

The company has noted that the height of demand for water is now up to four hours later than usual

Water consumption in the autonomous Community of Madrid fell 9.1 % since the state of alarm was declared

- The reservoirs began April with a stored volume in line with the average of the last 30 years.
- Overall, consumption in March was 5.1 % lower than in the previous year.

01APR2020 – Drinking water consumption in the Autonomous Community of Madrid was 5.1 % lower in March than in the same month the previous year: until the state of alarm was declared, it was slightly higher, and from that day until the end of the month consumption decreased by 9.12 %. However, compared with the data for March of the previous seven years, the value for 2020 is even higher than the average.

Furthermore, the water reserves stored in the reservoirs managed by Canal de Isabel II ended March at 74.5 % of their total capacity with 702.4 hm³ stored. This is 0.4 points higher than the average recorded for this time of year in the last 30 years, which is 0.8 points below the volume collected on the same date for the previous year.

With all these data, the total consumption since the start of the hydrological year, in October 2019, is almost 1 % lower than a year ago, and in the three months of 2020 it is 2.1 % lower than the same period in 2019.

In addition to the drop in consumption, which may also be related to the lower temperatures and rainfall recorded in the last fortnight of the month, Canal de Isabel II has been able to detect changes in water consumption habits: thus, if the peak hour of consumption on working days used to be around 8:00 in the morning, it has now been delayed until approximately 12:00 noon, while the hour of least consumption continues to be between 4 and 5 in the morning.

With March, the reservoirs of the Community of Madrid have already accumulated five consecutive months of increase: after a February with hardly any rainfall, and with very little in the first half of March, the contributions have been far from the average values (65 hm³ compared to an average of 120.6).

Press release

RESPONSIBLE AND EFFICIENT CONSUMPTION OF AN ASSET THAT'S MORE VITAL THAN EVER

With these data, and especially at a time in which water plays a fundamental role in the health recommendations for hygiene to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Canal de Isabel II asks the citizens to use water efficiently and responsibly, and has made recommendations for saving water available on its YouTube channel and website www.canaldeisabelsegunda.es.

The hydrological situation in the Autonomous Community of Madrid is good and stable, and the responsible use of water is perfectly compatible with the hygienic habits recommended by health authorities at this time: opting for a shower instead of a bath, using household appliances at full load whenever possible and turning off the tap while we're washing ourselves contributes to preserving a resource that is as important as it is limited.

Canal de Isabel II was founded almost 170 years ago to supply water to the city of Madrid, and currently more than 2.800 employees work to provide services to more than 6 million people in the entire region. It is an innovative public company, a leader in its sector, and internationally recognised for its management of the integrated water cycle.

It operates 13 reservoirs; 78 spring tapplings; 17,601 kilometres of water conveyance and distribution; 131 drinking water pumping stations and 133 waste water stations; 15,083 kilometres of sewer system networks; 65 storm tanks; 157 waste water treatment plants; and 615 kilometres of recycled water networks.

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