

Abstract and introduction:

Is it possible to somehow clarify the difference between what is meant by precondition vs. prepare? It seems that precondition refers to the geologic structure that leads to water and associated pore pressure accumulation. That then leaves a reader wondering what is meant by prepare and whether that is redundant?

Please change low-permeable to low permeability. Please ensure that references to permeability or hydraulic conductivity are consistent throughout the manuscript.

Fig1a: Please clarify in the caption why the geologic profile has the 2D shape that it does. Is it meant to be 2D or simply distorted to represent a slope?

L489: In dry locations?

L509: Correct to “at depths too deep for tree roots”

L512: Is it possible to be more specific about what is meant by “low” or “high” saturation levels and distinguish between thickness of water saturation (i.e. height of water table) vs water saturation at a given depth?