

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

33-0344842
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

4955 Directors Place
San Diego, California 92121
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

Dr. Henry Ji
Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer
Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc.
4955 Directors Place
San Diego, California 92121
(858) 203-4100
(Name, address and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to

Jeffrey T. Hartlin, Esq.
Paul Hastings LLP
1117 S. California Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94304
(650) 320-1800

Deborah H. Telman, Esq.
Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc.
4955 Directors Place
San Diego, California 92121
(858) 203-4100

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered ⁽¹⁾	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, reserved for issuance pursuant to the 2019 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended	10,000,000	\$1.60 ⁽²⁾	\$16,000,000 ⁽²⁾	\$2,076.80
TOTAL:	10,000,000	—	\$16,000,000	\$2,076.80

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") shall also cover any additional shares of common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share (the "Common Stock"), of the Registrant (defined below) that become issuable under the Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. 2019 Stock Incentive Plan (the "2019 Plan"), by reason of any stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividend, combination, recapitalization, reclassification of the shares or other similar transaction effected without receipt of consideration that increases the number of the Registrant's outstanding shares of Common Stock.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rules 457(c) and 457(h) of the Securities Act. The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per share and the proposed maximum aggregate offering price with respect to these shares are calculated based on \$1.60 per share, the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock as reported on the Nasdaq Capital Market on November 4, 2019, a date within five business days prior to the filing of this Registration Statement.

REGISTRATION OF ADDITIONAL SECURITIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Registration Statement registers an aggregate of 10,000,000 shares of Common Stock of Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. (the “Registrant”) that are reserved for issuance pursuant to future awards under the 2019 Plan. On September 20, 2019, the stockholders of the Registrant approved the 2019 Plan, which supersedes and replaces the Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. Amended and Restated 2009 Stock Incentive Plan.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The document(s) containing the information specified in Part I of Form S-8 will be sent or given to participants in the 2019 Plan as specified by Rule 428(b) (1) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). Such documents are not being filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) either as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act. The Registrant will maintain a file of such documents in accordance with the provisions of Rule 428. Upon request, the Registrant will furnish to the Commission or its staff a copy or copies of all of the documents included in that file. These documents and the documents incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement pursuant to Item 3 of Part II hereof, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed by the Registrant with the SEC are hereby incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement:

- (a) [The Registrant’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, filed with the SEC on March 15, 2019;](#)
 - (b) [The Registrant’s Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, filed with the SEC on April 30, 2019;](#)
 - (c) [The Registrant’s Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the SEC on August 14, 2019;](#)
 - (d) [The Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2019, filed with the SEC on May 15, 2019;](#)
 - (e) [The Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2019, filed with the SEC on August 9, 2019;](#)
 - (f) The Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2019, filed with the SEC on November 12, 2019.
 - (g) The Registrant’s Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on [January 24, 2019](#), [March 22, 2019](#), [May 3, 2019](#), [June 4, 2019](#), [June 5, 2019](#), [June 17, 2019 \(filed at 9:22 a.m. Eastern Time\)](#), [June 17, 2019 \(filed at 4:40 p.m. Eastern Time\)](#), [June 19, 2019 \(other than with respect to Item 7.01 thereof and Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2 thereto\)](#), [June 20, 2019](#), [June 28, 2019](#), [August 12, 2019 \(filed at 10:07 a.m. Eastern Time\)](#), [August 12, 2019 \(filed at 10:10 a.m. Eastern Time\)](#), [September 23, 2019 \(filed at 6:06 a.m. Eastern Time\)](#), [September 23, 2019 \(filed at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Time\)](#), [October 1, 2019 \(filed at 4:28 p.m. Eastern Time\)](#), [October 1, 2019 \(filed at 4:32 p.m. Eastern Time\)](#), [October 8, 2019](#) and [October 9, 2019;](#)
 - (h) [The Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on April 3, 2019;](#)and
 - (i) [The description of the Registrant’s Common Stock set forth in the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form 8-A \(File No. 001-36150\), filed with the SEC on October 23, 2013, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.](#)
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All other reports and other documents subsequently filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement and to be a part of this Registration Statement from the date of the filing of such reports and documents, except as to any portion of any future annual or quarterly report to stockholders or document or current report furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K that is not deemed filed under such provisions.

For the purposes of this Registration Statement, any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

You should rely only on the information provided or incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement or any related prospectus. The Registrant has not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this Registration Statement or any related prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of the document.

