

## **COSTA CÁLIDA**

### **Strict water-saving regulations proposed for Murcia**

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The manager of Murcia's public water company, Amalio Garrido, has announced that the Region will be the first autonomous community in Spain to have specific regulations governing the use and conservation of water before the end of the year.

The regulations will include fines of up to 600,000 € and cutting of supply for proven cases of continuous wastage, and 60,000 € for emptying swimming pools. New swimming pools would have a size restriction: 40 square metres for private pools, and 200 metres for communities.

All new build property would have to have water economisers fitted to all taps and showers, and a maximum of 7 litres in toilet cisterns. Existing properties would be given a 10% one year discount on their water bills if owners fit the economisers. There would also be tax declaration benefits.

The proposed measures also affect watering systems in public areas and regular checks for leakage in the water supply system. The Town Halls would be given responsibility for policing the new regulations.

The Segura Water Board earlier announced that property development projects should be put on hold until there is sufficient desalinated water to ensure supply for them. It would, while not obligatory by law, affect more than 65 new urbanisations and partial plans in the Murcia Region, as well as some areas of Alicante and Almería provinces.

The Tajo-Segura Aqueduct Committee will, meanwhile, recommend a water transfer of 39 cubic hectometres to the Cabinet this Friday, to guarantee drinking water supply between July and September. They will not be requesting a transfer of irrigation water.

(Environment story)