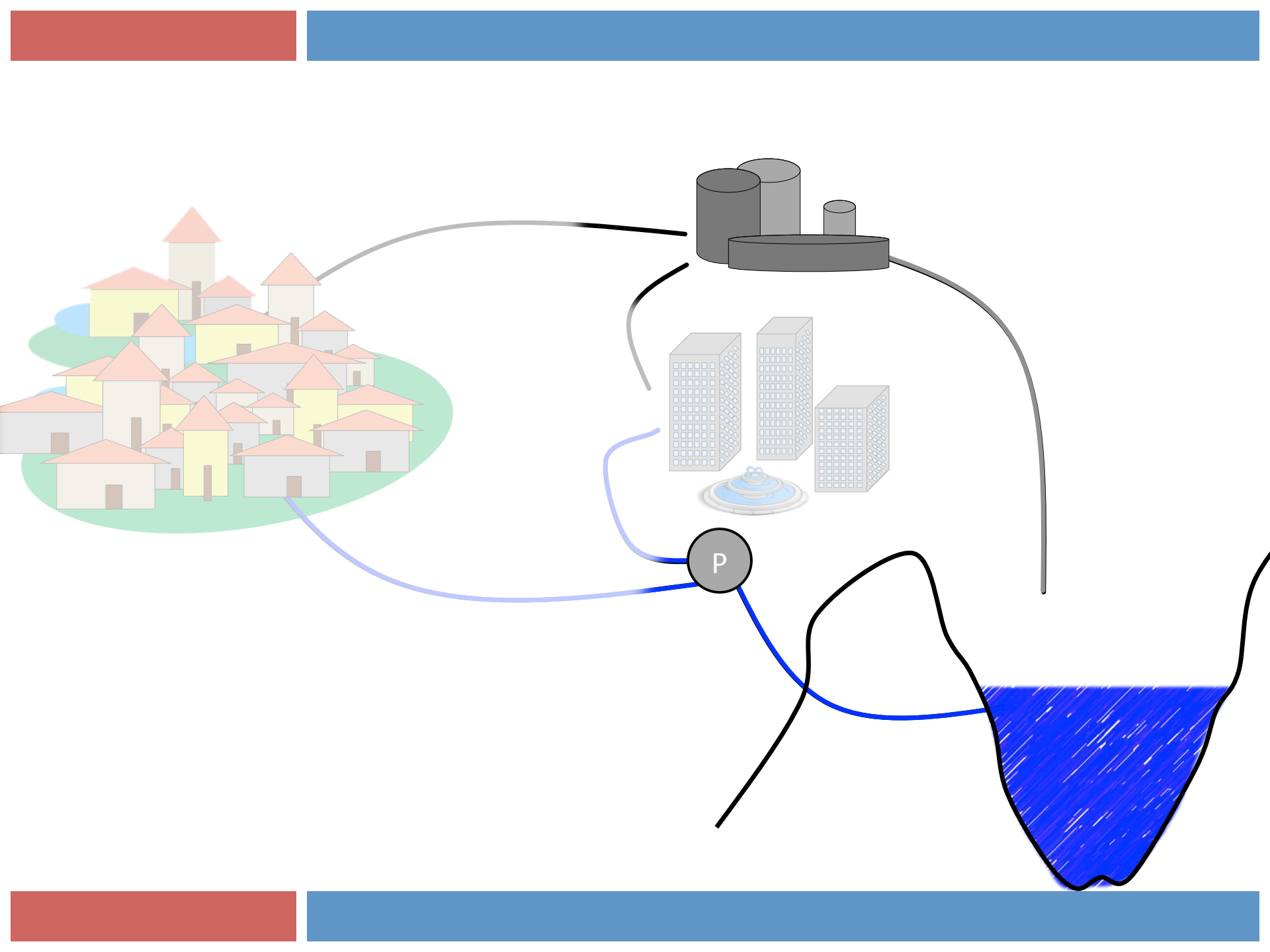
Fast Track

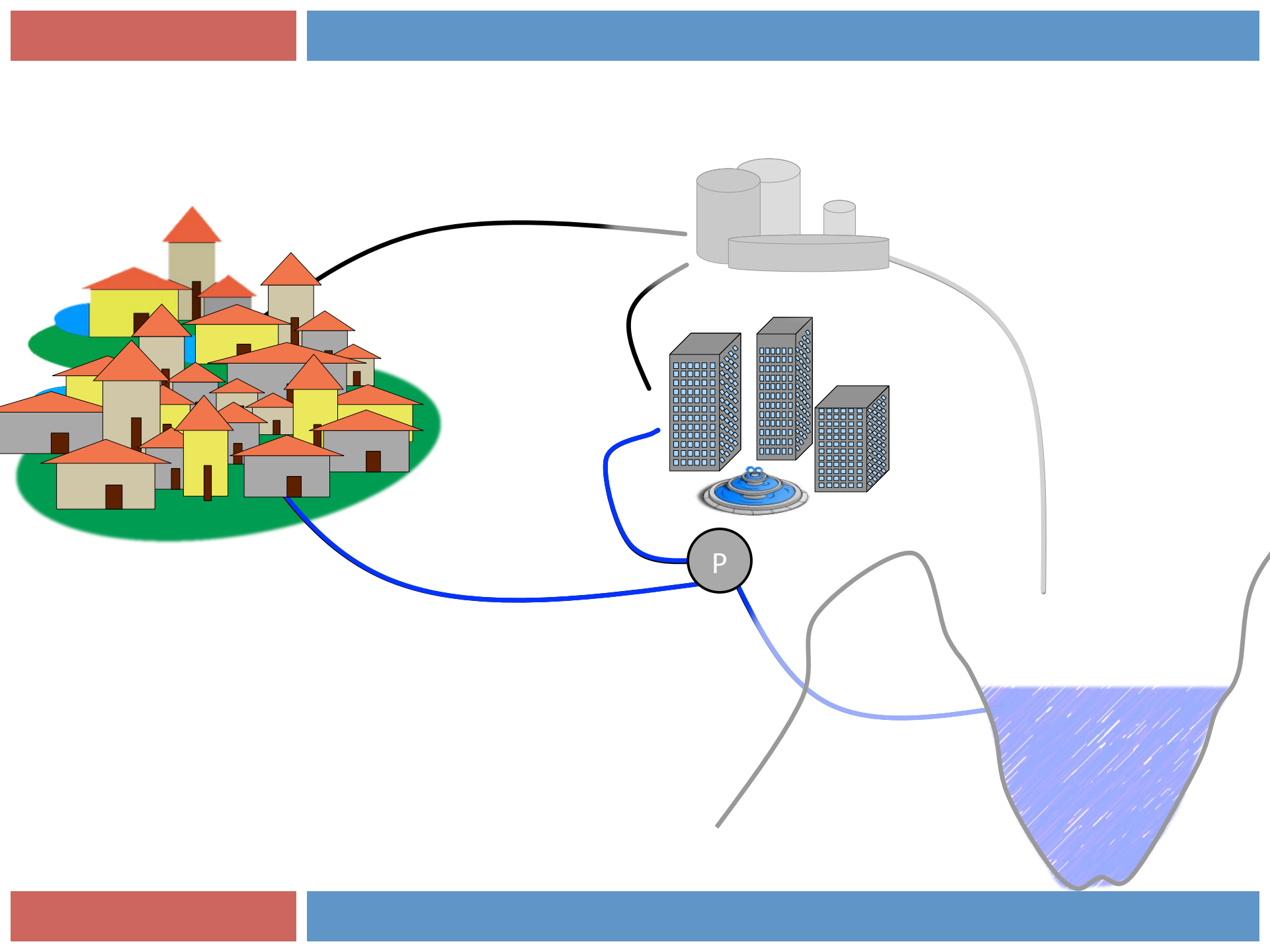
- [Meetings & Events](#)





