

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

As President of this great land, we humbly request your support regarding an urgent matter that has the potential to devastate Tulum's ecological systems and economy.

A recent viral video showed a Tulum wastewater truck dumping untreated wastewater into the jungle. It was subsequently revealed that three of Tulum's four sewage treatment plants have been inoperable for a year. An estimated hundred of thousand liters of wastewater are being dumped into the soil everyday. This, along with inadequate and inefficient infrastructure for the fast growing population of Tulum, has caused a severe strain on our resources and environment that will be irreversible if action isn't urgently taken.

Our precious natural resources are being neglected and squandered, and you are uniquely positioned to bring solutions.

As you know, our city is situated on top of the largest underground river system in the world. This underground network is the vascular system of the entire Yucatan peninsula.

Unfortunately, the great Mayan aquifer is being polluted by wastewater and leaking landfills. Black water and landfill runoff are contaminating our entire water system from the cenotes, to the underground rivers, to the Caribbean Sea... waters so sacred to our Mayan ancestors and essential for our survival.

All ground contamination is carried downstream — to the water in our homes, to the local produce we eat, into our oceans, and even into the air our families breathe.

Furthermore, the Mesoamerican reef that protects the Yucatan peninsula from deadly and devastating weather — the second largest reef in the world — is dying. Because of the ongoing contamination, 40 percent of the reef is no longer alive. If this progresses, unbridled storms could regularly decimate the peninsula, potentially crippling more than 40% of the country's tourism industry.

The federal government has the historic opportunity to REGENERATE these priceless natural resources that underlie the ecological and economic wellbeing of the Mayan Riviera.

We are asking you to allocate funds to save Tulum's ecology and economy. Tulum needs funds to resuscitate its water treatment plants, clean up landfill and the garbage piles in the jungle, and implement a sewage master plan that includes community monitoring and regenerative incentives.

Please give the waters of the Mayan Riviera the chance to regenerate before bringing projects you hold dear. Tulum needs a steady and stable foundation to cope with any additional growth.

We are a growing coalition of over 50 civil society organizations, celebrities, indigenous peoples, churches, community leaders, and local businesses urging your administration to address this matter now.

Tulum needs you to act immediately before the damage becomes irreversible. Investment is needed to protect and preserve the underground river system and the reef that protect and support Mexico's most important region for tourism.

With all due respect, we request that you invest to keep Tulum's sacred waters clean and pristine. We ask you to invest for our families and our businesses. And we ask you to invest for future generations. We will stand with you. Will you stand with Tulum?