Jim and Peggy Schaefer (hereafter Discharger) own and operate a six-mile pipeline (Schaefer Pipeline) and a number of holding reservoirs where oil production wastewater is discharged at the San Joaquin Hills Ranch. The Schaefer Pipeline was constructed 25 years ago. The Discharger’s Ranch is located in Sections 21, 22, 27, 32, 33, 34, T26S, R27E, and Sections 3, 5, 9, 16, T27S, R27E, MDB&M, Kern County. The facility is approximately seventeen miles north of the City of Bakersfield.

Oil production wastewater is received from SOC Resources, Inc., the current operator of the Jones Lease, in the Mount Poso Oil Field, Kern County. Wastewater enters the Schaefer Pipeline from the Jones Lease and is discharged first to the San Joaquin Hills Ranch, where it is stored in holding reservoirs. Wastewater from the holding reservoirs is then discharged to Cawelo Reservoir “C,” which is owned and operated by the Cawelo Water District. The Cawelo Water District mixes the wastewater with other fresh water for agricultural distribution. On average, 1300 gallons a minute (1.87 mgd) of produced wastewater is discharged to Cawelo Reservoir “C.”

Wastewater discharged at the San Joaquin Hills Ranch is not regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). To achieve compliance with current Regional Board policy and State regulations, WDRs are being issued and will incorporate a monitoring and reporting program.

The climate is hot, with dry summers and mild winters. Available weather data indicates the average annual precipitation is 7.5 inches. Available evaporation pan data indicates that the average annual Class A pan evaporation is 64.7 inches. Two 100-year flood plains exist on the San Joaquin Hills Ranch.

The Ranch is located on a gently dipping homoclinal sequence of Miocene marine through Pleistocene fluvial sediments derived from the weathering of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The Kern River (Pleistocene) Formation outcrops at the surface, and is underlain by the Etchegoin (Pliocene) and Vedder (Miocene) Formations. The Vedder Formation is the source of produced wastewater. There are two known active faults that occur near the facility.

Aquifers underlying the facility are confined and not in hydraulic communication with the ground surface. The outcropping Kern River Formation is approximately 900 feet thick and consists largely of sandstones and conglomerates that are interbedded with lenticular silts, clays, and mudstones. The regional aquifer is the Basal Etchegoin Sand found at 1800 feet below ground surface. The beneficial uses of the underlying groundwater are municipal, domestic, industrial, and agricultural supply. There are 6 water wells on the Ranch.

The discharge of produced wastewater to reservoirs on the Ranch should not affect the water quality of the underlying aquifers. Wastewater from the reservoirs meets Basin Plan policies regarding the disposal of oil field wastewater in unlined sumps overlying groundwater with existing and future probable beneficial uses.