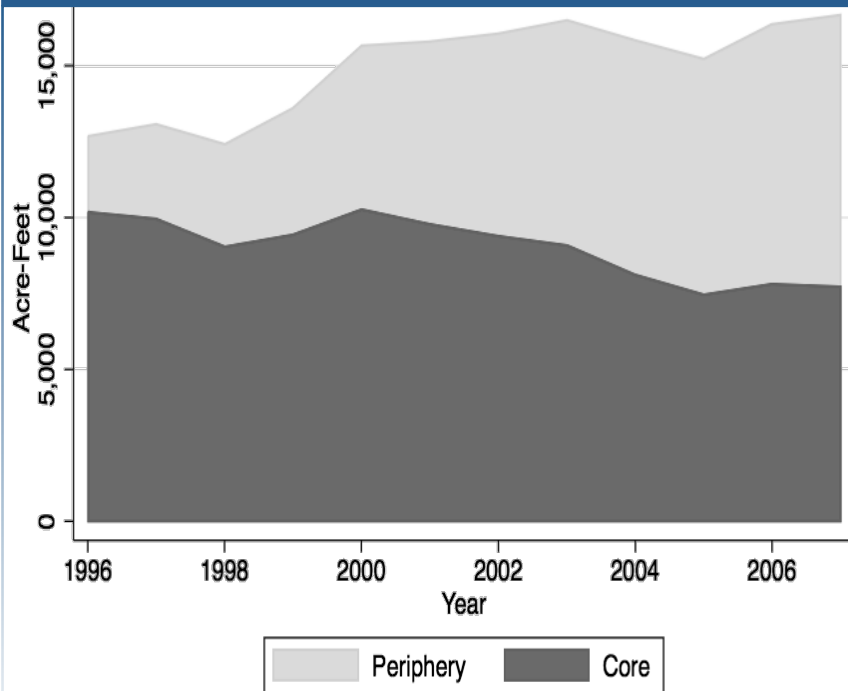




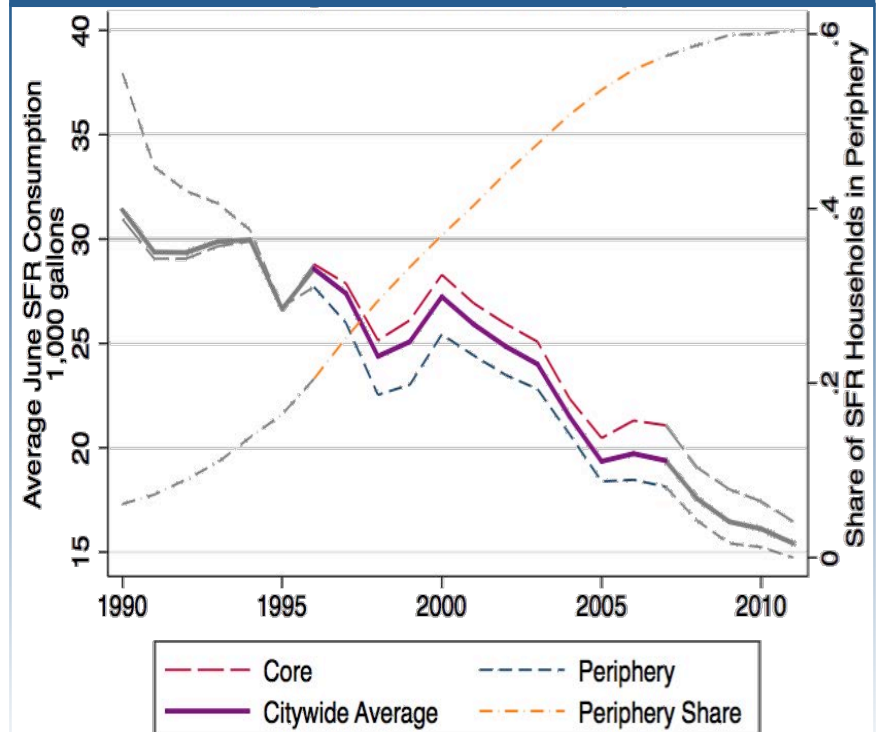


Las Vegas' per capita water consumption fell dramatically in the 1990s and 2000s.

Total June Water Consumption Single Family Residential



Average Household Consumption



How can we identify the most important drivers of our observed decline in water consumption?

