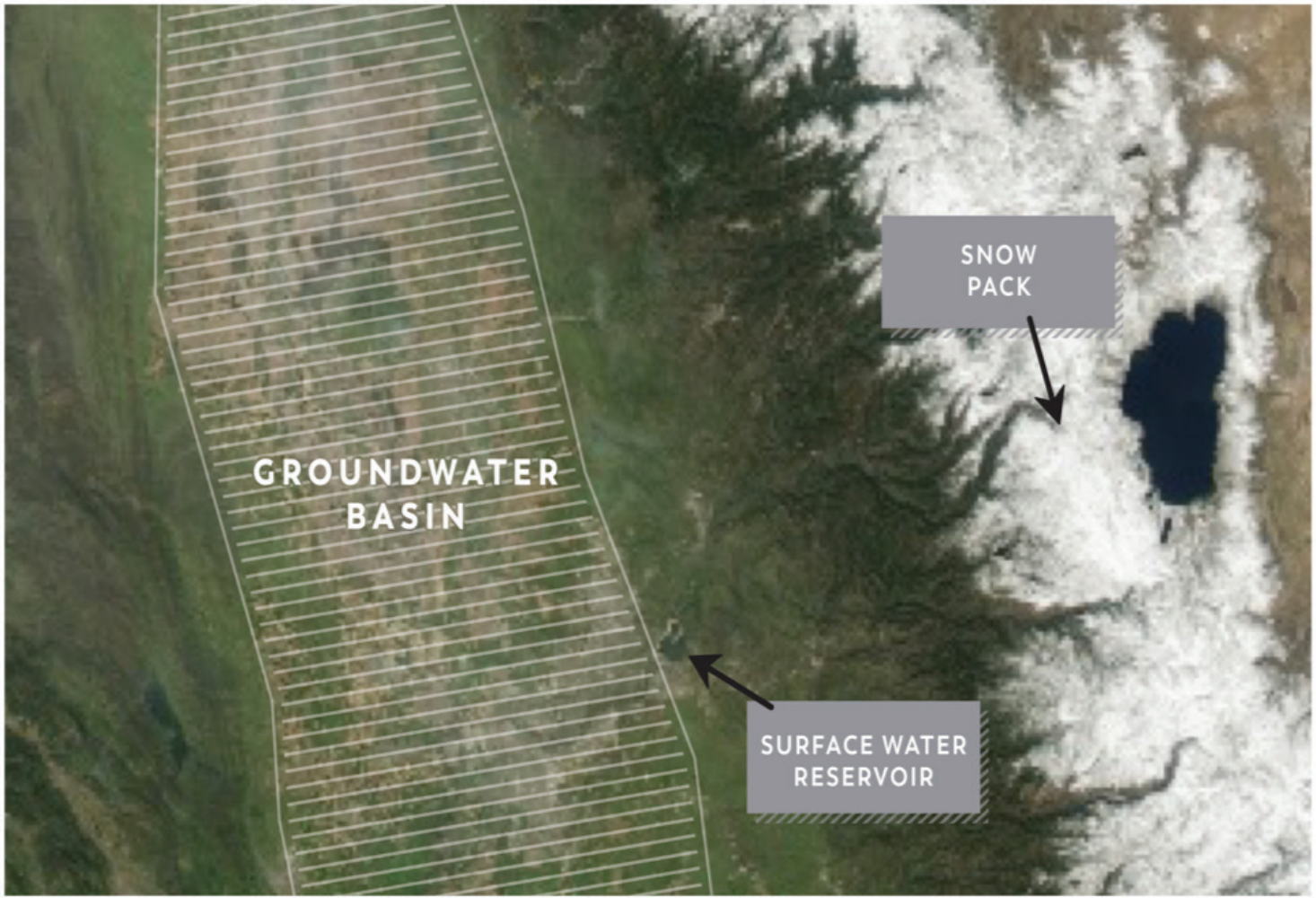
A Reservoir Under Our Feet

The Sacramento Regional Water Bank (Water Bank) is a key adaptation measure for managing the uncertainties of future climate conditions in the American River Basin.

Currently, the region's water resources are managed through a **"three reservoir system"**-- Folsom Reservoir, groundwater, and a large slow-melting snowpack. The snowpack serves as a slow-release surface water reservoir, helping to maintain our environment and reduce flood risks.

