

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. R2-2003-0091

RESCISSION OF SITE CLEANUP REQUIREMENTS (ORDER NO. 87-085) FOR:

AMPEX CORPORATION

for the property located at

728 San Aleso Avenue
Sunnyvale, California
Santa Clara County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter the Board), finds that:

1. **Background:** The Board issued site cleanup requirements to Ampex Corporation (Ampex) on July 15, 1987 (Order No. 87-085). The Order was issued to address detections of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater at the former Ampex facility located at 728 San Aleso Avenue, Sunnyvale, California. The VOCs were used by Ampex for cleaning purposes and came from a leaking 55 gallon drum stored at the rear corner of the building. The Order required on-site and off-site final cleanup measures. The 728 San Aleso Avenue site was an information storage disc manufacturing facility owned and operated by Ampex. In 1989, the site was sold to an auto body shop. The site is currently used as an automobile body shop. Investigations were performed during the period of May 1983 through July 1988 to assess the distribution of VOCs in soil and groundwater. Investigation and subsequent remediation activities have been confined to the area bounded by San Aleso Avenue and Madrone Avenue to the west and east, respectively, and extending to Ahwahnee Drive and Weddell Drive.
2. **Summary of Investigation and Remediation Activities:** VOCs were first discovered in the groundwater beneath the site in 1983. Between 1983 and 1988, on-site and off-site shallow groundwater investigations were conducted to further characterize the extent of VOCs in groundwater beneath the site and vicinity. In 1983, the highest concentrations of VOCs in the shallow groundwater were reported at 3.8 parts per million. No VOC pollution was identified in the deeper groundwater zone.

A groundwater extraction and treatment system was operated on the site from April 1986 through November 2000. Extracted groundwater was treated on-site by an air stripping system and discharged under NPDES permit. The total mass of VOCs removed by the groundwater treatment systems was 75.6 pounds.

Board staff approved shutting down the groundwater extraction and treatment system by letter dated October 19, 2000. Board staff requested that Ampex included monitoring for natural attenuation (NA) parameters in the sampling and analysis program, and following four quarters of sampling and analysis submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of NA as the final remedy. In June 2002, Ampex submitted the NA Evaluation Report. The report concluded that NA processes are effectively reducing concentrations of all VOCs.

3. **Basis for Rescission:** The groundwater extraction and treatment system together with NA has reduced groundwater pollution to asymptotic levels. Further operation of the system will not provide significant reductions in pollutant concentrations. Monitoring results over the past 15 years indicate that the plume is stable and shrinking in size, and that concentrations of VOCs in groundwater are at or near drinking water standards. The most recent groundwater monitoring data from well number EW-25 (October 2002) reported the highest total VOC concentrations at 66 parts per billion. Natural attenuation processes are expected to reduce all VOC concentrations to below drinking water standards in the near future. There are no existing supply wells in the site vicinity and it is unlikely that new supply wells will be proposed.
4. **CEQA:** This action rescinds an order to enforce the laws and regulations administered by the Board. As such, this action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15321 of the Resources Agency Guidelines.
5. **Notification:** The Board has notified the discharger and all interested agencies and persons of its intent under California Water Code Section 13304 to rescind site cleanup requirements for the discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments.
6. **Public Hearing:** The Board, at a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Section 13304 of the California Water Code, that Order No. 87-085 is rescinded.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Ampex shall properly close the remaining monitoring well and treatment system consistent with applicable local agency requirements, and shall document such closure in a technical report to be submitted to the Board within 30 days following the completion of closure activities.

I, Loretta K. Barsamian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on October 15, 2003.



Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ORDER MAY SUBJECT YOU TO ENFORCEMENT ACTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: IMPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY UNDER WATER CODE SECTIONS 13268 OR 13350, OR REFERRAL TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF OR CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY