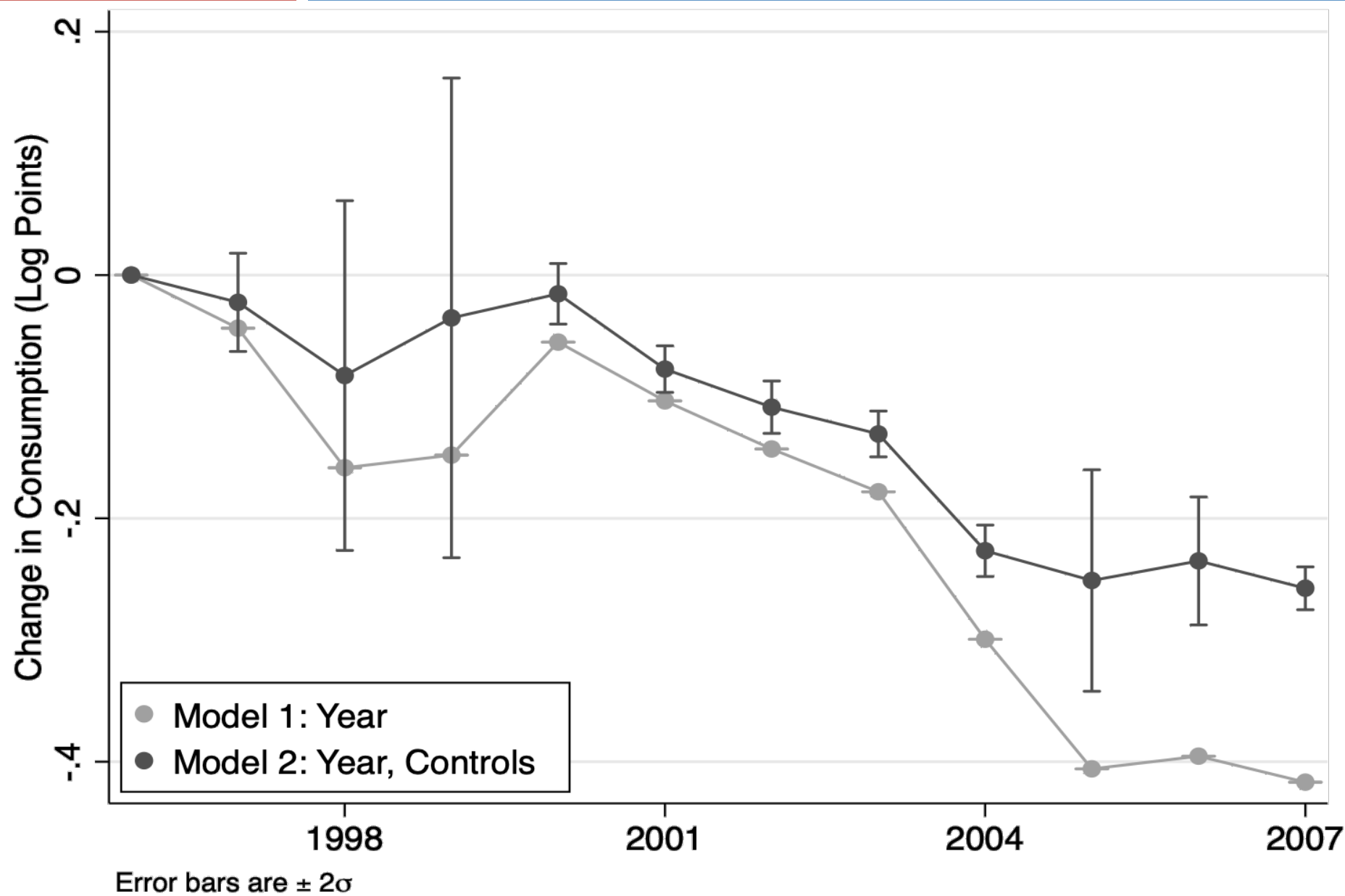
Semi Log Regressions

with a rich set of fixed effects, temporal dummy variables and controls related to home characteristics, weather, and neighborhood

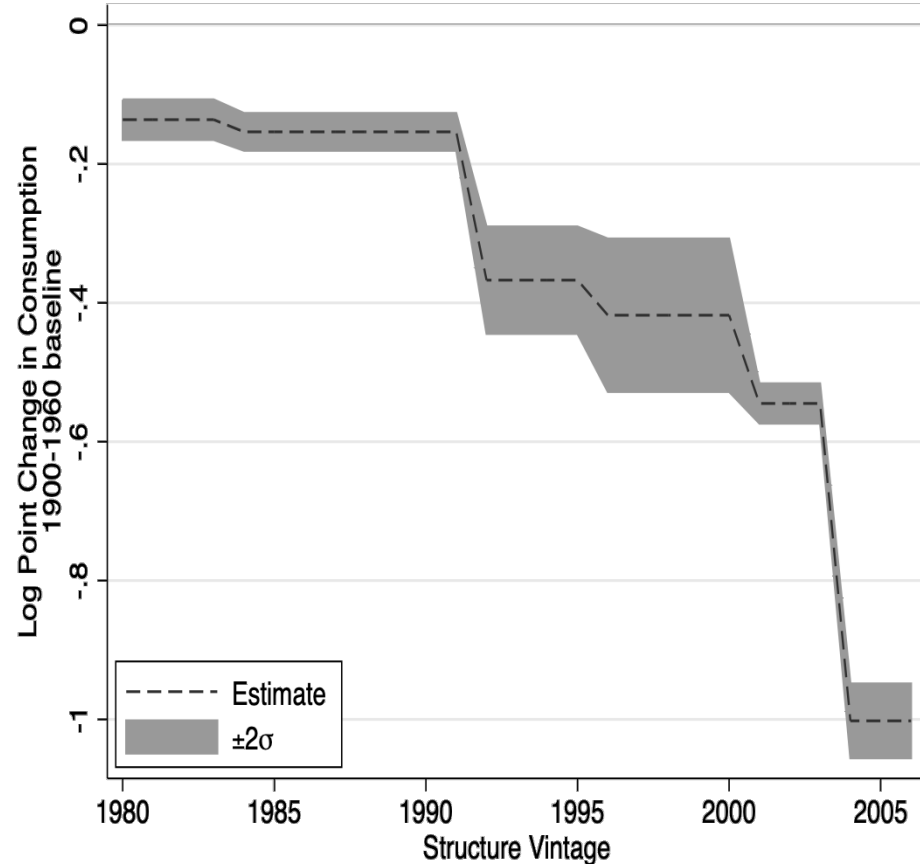
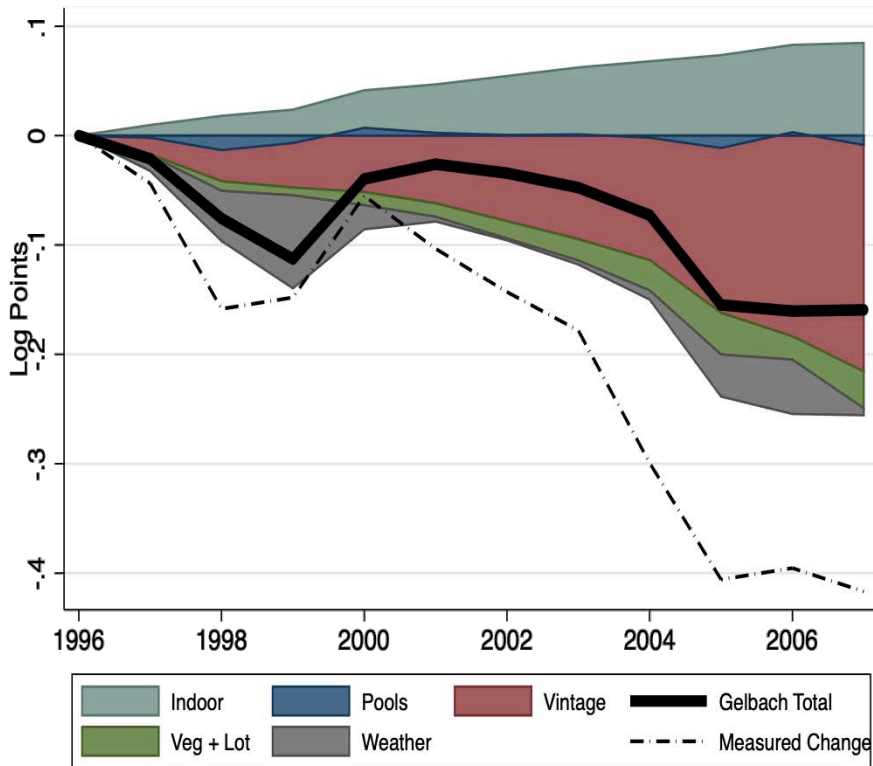
Gelbach's Decomposition

uses estimates of omitted variable bias to define the relative importance of various covariates

through scenario development



What did we find?



