Five facts you need to know about Cabo Pelícanos

Cabo Pelícanos is a new project proposed to be built near Cabo Pulmo National Park, around 10km south of the protected area. At 21 years of its creation, this park has become the marine area with the highest concentration of fish in the Gulf of California. It is a remarkable ecosystem, even compared to a world renowned region for its wealth, as the Gulf of California is. The following information is derived from technical analysis of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Tourism Development Master Plan of Cabo Pelícanos.

1-The Tourism Development Master Plan of Cabo Pelícanos, comprises a set of construction works with an area of 3.02 million of m² (approximately three times the size of La Ribera town). This area is classified within the Ecological Ordinance of the Municipality of Los Cabos as a low density and low density conservationist use (page. 18 of the EIS Cabo Pelícanos).

2-The project includes (page. 30-32 of the EIS Cabo Pelícanos):
   - 1,119 hotel rooms (Almost the same as La Paz during 2014 that had an infrastructure of 2,812 rooms according to the Ministry of Economic Development, Environment and Natural Resources)
   - 18 holes Golf Course (329,500 m²)
   - Artificial lakes (22,800 m²)
   - Museum – aquarium with a live whale shark exhibition

3-To build 1,119 hotel rooms translates into a migration of 17,904 people who will require households and access to public services. Because the area lacks completely of public services, the municipality would have to make a considerable investment in order to guarantee them.

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2 Ministry of Economic Development, Environment and Natural Resources (2014). Basic Data from Baja California Sur.
4-During the operation of the project and to ensure the operation of golf courses, hotels, cabins and other buildings, a water demand of more than 5 million liters per day is calculated (page. 96 EIS Cabo Pelícanos). This is equivalent to the daily consumption of about 29 mil people (10 times the size of La Ribera delegation, Municipality of Los Cabos). To stock the resource, the project involves the construction of a desalination plant, however, the impacts that could be generated by the disposal of brine (water residue having twice salinity concentrations) which can affect the ecosystems in the area are not evaluated. Also studies will be conducted to determine whether water from the Cabo Pulmo aquifer can be extracted, despite that CONAGUA data indicates that currently there is no volume available for further extractions because the aquifer has a water deficit.

5- Other impacts noted that the same project relates are the effects on important ecosystems such as dunes, affectations to the environment by the use of fertilizers and pesticides on the golf course, habitat loss and displacement of wildlife (page. 343 EIS Cabo Pelicanos). However the potential impacts to Cabo Pulmo National Park were not evaluated by the petitioner.

Cabo Pelicanos is a project based on a mass tourism model involving serious effects not only to the ecosystem but the surrounding towns that maintain a close relationship with their environment.

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4 Considering a water consumption in warm climate of 185 liters per resident a day according to CONAGUA in its Drinking Water, Sewerage and Sanitation Manual, Basic Data. (2007). Water Technology Mexican Institute

5 According to the Living and Population Census 2010, the population of La Ribera Delegation is of 2,438 residents.

6 CONAGUA (2015). Determination of water availability in the Cabo Pulmo aquifer (0318), Baja California Sur State.
Fig. 1 Macro and Microlocalization of Cabo Pelicanos project

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