

Peer Review Plan

Date: 4/30/2020 (Updated 11/4/2020)

Source Center: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
California Water Science Center
6000 J Street, Placer Hall
Sacramento, CA 95819

Title: Groundwater Quality of Aquifers Overlying the Oxnard Oil Field, Ventura County, California.

Subject and Purpose: This product is a study by the USGS in cooperation with the California State Water Resources Control Board's Oil and Gas Regional Monitoring Program (RMP). The study area was selected because groundwater resources are intensively used and in physical proximity to oil production activities and oil-bearing formations. The objective of the study was to use multiple lines of evidence including the local hydrogeologic context, the oil field geology, infrastructure, and production information. In addition, the study used geochemical end-member analyses to determine the occurrence of water and gases from oil-bearing formations in groundwater and possible sources and pathways. This work has been the subject of past management briefing correspondence and a coordinated media plan by the USGS and the California State Water Resources Control Board. This product will be released in the outside scientific journal, *Science of the Total Environment*.

Impact of Dissemination: This information product is considered by the USGS to be Influential Scientific Information.

Timing of Review (Including Deferrals): April - September 2020. Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: Peer review will be by individual letters. USGS will select the peer reviewers in accordance with the requirements [Survey Manual chapter 502.3—Fundamental Science Practices: Peer Review](#). Anonymous peer reviewers will also be selected by the journal editor.

Expected Number of Reviewers: Anticipates at least three peer reviewers.

Requisite Expertise: Ground-water quality interpretation, groundwater flow, and processes that have the potential to affect groundwater quality near oil fields.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No opportunity for public comment is formally incorporated by the USGS for this product.

Agency Contact: peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov