Supporting Information for

Occurrence and Sources of Radium in Groundwater Associated with Oil Fields in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, California

Peter B. McMahon^{1,*}, Avner Vengosh², Tracy A. Davis³, Matthew K. Landon³, Rebecca L.

Tyne⁴, Michael T. Wright³, Justin T. Kulongoski³, Andrew G. Hunt¹, Peter H. Barry^{4,5}, Andrew

J. Kondash², Zhen Wang², Chris J. Ballentine⁴

¹U.S. Geological Survey, Lakewood, Colorado

²Division of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

³U.S. Geological Survey, San Diego, California

⁴Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

⁵now at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts

*Corresponding author: Phone: 303-236-6899; e-mail: <u>pmcmahon@usgs.gov</u>

This PDF file includes:

Section S1, Study Area Description (pages S2-S4)
Section S2, Analysis of Radium in Sediment (pages S4-S5)
Section S3, Additional Analysis of Groundwater Mixing with Oil-Field Water (pages S5–S7)
Reference (pages S7–S12)
Supplementary Figures S1–S7 (pages S13–S16)
Supplementary Tables S1–S3, S5 (pages S17–S20)

Other Supporting Information for this manuscript includes the following:

Table S4. Chemical and ancillary data for wells. (.xlsx)

Section S1. Study Area Description

The study area is in Kern County, in the southern San Joaquin Valley (SJV) (Figure 1). The SJV is part of the Central Valley of California, a 700-km-long basin containing >7500 m of Mesozoic through Cenozoic-aged sediments.¹ From 2014 to 2017, water samples were collected from 40 water wells located in, or near (within 5 km), the Fruitvale (FV), Lost Hills (LH), and South Belridge (SB) oil fields (Figure 1, Table S1). The water-bearing units sampled on the east side of the SJV around the FV oilfield, and the water-bearing units sampled on the west side of the valley around the LH and SB oilfields, are part of the Central Valley regional aquifer system. Aquifer sediments on the east and west sides of the valley are derived from different sources, but they generally grade into each other along the axis of the valley.²

In the FV oil field, located on the east side of the SJV, the sampled wells are screened in semi-consolidated gravel, sand, silt, and clay in late Miocene to Pleistocene fluvial deposits in the Kern River Formation (Figure S1).³ Those sediments were largely derived from granitic rocks in the Sierra Nevada to the east.⁴ The aquifer sediments are semi-confined to confined.³ The primary source of natural recharge to the aquifer is the Kern River, which flows across the southern part of the oil field (Figure 1). Depths to groundwater in the sampled water wells ranged from about 61 m to 79 m (median=71 m) (Table S1). Groundwater flow directions are generally to the west, southwest.³ The median depth to the bottom of perforations in the sampled water wells is 209 m, whereas the median depth to the top of perforations in FV oil wells is 1088 m.⁵ Sediments in the Kern River Formation and marine sediments in the underlying Etchegoin Formation are present between the deepest water wells and shallowest oil wells (completed in basal portions of the Etchegoin Formation) (Figure S1).⁶ The Macoma Claystone, within the basal portion of the Etchegoin Formation, generally serves as a hydraulic barrier between the oil

and water-bearing zones.⁶ Oil extraction in the FV oil field began in 1928.⁷ The oil field contains about 320 oil-production and injection wells that are listed as active or newly drilled.⁸ Oil production in the FV field is primarily from the Etchegoin, Chanac, and Santa Margarita Formations (Figure S1). From 1960 to 2017, about 87 million m³ of oil-field water were injected into those formations,⁸ primarily for water disposal.³

In the SB and LH oil fields, located on the west side of the SJV, the sampled wells are screened in sand, silt, and clay in Holocene/Pleistocene alluvium and fluvial, deltaic, to lacustrine deposits in the Tulare Formation (Pleistocene).⁹ The sediments were largely derived from marine rocks in the Temblor Range to the west.⁹ The aquifers are generally unconfined to semi-confined, except for water-bearing units in the Tulare Formation that are below the Corcoran Clay, which is an important confining layer on the west side of the SJV.² Natural sources of recharge are more limited on the west side of the SJV than on the eastside, but they include precipitation and stream flow in uplands to the west that infiltrates into the aquifers.² Depths to groundwater in the sampled water wells ranged from about 10 m to 121 m (median=69 m) (Table S1). Groundwater flow directions are generally to the northeast.² The median depths to the bottom of perforations in the sampled water wells are 199 m (LH) and 153 m (SB), whereas the median depths to the top of perforations in oil wells are 414 m (LH) and 326 m (SB).⁵ Within the LH and SB oil fields, the deepest water wells and shallowest oil wells are both completed in the Tulare Formation (Figure S1), although the Tulare oil wells in the vicinity of the sampled Tulare water wells are deeper than the water wells. In parts of LH and SB, the Amnicola, Tulare, and Corcoran Clays (deepest to shallowest) in the Tulare Formation could serve as confining layers between the oil wells and water wells.^{2,9} Nevertheless, the close vertical proximity of the wells indicates natural mixing between oil-field formation water and fresher groundwater could

occur. Oil extraction in the LH and SB oil fields began in the early 1910s.^{10,11} The number oilproduction and injection wells that are listed as active or newly drilled range from about 5,500 in LH to 11,700 in SB.⁸ Oil production is primarily from the Temblor, Monterey, Etchegoin, and Tulare Formations (Figure S1). From 1960 to 2017, about 435 million m³ (LH) and 1400 million m³ (SB) of oil-field water were injected into these formations.⁸ From 2014 to 2017 in LH, ~87% and ~13% of the injected water was for enhanced oil recover (EOR) and water disposal, respectively. From 2014 to 2017 in SB, ~56% and ~44% of the injected water was for EOR and water disposal, respectively.⁸