Building efficient infrastructure during new construction is the single biggest driver of reduced consumption.

How do we measure how effective the WSL program is?

Event Study

- Used to ensure that WSL driven water savings accrue at the time of the landscape change
- This compares the seasonal water comparison for the new landscape, age τ to water consumption the year it was installed.

$$c_{it} = a + \sum_{k=-15}^{k=11} \beta_k [\tau_{it} = k]_{it} + \gamma_t + \zeta_b + \epsilon_{it}$$

Difference in Differences

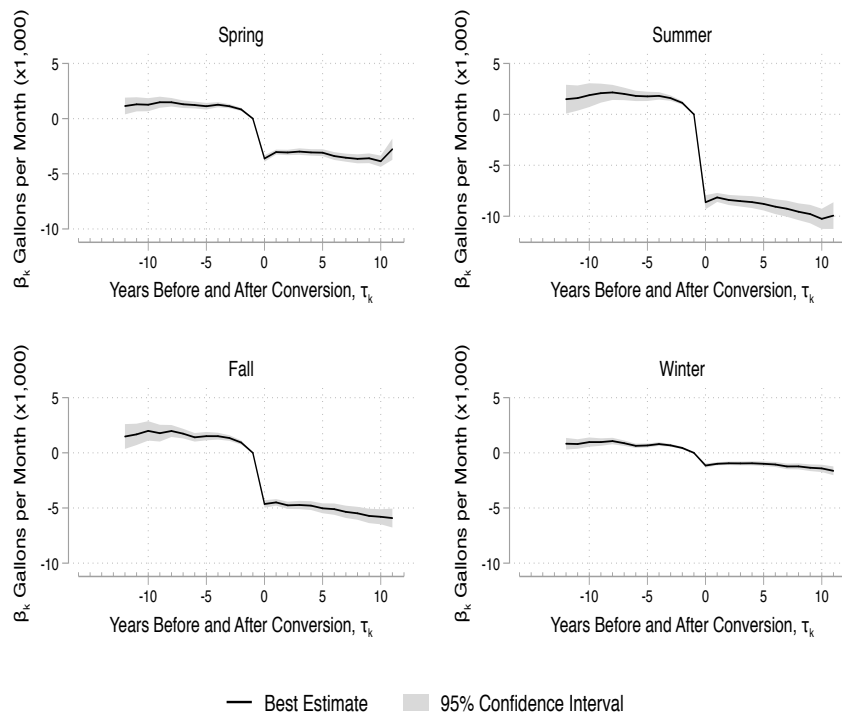
- Used to estimate the gallons saved per meter converted.
- This compares CHANGES in consumption during the landscape change to CHANGES in consumption for households with static landscapes.

$$c_{it} = \zeta_i + \gamma_t + \beta_0 a_{it} + \beta_1 \kappa_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

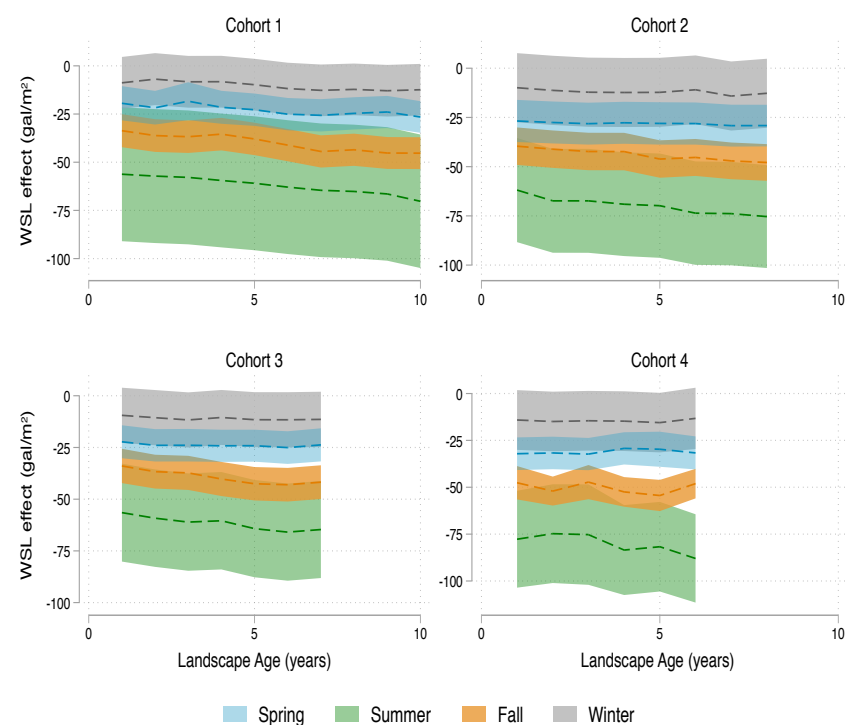
through quasi-experimental econometric methods.

What did we find?

Event Study



Difference in Differences



Large and durable water savings across seasons.

How can we test for the existence of Peer Effects in WSL Participation?

1) WSL participants

$$P(t_{iE} = t_i > 0 | \alpha, \mu, \{t_{kE}\}_{k \in \partial i}) = I_{x_i^0 = S} \left[\prod_{t=1}^{t_i-1} (1 - \mu_i^t) \prod_{k \in \partial i | t_{kI} < t_i-1} (1 - \alpha)^{t_i - \tau_{kiI} - 1} \right] \\ \times [1 - (1 - \mu_i^{t_i})(1 - \alpha)^{n_i}]$$

