

# PRESS RELEASE - PLATAFORMA SALVAR LA TEJITA

TENERIFE - 4th of May, 2020

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**SUBJECT:- Coronavirus is listed as a potential pathogenic virus present in contaminated sea water – Work continues at the Hotel La Tejita (Tenerife), a project with no sewage treatment system.**

Whilst the majority of the Canary Island's population remain under lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, construction work continues at the Hotel La Tejita (South Tenerife), (a project for a hotel which aims to accommodate over 900 guests, located just 20 meters from the coast, which does not include any form of sewage treatment system). A scientific study lists certain strains of corona virus as some of the human enteric viruses with potential waterborne transmission.

110			Bosch, A. et al.
<b>Table 5.1.</b> Human enteric viruses with potential waterborne transmission.			
Genus	Popular name	Diseases caused	
<i>Enterovirus</i>	Polio	Paralysis, meningitis, fever	
	Coxsackie A, B	Herpangina, meningitis, fever, respiratory disease, hand-foot-and-mouth disease, myocarditis, heart anomalies, rash, pleurodynia, diabetes?	
	Echo	Meningitis, fever, respiratory disease, rash, gastroenteritis	
<i>Hepatovirus</i>	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis	
<i>Reovirus</i>	Human reovirus	Unknown	
<i>Rotavirus</i>	Human rotavirus	Gastroenteritis	
<i>Mastadenovirus</i>	Human adenovirus	Gastroenteritis, respiratory disease, conjunctivitis	
<i>Norovirus</i>	Norwalk-like virus	Gastroenteritis	
<i>Sappovirus</i>	Sapporo-like virus	Gastroenteritis	
To be determined	Hepatitis E	Hepatitis	
<i>Mamastrovirus</i>	Human astrovirus	Gastroenteritis	
<i>Parvovirus</i>	Human parvovirus	Gastroenteritis	
<i>Coronavirus</i>	Human coronavirus	Gastroenteritis, respiratory disease	
<i>Torovirus</i>	Human torovirus	Gastroenteritis	

In the study "Human Pathogenic Viruses in the Marine Environment" (Albert Bosch, F. Xavier Abad, and Rosa M. Pint'ó - Enteric Virus Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain), it is revealed that in sewage contaminated waters, there are well over 100 virus species able to cause a wide spectrum of illnesses in mankind including hepatitis, gastroenteritis, meningitis, fever, rash, conjunctivitis, and SARS (a form of Corona virus). (Annex 1).

Due to the recent arrival of the COVID-19 strain of corona virus, to date no official studies exist relating to the propagation of the virus via untreated sewage.

During late 2019, independent technicians who studied the Hotel La Tejita project confirmed that the hotel will not have a sewage treatment system, that it would connect to the "existing network" (which is inexistent), also that the project and license for the hotel was unlawfully approved by the Granadilla de Abona Town Hall with coherence to the 1969 regulations, which were superseded by the *REAL DECRETO LEY 11/1995*, which came into force on the 27th of March, 1998. (Annex 2). Several legal demands are in place against the hotel, but due to the usual delays in court cases, made worse by the current crisis, the promoters of the hotel are able to continue working with impunity.

<p><b>NORMAS PROVISIONALES SOBRE INSTALACIONES DEPURADORAS Y VERTIDO DE AGUAS RESIDUALES AL MAR.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RESOLUCIÓN de 23-ABR-69 de la Dirección General de Puertos y Señales Marítimas</li> <li>- B.O.E.: 20-JUN-69</li> <li>- Corrección errores: 4-AGO-69</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corrección de errores:</li> <li>- 29-NOV-82 y 1-OCT-83</li> </ul>	<p><b>CÓDIGO TÉCNICO DE LA EDIFICACIÓN</b> Deroga los artículos 2 al 9, ambos inclusive, y 20 a 23, ambos inclusive, excepto el apartado 2 del artículo 20 y el apartado 3 del artículo 22 del reglamento anterior.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- REAL DECRETO 314/2006, del Ministerio de la Vivienda del 17 de marzo de 2006</li> <li>- B.O.E: 28 de marzo de 2006</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pág. 300 de 436</b> <b>Doc. 91270-096-04415</b></p>
<p><b>TEXTO REFUNDIDO DE LA LEY DE AGUAS.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- REAL DECRETO de 20-JUL-01, del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente</li> </ul>			

