## Sustainability Business





Successful Businesses
and Sustainability
Environmental Practice

GOODRICH
O RIQUELME
ASOCIADOS



# Successful Businesses and sustainability



## ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE



As one of the top 5 full service law firms in Mexico with 85 years of experience, 200 professionals and staff members, Goodrich Riquelme remains as a renowned and respected actor of the Mexican law by accompanying its clients through all the steps of their commercial ventures providing them thoroughly processes and far reaching proposals in various practice areas.

For decades our environmental experts have assisted on various relevant projects in the country, including, some key sectors such as infrastructure, real estate, tourism, pharmaceuticals, energy and others.

We believe that our experience and our business-oriented & innovative approach cover our clientele expectations.

Our firm's experience serving national and foreign investors enables us to

provide our clients with advice that is tailored to their specific needs, with an understanding of the legal and cultural implications of doing business in Mexico. Our environmental specialists work alongside the client's business and technical teams on each stage of a project, so that full legal compliance is ensured, along with the maximum possible benefits for investors and the protection of the environment and the communities whose participation is vital for success.

Our Environmental Law Department has experience in litigation advisory and support on complex transactional structures to clients, which includes general corporate issues, (eg. legal due diligence on m&a, entailing environmental risk associated transactions). Furthermore, we are regularly sought out by local and foreign clients for our expertise dealing with

## SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES AND SUSTAINABILITY



environmental aspects of large transactions, including regulatory compliance and liaison with federal and local authorities.

Likewise, our department has a notable experience advising in all actions related to air, land use, environmental impact and risk assessment, water, wetlands, waste and endangered species.

"... As one of the most innovative and widely- respected law firms in Mexico, Goodrich has specialized, since its inception in 1934, in representing multinational companies conducting business in Mexico..."

-Chambers and Partners 2018-



#### **RELEVANT RECENT CASES**



- The firm advised a worldwide leader company in medical technology. Our environmental team has given legal support on regularization on the unification of total granted volume to the company by means of a protection Judge and making follow up with senior public officers of National Water Commission.
- Our environmental department carried out a due diligence in order to evaluate and assist a national company on the implementation and compliance with its environmental obligations to construct and operate an industrial plant located in Navojoa, Sonora, which will process the Higuerilla plant for its transformation into castor oil.
- According to the Mexico's Energy Reform, Pemex is able to migrate previous tendered contracts into new E&P contracts. In such regard, our firm advised an international oil company willing to regularize and comply before the migration process takes place, with all of its environmental obligations contained in the contracts awarded by Pemex in 2008 for various oil fields.
- Our legal team performed a due diligence in order to ensure the compliance of the legal obligations of a manufacturing company regarding its industrial plant located in Mexico City. This due diligence was useful to the company in order to renew their "Clean Industry Certification" issued by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **OUR SERVICES**



#### WATER

The water management system in Mexico is divided in the use of national waters through municipal networks. Our firm has a legal team that is capable of:

- Obtaining, modifying, extending and advising on compliance with concession titles for the use of national waters;
- Drafting contracts for the supply of water;
- Compliance with payment entitlements related to the use or supply water;
- Obtaining, modifying, extending and advising on compliance with permits for wastewaters discharge;

and compliance with obligations related to the treatment of wastewaters.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The General Law on Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection (herein after LGEEPA) establishes the legal framework which intends to regulate the preservation and restoration of the ecological equilibrium as well as the protection of the environment in Mexico. The LGEEPA is broad in scope, addressing environmental risk and impact assessment. Therefore, some activities such as mining, oil and gas industries, real state, industrial parks, among



others, will previously require an environmental impact authorization.

Also, those who execute activities of high risk, must file a risk study and an accident prevention program.

In reference of the above, our firm has the experience to advise our clients in:

- Amendments;
- Extensions of term;
- Exemptions;
- Change of environmental impact authorization title holder and;
- Conditioning compliance.

#### FEDERAL MARITIME ZONE

The zones adjacent to Mexican beaches are known as the Federal Maritime Zone. Any individual or company who intends to carry out a project (eg a hotel), needs a special license and authorization in order to perform such project and activities.

On this matter, our legal team is capable of:

- Obtaining concessions titles for the use of the Federal Maritime Zone;
- Amendments and extensions;
- Temporary permits;
- Disincorporation of land reclaimed from the sea;

- Assignment of rights;
- Certification of clean beaches;
   and
- Obtaining authorizations and permits for construction.

#### **AIREMISSIONS & NOISE**

"The polluter pays" reads the general principle of International Environmental Law. According to this universally acknowledged principle, whoever is responsible for pollution must bear the cost of cleanup. Mexico, as a member of Kioto Procol and Paris Agreement, is compelled to regulate activities that generate different



#### Successful Businesses

#### AND SUSTAINABILITY

types of pollution. Our environmental team has a wide experience on the following activities:

- Unique Environmental License.
- Annual Emission Inventory.
- Greenhouse gas emissions.
- · Carbon Bonds.

#### **WASTE**

All production processes result in some waste; and its treatment and disposition is regulated by Mexican laws. The firm has extensive experience in the management of hazardous waste, special handling and urban solid wastes, so we can provide legal support in:

- Designing management plans and advising on regulatory compliance of solid wastes, special handling and hazardous wastes;
- Registration as micro, small or large waste generator; and
- Action plan for the remediation of contaminated sites.

#### **FORESTLANDUSE**

Across Mexico we can find places where non-urban impact has occurred. Due to this, some lands are identified with the land use "Forestry". In such regard, for the development of any project in these



types of lands it is necessary obtaining the authorization of change land use on forestry land. Our legal team may advise you in the following areas:

- Justificatory technical study;
- Change of land use on forestry land; and
- Use and exploitation of forestry resources for profit.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE

Due diligence is an important concept in environmental regulation and compliance. When properly performed, it provides a defense to regulatory charges or, it may help to mitigate potential fines or sanctions. Furthermore, in a corporate transaction this audit allows the buyer to assess all the environmental aspects of a potential acquisition in order to determine what the benefits, liabilities, risks and opportunities are.

This type of audit includes a complete and detailed inspection of environmental permits, licenses, authorizations and/or concessions to determine compliance by the audited company. The work product is a report that points out potential liabilities and actions to be undertaken in order to achieve full compliance with the terms of the law.

In addition to document review, if it is deemed necessary, a visit to the audited place is carried out in order to advise our clients on compliance with environmental laws and regulations by their companies, affiliates, subsidiaries and actual or potential vendors.

### ENVIRONMENTAL LAW LITIGATION

Our firm promotes access to justice and the rule of law, reason why our team represents clients before courts and administrative authorities at the local, state and federal level in matters related to:

- Denials of permits, license or authorization;
- Inspections;
- Suspension of activities mandated by an authority;
- Administrative proceedings and trials to challenge authorities acts;
- Appeals and judicial review proceedings; and
- Constitutional defense ("Juicio de Amparo").















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