2) Non-Participants

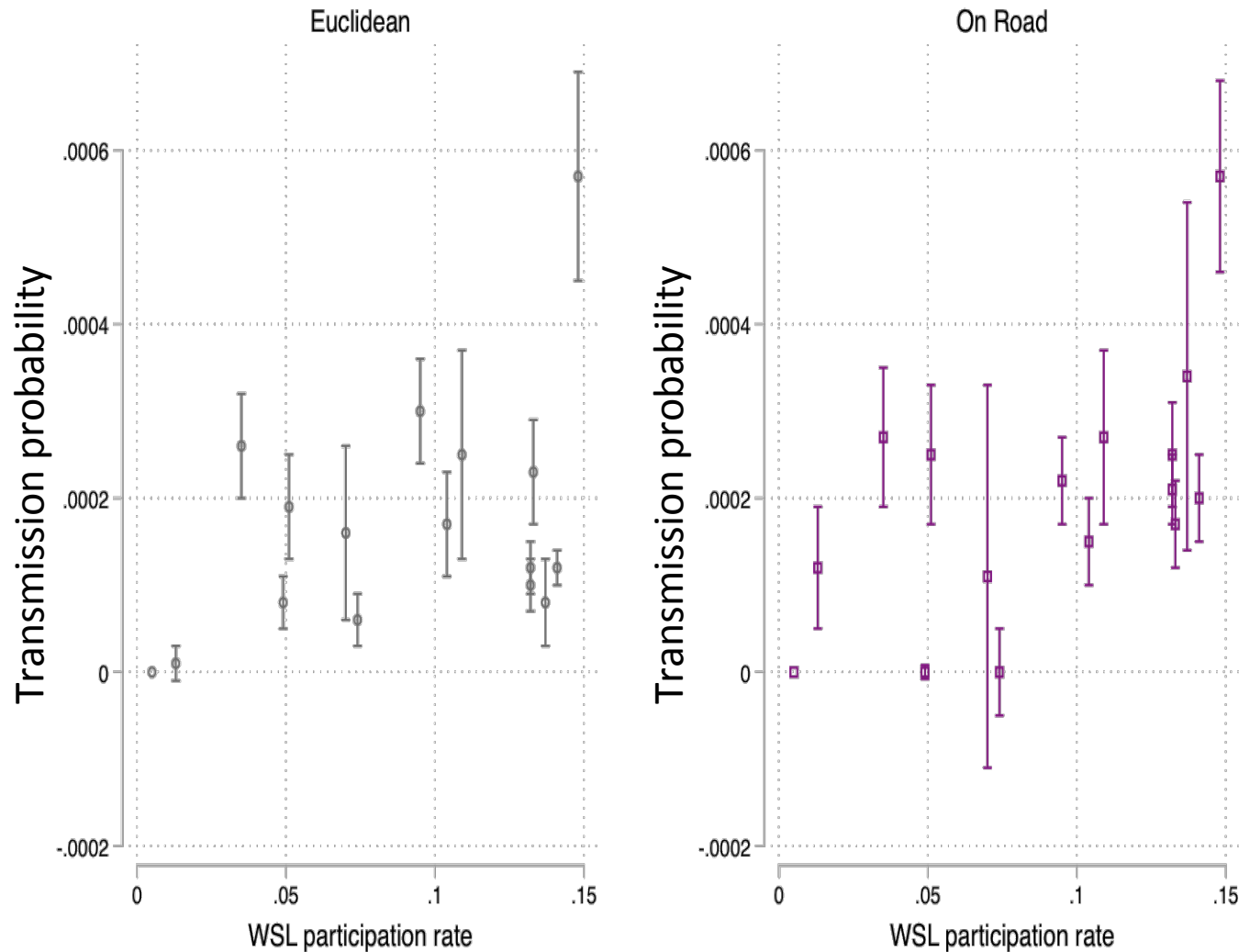
$$P(t_{iE} = \infty | \alpha, \mu, \{t_{kE}\}_{k \in \partial i}) = \mathbb{I}_{x_i^0 = S} \prod_{t=1}^T (1 - \mu_i^t) \prod_{k \in \partial i | t_{kI} < T} (1 - \alpha)^{T - \tau_{kiI}}$$

3) Joint Probability for All Homes

$$P(\bar{t} | \alpha, \mu) = \prod_{i \in V | x_i^T = S} P(t_{iE} = \infty | \alpha, \mu, \{t_{kE}\}_{k \in \partial i}) \prod_{i \in V | x_i^T \neq S} P(t_{iE} = t_i > 0 | \alpha, \mu, \{t_{kE}\}_{k \in \partial i})$$

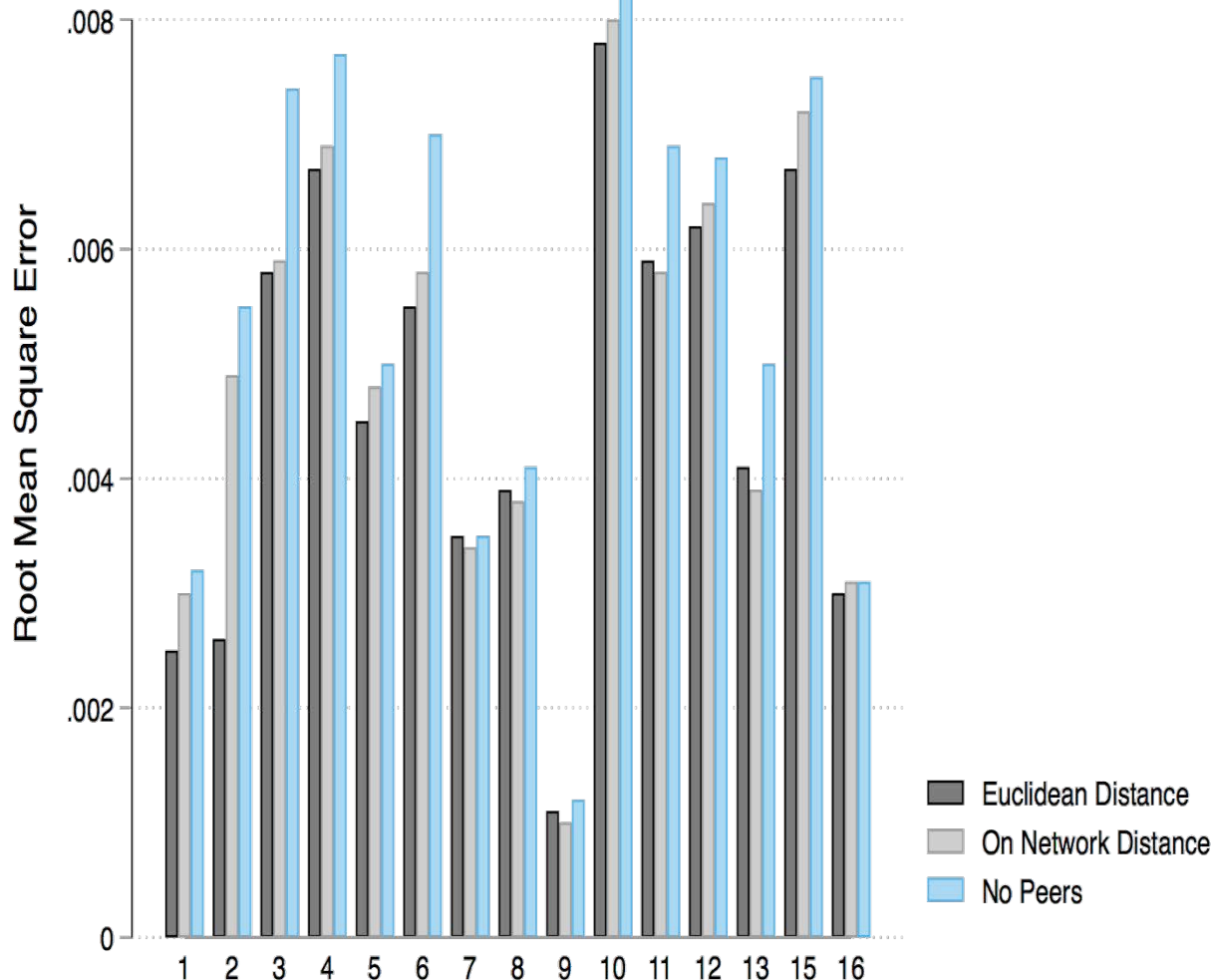
We model participation like it's an epidemic

What did we find?



