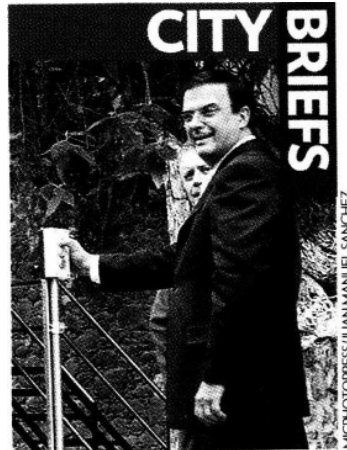


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**WATER:** Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard said Monday that the capital's water problems would not be further politicized as he inaugurated a new water treatment plant in the Magdalena Contreras borough.

Fixing the capital's water troubles takes priority over spats with the National Water Commission, or Conagua, and its officials, Ebrard said. His comments followed a weekend in which water shortages were expected to hit some 400 Mexico City neighborhoods in 13 boroughs. Although concern was widespread ahead of the cuts – which began on Thursday – media reports appeared to confirm that many residents were unaffected.

Mexico City has implemented water rationing due to a shortage of reserves in the Cutzamala system, which supplies a large part of the city's potable water. The city is also undertaking extensive repairs on its water pipes and drainage system.

Also on Monday, Mexico City water officials said that residents and businesses who don't pay water bills would be fined without fail.

—WIRE REPORTS

