



# NRA

National Rivers Authority

# SOUTHERN REGION REGIONAL PLAN SUMMARY 1995/96

## LOOKING AT THE YEAR AHEAD

Preparations for the Environment Agency will be a major priority for the forthcoming year. However, this will not detract from the Region's operational responsibilities. The NRA's success will be very much determined by 'on the ground' work, making a difference to the environment and responding to emergencies. Southern Region's plans for 1995/96 are very much concerned with making good progress against targets relating to maintaining and improving the environment.

Preparations for the Environment Agency are progressing well and good relationships are being established with HMIP and the Waste Regulation Authorities, both at executive and officer level. The NRA's Market Testing programme continues with more activities coming under review in 1995/96. Those activities being market tested in 1995/96 include Water Quality Sampling, Corporate Planning, Catchment Management Planning, Capital Programme Management, and various activities from Water Resources, Fisheries and Finance. In addition a number of the 1994/95 market testing initiatives, such as Administration, will roll forward into 1995/96.

Despite continuing uncertainty the Region has made good progress over the last year resulting in major achievements (listed below).

## WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 1994/95

- Direct Works Organisation up and running to schedule.
- Externalisation of the transport and mobile plant on 1 April 1994.
- The strength of the Region's operational response to an emergency, typified by the co-operation and teamwork experienced during the floods in West Sussex in the winter of 1994.
- Continued development and high profile of the Region's new national centre for Demand Management.
- Collaboration with other Authorities on projects such as the River Medway Project where the NRA is working with Kent County Council, District Councils and other conservation and interest groups.
- Creation of otter habitat, safe havens and road crossings to support the successful re-introduction programme in the Itchen catchment (Hants).
- Commencement of the Darent Low Flow Alleviation Scheme and the publication and implementation of the Regional Water Resources Strategy, leading to actions such as the refusal of the Darwell licence application.
- Completion of the St Mary's Bay £6m Sea Defence scheme over 3 years, and the initiation of the scheme for the improvement of the Northern Sea Wall in Thanet, Kent, at a cost of £4.3m.
- Completion of the Pennington Sea Wall in conjunction with Hampshire County Council, total cost £5.6m.
- Refurbishment of the existing sea wall and construction of a wave return wall at Felpham in Sussex at a cost of £1.05m.
- Catchment Management Plans (CMPs) have been fully integrated into Regional business plans.
- Catchment Management Plan consultations have been completed on the Rother, Stour & Darent.
- The Itchen Valley Strategy (Hampshire) has been developed for implementation of the Itchen CMP with Local Authorities, riparian, fishing and conservation interests.
- Confirmation of continued estuary status for the Solent and its designation as "normal" water under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.
- Completion of a 5 year programme of increasing control over paper mill discharges in Kent, illustrated by the complete cessation of paper mill discharges to Milton Creek.
- Intensive effort has ensured that comprehensive environmental protection provisions are contained in the Union Rail Bill.

## KEY REGIONAL PRIORITIES 1995/96

- Continue to develop links with HMIP and the WRAs.
- Ensure value for money is achieved for the environment from the Water Companies' Asset Management Plan phase 2 (AMP2) investment programme.
- Maintain the high water quality of the Region's rivers.
- Implement the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWT) consents review.
- Continue to enforce existing EC directives monitoring/reporting.
- Conduct the General Quality Assessment 1995 quinquennial Water Quality survey.
- Implement the NRA Groundwater Protection Policy.
- Implement the Red List action plan.
- Derive SWQOs (subject to DoE approval) to selected catchments.
- Ensure adequate and sustainable water resources in the future through the Region's Water Resources Strategy. This will entail significant negotiation between the many water companies affected and may result in public inquiries as a result of NRA decisions.
- Continue to protect flood risk areas where the benefits outweigh the costs, and to progress work to meet the requirements under the C.30/92 "Memorandum of Understanding Development and Flood Risk".
- Capital investment will begin to be dominated by major capital schemes such as the Pevensey Bay sea defence in East Sussex (1996/97). Work will commence on the design of a flood relief scheme for Chichester and work to alleviate flooding at Barnham, West Sussex will be undertaken in 1995/96.
- Continue to meet our Region's ERCN duties despite limited resources. Collaborative works on recreation and conservation projects will raise the Region's profile at little cost and build on successes such as the Medway Project. A major priority is the Regional Recreation Strategy being undertaken in collaboration with the Sports Council.
- Maintain the River Medway Navigation despite diminishing income base.
- Maintain a high level of public awareness by continuing the Region's highly acclaimed PR coverage.

- Continue support for the Water Resources Demand Management Centre and proposed Centre for Ecotoxicology.
- Ensure environmental impacts of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and Thames Gateway Development are minimised.
- Progress the Region's Catchment Management Programme and undertake reviews for completed CMPs.
- Enhance awareness of Health & Safety Issues.
- Continue to train and develop staff to best meet the challenges ahead.