Non-zero transmission probabilities across most neighborhoods

What did we find?



Models that allow peer effects fit the data better than models which don't

- Landscape change is a small but measureable component of Las Vegas' overall decline in residential water consumption.
- WSL landscape conversions save meaningful amounts of water.
- There is evidence of a peer influence in WSL participation.

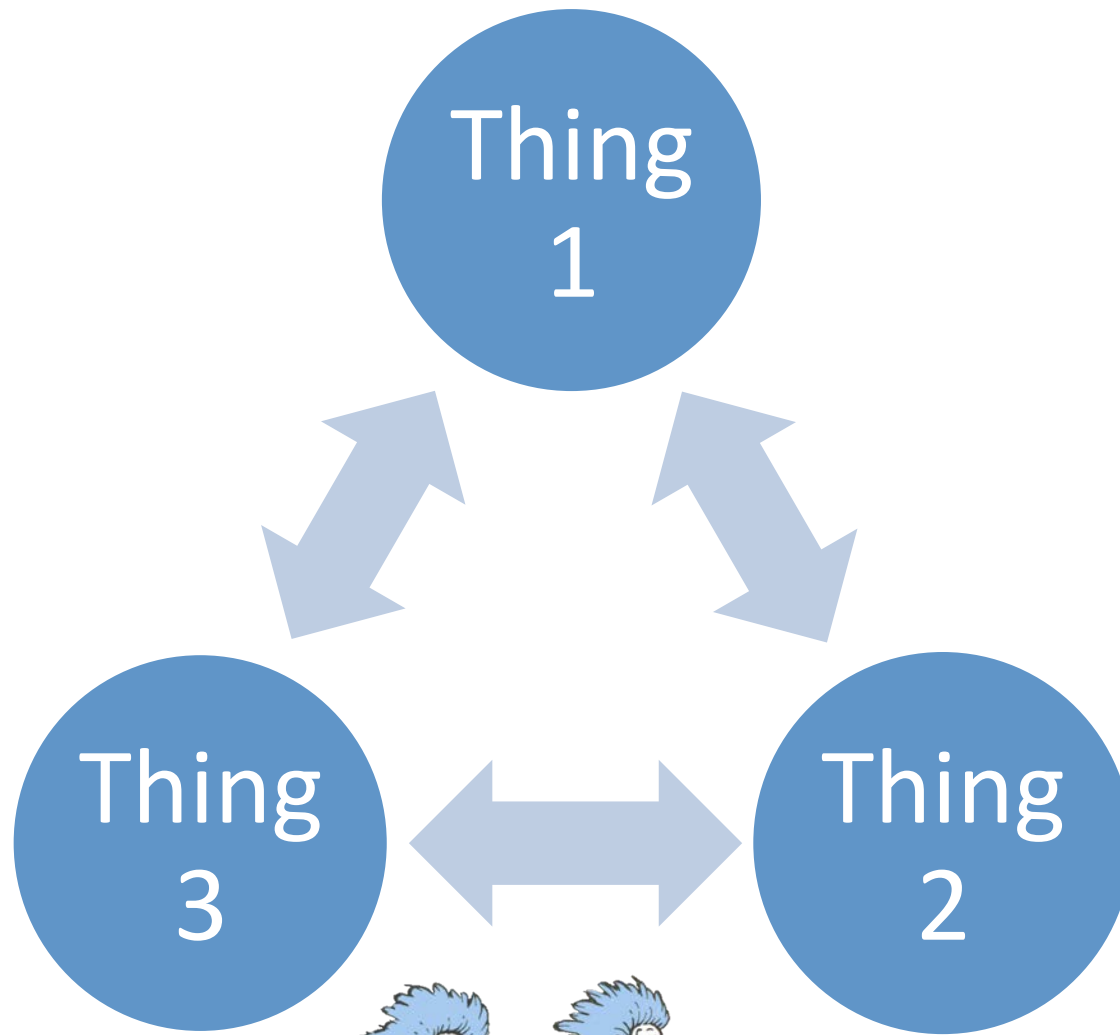
Strategies for Analysis of Coupled Socio-Hydrological Systems

