

Several neighborhoods, usually the poorest, in México City struggle with a lack of water, while in other zones the precious resource is often wasted.

QUARTO/RICARDO CASTELAN

Ebrard seeks to lower water consumption

Mayor announces emergency program to deal with shortage

THE NEWS

Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard has set goals for water consumption by residents. He would like them to lower their water consumption from the current average of 307 liters a day down to 184 liters, that is, a 123-liter reduction.

To achieve this goal Ebrard on Thursday presented a Potable Water Emergency Program which would ask everyone to save more water and accept the cuts imposed by water authorities to take pressure off the Cutzamala Water System that feeds the Mexico City metropolitan area.

For starters, Mayor Ebrard would like to see some 2 million homes fix

their faucets and toilet tanks to prevent leaks that literally send millions of liters of good potable water down the drain.

"This measure would allow us to save at least 6.43 million cubic meters of water a month, which for the August 2009-May 2010 period, could mean 2.2 months of water supply taken from the Cutzamala System," Mayor Ebrard said.

Mexico City Water System director Ramón Aguirre added that the water cuts announced this week will affect 13 of the city's boroughs which will lose pressure in their water taps but will continue to have water.

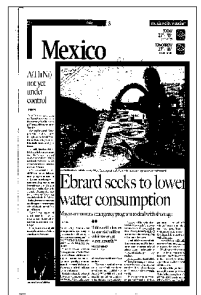
Ebrard added that a special public awareness program will be imple-

mented since the government's good intentions would not be workable without individual support from city residents.

Special attention, Ebrard added, will be paid to boroughs where water waste is known to exist. He mentioned the Tlalpan, Alvaro Obregón and Gustavo A. Madero boroughs, specially.

"This has to become an imperative program," Ebrard said during a ceremony to present the contingency program in the presence of the Aztec water god Tlaloc, in front of the Museum of Anthropology. "It is not a matter of some doing it and some not. If we don't change leaking faucets it won't work", Ebrard said.

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Ebrard added water will be difficult to get in the future just because there are no places left to obtain it.

“We will not be able to bring water to the city on a short term bases from other parts. We have to design our future considering a more rational use of the water we have now.” Mar-



This would allow us to save 6.43 million cubic meters of water a month.**

MARCELO EBRARD

Mexico City Mayor

celo Ebrard said.

He also said that people who do not install water saving devices and do not fix their leaking faucets “will pay more. And if they do not do it it will be very expensive if you did not plug your leaks.”