SOC Resources, Inc., is a California corporation that owns and operates crude oil production wells at the Vedder-USL Lease in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 28, T26S, R28E, MDB&M, Mount Poso Oil Field, Kern County. The facility is approximately eighteen miles north of the City of Bakersfield. Approximately 3,505 barrels/day (147,210 gallons/day) of produced wastewater is currently being discharged to one unlined sump on the lease. Solar evaporation and percolation take place in the sump, but much of the wastewater from the sump is piped to the Jones Reservoir on the Jones Lease. The facility has been in operation since at least 1940. The Vedder-USL Lease is a United States Federal Government minerals fee property regulated by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

Wastewater discharged at the 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 sump should not affect the water quality of the underlying aquifers. Wastewater from the sump meets Baseline Plan policies regarding the disposal of oil field wastewater in unlined sumps overlying groundwater with existing and future probable beneficial uses.