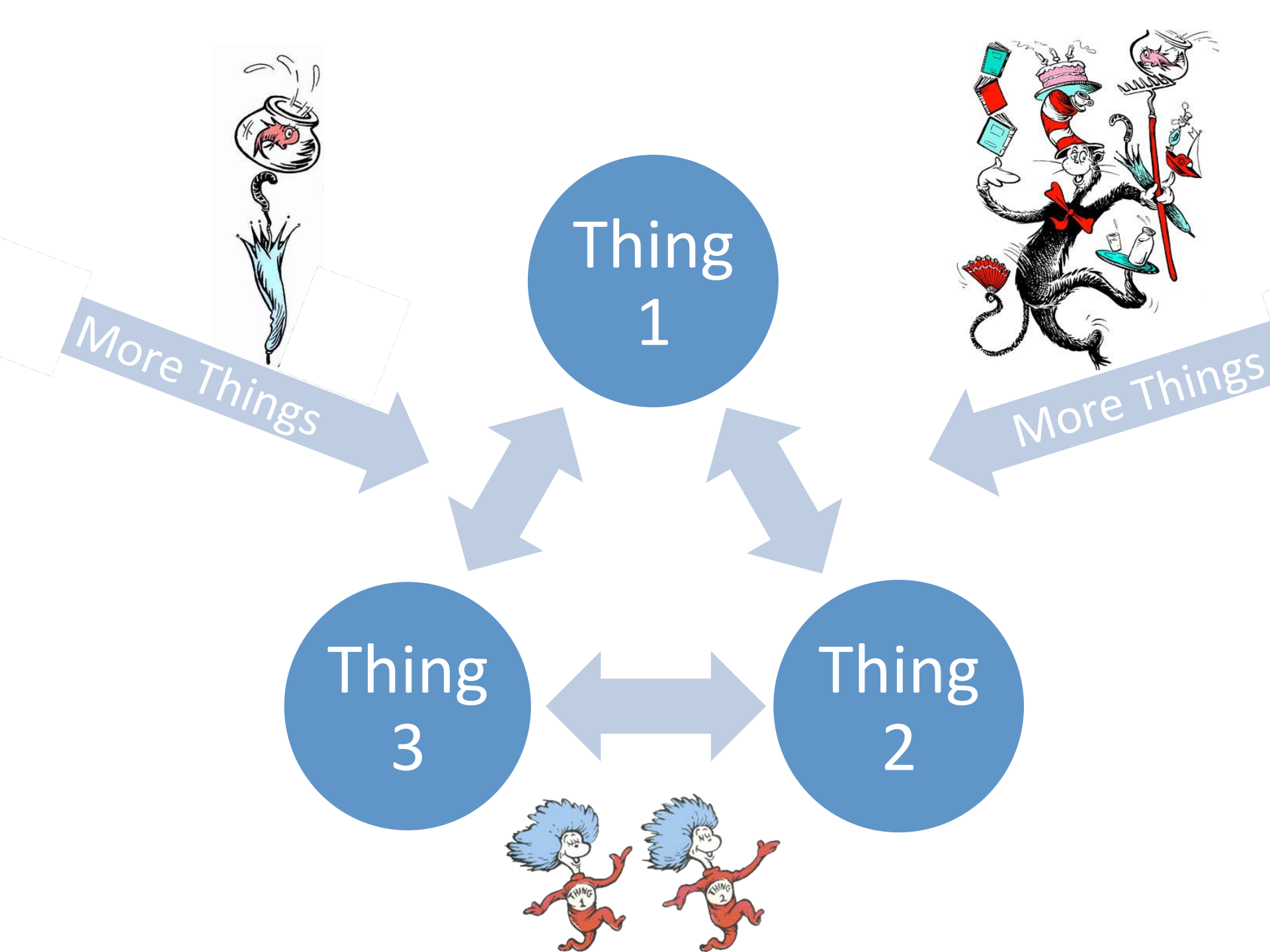


















Water
Scarcity



Water
Excess

An aerial photograph of a coastal region. The land on the left is a patchwork of brown and green fields, with some urban areas visible. A large, vibrant green algal bloom spreads from the shoreline into the water, forming a large, irregular shape. The water further out is a deep blue-green. A semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the bottom left, containing the word "Quality".

Quality



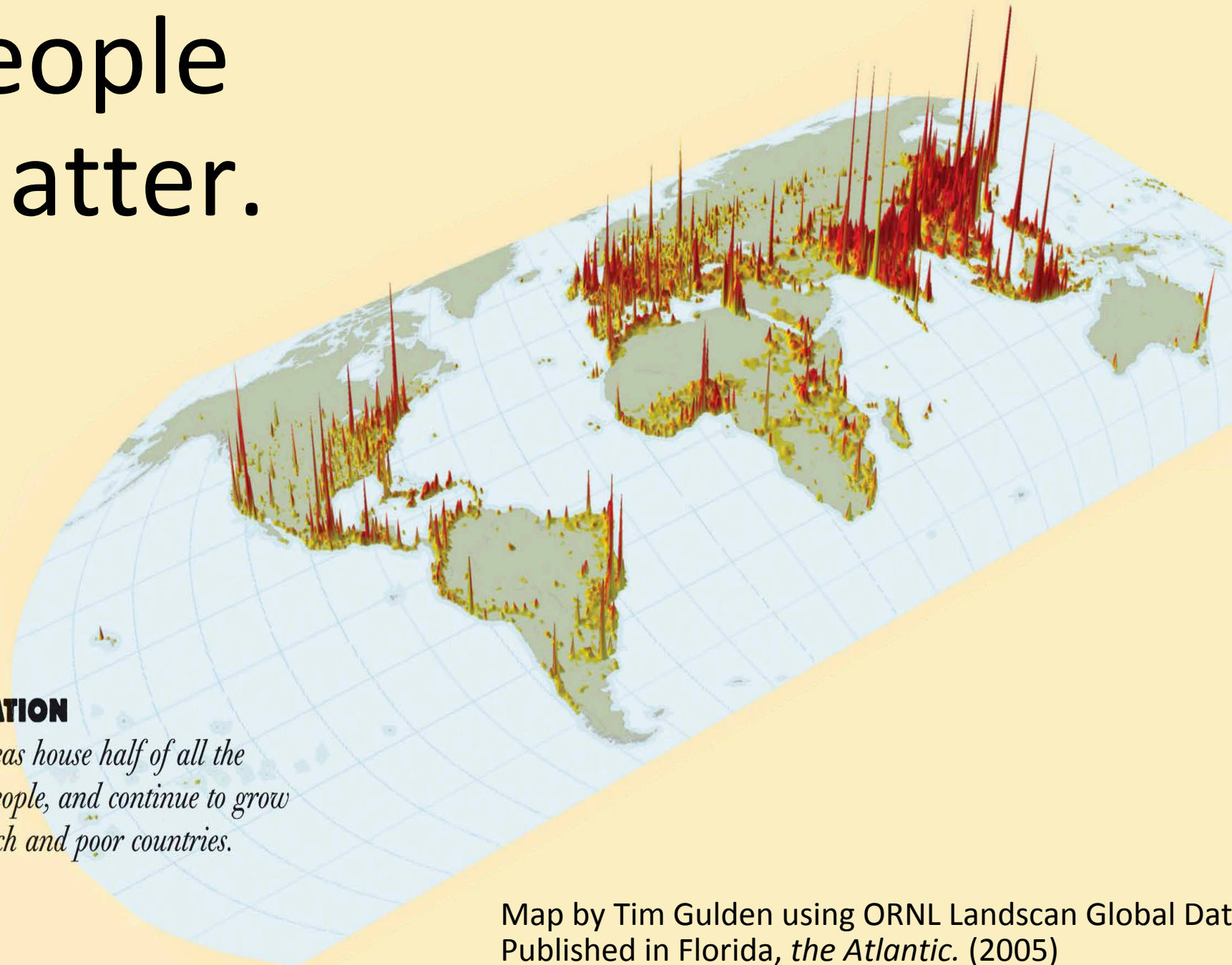
Adaptive Capacity

People Matter.

POPULATION

Urban areas house half of all the world's people, and continue to grow in both rich and poor countries.

