CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 98-015
NPDES PERMIT NUMBER CA0028959
RESCISSION OF ORDER NUMBER 91-078, WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
THE CLOROX COMPANY 850 42ND STREET, OAKLAND, ALAMEDA COUNTY

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

1. On May 15, 1991, the Board issued an individual NPDES permit for discharge of extracted and treated groundwater to The Clorox Company for its facility located at 850 42nd Street, Oakland, CA 94601 (Order No. 91-078, NPDES No. CA0028959).

2. The Clorox Company owns a bleach manufacturing facility located at the above site. Liquid chlorine bleach was produced at this location, using a "mercury cell" process, from 1919 to 1957. Leaks and spills of elemental mercury occurred during this period and resulted in contamination of soils and shallow groundwater. This NPDES permit was issued for the discharge of extracted and treated groundwater from the groundwater extraction and treatment (GET) system at the site.

3. In 1995, the Board issued Site Cleanup Requirements, Order No. 95-233, for the site. The Order designated the site as a non-attainment area with a contingency plan to be implemented if and when groundwater mercury concentrations exceeded the containment standards. Although anticipated to be shut down during the spring of 1997, the GET system remained operational until December, 1997, due to the elevated mercury concentrations from groundwater samples collected in 1996. However, samples collected from the same wells in 1997 consistently showed decreased concentrations of mercury below the containment standards.

4. This individual NPDES permit is therefore no longer needed. The GET system was shut down in December of 1997 and no discharge has since occurred from the site.

5. The rescission of waste discharge requirements (NPDES permit) for the discharge is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 13389 of the California Water Code.

6. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to rescind waste discharge requirements (NPDES permit) for the discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

7. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Board Order Number 91-078 is rescinded.

I, Loretta Barsamian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify 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 March 18, 1998.

Loretta K. Barsamian

Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer