

Water cuts of 36 hours confirmed

Conagua: Shutoff will be complete

THE NEWS

Federal officials confirmed on Sunday that scheduled water service cuts in the capital will be more severe than originally planned due to maintenance work that will be carried out for 36 hours during the Semana Santa holidays.

Water from the Cutzamala basin west of Mexico City will be cut off beginning on Thursday morning at 5 a.m. Service will be partially restored on Friday at 5 p.m., when the maintenance work is concluded, but service disruption will continue until April 12 – and possibly beyond that date in some neighborhoods.

The Cutzamala provides roughly 30 percent of Mexico City's drinking water and the maintenance work is expected to impact residents in at least 10 boroughs as well as some State of Mexico municipalities.

The disruption adds to the severity of the previously scheduled water rationing scheduled for Easter weekend. The original rationing plan was

unveiled two months ago as a means of combating water shortages in the Cutzamala delivery system, as federal officials report reservoir levels are dangerously low due to drought conditions.

Rationing measures so far have been to diminish the flow from the Cutzamala by 50 percent – or roughly 15 percent of the all water used in Mexico City – for one weekend per month until the annual rainy season begins. Water officials warned this week that those measures might be inadequate and suggested that weekly suspensions could begin in the summer and last for an entire year.

The Cutzamala system previously experienced drought conditions in the early 1990s, but the National Water Commission has said that situation is now worse because of significant population growth in the Mexico City area.

Even though water service is scheduled to be restored on April 12, some customers might be without water for days afterward.