### HAMPSHIRE

- A *Ensure all known and suspected flood risks within area are identified. Complete the Lymington - Pennington Tidal Scheme and the Bembridge Scheme IOW.*
- B *Complete final report from Hampshire Salmon Investigation for input to River Itchen MRF decision.*
- C *Monitor the requirements of the AMP2 programme for the Pennington Scheme.*
- D *Progress the Groundwater Protection Zone Definition Project to complete Upper Test Catchment in plan period.*
- E *Consult with Fishery and Conservation interests to produce an agreed Fisheries Strategy for Test and Itchen.*

### SUSSEX

- F *Identify preferred option for flood alleviation in Chichester and commence flood protection scheme for Barnham.*
- G *Commence construction of Shoreham - Lancing sea defences.*
- H *Complete Amberley Wildbrooks water level Management Plan.*
- I *Commence Hardham water resource investigation.*
- J *Monitor bathing water improvements at Worthing, Lancing, Shoreham, Hove, Brighton & Hastings to report compliance with EC directive.*

### KENT

- K *Complete augmentation wells for River Darent low flow alleviation phase 1.*
- L *Complete Northern Sea Wall sea defences.*
- M *Ensure environmental provisions for Channel Tunnel Rail Link.*
- N *Monitor bathing water improvements at Herne Bay, Pegwell Bay and Ramsgate to report compliance with EC directive.*
- P *Maintain Medway Navigation through construction of locks and sluices at Allington, East Farleigh & Sluice Weir.*



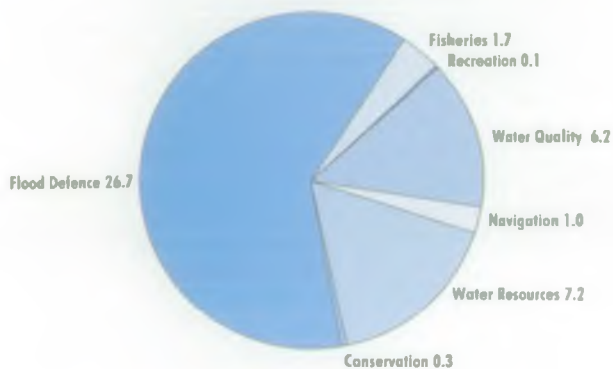
## NATIONAL PRIORITIES 1995/96

- Prepare for the creation of the Environment Agency whilst continuing to deliver existing statutory operational activities.
- Complete priority National Projects which can be implemented by the NRA before the Environment Agency.
- Take forward the Market Testing programme to continue to improve value for money.
- Deliver key business infra-structure systems such as the Water Archive and Monitoring System (WAMS), Integrated Accounting System (IAS) and Human Resource System (Personnel and Payroll) (HRS(P&P)).
- Improve Customer Service through implementation of Citizen's Charter initiatives.
- Fully establish National Centres and National Services to deliver an improvement in operational outputs with greater efficiency.
- Further delivery of and commitment to the NRA's internal Environmental Policy.
- Continue an extensive Research and Development (R&D) programme which supports all functions and apply results.
- Focus on results whilst operating in an environment of teamwork and trust.

# RESOURCES

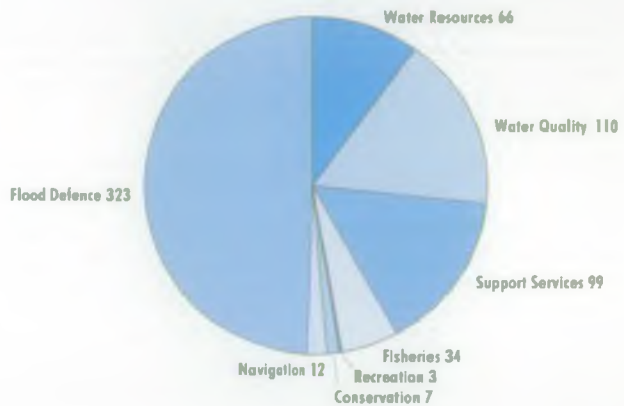
Total planned expenditure in 1995/96 is set at £43.2 million which represents a 2% increase on last year. Continuing pressure on grants from Government mean the Region will have to continue to become more efficient and raise as much income as possible from charging schemes.

## Total Expenditure (£43.2M) 1995/96



The Region's control total for next year will be 654 Full Time Equivalents (FTE). This number is not significantly different from last year - some staff are being transferred to National

## Total Employees (654 FTE) 1995/96



Services and the Region will have an additional 2 posts for work on the Union Rail Project. As last year, the challenge of not allowing outputs to slip under the resource constraints is being met by ever more intense scrutiny of expenditure proposals and by a continuous search for opportunities to share resources. The Region will continue to strive to strike the right balance between quality alone and appropriate value for money.

# KEY STATISTICS

Area - 10,979 sq km
Population - 4.6 million
Length of coastline (incl. main tidal waters) - 1,124 km
Length of fluvial main river - 2,648 km
Length of all fisheries - 703 km
Length of navigable rivers - 89 km
Number of EC bathing waters - 67
Average rainfall - 790 mm
Number of discharge consents - 13,006
Volume of authorised water abstraction - 7,626 Ml/d (Excl. Saline)
Number of abstraction licence inspections 93/94 - 2,660
Number of category 1 & 2 pollution incidents 93/94 - 78
Number of planning applications processed 93/94 - 3,510

# FURTHER INFORMATION

For information about this leaflet contact:  
**Regional Planning, NRA - Southern Region,**  
 Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing,  
 West Sussex BN11 1LD; Telephone 01903 820692.

Further details about the NRA as a whole will be contained in the **National Corporate Plan**. This will be published by: **Corporate Planning, NRA - Head Office, Rivers House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West, Almondsbury** Telephone 01174 624000

The NRA is committed to the principles of sustainable development and sustainability. In exercising its statutory responsibilities as a water authority, the NRA will aim to establish a sustainable practice through...



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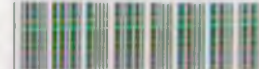
SOUTHERN REGION

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