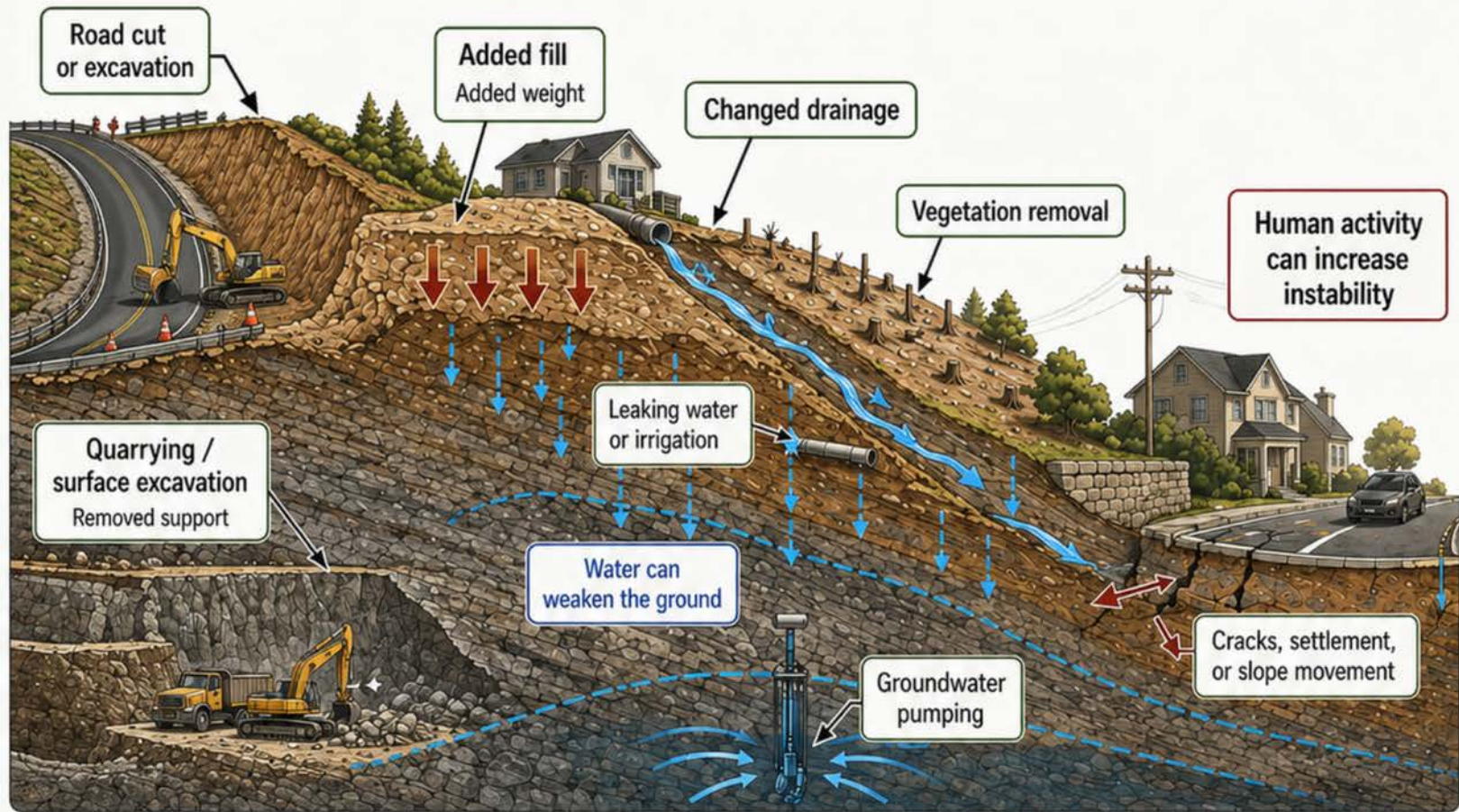


# How Human Activity Can Destabilize Land

Human actions can change the forces, water, and materials that control land stability.



**1 Before disturbance**

Stable slope with natural vegetation and drainage.

**2 Human modification**

Grading, fill, drainage changes, water addition, or excavation.

**3 Reduced stability**

Cracks, settlement, and slope movement increase risk.



**Policy takeaway:** Land instability is not always natural. Permitting, grading, drainage standards, vegetation management, mining oversight, and groundwater management all affect how human activity increases or reduces risk.