

Water supply in metro zone curbed by repairs

Conagua announces improvements to Cutzamala Reservoir System

THE NEWS

MEXICO CITY - The National Water Commission (**Conagua**) said Tuesday that it will perform maintenance work on parts of the Cutzamala Reservoir System.

In a press release, **Conagua**, via the Mexico Valley Water Basin Agency (OCAMV), said that maintenance will involve the changing of two tubes 99 inches in diameter by seven meters long, on line 2 of the system in the Almoloya de Juárez Municipality in the State of Mexico.

Due to the repairs, which will be carried out Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, only line 1 of the aqueduct will provide water to Toluca.

Conagua said that it had advised the State Water Commission (CAEM) and the Mexico City Water System (SACM) that during the four days of repairs, the reduction in supply to the metro zone will be increased from 30 percent to 40 percent.

Currently, the Cutzamala System supplies 70 percent of its capacity.

To compensate for the decrease, however, water authorities began on Tuesday boosting supply by 10 percent — from 70 percent to 80 percent.

The boost will continue until

tomorrow.

Conagua said that at least six more maintenance operations will occur this year, barring extraordinary events, in March, April, May, September, October and November.

Thirteen tubes will be replaced.

As has happened during the past few years, repairs have been planned for holidays to take advantage of when there is a smaller demand for water and some industries and businesses decrease their consumption in the metropolitan area.

Conagua provides bulk amounts of water distributed in 13 state municipalities and 10 boroughs in the Federal District. It is up to the SACM and the CAEM to inform users of the measures that will be taken amid cuts to supply.

Cuajimalpa, Tlalpan, Magdalena Contreras, Alvaro Obregón, Miguel Hidalgo, Benito Juárez, Coyoacán, Azcapotzalco, Cuauhtémoc and Iztapalapa are the Mexico City boroughs that will be affected.

State of Mexico municipalities include Tlalnepantla, Atizapán, Naucalpan, Cuautitlán Izcalli, Huixquilucan, Nicolás Romero, Tultitlán, Coacalco, Ecatepec, Nezahualcoyotl, Lerma, Ocoyoacac, and Toluca.

The OCAVM said that maintenance

will begin at midnight on Friday

and will end at 6 p.m. on Monday.

Next week, supply will return to 70 percent due to the low levels of reservoirs. As of Tuesday, reservoirs were at 59 percent capacity.

Conagua called on the public, businesses, organizations and government agencies to conserve water and use as little as possible.

It recommended that users install water-saving devices.

The Cutzamala Reservoir System is south-central Mexico's most important hydrology system, since it provides 5,920 liters per second to the State of Mexico and 9,716 liters per second to Mexico City, equivalent to 40 percent of the water consumed in the metropolitan area.

The system includes seven reservoirs, six pumping plants, 72.5 km of open-air canals, 43.9 km of tunnels and 218 km of aqueducts.

Deforestation and the enormous waste of water have provoked a drop in the availability of potable water to 335 cubic meters of water per year, per person, while the national average is as much as 4,800 cubic meters, according to hydrology experts.



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Cutzamala repairs mean a drop in Mexico City boroughs' water supplies and an increase in the reduction from 30 to 40 percent.