

# Tucson Water

## Where does it come from?

Paul Garde, Valencia Middle School, Tucson, AZ, Earth Camp for Educators 2011



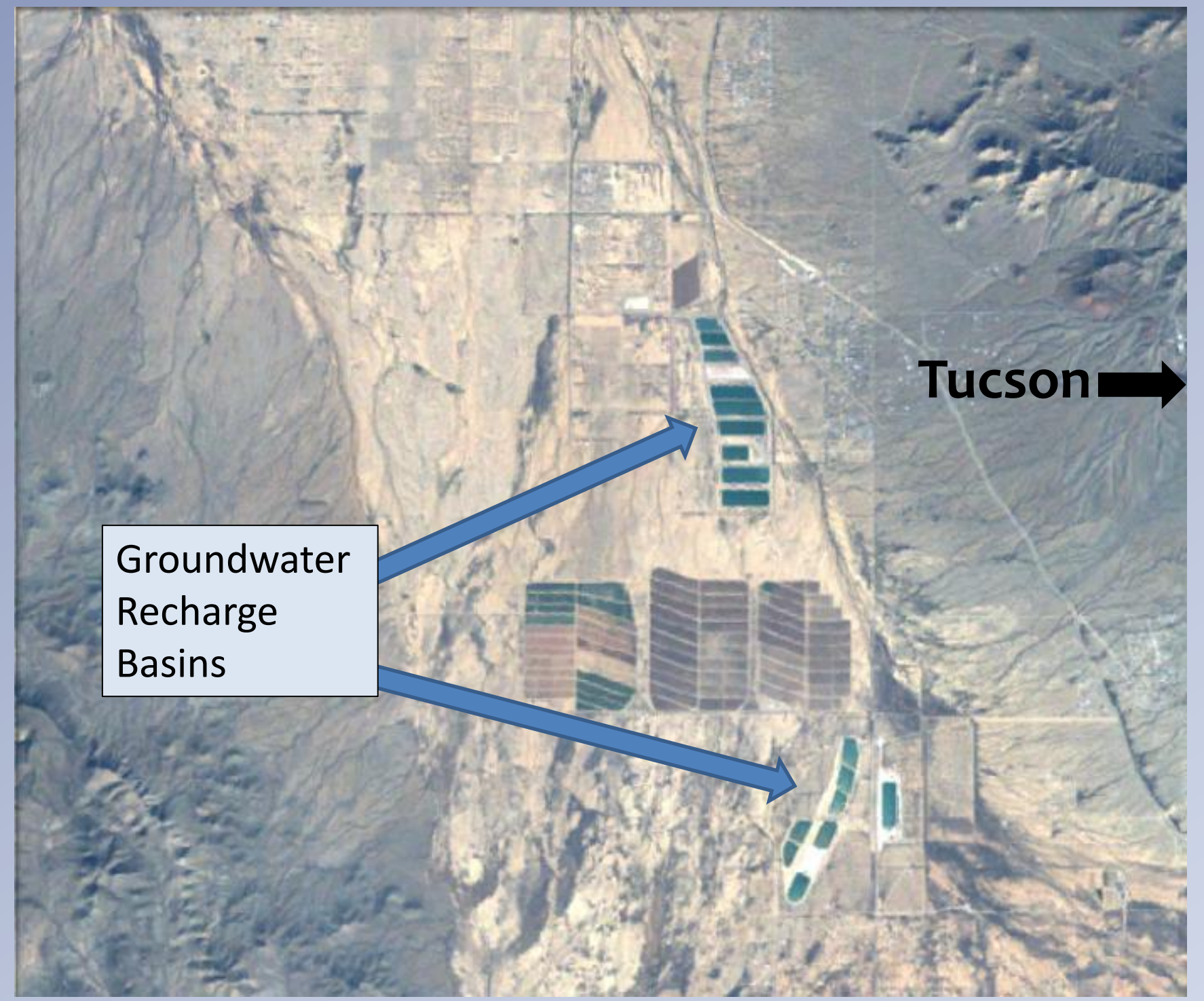
The Power of Perspective

Artist's view of a U.S. Landsat satellite. Credits: NASA.

When we turn on the tap in Tucson, the water we get comes out of the ground. This groundwater comes from two sources: local precipitation (rain and snow) and the Colorado River



Snow on the Santa Catalina Mountains. Recent and ancient snowmelt seeps into our aquifers underground.



Water is pumped from the Colorado River and delivered to Tucson via the Central Arizona Project. This water is used to “recharge” the groundwater in the aquifer. River water is pumped into large settling basins in Avra Valley, some of which can be seen from the Desert Museum.

Approximately half of Tucson’s water supply comes from the Colorado River. This supply is considered “renewable,” although prolonged drought could reduce its availability. As inhabitants of a desert city, we can improve water security through water conservation measures such as:

- Using native plants in our landscaping
- Installing water-saving fixtures
- Harvesting rainwater
- Using reclaimed water