Section S2. Analysis of Radium in Sediment

Activities of ²²⁸Ra and ²²⁶Ra in aquifer sediment collected from the LH and SB boreholes (Figure 1) were measured using the method of Lauer et al. (ref 12). Briefly, the sediment was washed with deionized water to remove drilling mud and the >63- μ m fraction was retained for analysis. The retained fraction was dried (110°C) for 24 hours and ground to a diameter <5 mm. Dried and crushed sediment samples were packed in plastic Petri style dishes (6.5 cm diameter and 2 cm height) that were then sealed with electrical tape and coated in wax to prevent escape of ²²⁰Rn and ²²²Rn. Sealed samples were incubated for at least 21 days to allow ²²⁶Ra to reach secular equilibrium with ²²²Rn, ²¹⁴Bi, and ²¹⁴Pb; and for ²²⁸Ra to reach secular equilibrium with ²²⁸Ac. After incubation, samples were counted on a Canberra Broad Energy 5030 Germanium Gamma detector at Duke University. Samples were typically counted for 6 to 48 hours so counting errors (2 σ) were <10%. ²²⁶Ra activities were measured through the 911 keV energy peak of ²¹⁴Pb. ²²⁸Ra. Detector efficiencies were determined using a U-Th reference ore material (DL-1a) prepared by

the Canadian Certified Reference Materials Project that was packaged and incubated in a container identical to the samples. Background and efficiency checks were performed prior to and during the period of sample analysis. The data are listed in Table S5 and ref 13.

²²⁸Ra and ²²⁶Ra activities in the sediment range from 8.3 to 32.5 Bq/kg and 7.5 to 52.6 Bq/kg, respectively (Table S5). The Th and U contents of the sediments can be back calculated assuming secular equilibrium between ²²⁸Ra-²³²Th and ²²⁶Ra-²³⁸U, respectively, and applying these conversion factors: 1 Bq ²³²Th/kg = 245 μ g/kg Th; 1 Bq ²³⁸U/kg = 81 μ g/kg U. Based on those calculations, the Th and U contents of the sediments range from 2030 to 7960 μ g/kg and 608 to 4260 μ g/kg, respectively.

Section S3. Additional Analysis of Groundwater Mixing with Oil-Field Water

Based on the mixing analysis presented in the article, the high-Ra samples are grouped into 4 categories; (1) highly mixed, surface source of oil-field water (BG4a, BG7), (2) slightly mixed, subsurface source of oil-field water (LG3, LG9), (3) highly mixed, surface and subsurface sources of oil-field water (BG5), and (4) little or no mixing with oil-field water (LG2, LG6). Data for NH₄, DOC, VOCs, δ^2 H-CH₄, δ^{13} C-CH₄, and δ^{13} C-DIC provide additional understanding of mixing between groundwater and oil-field water in the seven Lost Hills and South Belridge samples with elevated ²²⁶Ra+²²⁸Ra activities.

Group 1 contains the two samples with the highest Ra activities in the South Belridge oil field, BG4a and BG7. Oil-field water in these samples is from unlined oil-field water disposal ponds upgradient from the wells. BG4a and BG7 contain substantially more DOC (39 and 29 mg/L, respectively) than other South Belridge groundwater that is unaffected by mixing with oil-field water (median=0.7 mg/L) (Figure S4), and both samples contain benzene (BG7 also

contains toluene), consistent with oil-field water. BG4a and BG7 both contain low concentrations of CH₄ and NH₄. Concentrations of CH₄ (0.16 to 1.25 mole %) and NH₄ (<0.01 to 0.24 mg N/L) in BG4a and BG7 are minor compared to the amounts in Belridge oil-field water (CH₄, 85 to 87 mole %) (NH₄, 118 to 460 mg N/L) (Figure S6B), even though the groundwater samples contain ~40 to 45% oil-field water. The discrepancy could be explained by CH₄ degassing and NH₄ oxidation in the open-air pond environment. NH₄ oxidation would produce NO₃. Both samples contain NO₃ (6.1 to 6.9 mg N/L), although some NO₃ produced by NH₄ oxidation could have been removed by denitrification in the anoxic groundwater (O₂ ≤0.2 mg/L).

Group 2 contains the two samples with the highest Ra activities in the LH oil field, LG3 and LG9. Oil-field water in these samples appears to be from subsurface sources rather than pond leakage. Unlike the samples affected by pond leakage, LG3 and LG9 contain high concentrations of CH₄ (33 to 79 mole %) and NH₄ (19.7 to 21.5 mg N/L) and no nitrate. δ^2 H-CH₄ and δ^{13} C-CH₄ values in both samples are essentially identical to thermogenic gas in Lost Hills oil-field water, whereas the isotopic composition of the small amount of CH₄ in BG7, which was affected by pond leakage, is more diagnostic of biogenic CH₄ from fermentation processes commonly associated with near-surface environments that has been affected by oxidation (Figure S6A). The presence of benzene and toluene in both samples also suggests mixing with oil-field water. LG3 and LG9 also have highly enriched δ^{13} C-DIC values like LH oil-field water (Figure S6B).

