ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

WATER RESOURCES ACT 1991

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR A RIVER SEVERN DROUGHT ORDER

TAKE NOTICE that there had been a threat of a serious deficiency in flows/levels in the River Severn catchment which posed a serious threat to the flora or fauna which are dependent on those waters. The Environment Agency ("the Agency") in relation to England applied to the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Natural Resources Wales in relation to Wales, applied to the Welsh Government, for a drought order on 17 August 2026.

Drought conditions continue across the River Severn catchment. However, reduced temperatures and abstraction demands from the River Severn in conjunction with the arrival of some rainfall enabled us to stop making regulation releases from Clywedog reservoir on 7 October 2026. The amount of water stored in Clywedog reservoir continues to increase with ongoing unsettled weather. This situation and forecast has given the Agency and Natural Resources Wales the confidence to formally withdraw the River Severn Drought Order application made to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Government.

Dated 03 November 2026

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