

Table 2.--Generalized columnar section showing the geologic units and their water-bearing characteristics

System	Series	Geologic unit and map symbol	Lithologic character	Maximum thickness (feet)	Water-bearing character
QUATERNARY 63-47	Recent	Dune sand Qs	Well-sorted, loose, windblown sand. Composed chiefly of quartz grains.	0-5	Unit not a source of water to wells; deposits occur above the saturated zone.
	Pleistocene(?) and Recent	Flood-basin deposits Qb	Relatively impermeable silt and clay interbedded with some moderately to poorly permeable sand layers that interfinger with and are age equivalent of the younger alluvium.	50 [±]	Probably not important as a source of water to wells; may yield sufficient supplies for domestic and stock use. Quality of water may be inferior.
		Younger alluvium Qya	Complex of interstratified and discontinuous beds of unsorted to fairly well sorted clay, silt, sand, and gravel, comprising the materials beneath the alluvial fans in the valley and stream channels of Recent age. Interfingers with flood-basin and lake deposits.	0-100	Where saturated is very permeable. However is largely unsaturated and probably not important as a source of water to wells; may yield sufficient supplies for domestic and stock use. Serves as a conduit for recharge to water bodies in older units.
	Pleistocene	Terrace deposits Qt	Poorly sorted and poorly bedded sand, and gravel and some clay. May be cemented. Occurs adjacent to existing stream channels.	0-50	Unit not important as a source of water to wells; deposits above zone of saturation.
		Older alluvium Qoa	Poorly sorted lenticular deposits of clay, silt, sand, and gravel. May be loosely consolidated to cemented. Crops out in eastern and southwestern parts of area, probably represents older alluvial-fan and related deposits.	200	Moderately to highly permeable. Together with underlying Tulare and continental deposits undifferentiated, yields moderate to large quantities of water.
	TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY(?)	Pliocene and Pleistocene(?)	Tulare Formation QPt	Poorly sorted lenticular deposits of gypsiferous clay, silt, sand, and gravel derived predominantly from the Coast Ranges. Contains the Corcoran Clay Member, a persistent and extensive stratum of diatomaceous silty clay.	2,200 [±]
Continental deposits undifferentiated QTC			Poorly sorted lenticular deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel derived from the Sierra Nevada. Predominantly fine grained in outcrops; upper beds are brown in color and basal beds are blue to bluish-green. May be cemented in subsurface. Lower part interfingers with upper part of marine rocks.	2,200 [±]	Moderately to highly permeable; yields moderate to large quantities of water to wells. Together with the Tulare Formation and overlying older alluvium is the major source of ground water in area.
TERTIARY	Miocene	Marine rocks, Tm	Well-consolidated to loosely consolidated shale, siltstone, sandstone, conglomerate, and some volcanic ash.	3,000 [±]	Very poorly permeable to permeable. Yields moderate to large quantities of water to wells in the vicinity of Richgrove area. Locally contains highly mineralized water.
	Eocene(?) to Miocene	Nonmarine sedimentary rocks Tc	Poorly sorted, consolidated, coarse sandstone and conglomerate with interbedded greenish shale and a few strata of volcanic ash.	850 [±]	Poorly permeable. Sandstone and conglomerate beds locally yield sufficient quantities of water for domestic and stock use.
PRE-TERTIARY		Basement complex pTu	Igneous rocks which range in composition from granite to gabbro. Metamorphic rocks which include crystalline limestone, quartzite, schist, and gneiss.	---	Largely impermeable; fractures, faults, and joints may yield sufficient water for domestic and stock use.