Group 3 consists of one sample from SB, BG5, that is ~0.5 km downgradient from an unlined disposal pond that operated from the 1950s until 2006. BG5 contains benzene. ³H and VOC data indicate some water in BG5 was in relatively recent contact with the land surface. BG5 contains the highest ³H concentration (0.6 TU) among the LH and SB groundwater

S6

samples, and it also contains methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) (0.27 μ g/L), a manufactured compound banned in California beginning in 2004.¹⁴ Like BG4a and BG7, BG5 contains elevated DOC (37 mg/L). Unlike BG4a and BG7, BG5 contains elevated CH₄ (24 mole %; isotopically like Belridge oil-field gas, Figure S6A) and NH₄ (18.4 mg N/L) concentrations, no nitrate, enriched δ^{13} C-DIC (Figure S6B), and large numbers of oil-production and injection wells and injection volumes within 500 m, like the Lost Hills samples affected by subsurface sources of oil-field water (Table S1). The data indicate BG5 could contain oil-field water from surface and subsurface sources.

Group 4 consists of two samples from LH, LG2 and LG6. Water-isotope, Cl, Br, and Li data indicate those samples contain little or no oil-field water, consistent with the low CH₄, NH₄, and DOC concentrations and absence of benzene and toluene in the samples. LG2 and LG6 also have depleted δ^{13} C-DIC values, like other regional groundwater unaffected by mixing with oil-field water (Figure S6B).

REFERENCES

- Scheirer, A. H.; Magoon, L. B. Age, distribution, and stratigraphic relationship of rock units in the San Joaquin Basin Province, California. Professional Paper 1713, Ch. 5; U.S. Geological Survey:VA, 2007.
- (2) Faunt, C. C. *Groundwater availability of the Central Valley aquifer*. Professional Paper 1766; U.S. Geological Survey:VA, 2009.
- (3) Wright, M. T.; McMahon, P. B.; Landon, M. K.; Kulongoski, J. T. Groundwater quality of a public supply aquifer in proximity to oil development, Fruitvale oil field, Bakersfield, California. *Appl. Geochem.* **2019**, 106 (1), 82–95.
- (4) Olson, H. C.; Miller, G. E.; Bartow, J. A. Stratigraphy, paleoenvironment and depositional setting of Tertiary sediments, southeastern San Joaquin Basin. In *Southeast San Joaquin Valley Field Trip, Kern County, California*; Bell, P., Ed.; Field Trip Guidebook 56, Part II:

Structure and Stratigraphy, Am. Assoc. Petrol. Geol. Pacific Section, Bakersfield, CA 1986, 18–55.

- (5) Davis, T. A.; Landon, M. K.; Bennett, G. L. Prioritization of oil and gas fields for regional groundwater monitoring based on a preliminary assessment of petroleum resource development and proximity to California's groundwater resources. Scientific Investigations Report 2018–5065; U.S. Geological Survey:VA, 2018.
- (6) Stephens, M. J.; Shimabukuro, D. H.; Gillespie, J. M.; Chang, W. Groundwater salinity mapping using geophysical log analysis within the Fruitvale and Rosedale Ranch oil fields, Kern County, California, USA *Hydrogeol. J.* **2019**, 27 (2), 731–746.
- (7) Preston, H. M., *Summary of operations, California oil fields*. Volume 16, California Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas; CA, 1931.
- (8) Oil & Gas Online Data. California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources: CA, 2018
 <u>http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Online_Data/Pages/Index.aspx</u>. (accessed January 28, 2019).
- (9) Kiser, S. C. Lithofacies of the Pleistocene to Recent sediments in western Kern County, California. *San Joaquin Geol. Soc.* **1988**, *7*, 14–21.
- (10) Land, P. E. *Lost Hills oil field*. TR32, California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas; CA, 1984.
- (11) Bowersox, J. R. Geology of the Belridge Diatomite, northern South Belridge field, Kern County, California. In *Structure, stratigraphy, and hydrocarbon occurrences of the San Joaquin Basin, California*; Kuespert, J. G., Reid, S. A., Eds.; Pacific Sections, SEPM and AAPG, Book 64 and Guidebook 65, 1990, pp 215–223.
- (12) Lauer, N. E.; Warner, N. R.; Vengosh, A. Sources of radium accumulation in stream sediments near disposal sites in Pennsylvania: Implications for disposal of conventional oil and gas wastewater. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2018**. *52* (3), 955–962.
- (13) U.S. Geological Survey, 2018. National Water Information System–Web Interface. https://dx.doi.org/10.5066/F7P55KJN. (accessed January 31, 2018)
- (14) Groundwater Information Sheet, Methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE). California Water Quality Control Board; CA, 2017.
 <u>https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/docs/coc_mtbe.pdf</u> (accessed December 14, 2018).
- (15) *California Oil & Gas Fields*. Volume 1–Central California; California Department of Conservation:Sacramento 1998.
- (16) Schwartz, D. E. Characterizing the lithology, petrophysical properties, and depositional setting of the Belridge diatomite, South Belridge field, Kern County, California. In *Studies* of the Geology of the San Joaquin Basin; Graham, S. A., Ed.; Pacific Section, SEPM 60, 1988, pp. 281–301.
- (17) Taylor, T. R.; Soule, C. H. Reservoir characterization and diagenesis of the Oligocene 64-Zone Sandstone, North Belridge field, Kern County, California. *Am. Assoc. Petrol. Geol. Bull.* **1993**, 77 (9), 1549–1566.

