

With them, there are now 16 municipalities that have signed up to this cooperation plan to improve the sanitation systems

Griñón and Arganda del Rey join Canal de Isabel II's Plan Sanea

- The actions planned for Arganda will solve the flooding problems that have affected the municipality
- The public company has already identified and budgeted for improvements in the systems of 92 municipalities in the Region of Madrid
- In total, Canal will execute in the municipal systems of the two municipalities, 69 improvement actions worth almost 30 million euros

30OCT2020 – The Board of Directors of Canal de Isabel II has approved the agreements to sign up to Plan Sanea of the municipalities of Griñón and Arganda del Rey, such that the public company will be able to execute works in municipal sanitation systems to improve their operation and efficiency. The Sanea agreements, signed between Canal de Isabel II, the municipalities and the Canal de Isabel II Public Body, include the actions planned for each town and the financial assessment of each.

Thus, at Griñón, Canal de Isabel II has identified and budgeted in the Master Plan drafted for the total for a total of 24 actions assessed at 7,195,174 euros; while at Arganda the company and the council have agreed to execute 45 actions assessed at 22,372,359 euros. The actions in this municipality, which include constructing new collectors and spillways, will prevent more flooding in the municipality, such as those that occurred just over a year ago. Now that both agreements have been signed and approved, Canal begins the contracting procedures to execute the actions agreed with the councils.

Plan Sanea is one of 10 flagship plans set out in Canal de Isabel II's business plan for the period 2018-2030, and it is within the framework of the line of developing cooperation with the municipalities. According to Paloma Martín, President of Canal de Isabel II and Director of Environment, Land Management and Sustainability, "the aim is to improve the sewage system of the Region of Madrid to make it the most efficient and modern in Spain, thus to ensure proper transport and treatment of wastewater, to ensure the receiving channels are maintained and, therefore, that the environment in our region is conserved."

14 Madrid councils have already signed up to this plan: Las Rozas de Madrid, Torrejón de Ardoz, Torres de la Alameda, El Escorial, Soto del Real, San Fernando de Henares, Valdilecha, Navalcarnero, Valdemoro and Perales de Tajuña, Alpedrete, Fuenlabrada, Tielmes and Torrelodones. They all have planned works worth a total of 160 million euros.

Though Canal de Isabel II manages about 15,000 kilometres of sanitation systems, they are usually the responsibility of the municipalities: of the 111 shareholder municipalities, 93 of the systems are owned by the municipality, even if the management is entrusted to Canal. In many cases, these systems have technical deficiencies from the start, they have not been adapted properly to new developments or they have had little maintenance over long periods, and the financial resources required to solve these problems are very high.

MASTER PLANS TO IDENTIFY AND BUDGET FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS

Canal de Isabel II has therefore studied the municipal sewage systems it manages and has set out the results in master plans for each municipality: highly accurate studies that make it possible to know the status of municipal sanitation systems, where they have room for improvement, and the possible investments that could improve the management of these systems. Thus, once submitted to the municipalities, it is they who decide what investments to make. Canal, besides carrying out these studies, facilitates the financing of the works, by anticipating the necessary investment and it bears the financial costs.

So far, the public company has submitted master plans to 92 municipalities with which it has signed sewage management agreements. They detail the refurbishment actions that the municipalities should undertake to optimise their sanitation systems. According to these studies, the investment Canal de Isabel II would bring forward in the event of having the approval of all the councils would exceed 1.5 billion euros. Moreover, the councils are being informed that, as shareholders in the public company, they have not signed with it an agreement to manage the sewage system, so that they can consider signing up to this model and receiving their corresponding master plan.

According to Pascual Fernández, the CEO of Canal de Isabel II, “the great advantage of Plan Sanea is that it allows you very significantly to reduce the costs for residents, since it is Canal that bears the financial cost, and makes it possible to apply the complementary fee in the long term. Plan Sanea combines sustainability and looking after the region’s environment with cooperation with the municipalities, which are two basic principles for managing this public company.

The public company will allocate an extraordinary investment into this action plan in the coming years, which will be financed through supplementary fees on an initial horizon

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of 30 years. Canal will also bear all the financial costs of this investment, which will contribute both to improving the quality of life of the municipalities and to driving economic growth and employment in the Region of Madrid.

MUNICIPAL COOPERATION: A STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE OF THE PUBLIC COMPANY

The Canal de Isabel II 2018-2030 Strategic Plan includes a specific line to develop cooperation with the municipalities of Madrid, in order to promote comprehensive management of Canal in all the municipalities and to consolidate the most efficient model of supramunicipal management. This line is part of the sewage excellence plan, Plan Sanea, which is the line's flagship plan. Besides strengthening cooperation with the municipalities, this plan seeks to optimise sewage management to reduce discharges when there is dry weather, to guarantee the quality of the receiving channels and to achieve efficient energy use and purification processes.

Canal de Isabel II was founded more than 165 years ago to supply water to the city of Madrid. Today, its more than 2,800 employees provide a service to over 6 million people in the region. It is an innovative, entirely 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; 14 drinking water treatment plants; 17,651 kilometres of conveyance and distribution channels; 131 pumping stations for drinking water and 133 for wastewater; 15,317 kilometres of sewage networks; 65 storm tanks; 157 wastewater treatment stations; and 651 kilometres of regenerated water channels.

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