



Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
FAO Richard Walton
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

19th June 2025

Dear Mr Walton,

Thames to Southern Transfer - Request for a Direction under section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008


I write to you in respect of the accompanying 'qualifying request' made under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

This request for a direction under section 35 relates to the Thames to Southern Transfer project (the Project), which proposes to transfer treated water from the proposed new South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) via a new Water Treatment Works (WTW) at the SESRO site to provide secure supply to over 850,000 Southern Water, 40,000 Thames Water and 40,000 South East Water customers in Hampshire and Berkshire.

The Project is an essential component of Water Resources South East's Regional Plan, and Southern Water, Thames Water and South East Water's Water Resources Management Plans. It is scheduled to be operational by 2040, timed to coincide with the completion of SESRO and is crucial to avoid a significant deficit of water supply for customers in both normal (non-drought) conditions and in drought conditions.

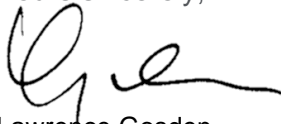
The Project is geographically complex, requiring works across multiple communities, local authority boundaries, site owners and statutory undertakers, with multiple nationally and international designated sites and complex crossings of existing major transport and utility infrastructure. The Project will therefore require a wide range of consents, licences, permissions and statutory powers.

The information within the accompanying qualifying request explains why the conditions in section 35(2)(a) and (b) of the 2008 Act are met in relation to the Project, and why it is considered to be a project of national significance. The qualifying request therefore meets the requirements within the meaning of section 35ZA(11) of the 2008 Act to enable the Secretary of State to give a direction in respect of the Project under section 35(1).



Accordingly, Southern Water requests the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs to give a direction under section 35(1) of the 2008 Act that the Project is to be treated as nationally significant for which development consent is required. This will enable Southern Water to undertake its pre-application obligations under the Development Consent Order (DCO) process and thereafter to submit a DCO application for the Project.

Yours sincerely,



Lawrence Gosden
CEO