Map by Tim Gulden using ORNL Landscan Global Data
Published in Florida, *the Atlantic*. (2005)



Individual

Neighborhood

City

Region

Social Scale

Individuals

Cities

Nations

Individual

Neighborhood

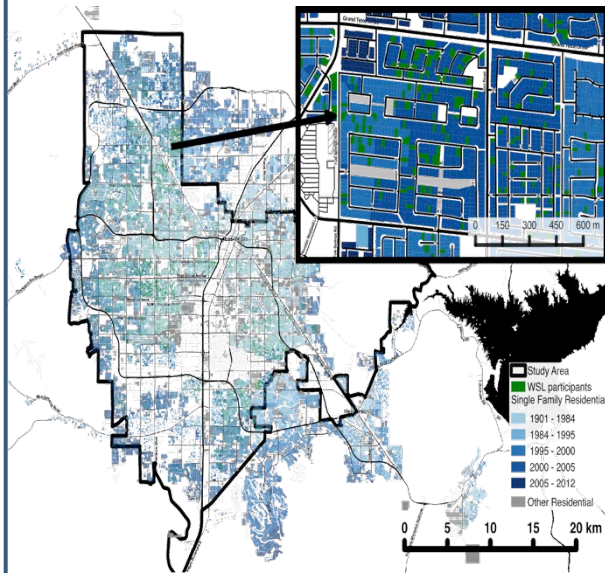
City

Region

Social Scale

Individuals

Probabilistic, Empirical or
Agent Based Models



Brelsford & De Bacco. NETS (2018)

Cities

Nations

Individual

Neighborhood

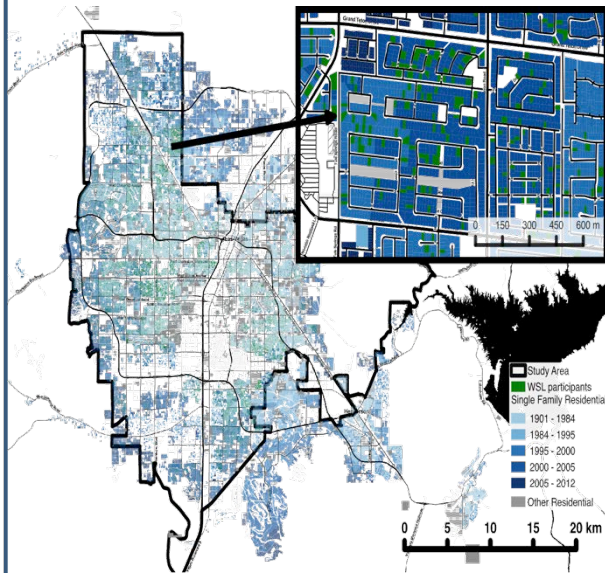
City

Region

Social Scale

Individuals

Probabilistic, Empirical or
Agent Based Models



Brelsford & De Bacco. NETS (2018)

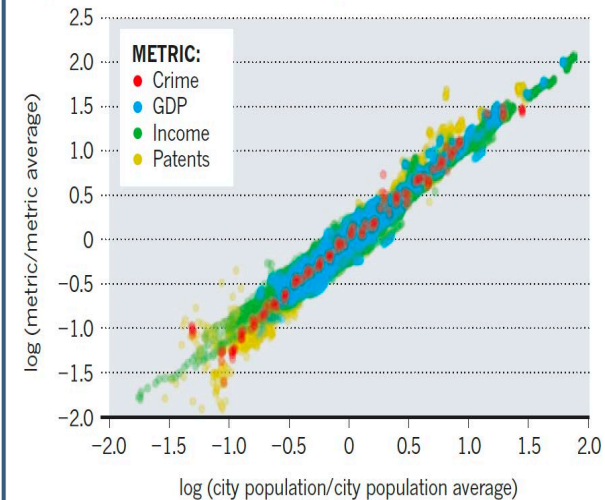
Cities

Nations

Urban Scaling Theory

PREDICTABLE CITIES

Data from 360 US metropolitan areas show that metrics such as wages and crime scale in the same way with population size.



Bettencourt & West. Nature (2010)

Individual

Neighborhood

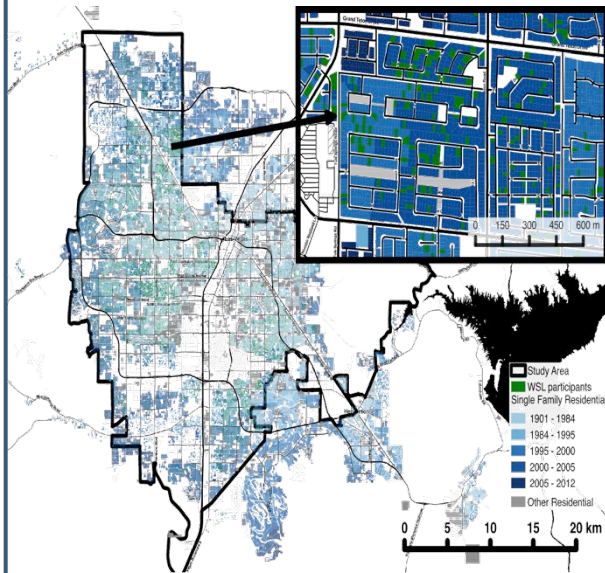
City

Region

Social Scale

Individuals

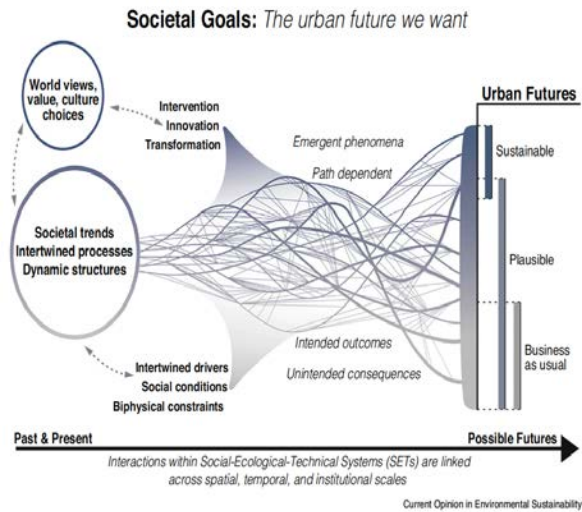
Probabilistic, Empirical or
Agent Based Models



Brelsford & De Bacco. NETS (2018)

Cities

Urban Analysis and
Stakeholder Engagement



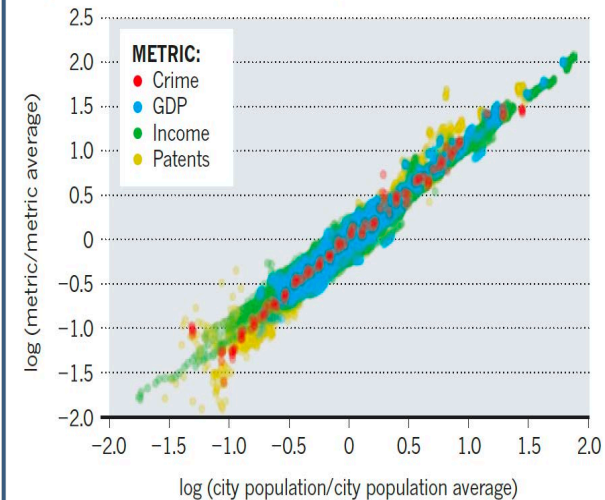
McPhearson, Iwaniec, & Bai.
Crnt. Opn. in Envi. Sust. (2016)

Nations

Urban Scaling Theory

PREDICTABLE CITIES

Data from 360 US metropolitan areas show that metrics such as wages and crime scale in the same way with population size.



Bettencourt & West. Nature (2010)

Individual

Neighborhood

City

Region

Social Scale

christabrelsford.com

brelsfordcm@ornl.gov



sub-urban.com