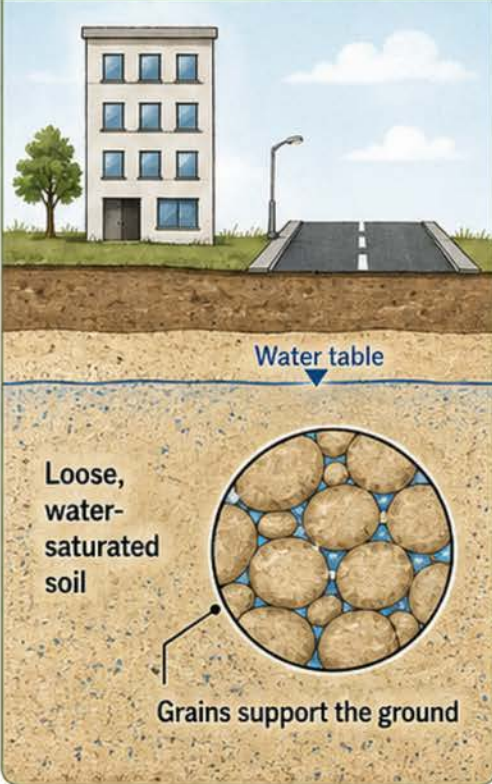


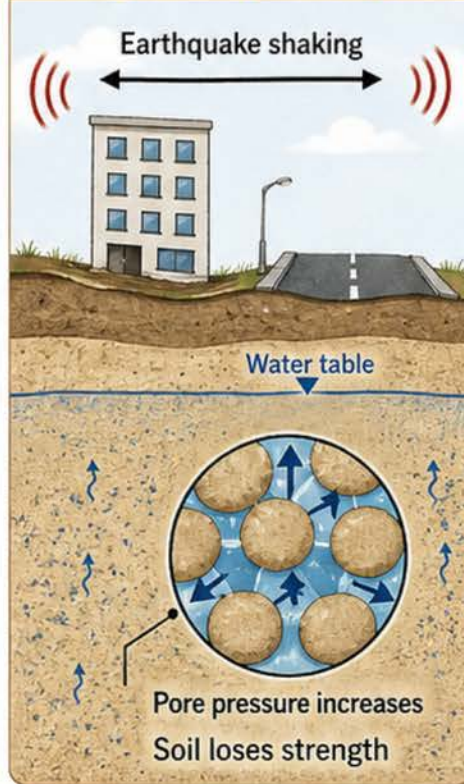
# What Is Liquefaction?

Loose, water-saturated sandy or silty soil can temporarily lose strength during earthquake shaking.

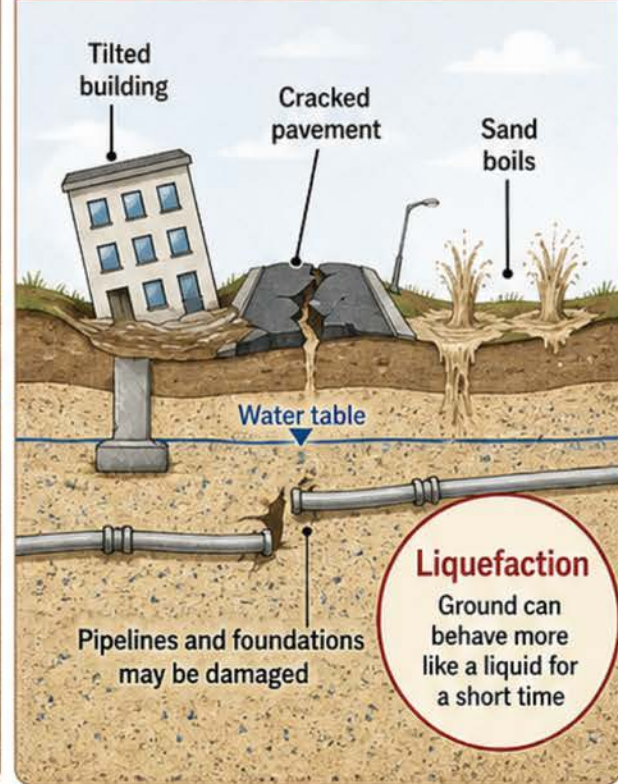
## 1 Before shaking



## 2 During shaking



## 3 After liquefaction



## How liquefaction works

### 1 Water in pore spaces



### 2 Earthquake shaking



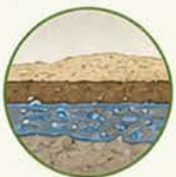
### 3 Pore pressure increases



### 4 Temporary loss of strength



## Where it is most likely



More likely in loose, young, water-saturated sediments

### Near rivers



### Coasts



### Ports



### Filled land



## Policy takeaway:

Liquefaction can damage buildings and lifelines even where slopes are gentle. Building codes, port planning, bridge design, utility siting, and emergency planning should account for where loose, water-saturated soils are present.