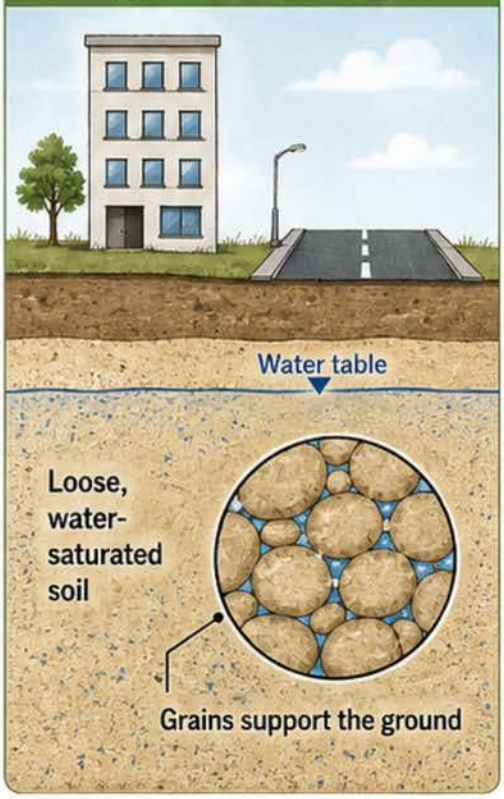
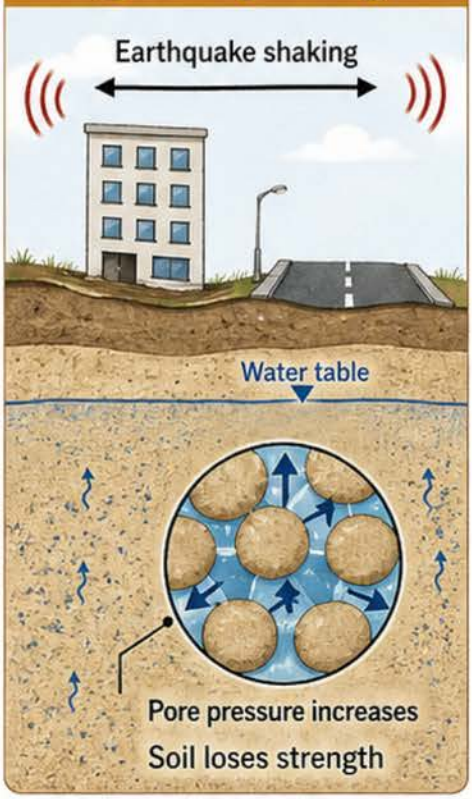
What Is Liquefaction?

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

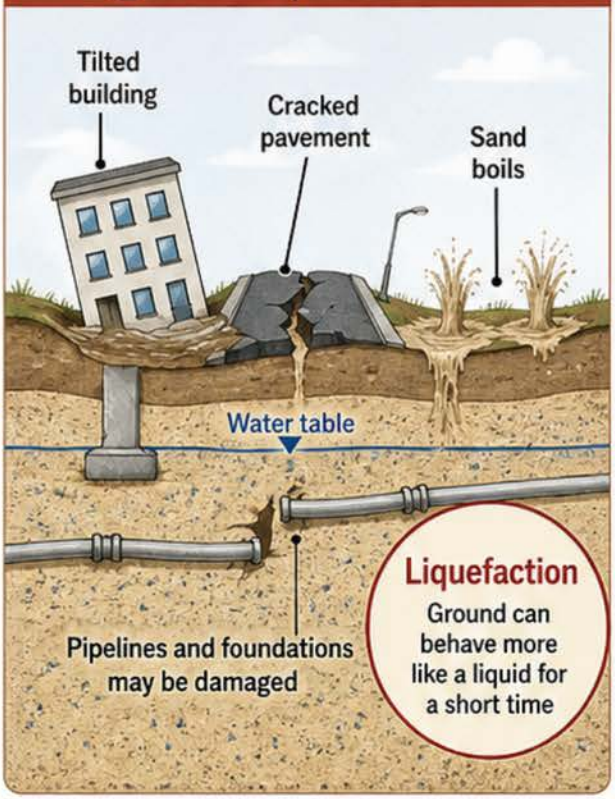
1 Before shaking



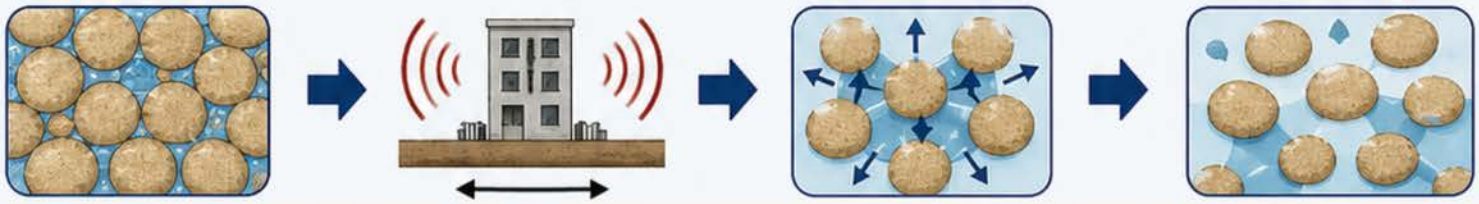
2 During shaking



3 After liquefaction



How liquefaction works



Where it is most likely

More likely in loose, young, water-saturated sediments

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.