You may contact the Registrant in writing or orally to request copies of the above-referenced filings, without charge (excluding exhibits to such documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the information incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement). Requests for such information should be directed to:

Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc.
4955 Directors Place
San Diego, CA 92121
Attn: Corporate Secretary
Phone: (858) 203-4100

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The Registrant is a Delaware corporation. Reference is made to Section 102(b)(7) of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "DGCL"), which enables a corporation in its original certificate of incorporation or an amendment thereto to eliminate or limit the personal liability of a director for violations of the director's fiduciary duty, except (1) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (2) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (3) pursuant to Section 174 of the DGCL (providing for liability of directors for unlawful payment of dividends or unlawful stock purchase or redemptions), or (4) for any transaction from which a director derived an improper personal benefit.

Reference also is made to Section 145 of the DGCL, which provides that a corporation may indemnify any persons, including officers and directors, who are, or are threatened to be made, parties to any threatened, pending or completed legal action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of such corporation), by reason of the fact that such person was an officer, director, employee or agent of such corporation or is or was serving at the request of such corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, provided such officer, director, employee or agent acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interest and, for criminal proceedings, had no reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful. A Delaware corporation may indemnify officers and directors in an action by or in the right of the corporation under the same conditions, except that no indemnification is permitted without judicial approval if the officer or director is adjudged to be liable to the corporation. Where an officer or director is successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any action referred to above, the corporation must indemnify him against the expenses that such officer or director actually and reasonably incurred.

The Registrant's Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended (the "Certificate of Incorporation"), eliminates the personal liability of directors to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL and, together with the Registrant's Amended and Restated Bylaws, provides that the Registrant shall indemnify and hold harmless, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law as it may be amended or supplemented, any person who was or is made or is threatened to be made a party or is otherwise involved in any action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that such person, or a person for whom such person is the legal representative, is or was a director or officer of the Registrant or, while a director or officer of the Registrant, is or was serving at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or of a partnership, joint venture, trust, enterprise or nonprofit entity, including service with respect to employee benefit plans, against all liability and loss suffered and expenses (including attorneys' fees) reasonably incurred by such person.

The Registrant has an insurance policy that insures its directors and officers, within the limits and subject to the limitations of the policy, against certain expenses in connection with the defense of actions, suits or proceedings, and certain liabilities that might be imposed as a result of such actions, suits or proceedings, to which they are parties by reason of being or having been directors or officers.

The Registrant has indemnification agreements with each of its directors and executive officers that may be broader than the specific indemnification provisions contained in the DGCL. These indemnification agreements require the Registrant, among other things, to indemnify a director or officer, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, for certain expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, penalties, fines and settlement amounts actually and reasonably incurred by them in any action or proceeding arising out of their services as one of a director or officer of the Registrant, or any of the Registrant's subsidiaries or any other company or enterprise to which the person provides services at the Registrant's request, including liability arising out of negligence or active or passive misconduct by the officer or director. The Registrant believes that these agreements are necessary to attract and retain qualified individuals to serve as directors and executive officers.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	Description
3.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Form S-3 filed with the SEC on June 24, 2013).
3.2	Certificate of Amendment of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on August 1, 2013).
3.3	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 15, 2019).
4.1	Specimen Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on October 23, 2009).
4.2	Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. 2019 Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 23, 2019 at 6:06 a.m. Eastern Time).
5.1	Opinion of Paul Hastings LLP.
23.1	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
23.2	Consent of Paul Hastings LLP is contained in Exhibit 5.1 to this Registration Statement.
24.1	Power of Attorney is contained on the signature page.

Item 9. Undertakings.

- (a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:
- (1) to file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
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(i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement; and

(iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time will be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement will be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time will be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

November 8, 2019

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Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc.
4955 Directors Place
San Diego, CA 92121

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “**Company**”), in connection with the registration statement on Form S-8 to be filed by the Company with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “**Commission**”) on or about the date hereof (the “**Registration Statement**”) to effect registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**Securities Act**”), of an aggregate of 10,000,000 shares (the “**Shares**”) of the Company’s common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, issuable upon the vesting and exercise of awards to be granted by the Company pursuant to the Company’s 2019 Stock Incentive Plan (the “**Equity Plan**”).

