

Water Resources in Spain: The Ebro River Interbasin Transfer Project and the "Programa Agua".

Roberto Arranz¹

MS Graduate Student. Water Resources Planning and Management Division, Civil Engineering Department, Colorado State University, Fort Collins

Abstract. The objective of this paper is to offer a "big picture" of water resources in Spain (including general information about the geography, hydrography, climatology, and hydrology), give a brief description of issues such as water use, legislation, and water institutions, and present the two main alternatives being considered to solve the water scarcity problems existing in the Spanish Mediterranean area: the Ebro River Interbasin Transfer Project, based on the diversion of excess water from the Ebro River Basin to the rest of the Mediterranean basins, and the "Programa Agua," based on the reuse of water, seawater desalination, and institutional reforms. The first alternative was planned and was being constructed by the Popular Party administration, but was abandoned after the political turnover of 2004. Since the presidential elections of March 2004, the new government has proposed the "Programa Agua".

¹ Graduate Research Assistant
Integrated Decision Support Group
Civil Engineering Department
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1372
Tel: (970) 491-7620
e-mail: roberto.arranz@colostate.edu