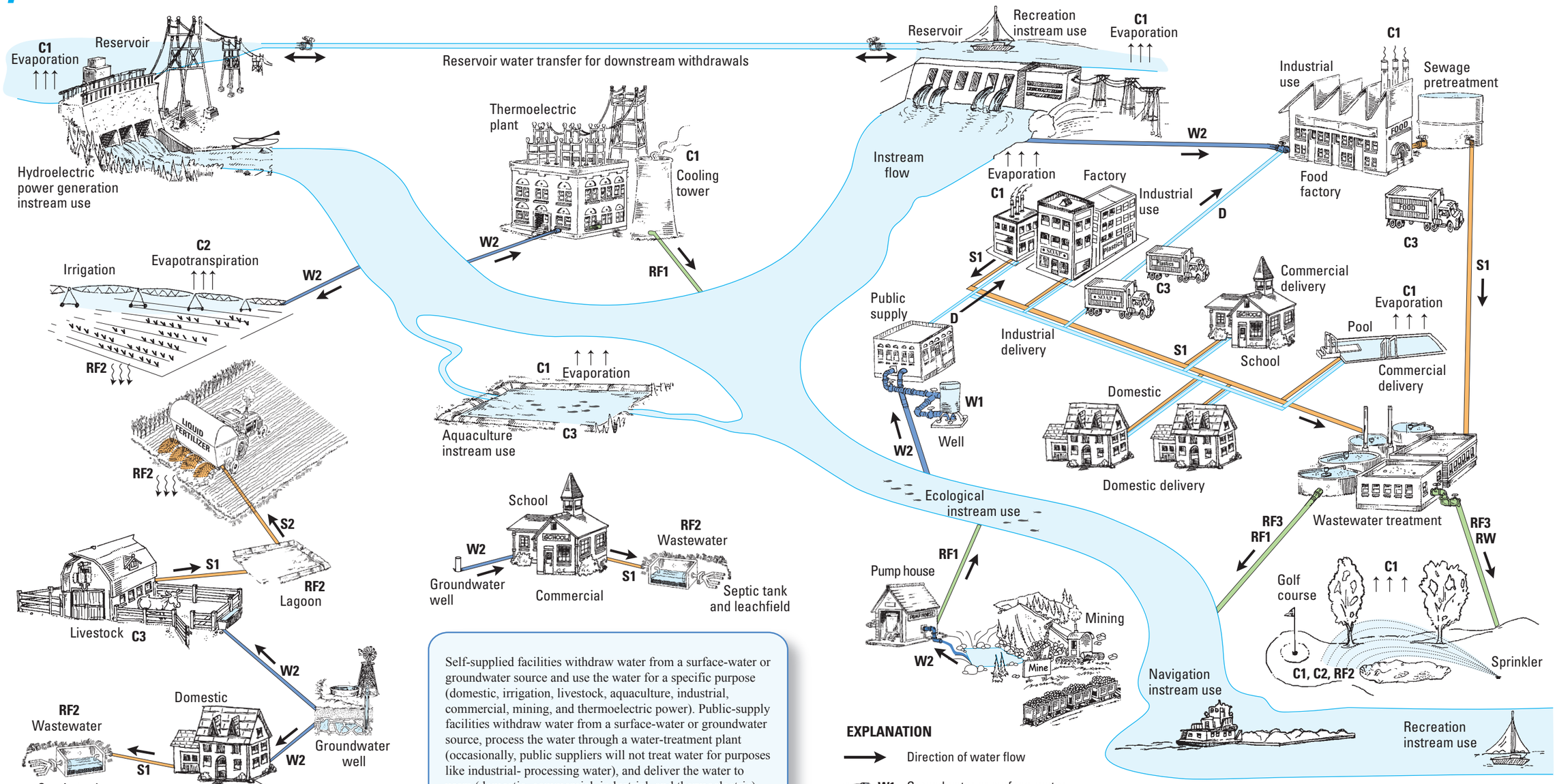
Components of water use – water withdrawals, deliveries, releases, return flow, and reclaimed water



Self-supplied facilities withdraw water from a surface-water or groundwater source and use the water for a specific purpose (domestic, irrigation, livestock, aquaculture, industrial, commercial, mining, and thermoelectric power). Public-supply facilities withdraw water from a surface-water or groundwater source, process the water through a water-treatment plant (occasionally, public suppliers will not treat water for purposes like industrial- processing water), and deliver the water to users (domestic, commercial, industrial, and thermoelectric). During use, some water may be incorporated into products, evaporated, evapotranspired, or consumed (collectively referred to as "consumptive use"). The remaining water is released into a septic system or a wastewater-collection system. After wastewater treatment, the water is returned to a surface-water or groundwater resource or released to a reclaimed water-use facility.

EXPLANATION

→	Direction of water flow
W1	Groundwater or surface-water withdrawals by a public supply
W2	Groundwater or surface-water withdrawals by a self-supplied water user
D	Delivery of water from public-supply system
S1	Release of wastewater into wastewater-collection system after use (sewer)
S2	Movement of wastewater to a point of use
RF1	Return flow to surface water
RF2	Return flow to groundwater
RF3	Return flow from a wastewater-treatment plant
RW	Delivery of reclaimed wastewater for use
C1	Consumptive use from evaporation
C2	Consumptive use from evapotranspiration
C3	Consumptive use from product incorporation

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