		barreras físicas y de la comunicación	memoria.	<p><b>Pág. 70 de 436</b> <b>Doc. 91270-096-04415</b></p>
	redes independientes de distribución de agua potable y de riego		Redes independientes de agua potable, gris y de riego con reutilización de aguas grises y pluviales para inodoros y riego.	
	el abastecimiento de agua potable garantizará un volumen mínimo de 200 litros por plaza alojativa y día.		Ap. 2.7 Sistema de acondicionamiento e instalaciones de la presente memoria.	
	depósito de acumulación de 300 litros por plaza alojativa, capacidad que se elevará a 500 litros por plaza alojativa, si el abastecimiento proviene de medio diferente a la red general		Abastecimiento red general >146.400litros/día con depósitos para acumulación >219.600 litros.	
	red de saneamiento que deberá garantizar el vertido final de las aguas residuales a una estación depuradora.		Red de saneamiento existente.	



The beaches of Granadilla de Abona have been plagued by beach closures due to raw sewage contamination over the past 10 years.

According to the study “Bandas Negras 2017” (Annex 3), compiled with data from “Estudio sobre la situación del saneamiento, tratamiento y vertido de las aguas residuales en la isla de Tenerife. Universidad de La Laguna, 2010,-

“....al gran problema que supone el vertido diario de más de 57 millones de litros de aguas residuales al mar sin cumplir la legislación sobre tratamientos de aguas residuales.

El sector turístico, además de sufrir escandalosamente el problema (medios internacionales se han hecho eco de la dudosa calidad de nuestras aguas), forma parte de su agravamiento, ya que el actual modelo turístico se asienta en una alta demanda hídrica y un escaso compromiso de la gestión de las aguas residuales, tanto del sector hotelero como de la administración pública.”



It is noted that the Granadilla de Abona Town Hall has began planning for a new sewage treatment system for the municipality, but it is very doubtful that this will be operational within the next 8 years. Trying to use this as an excuse for allowing a new hotel to open without sewage treatment is comparable to taking a walk in a rainstorm, then putting your raincoat on after you have returned home. It is senseless.

- It is totally unacceptable that a hotel designed for over 900 guests is devoid of any sewage treatment system.
- It is totally unacceptable that the politicians, on national, regional and local levels, are happy to allow 900+ tourists to enjoy the safety of chlorinated water of several swimming pools at the Hotel La Tejita, whilst, considering the previous performance of the public administrations regarding sewage treatment. the biological waste of these tourists has a high probability of directly contaminating our ocean.
- Whilst the general population are confined to their homes due to a strain of corona virus which allegedly originated from a market in Wuhan, that construction continues of a project which is a potential health hazard in our municipality. It is totally unacceptable that the politicians responsible for this project are playing “Russian Roulette” with our health.
- Finally, it is totally unacceptable that a hotel, in the year 2020 and in the midst of a viral pandemic, is being built without the legal safeguards to protect against potential risks to human health, to the ecosystem, and also risking substantial sanctions.

**The Platform Salvar La Tejita requests that the following responsible politicians / civil servants, individually or collectively, immediately paralyze the construction of this hotel until the legal challenges are heard in the respective courts of law:-**

**José Domingo Regalado** (Alcalde de Granadilla de Abona)

**José Antonio Valbuena Alonso** (Consejería de Transición Ecológica, Lucha contra el Cambio Climático y Planificación Territorial)

**Hugo Morán** (Secretario de Estado de Medio Ambiente)

**Teresa Ribera** (Ministra para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico de España)

## RESOURCES

ANNEX 1 [http://salvarlatejita.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Viruses\\_Marine\\_Environment.pdf](http://salvarlatejita.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Viruses_Marine_Environment.pdf)

ANNEX 2 [http://salvarlatejita.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/informe\\_banderas\\_negras\\_2017.pdf](http://salvarlatejita.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/informe_banderas_negras_2017.pdf)

ANNEX 3 [http://salvarlatejita.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ALERTA\\_AGUAS\\_RESIDUALES\\_TEJITA.pdf](http://salvarlatejita.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ALERTA_AGUAS_RESIDUALES_TEJITA.pdf)

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