- (18) McMahon, P. B.; Kulongoski, J. T.; Vengosh, A.; Cozzarelli, I. M.; Landon, M. K.; Kharaka, Y. K.; Gillespie, J. M.; Davis, T. A. Regional patterns in the geochemistry of oilfield water, southern San Joaquin Valley, California, USA. *Appl. Geochem.* 2018, 98 (1), 127–140.
- (19) Gannon, R. S.; Saraceno, J. F.; Kulongoski, J. T.; Teunis, J. A.; Barry, P. H.; Tyne, R. L.; Kraus, T. E. C.; Hansen, A. M.; Qi, S. L. *Produced water chemistry data for the Lost Hills, Fruitvale, and North and South Belridge study areas, Southern San Joaquin Valley, California.* Data Release <u>https://doi.org/10.5066/F7X929H9</u>; U.S. Geological Survey:VA, 2018.
- (20) South Belridge Oil Field, South Wastewater Disposal Facility (SL0602990565). California State Water Resources Control Board:CA, 2019. <u>https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL0602990565</u> (accessed January 25, 2019).
- (21) Rozanski, K.; Araguás-Araguás, L.; Gonfiantini, R. Isotopic patterns in modern global precipitation. In *Climate Change in Continental Isotopic Records*; Swart, P. K.; Lohmann, K. C.; McKenzie, J.; Savin, S., Eds.; V. 78 American Geophysical Union Geophysical Monograph 78, Washington, D.C. 1993; pp 1–36.
- (22) Shelton, J. L.; Pimentel, I.; Fram, M. S.; Belitz, K. Ground-water quality data in the Kern County subbasin study unit, 2006 – Results from the California GAMA Program. Data Series 337; U.S. Geological Survey: VA, 2008.
- (23) South Belridge Oil Field, Hill Lease (SL0602935481). California State Water Resources Control Board:CA, 2018. <u>https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report?global_id=SL0602935481&mytab=es_idata#esidata</u> (accessed December 13, 2018).
- (24) Whiticar, M. J.; Faber, E.; Schoell, M. Biogenic methane formation in marine and freshwater environments: CO₂ reduction vs. acetate fermentation–Isotopic evidence. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **1986**, 50 (5), 693–709.
- (25) Schoell, M. The hydrogen and carbon isotopic composition of methane from natural gases of various origins. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **1980**, 44 (5), 649–661.
- (26) Dillon, D. B.; Davis, T. A.; Landon, M. K.; Land, M. T.; Wright, M. T.; Kulongoski, J. T. Data from exploratory sampling of groundwater in selected oil and gas areas of coastal Los Angeles County and Kern and Kings Counties in southern San Joaquin Valley, 2014–15: California oil, gas, and groundwater project. Open-File Report 2016 1181; U.S. Geological Survey:VA, 2016.
- (27) McCarlson, A.; Wright, M. T.; Teunis, J. A.; Davis, T. A.; Johnson, J.; Qi, S. L. Water chemistry data for samples collected at groundwater sites near the Fruitvale oil field, September 2016–February 2017, Kern County, California. Data Release <u>https://doi.org/10.5066/F7ZW1K7T</u>; U.S. Geological Survey:VA, 2018.
- (28) Davis, T. A.; Teunis, J. A.; McCarlson, A. J.; Seitz, N. O.; Johnson, J.C. Water chemistry data for samples collected at groundwater and surface-water sites near the Lost Hills and

Belridge oil fields, November 2016–September 2017, Kern County, California. Data Release <u>https://doi.org/10.5066/F7NS0T5M;</u> U.S. Geological Survey:VA, 2018.

- (29) Wilde, F.D. *Field measurements*. Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations, book 9, chap. A6, with sec. 6.0–6.8; U.S. Geological Survey:VA, variously dated. http://pubs.water.usgs.gov/twri9A6/ (accessed January 28, 2019).
- (30) Wilde, F.D. *Processing of water samples (ver. 2.2).* Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations, book 9, chap. A5; U.S. Geological Survey:VA, 2009.
- (31) Connor, B. F.; Rose, D. L.; Noriega, M. C.; Murtagh, L. K.; Abney, S. R. Methods of analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Laboratory— Determination of 86 volatile organic compounds in water by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, including detections less than reporting limits. Open-File Report 97–829; U.S. Geological Survey:VA, 1998
- (32) Bird, S. M.; Fram, M. S.; Crepeau, K. L. Method of Analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey California District Sacramento Laboratory-- Determination of Dissolved Organic Carbon in Water by High Temperature Catalytic Oxidation, Method Validation, and Quality-Control Practices. Open-File Report 2003-366; U.S. Geological Survey:VA 2003.
- (33) Révész, K.; Coplen, T. B. Determination of the δ²H of water: RSIL lab code 1574, chap.
 C1 of Methods of the Reston Stable Isotope Laboratory. Techniques and Methods 10–C1;
 U.S. Geological Survey:VA 2008a.
- (34) Révész, K.; Coplen, T. B. Determination of the δ¹⁸O of water: RSIL lab code 489, chap. C2 of Methods of the Reston Stable Isotope Laboratory. Techniques and Methods, 10–C2; U.S. Geological Survey:VA 2008b.
- (35) Poreda, R. J.; Cerling, T. E.; Salomon, D. K. Tritium and helium isotopes as hydrologic tracers in a shallow unconfined aquifer. *J. Hydrol.* **1988**, 103 (1–2). 1–9.
- (36) Solomon, D. K.; Poreda, R. J.; Schiff, S. L.; Cherry, J. A. Tritium and helium 3 as groundwater age tracers in the Borden aquifer. *Water Resour. Res.* **1992**, 28 (3), 741–755.
- (37) Isotech Laboratories Inc. *Quality Assurance/Quality Control*. <u>http://www.isotechlabs.com/why/qaqc.html</u> (accessed March 26, 2019).
- (38) *Isotech Laboratories* Website; http://www.isotechlabs.com/index.html. (accessed November 8, 2018).
- (39) Potter, B. B.; Wimsatt J. Determination of Total Organic Carbon and Specific UV Absorbance at 254 nm in Source Water and Drinking Water. Method 415.3, Rev. 1.2; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:Washington, DC, 2009. <u>https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?dirEntryId=214406</u> (accessed January 28, 2019).
- (40) Hansen, A. M.; Kraus, T. E. C.; Pellerin, B. A.; Fleck, J. A.; Downing, B. D.; Bergamaschi, B. A. Optical properties of dissolved organic matter (DOM): Effects of biological and photolytic degradation. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* 2016, 61 (3), 1015–1032.

