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Feasibility Studies Underway On Desalinization Plant To Be Located In Mexico Near Border

by Steven Ranieri

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On Feb. 19, according to unidentified business sources in Washington cited by Spanish news service EFE, the state of California's drinking water shortages have inspired feasibility studies on the construction of a desalinization plant to be located in Baja California near the US-Mexican border. Participants in the studies include Southern California Edison, Bechtel Corporation and several California state agencies. The plant would supply 30 million California residents with potable water. In the past five years, persistent drought spells have affected central and southern California obligating local government officials to implement rationing on households and farm operations. Desalinization plant capacity includes production of about 380 million liters of potable water per day, and 500 megawatts of electricity. Construction costs for generation of potable water and electricity are estimated at between \$1.2 and \$2 billion. (Source: EFE, 02/19/91)

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