Levee seepage is when water moves away from the river channel, either below or through the levee and surrounding land surface (see diagram below). Two main factors contribute to seepage:

- high water pressure within the river (such as during periods when the river is near flood-stage), and
- pervious earth material within and underlying the levee.

The combination of high water pressure and pervious material can be evident in sand boils and water seepage on the land-side of the levee. Under severe conditions, the clay blanket on the land side may be ruptured and the increased flow of the under-seeping water undermines the levee, causing the levee to breach or collapse.

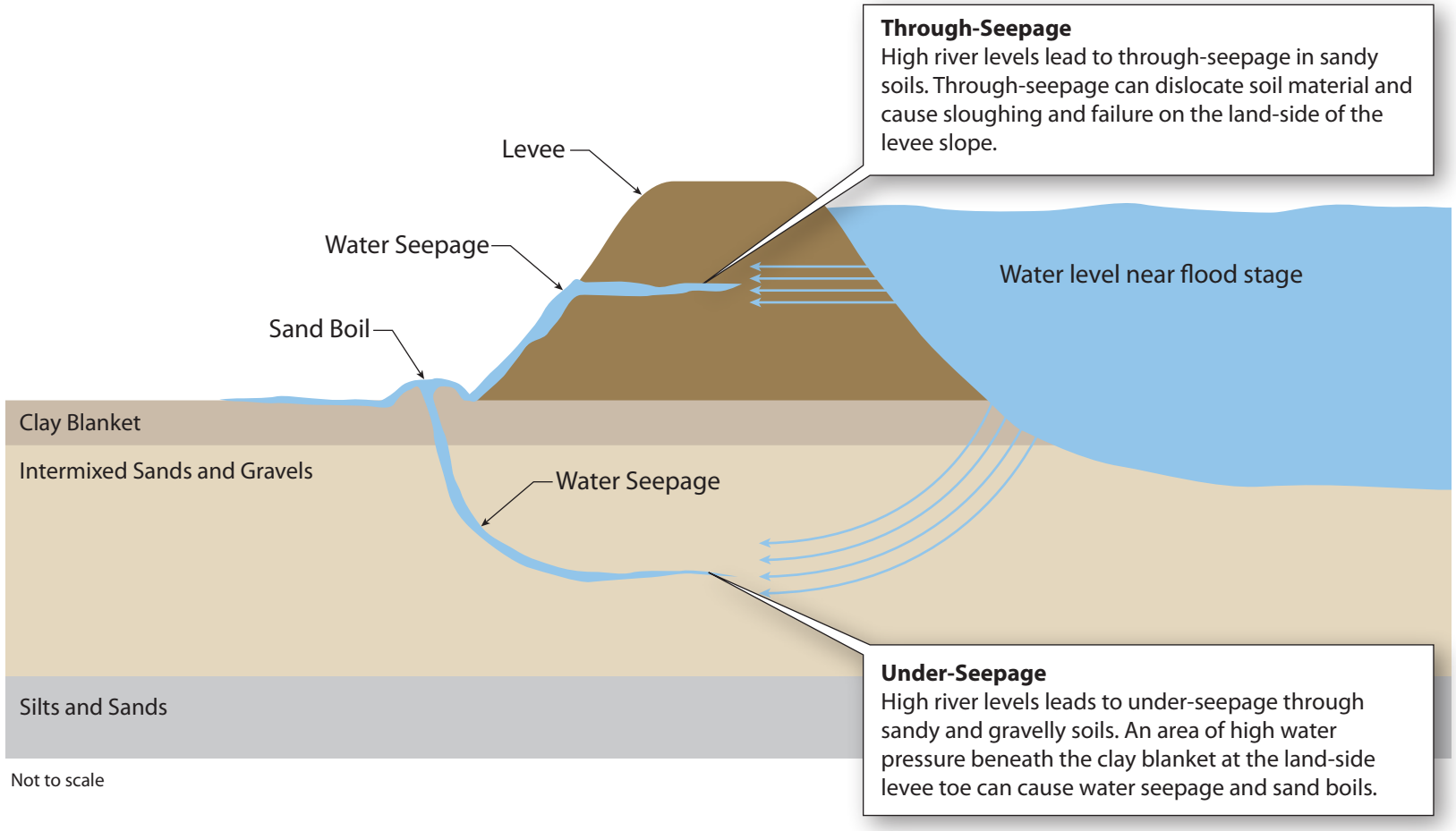


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**Figure 1-2**
**Levee Seepage**

## Concept

Water pressure is contained and dispersed by a thickened soil layer.

