SAN ARDO & McCool Ranch Oil Fields Proposed Aquifer Exemption

The Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources has a joint plan with the State Water Resources Control Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to make sure that potentially potable water in oil zones is protected under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Science and data show that these two oil field aquifers are naturally oily and briny, and are separated from potable water by at least 900 feet of impermeable material. Drinking water will not be at risk if the U.S. EPA ultimately determines to expand existing aquifer exemptions.

Oil Field

Naturally occurring, undrinkable, oily water is pumped to the surface. The oil is separated from the water. The water is then injected back into the original geologic zone.

Rock Layer Cutaway

- Fresh Water
- Impermeable Rock Layer
- Naturally Occurring Oily Water Zones (unsuitable for drinking)
- Granitic Basement
- Lombardi Injection Zone
- Aurignac Injection Zone

Division of Oil, Gas, & Geothermal Resources
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION