

Cities' cash for water is here

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The News

Over 20 million Mexicans are facing severe water shortages this summer, said the president of the Hydraulic Resources Committee in the Chamber of Deputies, Jesús Manuel Padrón Montalvo.

And the 32 billion peso budget allocated to the National Water Commission has not been fully used up.

Leading states facing acute shortages are the State of Mexico, Coahuila, Zacatecas, Durango, Guerrero, Chiapas as well as the Federal District as Mexico City is also known.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) legislator pointed out that rain by itself is a problem. However, infrastructure, shortage of resources and principally a "lack of vision for short range projects" that help to solve the water distribution issue are the problems.

"Water shortages are grave", he admitted, but what makes it worse is the absence of long-term investment projects and that is just what municipal, state and the federal governments should start working on, plus carrying out infrastructure projects now for the next 20 years.

"If we keep thinking that this is going to be solved in three or six years, at best, we will not be able to advance. There are international resources for mega construction but planning has to be done for 20 to 50 years."

Padrón Montalvo, however, underlined that the effort made at the Chamber of Deputies for resources of this type will help plug water shortfall as investment in water works quadrupled during the Felipe Calderón Administration, which pumped 32 billion pesos into the National Water Commission for 2009.

Nevertheless, he added, "not even 30 percent of the budget has been used and we are now at the end of July."

He said that great projects are not on hand, even if the money is available.

"The water theme has to be dealt with separately because the cost of water from the source to users at home has not been treated with the attention it deserves" at the Chamber of Deputies.

Mexico City has been worried about its water supply for years and it just keeps getting worse. The main municipal water supply are been shutting off during long weekends to prevent the water from running so low that it would run out. Half of Mexico City's water supply is lost through lousy infrastructure alone, primarily through leaking pipes.



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