

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DROUGHT PERMIT

SOUTHERN WATER SERVICES LIMITED

RIVER WESTERN ROTHER – REDUCTION OF MINIMUM RESIDUAL FLOW

TAKE NOTICE that due to the threat of a serious deficiency in supplies of water in the area to the north of the South Downs from near Petersfield in the west, to Steyning in the east, and Horsham and Crawley to the north (Sussex North supply area), caused by an exceptional shortage of rainfall, Southern Water Services Limited ("Southern Water"), of Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3NX, is applying to the Environment Agency for a Drought Permit under Section 79A of the Water Resources Act 1991.

Under the terms of its current abstraction licences as amended (No. 10/31/431001 for surface water abstraction at the river Western Rother, and No. 10/41/431002 for groundwater abstraction at boreholes in the Folkestone Sands Aquifer), Southern Water is allowed to abstract a total combined quantity of 75 Megalitres per day (Ml/d), subject to a Minimum Residual Flow (MRF) of 14 million gallons (approx 63.64 Ml/d) as measured at Hardham Weir in the river Western Rother. The proposed drought permit will involve an amendment to both abstraction licences to reduce the MRF from 63.64 Ml/d to 53.64 Ml/d for a period of 6 months.

The proposed Drought Permit, if granted, will allow Southern Water to continue to abstract water from both the groundwater and the surface water sources, for a lower MRF in the Western Rother so that, in the event of a delay in, or lack of, recharge and increased river flow during the forthcoming autumn and winter recharge season, supplies of water for public use will be safeguarded. An Environmental Action Plan will be implemented by Southern Water, including water quality and fish monitoring and mitigation, to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to minimise the environmental effects of the Drought Permit.

Anyone may inspect the proposals, free of charge, at the offices of Southern Water at Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3NX, or at the Environment Agency, Saxon House, Little High Street, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1DH between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday, or at Pulborough Library, Brooks Way, Off Lower Street, Pulborough EH20 2BQ between the hours of 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on other days except Sunday and Wednesday, within 7 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Objections may be made in writing to the Environment Agency at Saxon House, Little High Street, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1DH marked for the attention of Rupert Clubb, stating the grounds of their objection and giving an address to which correspondence relating to the objection may be sent. The Environment Agency will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection it receives. Objections should be made within 7 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Bircham Dyson Bell, 50 Broadway, Westminster, London SW1H 0BL

Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents acting for Southern Water Services Limited