- (41) Fishman, M. J.; Friedman, L. C. Methods for determination of inorganic substances in water and fluvial sediments. Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations, book 5, chap. A1; U.S. Geological Survey:VA 1989.
- (42) Fishman, M. J. Methods of analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Laboratory—Determination of inorganic and organic constituents in water and fluvial sediments. Open-File Report 93–125; U.S. Geological Survey:VA 1993.
- (43) Faires, L. M. Methods of analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Laboratory—Determination of metals in water by inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry. Open-File Report 92–634; U.S. Geological Survey:VA 1993.
- (44) McLain, B.J. Methods of analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Laboratory—Determination of chromium in water by graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrophotometry; Open-File Report 93–449; U.S. Geological Survey:VA 1993.
- (45) *Standard methods for the examination of water and wastewater (20th ed.)*; American Water Works Association and Water Environment Federation: Washington, D.C., 1998.
- (46) Garbarino, J. R. Methods of analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Laboratory—Determination of dissolved arsenic, boron, lithium, selenium, strontium, thallium, and vanadium using inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry. Open-File Report 99–93; U.S. Geological Survey:VA 1999.
- (47) Garbarino, J. R.; Kanagy, L. K.; Cree, M. E. Chapter 1—Determination of elements in natural-water, biota, sediment, and soil samples using collision/reaction cell inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry. Techniques and Methods, book 5, chap. B1; U.S. Geological Survey:VA 2006.
- (48) Patton, C. J.; Krystalla, J. R. Colorimetric determination of nitrate plus nitrite in water by enzymatic reduction, automated discrete analyzer methods. Techniques and Methods, book 5, chap. B8; U.S. Geological Survey: VA, 2011.
- (49) Epstein, S.; Mayeda, T. K. Variation of O18 content of waters from natural sources. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **1953**, 4 (5), 213–224.
- (50) Coplen, T. B.; Wildman, J. D.; Chen, J. Improvements in the gaseous hydrogen-water equilibration technique for hydrogen isotope-ratio analysis. *Anal. Chem.* **1991**, 63 (9), 910– 912.
- (51) Coplen, T. B. Reporting of stable hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen isotopic abundances. *Pure Appl. Chem.* **1994**, 66 (2), 273–276.
- (52) Vogel, J. S.; Nelson, D. E.; Southon, J. R. 14C background levels in an accelerator mass spectrometry system. *Radiocarbon* **1987**, 29 (3), 323–333.
- (53) Donahue, D. J.; Linick, T. W.; Jull, A. J. T. Isotope-ratio and background corrections for accelerator mass spectrometry radiocarbon measurements. *Radiocarbon* **1990**, 32 (2), 135– 142.
- (54) McNichol, A. P.; Gagnon, A. R.; Jones, G. A.; Osborne, E. A. Illumination of a black box—Analysis of gas composition during graphite target preparation. *Radiocarbon* 1992, 34 (3), 321–329.

