

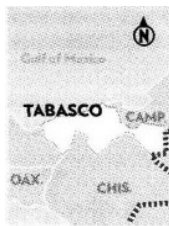
TABASCO



CUARTOSCURO/MARCO POLO GUZMAN HERNANDEZ

Many in Villahermosa were evacuated after severe flooding in 2007.

Gov: 'ya' on flood walls



TABASCO - The governor called on the National Water Commission (**Conagua**) to speed up flood mitigation projects in the Gulf

State over the weekend. Andrés Granier Melo said that the banks along the Grijalva and Carrizal rivers need concrete walls to keep them from overflowing into the capital, Villahermosa. These projects, recommended by experts and researchers from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and **Conagua**, are 65 percent completed, Granier added.

"On this tour, we're seeing that there are very important advances, where we are evaluating parts that still remain, including 14 km (8.7 miles) of walls," Granier said, adding that the project has municipal, state and federal support.

Bidding on floodgates will start

in November and construction will possibly begin in January. Granier called some parts of the wall project a necessary eyesore in the city.

When asked about his opinion of the wall's progress, Granier said, "I'm assessing this along with the authorities, and I'll make my comments, but Andrés Granier isn't going to be satisfied until this Flood Plan is 100 percent complete."

Residents in some flood-prone areas have been reluctant to leave their long-inhabited houses despite pushes from the city to relocate, Granier said. The government has already expropriated 371 houses in high-risk areas.

Granier also said residents should be more conscious, as the amount of garbage plugging up drainage and sewage systems in the city has been increasing.

Surrounded by rivers, Villahermosa was hit by severe flooding two years ago, in one of Mexico's worst-recorded natural disasters.

THE NEWS

