

Floods, a major threat in the city

Despite mayor Ebrard's promises

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Floods are inevitable in Mexico City. Out of the three components that comprise the drainage infrastructure in the city, only one works without complications. The East and West drainage outlets have presented difficulties that have led to flooding in the boroughs of Gustavo A. Madero, Venustiano Carranza and Magdalena Contreras, said Ramón Aguirre, the director of Mexico City's Water Systems, in response to governor of Mexico City, Marcelo Ebrard's claim that fixing the Central Outlet would eradicate flooding in the city.

"We have drainage problems right now in the west of the city, and around the community of Valle Dorado. We have to fix all of the drainage outlets in order to resolve the flood problem here. We are having a lot of problems with the drainage infrastructure in the east and west of the city. The only component that functions without problems is the main sewage duct," he said.

Drainage tunnels in the Tlanepantla municipality, located just north of Mexico City were all but destroyed two weeks ago, sending a flood of rainwater and wastewater into the streets of the community of Valle Dorado. The state and federal government have invested millions of pesos in an attempt to restore normality to the devastated areas.

The flooding left a mess of entangled cars, personal belongings and severely damaged houses and buildings. Aguirre explained that the lack of maintenance to drainage pipes around the city over a span of several years has greatly reduced the performance of the infrastructure as a whole. The city's drainage system can't accommodate the needs of more than 20 million people.

However, the city is partnering with the State of Mexico and the National Water Commission (**Conagua**) to build a 15-million peso East Drainage Tunnel, to complement the Western Culvert, Deep Drainage and Great Canal systems, he said.



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Problems in the east and west drainage outlets provoked floods in State of México.