As such counsel and for purposes of our opinion set forth below, we have examined and relied upon originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of such documents, resolutions, certificates and other instruments of the Company and corporate records furnished to us by the Company, and have reviewed certificates of public officials, statutes, records and such other instruments and documents as we have deemed necessary or appropriate as a basis for the opinion set forth below, including, without limitation:

- (i) the Registration Statement;
- (ii) the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as certified by the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on November 8, 2019;
- (iii) the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company as presently in effect, as certified by an officer of the Company as of November 8, 2019;
- (iv) the Equity Plan and the forms of award agreements related thereto; and
- (v) a certificate, dated as of November 8, 2019, from the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware as to the existence and good standing of the Company in the State of Delaware (the “**Good Standing Certificate**”).

In addition to the foregoing, we have made such investigations of law as we have deemed necessary or appropriate as a basis for the opinion set forth in this opinion letter.

In such examination and in rendering the opinion expressed below, we have assumed, without independent investigation or verification: (i) the genuineness of all signatures on all agreements, instruments, corporate

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Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc.
November 8, 2019

records, certificates and other documents submitted to us; (ii) the authenticity and completeness of all agreements, instruments, corporate records, certificates and other documents submitted to us as originals; (iii) that all agreements, instruments, corporate records, certificates and other documents submitted to us as certified, electronic, facsimile, conformed, photostatic or other copies conform to originals thereof, and that such originals are authentic and complete; (iv) the legal capacity and authority of all persons or entities (other than the Company) executing all agreements, instruments, corporate records, certificates and other documents submitted to us; (v) the due authorization, execution and delivery of all agreements, instruments, corporate records, certificates and other documents by all parties thereto (other than the Company); (vi) that no documents submitted to us have been amended or terminated orally or in writing except as has been disclosed to us in writing; (vii) that the statements contained in the certificates and comparable documents of public officials, officers and representatives of the Company and other persons on which we have relied for the purposes of this opinion letter are true and correct; (viii) that there has not been any change in the good standing status of the Company from that reported in the Good Standing Certificate; and (ix) that each of the officers and directors of the Company has properly exercised his or her fiduciary duties. As to all questions of fact material to this opinion letter, and as to the materiality of any fact or other matter referred to herein, we have relied (without independent investigation or verification) upon representations and certificates or comparable documents of officers and representatives of the Company. Our knowledge of the Company and its legal and other affairs is limited by the scope of our engagement, which scope includes the delivery of this opinion letter. We do not represent the Company with respect to all legal matters or issues. The Company may employ other independent counsel and, to our knowledge, handles certain legal matters and issues without the assistance of independent counsel. We have also assumed that the individual issuances, grants, awards or grants of purchase rights under the Equity Plan will be duly authorized by all necessary corporate action of the Company and duly issued, granted or awarded and exercised in accordance with the requirements of law, the Equity Plan and the agreements, forms of instrument, awards and grants duly adopted thereunder.

Based upon the foregoing, and in reliance thereon, and subject to the assumptions, limitations, qualifications and exceptions set forth herein, we are of the opinion that the Shares are duly authorized and, when issued and sold as described in the Registration Statement and in accordance with the Equity Plan and the applicable award agreements or forms of instrument evidencing purchase rights thereunder (including the receipt by the Company of the full consideration therefor), will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Without limiting any of the other limitations, exceptions and qualifications stated elsewhere herein, we express no opinion with regard to the applicability or effect of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, as in effect on the date of this opinion letter.

This opinion letter deals only with the specified legal issues expressly addressed herein, and you should not infer any opinion that is not explicitly stated herein from any matter addressed in this opinion letter.

This opinion letter is rendered solely in connection with the issuance and delivery of the Shares as described in the Registration Statement and in accordance with the terms of the Equity Plan and the applicable award agreement or form of instrument evidencing purchase rights thereunder. This opinion letter is rendered as of the date hereof, and we assume no obligation to advise you or any other person with regard to any change after the date hereof in the circumstances or the law that may bear on the matters set forth herein after the effectiveness of the Registration Statement even if the change may affect the legal analysis or a legal conclusion or other matters in this opinion letter.

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Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc.

November 8, 2019

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion letter as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement. In giving such consent, we do not hereby admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules or regulations of the Commission thereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Paul Hastings LLP

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated March 15, 2019 (June 17, 2019 as to Notes 3 and 19 to the consolidated financial statements for the change in segment reporting), relating to the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule of Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") (which report expresses an unqualified opinion and includes an explanatory paragraph relating to substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern), and our report dated March 15, 2019 relating to the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting (which report expresses an adverse opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting because of material weaknesses), appearing in the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 17, 2019.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

San Diego, CA

November 8, 2019