

8. WATER RESOURCES ALLOCATION AND RESERVE

Introduction

The allocations and reserves are one of the most important contents of the River Basin Management Plan as they are the final result of the balance between resources and demands considering, in addition, environmental restrictions.

Overall, the allocations of the Plan for the first planning cycle 2009-2015 and the water rights included in the Public Water Record and the Private Water Catalogue of this River Basin Authority have been considered when establishing such allocations. With regards to reserves, and despite its temporary nature, endeavours were also made to maintain the existing reserves in the Plan for the first planning cycle.

Even though this section includes basic data of the allocation and reserve globally, the information may be referred with greater detail in the report or in the regulations of the River Basin Management Plan, available in the website www.chj.es.

Conventional resources

Approximately 2,180 hm³/year of conventional resources have been allocated in the regulatory content of the River Basin Management Plan, of which the main recipients will be the irrigated lands of Eastern La Mancha, of the area of Vinalopó-Alacantí and of the coastal plains of the Valencia Region, as well as the supply of València and its metropolitan area. The Júcar River system concentrates more than half of all allocations.

In addition, a total reserve volume of approximately 350 hm³/year, has been planned. The total reserve volume is lower than that of allocations, concentrating again the main reserves in the Júcar River water resources system. It should be noted that approximately 200 hm³/year of these reserves are conditioned mostly by the conduct of modernisation actions in the traditional irrigated lands.

Unconventional resources

With regards to reuse, a study of the grants of water rights to irrigated lands or other uses whose resource origin is regenerated water, has been conducted; besides, an analysis of the technical characteristics, volumes cleaned and, when applicable, the reusable volumes in the different waste water cleaning stations of the District has been conducted. From this information, a total allocation of 89 hm³/year and a reserve of 115 hm³/year of resources generated has been allocated.

As regards sea water desalination, due to the very recent construction of these facilities, the allocations and reserves have been established based both on the information provided by the Acuamed state corporation, sponsor of the projects, and on the needs of possible users. In addition, the need of the potential collaboration of these infrastructures in the achievement of the environmental objectives in some water bodies, was assessed. The total allocation volume is 18 hm³/year, all of it from the desalination plant of Mutxamel. With regards to the reserves, the volume stated is much larger, as the start-up of the other facilities built in the northern coast of the District, Oropesa, Moncofa and Sagunto, with a total volume of 33 hm³/year, mainly focused on the substitution of pumping of water bodies in poor quantitative status and the support of future urban developments.



Image: Alarcón Dam in the Júcar River

The dam of Alarcón, built in the 1950's and with a maximum capacity of approximately 1,100 hm³, constitutes the biggest dam of the Júcar River Basin District.