



CEDO
INTERCULTURAL

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PRESS RELEASE
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The Mexican Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) approved a project with buildings of over 20 stories in the mouth of Estero Morua. The project, “The Pointe”, will have innumerable ecological impacts.

On October 12 approval for the megadevelopment “The Pointe in Las Conchas” appeared in the Official Gazette of the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), even though this project violates establish law as expressed in the LGEEPA (General Law for Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection.)

CEDO is using this press release to express the opposition of the environmental sector to this approval and to explain the concerns of neighbors in the estero, including the oyster cooperatives and the residential neighborhoods.

El Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (Mexican Center for Environmental Law), *Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste* (Environmental Defense of the Northwest), together with CEDO itself, believe that this approval given by SEMARNAT is a decision that instead of watching out for the interests of the environment and the community, favors the economic interests of one private party. This project shouldn't be approved as it: 1) affects critical habitats for conservation (Estero Morua), 2) permanently impacts species protected by Mexican legislation (including the Least Tern which nesting colony will be destroyed), 3) the environmental impact statement does not comply with the requirements of the law in the part related to judicial orders, 4) is does not take into account alternate sources of water, 5) does not adequately evaluate the social impacts, and 6) it does not evaluate the accumulative impacts at the local and regional levels, among other faults.

Previously, various groups have asked the Secretary for an explanation of this approval and have analyzed the various legal flaws that have brought the Secretary to approve the project in order to request that the Secretary re-evaluate the situation and that in this case the approval be withdrawn in accordance with the law.

Protecting natural resources is our responsibility as individuals and as a community, especially when these resources are shared with other countries. We invite everyone who is concerned with this and other projects to inform themselves about the consequences of these projects by communicating with Alejandro Castillo (CEDO's Coordinator of Sustainable Development and Coastal Conservation) by email at alejandro@cedointercultural.org or by telephone at 638 382 0113 in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora..

CEDO is aware of the importance of tourist development for the growth of our community; nevertheless, it is essential to find a balance between development, society and the environment, respecting areas of great ecological importance. Only by working together can we identify the ideal sites for tourist activities and the necessary infrastructure without affecting these other interests.