## Details

- Berm is typically one-fourth the height of the levee.
- Berm may extend up to 80' from the levee.
- Landside toe of berm would include a toe ditch.

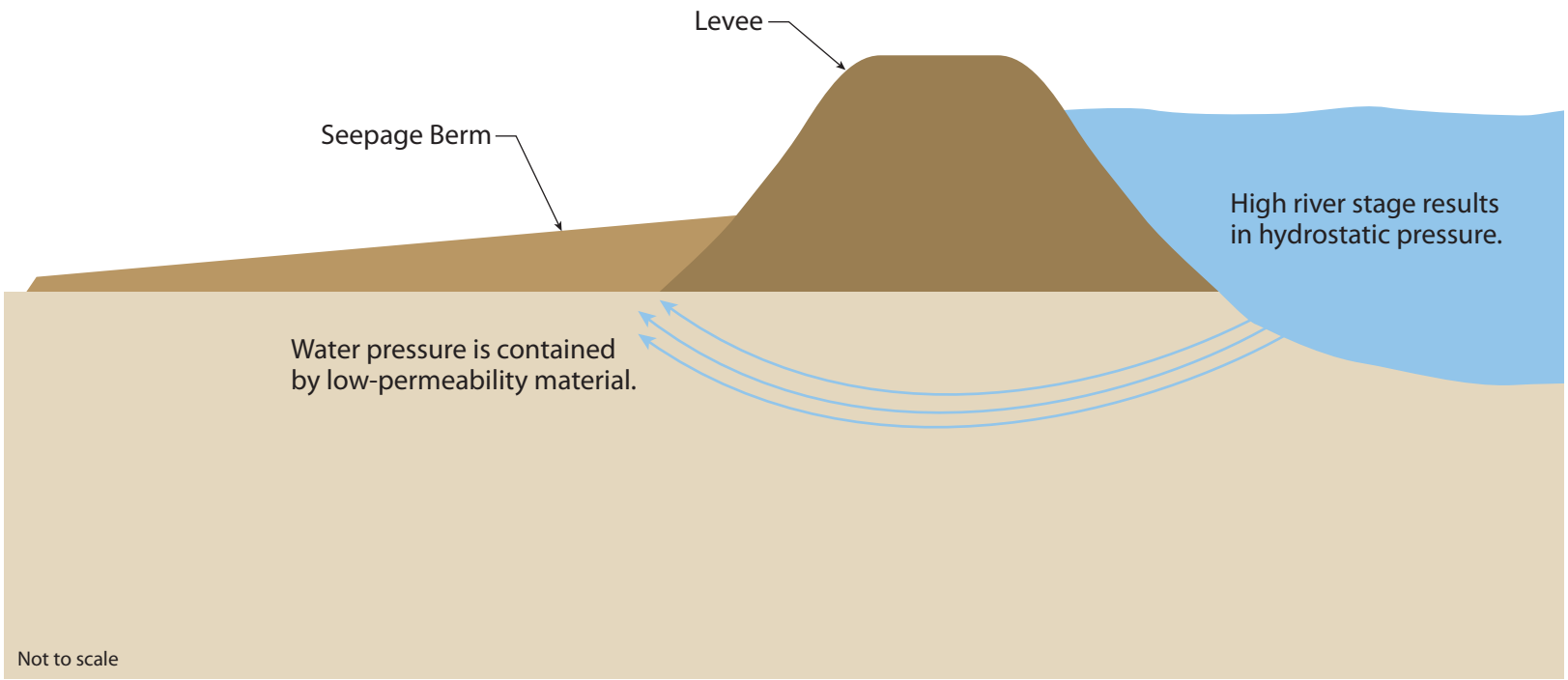


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**Figure 2-2**
**Seepage Berm**