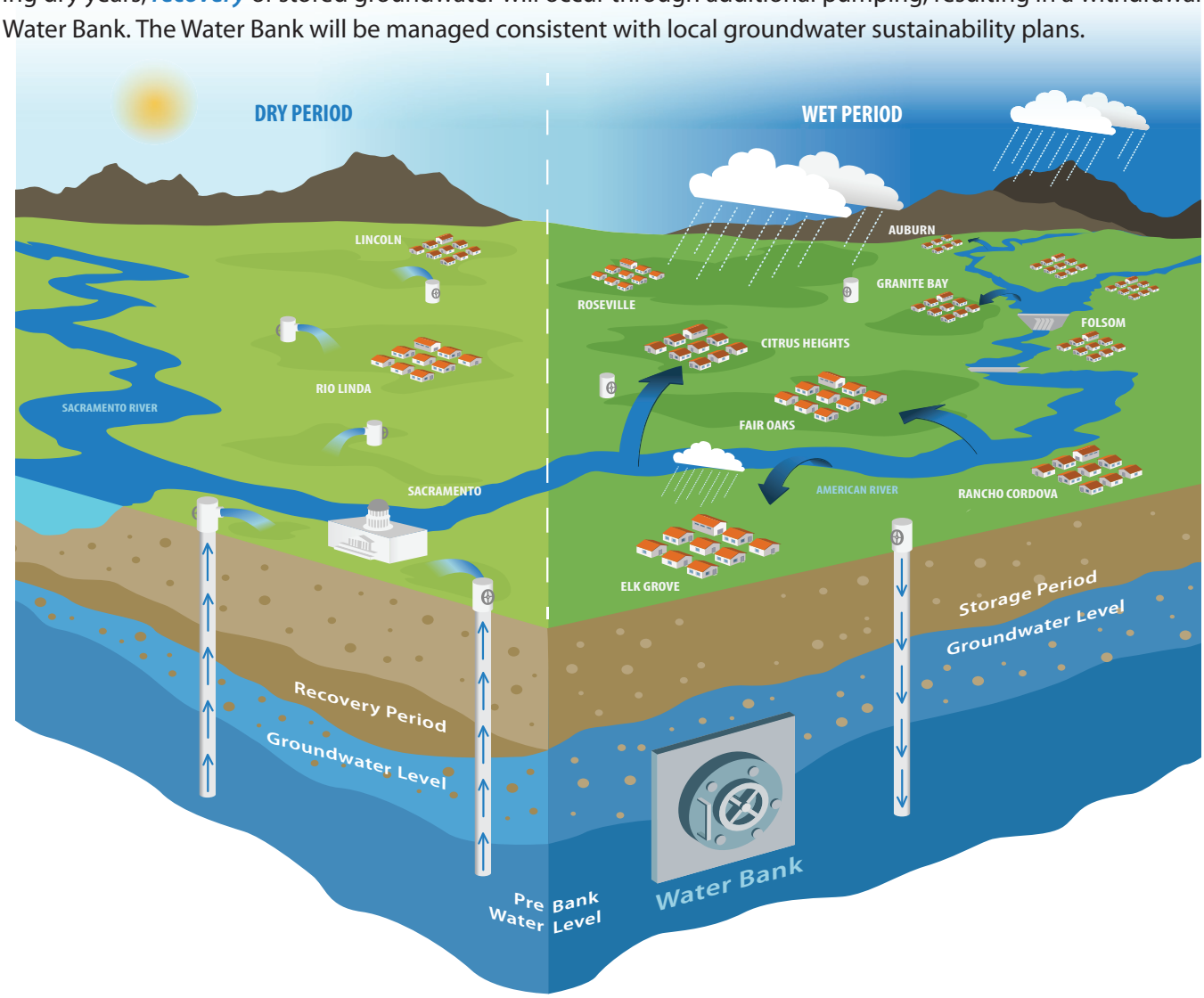
In a future with climate change, temperatures are projected to increase 5 to 6 degrees by 2070, precipitation will fall as rain rather than snow, and snowmelt runoff will peak earlier in season. This will have significant impacts on Folsom Reservoir and the region's water resources. (**More information on specific changes is available in the American River Basin Study fact sheet**.)

The Water Bank *will provide more opportunities to capture and store excess water when it's available. This will be critical in the future as wet years are projected to decrease from two in every three years to only one in every three years.*



How the Water Bank Works

The Water Bank will operate by coordinating the use of surface water and groundwater. When surface water supplies are plentiful, water providers in the region will draw more water from Folsom Lake or local rivers and use it to offset existing demand for groundwater. This effectively increases groundwater in ***storage***, resulting in a deposit in the Water Bank. During dry years, ***recovery*** of stored groundwater will occur through additional pumping, resulting in a withdrawal from the Water Bank. The Water Bank will be managed consistent with local groundwater sustainability plans.



Storage and Recovery Potential

The groundwater basin of the American River Basin acts as an ***underground reservoir with available space to store an estimated 1.8 million acre-feet of water, which is almost twice the volume of Folsom Lake.*** During a wet year, local water providers could store up to about 60,000 acre-feet of water in the Water Bank using existing facilities. During a dry year, much of that stored groundwater could be recovered. Potential facility improvements over the next decade could increase the region's storage and recovery capacities by more than 50 percent. As an additional benefit, facility improvements can be accomplished stepwise based on available funding.

Operation of the Water Bank will help relieve flood control pressure on Folsom Reservoir, preserve cold water for the benefit of the environment, and increase supplies available for the environment and downstream communities beyond the region during dry conditions.

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For more information on the Sacramento Regional Water Bank visit: ***rwah2o.org***