

The environment and rural offices of the Consell de Formentera report that this afternoon, following a call from the Balearic government, members of the Island Waters Junta (*Junta Insular d'Aigües*)

) met for their first gathering of the legislative term.

Regional environment and territory minister, Miquel Mir, and the director-general of water resources, Joana Garau, chaired the meeting, which also saw the attendance of local environment and rural councillors Antonio J Sanz and Josep Marí as well as representatives from environmental groups, farmers and users of local irrigation and urban water grids.

Garau gave attendees an overview of the first part of a modified Balearic Water Plan (PHIB) for 2021-2027. Minister Garau pointed out that the document is currently available for public viewing, and encouraged administrations, industry actors and regular islanders to review it.

"Responsibility here cuts across the different administrations that are involved" said Garau, "and we can't just be talking about the quantity of dessalinated water on each island —and Formentera's no isolated case— but whether we can be storing it to satisfy local water needs throughout the year".

For his part, Conseller Sanz said he hoped the gathering would facilitate discussion around "issues at both the dessalination plant and irrigation pond, so our two sister administrations can get to work finding solutions".

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