- (55) McNichol, A. P.; Jones, G. A.; Hutton, D. L.; Gagnon, A. R. The rapid preparation of seawater ΣCO2 for radiocarbon analysis at the National Ocean Sciences AMS Facility. *Radiocarbon* 1994, 36 (2), 237–246.
- (56) Gagnon, A. R.; Jones, G. A. AMS-graphite target production methods at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution during 1986–1991. *Radiocarbon* **1993**, 35 (2), 301–310.
- (57) Schneider, R. J.; Jones, G. A.; McNichol, A. P.; von Reden, K. F.; Elder, K. L.; Huang, K.; Kessel, E. D. Methods for data screening, flagging and error analysis at the National Ocean Sciences AMS Facility. *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research, Section B—Beam interactions with materials and atoms* **1994**, 92 (1–4), 172–175.
- (58) Ostlund, H. G.; Dorsey, H. G. Rapid electrolytic enrichment and gas proportional counting of tritium. In *Proceedings of the International Conference of Low-Radioactivity Measurements and Applications*; Bratislava, Slovenske pedagogicke nakladatelstvo, 55–60, 1977.
- (59) *Prescribed procedures for measurement of radioactivity in drinking water*; EPA 600/4-80-032; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Washington, D.C., 1980.
- (60) Hunt, A. G. Noble Gas Laboratory's standard operating procedures for the measurement of dissolved gas in water samples. Techniques and Methods, book 5, chap. A11; U.S. Geological Survey:VA 2015.
- (61) Ballentine, C. J.; O'Nions, R. K.; Coleman, M. L. A Magnus opus: Helium, neon, and argon isotopes in a North Sea oilfield. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **1996**, 60 (5), 831–849.
- (62) Barry, P. H.; Lawson, M.; Meurer, W. P.; Warr, O.; Mabry, J. C.; Byrne, D. J.; Ballentine, C. J. Noble gases solubility models of hydrocarbon charge mechanisms in the Sleipner Vest methane field. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 2016, 194, 291–309, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2016.08.021.
- (63) Barry, P. H.; Lawson, M.; Meurer, W. P.; Danabalan, D.; Byrne, D. J.; Mabry, J. C.; Ballentine, C. J. Determining fluid migration and isolation times in multiphase crustal domains using noble gases. *Geology* 2017, 45 (9), 775–778.
- (64) Tyne, R. L.; Barry, P. H.; Kulongoski, J. T., Landon, M. K.; Hillegonds, D. J.; McMahon, P. B.; Ballentine, C. J. Noble gas characterization of produced waters from the Fruitvale and Lost Hills oil fields, CA, USA. Goldschmidt Abstracts, 2018 (2592).

Figures



Figure S1. Generalized stratigraphic relations in the studied oil fields, modified from refs 1, 10–11, 15–17.



Figure S2. Major-ion composition of groundwater.



Figure S3. Barite saturation index in relation to sulfate concentration in groundwater. The higher SO_4 concentrations in LH and SB, compared to FV, are accompanied by greater barite saturation

indexes. Despite the high potential for secondary barite co-precipitation and associated removal of Ra, groundwater in the LH and SB oil fields has high Ra, indicating the geochemical conditions that enhance Ra mobilization are more effective than Ra retention by secondary processes.



Figure S4. Concentrations of dissolved organic carbon in relation to chloride concentrations in groundwater and oil-field water. Data for oil-field water from refs 18, 19.



Figure S5. (A) and (C) concentrations of boron in relation to chloride concentrations in selected samples, (B) δ^2 H-H₂O in relation to δ^{18} O-H₂O. Data for oil-field water from refs 18, 19. In (A) and (B), data for disposal pond from ref 20, data for Global Meteoric Water Line and Local Meteoric Water Line from refs 21 and 22, respectively. In C, data for disposal pond from ref 23.



Figure S6. (A) δ^2 H-CH₄ in relation to δ^{13} C-CH₄ and (B) concentrations of ammonium in relation to δ^{13} C-DIC. Data for oil-field water from refs 18, 19. In (A), methane source boundaries from refs 24, 25.



Figure S7. Conceptual model of radium demobilization in near-pond environment and radium mobilization in downgradient zone of mixing between pond seepage and ambient groundwater. Not to scale.

Table S1. Construction and ancillary data for sampled water wells. Data on water wells from refs 26-28. Data on oil-field infrastructure from ref 8. [na, not applicable; nd, no data]

