Environmental and social effects derived from groundwater extraction in Tláhuac and Valle-de-Chalco-Solidaridad, Metropolitan Area of Mexico City

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Abstract The groundwater extraction in the southeast of the Metropolitan Area of Mexico City has negative consequences for the people who live in Tláhuac and Valle de Chalco Solidaridad, whose houses are exposed to subsidence, salinization and moisture problems that represent economic losses. This area is also exposed to residual water floods due to the lack of maintenance of the La Compañía Channel, the banks of which have broken twice (2000 and 2010) generating great losses too. The governmental response to these problems is limited and usually slow, and governmental authorities have not considered them in urban, rural and civil protection planning. In response, a local community organization (Coordinadora Valle de Chalco) is emerging to accuse three levels of Government for their negligence; this organization is trying to manage the risk and propose alternatives to change the situation for the affected people in the southwest of the Metropolitan Area of Mexico City.

Key words subsidence; flood; Tláhuac; Valle de Chalco Solidaridad; community organization