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## PRESS RELEASE

# **Benicàssim is the only city that recycles ceramics to create an innovative system for collecting rainwater**

Castellón, 15 June 2018.- About a hundred municipal technicians, architects and engineers from all over the province and other bordering provinces attended the "Conference on SUDS experiences in Spain" held in Benicassim as part of the Life-CERSUDS project. The Mayoress of Benicàssim, Susana Marqués, together with the President of the Provincial Council, Javier Moliner, were in charge of opening the day. The Mayoress has said: "The great merit of this project is to turn a problem into an opportunity. Benicàssim has problematic issues such as the episodes of heavy rains that we suffer at specific times. And, on the other hand, the need to save water and improve the consumption of our water resources. In addition, the ceramic sector was adding other problems, such as what to do with the material in stock or finding new market niches.. With these four problems on the table, the technical and technological partners that make up this project have managed to find an opportunity: to create a system that allows water to drain so that it does not generate flooding problems. And that it also allows the water to be collected so that it can be used for a second time".

Javier Mira (ITC), the project coordinator, and Ignacio Andrés (IIAMA-UPV) participated as speakers. Enrique Fernández (F-VA) and Sara Perales (GBM), as part of the demonstrator's design team. As part of the round table on Experiences of urban drainage with SUDS in Spain, Manuel de Pazos (Madrid City Council), Roberto Soto (Barcelona City Council) and Ángel Mena (Metropolitan Water Supply and Sanitation Company of Seville) took part. These speakers have brought together the design of other urban drainage systems that have been implemented in other municipalities in Spain. But the



great difference with the one that is being implanted in Benicàssim is that in our city, the ceramic material has a fundamental value and provides it with different and valuable qualities and viability.

#### LIFFE-CERSUDS TORRE SANT VICENT STREET

The SUDS, financed by the European Union within the LIFE 2014-2020 Programme of Environment and Action for the Climate with reference LIFE15 CCA/ES/000091 and also with the contribution of the Generalitat Valenciana through the IVACE, consists of a permeable surface whose skin is formed by a new material, with low environmental impact, based on the use of ceramic tiles in low commercial value stock. This system can reduce surface runoff water by almost 90% and reuse it for irrigation, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality compared to other traditional systems.

In this initiative, the City Council of Benicàssim, with the coordination of the Institute of Ceramic Technology (ITC), together with the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV), the Ceramic Centre of Bologna (CCB-Italy), CHM Obras e Infraestructuras, S.A., the Centro Tecnológico da Cerâmica e do Vidro (CTCV-Portugal) and the company Trencadís de Sempre, S.L. are participating.

The place chosen for the implementation of this new system is the street Torre Sant Vicent. There, the SUDS system is being implemented, which makes it possible for water runoff to flow into underground cisterns so that it can be reused for consumption in parks and gardens.

The works will involve the improvement of more than 3,200 square metres of street: an improvement, not only environmental, but also urban.