

***Interactive comment on* “Technical note: an alternative approach to laboratory benchmarking of saltwater intrusion in coastal aquifers” by Elena Crestani et al.**

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The manuscript – technical note – presents a laboratory facility to investigate processes of saltwater intrusion in coastal aquifers. The aim is to provide benchmark measurements using different techniques as an aid for the testing of numerical models. The detailed review by Referee #1 raises a set of serious concerns, which focus mostly on the lack of novelty and new insights in the manuscript. The referee notes that (i) sand tank models have already been used extensively to provide data for testing of numerical models, and (ii) the current manuscript only confirms that such sand tank models can be used, in principle, in this capacity. The referee also doubts the value

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and reliability of the ERT data, as well as detailing other significant criticisms. After careful reading of the manuscript, I must concur with the referee. The manuscript does not offer significant new methodologies or insights. Even with revision to address some of the technical aspects, this major concern will not be addressed. I must therefore, unfortunately, decline publication of this manuscript in HESS.

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