HOW WATER IS PUMPED UP WITH OIL AND RETURNED TO THE GROUND

OIL WELLS

- Oil is separated from water, sand, and other naturally occurring material

INJECTION WELL

- Produced water with oil removed is returned to the geologic zone from which it originated

Oil and water pumped up together

Non-Municipal Groundwater

Protective Cement

SEALING CAP ROCK

IMPERMEABLE ROCK LAYER

- Fluids cannot migrate above the oil reservoir

Once the oil has been removed, water is returned to the geologic formation (aquifer) it came from. The water is cleaner, but still not drinkable.

NOT TO SCALE

California Department of Conservation
Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources