

JIM & PEGGY SCHAEFER, SAN JOAQUIN HILLS RANCH – RESERVOIRS, Kern County

Jim & Peggy Schaefer receive nonhazardous oil field production wastewater in unlined reservoirs at their San Joaquin Hills Ranch. The oil field production wastewater originates from SOC Resources, Inc. leases in the Mount Poso Oil Field. Oil field production wastewater from SOC Resources, Inc. is piped via the “Schaefer Pipeline” to reservoirs on the San Joaquin Hills Ranch; reservoirs on the San Joaquin Hills Ranch subsequently discharge to “Cawelo Reservoir C” (owned and operated by the Cawelo Water District). Wastewater discharged to “Cawelo Reservoir C” is mixed with other fresh water and distributed to downstream users for irrigation. To achieve compliance with Regional Board policy and State regulations, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) are being issued which contain a Monitoring and Reporting Program. The facility is located on the east side of the Tulare Lake Basin, approximately seventeen miles north of the City of Bakersfield. Land within the immediate area is used for oil production, cattle grazing, and agriculture. The discharge of oil field production wastewater to reservoirs on the San Joaquin Hills Ranch is consistent with Basin Plan policy salinity limits. Aquifers underlying the facility are confined and not in hydraulic communication with the ground surface. The regional aquifer is 1800 feet below ground surface. The Order finds the discharge is exempt from the requirements of Title 27. (RKW)