

Fecha 21.01.2010	Sección Primera	Página 3
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Water crisis underway

MEXICO CITY – Cities such as Celaya, San Luis Potosí and Guadalajara will have serious water supply problems within the next 15 years due to the exploitation of aquifers, one official said Wednesday.

Juan Elvira Quesada, secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat), said that the agency has begun calling together hydrology experts to analyze the construction of new reservoirs and aqueducts and to utilize other techniques in water retainment and purification to guarantee supply to communities.

“Water basins aren’t going to continue providing water forever, so we have to plan for greater retainment of rainwater and make sure it doesn’t get contaminated by wastewater,” Elvira said.

“We also mustn’t dispose of wastewater and let it go into rivers or the ocean without it first being treated,” he added.

Elvira said that one of the federal government’s priorities is to sanitize 60 percent of used potable water and return it back to rivers, lakes and other bodies of water.

– ROCÍO ZAYAS



Página 1 de 1
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