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Interactive comment on "Carbon isotopes of dissolved inorganic carbon reflect utilization of different carbon sources by microbial communities in two limestone aquifer assemblages" *by* Martin E. Nowak et al.

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Dear referee,

Thank you for handling our manuscript. I would like to send you answers to your comments. The comments were constructive and helpful. We improved our manuscript where it was necessary and clarified and dispelled reservations where it was possible.

Comment 1: The objectives were clarified in the introduction. We think that the descriptions of CO2 chemistry in the aquifer are necessary to understand the overall scope of the paper for readers which are not familiar with the topic.

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Discussion paper

Comment 2: The geological setting of the area is precisely described in the paper of Kohlhepp et al., which is cited several times in our manuscript. The reader is referred to this paper in order to get a better insight to the geological setting of our study site. We think therefore that it is not necessary to include a geological map to our manuscript.

Comment 3: We discussed the potential impact of land use on DIC isotopes in our aquifer (P19L23ff). However, our conclusions remain somewhat hypothetical, because of a lack of data. More data, like 3H measurements would help, because they could give more information about the content of young waters in aquifers with low 14C values. However, such measurements could not be conducted in our study and remain a task for the future investigations.

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