## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order, which is made on the application of Southern Water Services Limited ("the applicant"), makes provision to meet a threatened serious deficiency of water supply 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, by reason of an exceptional shortage of rain.

It modifies the requirement imposed by the Weir Wood Water Order, 1949 and the North West Sussex (Weir Wood) Order, 1960 (S.I.1960/644) specifying the amount of compensation water which the applicant is required to discharge from the Weir Wood Reservoir into the River Medway. It also modifies a similar requirement in the applicant's abstraction licence. A copy of that licence is available for inspection at the applicant's registered offices at Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 3NX.

The applicant has produced an environmental action plan ("the Environmental Action Plan") to manage any potential environmental impacts which may result from a reduction in the amount of compensation water to be discharged from the Weir Wood Reservoir into the River Medway. It is a condition of the Order that the applicant comples with the Environmental Action Plan. A certified copy of the Environmental Action Plan dated 26th July 2005 is available for inspection by the public during normal office hours at the registered offices of the applicant at Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 3NX and another at the offices of the Environment Agency at Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, Sussex BN11 1LD.

The Order will cease to have effect on 26th January 2006.

The Order revokes and replaces the Southern Water Services Limited (Weir Wood Reservoir) (Drought) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2088).

A regulatory impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument, as it has no impact on the costs of business.