SOC Resources, Inc., is a California corporation that owns and operates crude oil production wells at the Jones Lease in the SE ¼ of Section 29, T26S, R28E, MDB&M, Mount Poso Oil Field, Kern County. The facility is approximately seventeen miles north of the City of Bakersfield. There are 24 leases, including the Jones Lease, that discharge a total of approximately 31,500 barrels/day (1.32 mgd) of produced wastewater to the Jones Reservoir on the lease. The facility has been in operation since at least 1965.

The majority of wastewater that enters the Jones Reservoir is discharged to the Schaefer Pipeline. Wastewater from the Schaefer Pipeline 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.

Wastewater discharged at the Jones Lease is currently not regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). To achieve compliance with current Regional Board policy and State regulations, WDRs are being issued and will designate the facility classification, and 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. The facility is not within a 100-year flood plain.

The facility 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.

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. The nearest water well is approximately 5 to 6 miles west of the facility.

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