								Number of	Number of oil			
								Plugged and	and gas	Number of		Median depth to
			Depth to top	Depth to	Well			Buried oil and	production	injection	Cumulative injection	top of perforations
			of perforations	bottom of	depth	Depth to		gas wells	wells within	wells within	volume within 500 m	in oil and gas wells
Well name	Project ID	Well type	(m)	perforations (m)	(m)	water (m)	Aquifer or other sample type	within 500 m	500 m	500 m	(m3), (injection period)	within 500 m (m)
FG1	4_FRUT_ZR_01	Public supply well	128.0	213.4	219.5	79.2	Alluvium	0	0	0	0 (na)	na
FG2	4_FRUT_ZR_02	Public supply well	137.2	213.4	219.5	nd	Alluvium	38	39	3	1,134,432 (1978-1994)	1263
FG3	4_FRUT_ZR_03	Public supply well	118.3	219.8	219.8	nd	Alluvium	9	9	1	303,030 (1982-1998)	1283
FG4	4_FRUT_ZR_04	Public supply well	118.9	210.3	216.4	nd	Alluvium	15	22	0	0 (na)	1054
FG5	4_FRUT_ZR_05	Public supply well	140.2	213.4	219.5	72.5	Alluvium	2	2	0	0 (na)	1615
FG6	4_FRUT_ZR_06	zaproven za	79.2	207.3	213.4	65.2	Alluvium	2	2		0 (na)	1423
FG7	4_FRUT_ZR_07	こ。 「 し 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、	125.0	204.2	210.3	74.4	Alluvium	5	4		189,205 (1977-1983)	1315
FG8	4_FRUT_ZR_08	zaprovenska z standar	74.4	243.8	243.8	71.6	Alluvium	5	5		0 (na)	1316
FG9	4_FRUT_ZR_09	に し、 フ 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、	82.3	182.9	182.9	61.3	Alluvium	10	10	<text><text><text></text></text></text>	0 (1985-1986)	1141
FG10	4_FRUT_ZR_10	z	115.8	213.4	219.5	70.4	Alluvium	0	0		0 (na)	na
FG11	4_FRUT_ZR_11	こ。 「 し 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、	106.7	182.9	206.7	72.8	Alluvium	2	2		0 (na)	1329
FG12	4_FRUT_ZR_12	zza z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z	77.1	172.5	253.9	nd	Alluvium	1	1		0 (na)	2509
FG13	4_FRUT_ZR_13	ア し、 プロ 、 プロ 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、 、	155.1	198.1	198.1	66.4	Alluvium	10	25		15,882,280 (1979-2017)	1329
FG14	4_FRUT_ZR_14	z = 1	128.0	146.3	152.4	61.5	Alluvium	40	43		736,880 (1978-1984)	1267
		z										
BG1	BELS-01	tractory of the state of the stat	79.7	94.5	96.0	54.6	Alluvium	138	137		17,434,688 (1977-2017)	344
BG2	BELS-02		112.8	182.9	185.9	nd	Tulare	0	0	0	0 (na)	na
BG3	BELS-03	transformation of the state of t	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	0	0	0	0 (na)	na
BG4a	4_BELS_EXP-01	tractory of the state of the stat	85.3	91.4	93.0	nd	Alluvium	0	0	0	0 (na)	na
BG4b	BELS-04	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	103.6	120.4	121.9	61.6	Tulare	0	0	0	0 (na)	na
BG5	BELS-05	tractory of the state of the stat	155.4	167.6	167.6	69.4	Tulare	166	519	381	38,066,876 (1977-2017)	351
BG6	BELS-06	transformation of the state of t	76.2	153.0	153.0	nd	Tulare	0	0	0	0 (na)	na
BG7	BELS-07	transformation of the state of t	74.7	165.2	176.8	83.1	Tulare	2	12	0	0 (na)	1,570
BG8	BELS-08	tractory of the state of the stat	161.5	192.0	195.1	74.7	Tulare	428	517	246	18,336,993 (1977-2018)	342
BG9	BELS-09	tractory of the state of the stat	99.4	102.4	103.6	69.2	Alluvium	235	354	182	8,974,959 (1978-2018)	331
BG10	BELS-10	tractory of the state of the stat	77.7	86.9	86.9	58.6	Alluvium	390	553	197	27,574,071 (1977-2018)	430
BS2	4_BELS_PW02	(1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,	na	na	na	na	Oil-field water disposal pond	1	3		na	nd
BS3	4_BELS_PW03	(1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,	na	na	na	na	Oil-field water disposal pond	0	0	<text><text><text></text></text></text>	na	nd
LG1	LOST-01	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	194.2	233.2	302.7	114.9	Tulare	99	180		19,171,918 (1977-2017)	571
LG2	LOST-02	(1,1,1,1)	143.3	320.0	356.6	nd	Tulare	2	0		0 (na)	nd
LG3	LOST-03	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	225.9	231.6	233.2	120.9	Tulare	93	211	<table-cell></table-cell>	19,065,515 (1989-2017)	nd
LG4	LOST-04		128.0	257.6	317.0	nd	Tulare	1	0		0 (na)	nd
LG5	LOST-05	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	137.2	149.4	185.3	88.2	Tulare	1	12	<text><text></text></text>	91,789 (1990-2017)	nd
LG6	LOST-06	transformation of the state of t	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	0	0		0 (na)	na
LG7	LOST-07	Irrigation well	61.0	176.8	178.3	nd	Tulare	0	0		0 (na)	na
LG8	LOST-08	Irrigation well	97.5	207.3	207.3	nd	Tulare	0	0		0 (na)	na
LG9	LOST-09	Monitoring well	191.2	196.9	198.4	nd	Tulare	62	113	52	9,785,578 (1999-2017)	nd
LG10	LOST-10	Monitoring well	85.3	91.4	91.4	10.5	Alluvium	0	0	0	0 (na)	na
LG11	LOST-11	Monitoring well	61.0	67.1	67.1	12.0	Alluvium	1	1	0	0 (na)	nd
LG12	LOST-12	Irrigation well	103.6	201.2	201.2	nd	Tulare	0	0	0	0 (na)	na
LG13	LOST-13	Test well	167.6	176.8	176.8	nd	Tulare	0	0	0	0 (na)	na
LG14	LOST-14	Test well	125.0	134.1	134.1	nd	Alluvium	0	0	0	0 (na)	na
LG15	LOST-15	Oil field water supply	133.8	255.1	280.4	nd	Tulare	247	424	191	nd	nd
LP6	4 LOST PW06	Oil-field injectate	na	na	na	na	Oil-field injectate	128	233	106	na	571

Table S2. Sample collection methods.

