PROPOSED AQUIFER EXEMPTION FOR OIL FIELDS

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 zones recommended for aquifer exemptions contain water that is naturally oily and briny, and not suitable for drinking or agricultural use.

OIL FIELD
Naturally occurring, undrinkable, oily water is pumped to surface. The oil is separated from the water. The water is then returned to the oil-bearing zone.

ROCK LAYER CUTAWAY

Rock and material between injection zone and groundwater

NATURALLY OCCURRING OILY WATER ZONE (unsuitable for drinking)

BASEMENT ROCK

NON-MUNICIPAL GROUNDWATER

CALIFORNIA
Department of Conservation
Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources