

Water cuts applied in metropolis

Dams are down to 40% capacity

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A significant reduction in the water supply affecting 23 million people is to be applied throughout the Mexico City basin due to a severe water shortage in the Cutzamala water system, the National Water Commission (**Conagua**) authorities confirmed on Wednesday.

The water supply cuts directly affect the 16 Mexico City boroughs and 13 municipalities in the State of Mexico.

Conagua said that this indefinite measure includes a 10 percent reduction from Sunday through Thursday, hiking up the cuts to 25 percent on Fridays and 50 percent on Saturdays.

The implementation of this reduction scheme is to protect the water source of the metropolitan area, the Lerma River basin near the city of Toluca. Authorities calculate that with these cuts they will save 6.68 million cubic meters of water per month.

Efren Villalón, president of the Mexico Valley Water Basin Organization (OCAVM) pointed out that

the reduction was determined by different regional water authorities because of the lack of rain registered in the Cutzamala System area and as a consequence of the low volume of water stored by the three dams that make up the system.

The dams located in Valle de Bravo, Villa Victoria and El Bosque are at 40 percent of their capacity for a total of 313 million cubic meters, a shortage of 160 million cubic meters. One cubic meter is roughly a cubic yard.

The measure to save as much water as possible is "a preventive one" to stave off drought at the source.

Villalón added that because the water reduction is being spread evenly it will not affect residential areas and will not mean a shortage in homes.

The organizations that form the OCAVM are the Metropolitan Zone System of the Mexico Valley, the Mexico City Water Systems and the State of Mexico Water Commission.

This measure began on Tuesday but it was not until Wednesday that it was applied to Mexico City and the State of Mexico, the most densely populated area in the nation.