					Preservati			
Analyte group	Sampling method	Bottles	Rinse	Filter	ve	Storage	Reference	
Field parameters: temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, pH, turbidity, sulfide	Monitor until stability criteria reached during well purging	none	3 casing volumes	none	none	none	29	
Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)	Collected from short methanol rinsed teflon tubing in a chamber bag at the wellhead	3 40-mL amber glass, no headspace	3 volumes, bottom fill	none	Acidify to pH<2 with 1:1 HCl	chill	30, 31	
Dissolved organic carbon (DOC)	Collected from short non- methanol rinsed teflon tubing in a chamber bag at the wellhead	250-mL baked amber glass	1 volume, bottom fill	0.45 micron	Acidify to pH<2 with 4.5N H2SO4	chill	30, 32	
		250 ml clear HDPE	yes	none	none	chill		
Major and minor ions, trace elements, alkalinity	Collected from short methanol rinsed teflon tubing in a chamber bag at the wellhead	250 ml clear HDPE	yes		Acidify to pH<2 with 7.5 N HNO3	chill	30	
		250 ml clear HDPE	yes		none	chill		
Nutrients	Collected from short methanol rinsed teflon tubing in a chamber bag at the wellhead	125 ml brown HDPE	yes		none	chill	30	
Stable isotopes of hydrogen (δ2Η) and oxygen (δ18Ο) in water	Collected from short methanol rinsed teflon tubing in a chamber bag at the wellhead	60-mL glass with polyseal cap	none	: '' '' '' '' '' '' '' '' '' '' '' '' '	none	ambient	33, 34	
δ13C of inorganic carbon dissolved in water and carbon-14 abundance	Collected from short methanol rinsed teflon tubing in a chamber bag at the wellhead	1-L coated clear glass with polyseal cap, no headspace	3 volumes, bottom fill		none	chill	30	
Tritium	Collected from short non- methanol rinsed teflon tubing in achamber bag at the wellhead	1-L HDPE with polyseal cap, no headspace	Bottom fill		none	ambient	30	
Radium-224 and radium- 226	Collected from short methanol rinsed teflon tubing in a chamber bag at the wellhead	1-L HDPE	3 volumes		Acidify to pH<2 with 7.5 N HNO3	ambient	30	
Radium-228	Collected from short methanol rinsed teflon tubing in a chamber bag at the wellhead	2 1-L HDPE	3 volumes		Acidify to pH<2 with 7.5 N HNO3	ambient	30	
Dissolved noble gases	Collected at the wellhead	2 copper tubes, no bubbles, crimped	minimum 10 tube volumes		none	ambient	35, 36	
Dissolved hydrocarbon gases, δ13C & δ2H of methane	Collected from short non-methanol rinsed teflon tubing in achamber bag at the wellhead	Isoflask	none		biocide	ambient	37, 38	

Table S3. Laboratory analytical methods. Any use of trade, firm, or product names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S.

Government.

Analyte group	Analytical method	Laboratory	Reference
Field parameters: temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, pH, turbidity, sulfide	Calibrated field meters and test kits	USGS field measurement	29
Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)	Purge and trap capillary gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (EPA Method 524.2)	USGS National Water-Quality Laboratory, Lakewood, Colorado	31
Dissolved organic carbon (DOC)	High-temperature combustion catalytic oxidation (EPA 415.3 rev 1.2)	USGS Organic Matter Research Laboratory, Sacramento, California	32, 39, 40
Major and minor ions, trace elements, alkalinity	Atomic absorption spectrometry, colorimetry, ion-exchange chromatography, inductively-coupled plasma atomic-emission spectrometry and mass spectrometry	USGS National Water-Quality Laboratory, Lakewood, Colorado	41-47
Nutrients	Kjedahl digestion, colorimetry by enzymatic reduction	USGS National Water-Quality Laboratory, Lakewood, Colorado	42, 48
Stable isotopes of hydrogen (δ2H) and oxygen (δ18O) in water	Gaseous hydrogen and carbon dioxidewater equilibration and stable-isotope mass spectrometry	USGS Stable Isotope Laboratory, Reston, Virginia	33, 34, 49-51
$\delta 13C$ of inorganic carbon dissolved in water and carbon-14 abundance	Stable isotope ratio mass spectrometry and accelerator mass spectrometry	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, National Ocean Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Facility (NOSAMS), Woods Hole, Massachusetts	52-57
Tritium	Electrolytic enrichment and gas counting	USGS Stable Isotope and Tritium Laboratory, Menlo Park, California	58
Radium-224 and radium- 226	Alpha spectroscopy (EPA method 903.1)	ALS Laboratories, Fort Collins, Colorado	59
Radium-228 Gas proportional counting (EP, method 904.0)		ALS Laboratories, Fort Collins, Colorado	59
Dissolved noble gases	Mass spectrometry	USGS Noble Gas Laboratory, Denver, CO	60
Dissolved noble gases	Mass spectrometry	Noble Gas Laboratory, Univ. of Oxford, Oxford, U.K.	61-64
Dissolved hydrocarbon gases, δ13C & δ2H of methane	Gas chromatography, Stable isotope ratio mass spectrometry	Weatherford (formerly Isotech) Laboratories	37, 38

Table S5. 226Ra and 228Ra activities in sediment samples collected from the LH and SB boreholes. Data can be downloaded from ref 13 using the site numbers, sample dates, and sample times listed in the table.

Sample name	Site number	Sample date	Sample time	Aquifer/Formation	Depth (m)	Ra-226 (Bq/kg)	Ra-228 (Bq/kg)	
BR-110	353049119434101	7/7/2018	1100	Alluvium	33.5	11.4	8.3	
BR-160	353049119434101	7/7/2018	1700	Alluvium	48.8		10.0	0.92
BR-260	353049119434101	7/8/2018	1400	Alluvium	79.2		13.7	0.86
BR-310	353049119434101	7/8/2018	1500	Tulare	94.5		32.5	0.62
BR-340	353049119434101	7/8/2018	1700	Tulare	103.6		10.2	1.36
BR-410	353049119434101	7/9/2018	1000	Tulare	134.5		10.2	0.26
LH-40-50	354048119445001	3/8/2018	1300	Alluvium	12.2 - 15.2		17.6	0.89
LH-220	354048119445001	3/9/2019	1100	Alluvium	67.1		14.1	1.26
LH-380	354048119445001	3/9/2018	1600	Tulare	115.8		11.5	1.39
LH-480	354048119445001	3/10/2018	1100	Tulare	146.3		10.2	0.51