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Conagua warns of greater H₂O cuts

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José Luis **Luege Tamargo**, general director of the National Water Commission, or Conagua, warned that if there's no rain over the next seven days that water cuts will go from 25 to 50 percent. The aim is to preserve the water that remains in reservoirs, which stand at 39 percent capacity.

Luege Tamargo was interviewed after participating in the "First Consultation Forum on Potable Water and Sanitation," organized by the upper house of Congress. He said that the water supply in the country, and especially in the metropolitan area, depends on how much it rains.

"Unfortunately, we haven't seen rain fall in the Cutzamala basin, so we're really concerned because in the last eight days it has been really hot and dry, but we're hopeful that the forecast is right and that it will rain next week. Once the rain begins we should see

an almost automatic recovery in the reservoirs, and we'll evaluate things from there, for now we'll be keeping the 25 percent water cuts. If this doesn't happen will run out of water, I've said that several times, we're at the expense of the rain."

The head of Conagua said that, due to the emergency and to drinking water shortages, those who don't pay should receive no water because it's necessary for people to understand that they have to pay.

Currently, 60 percent of all water users don't pay their bills. For **Luege Tamargo**, the problem is that millions of pesos are lost due to lack of payment.

On the other hand, he admitted that Conagua also has to offer better service, just as municipal and state offices should do the same – something that includes better consumption measurements and fair and equitable tariffs.

