

Antonia Hover

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 10:57 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Deny Environmental Utilities, LLC Docket 20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Sewer System for Knight Island, Don Pedro Island, aka Palm Island; Re: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; No sewer LGI ; No sewer LGI; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; FOR Centralized Wastewater; Fw: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island; Proposed low pressure sewer system for Charlotte County Barrier Islands: DPP, LGI and PIE; PSC Docket #20240032-SU; Docket# 20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket No. 20240032-SU; Proposed low pressure system for Little Gasparilla Island; Docket # 20240032-SU; RE. Docket # 20240032-SU; Docket #20230032-SU; 2 letters of objection to Environmental Utilities Wastewater Application Docket#20240032-SU; Docket No. 20240032; Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032 - SU - Martin and Janet Mueller - Interested Party LGI Property Owners; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Re: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Fwd: Docket 20240032-SU; 20240032-SU; EU Proposal Docket # 20240032-SU; Proposed EU sewer application for the islands of LGI, Knights Island, Palm Island and Don Pedro Island; Docket 20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; Docket# 20240032-SU; Docket No. 20240032-SU, Environmental Utilities; Fwd: Docket# 20240032-SU; Application for Original Wastewater Certificate in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities LLC, Docket 20240032-SU; Request to DENY Docket # 20240032-SU ; Sewer LGI; LGI Serer System; Docket #20240032-SU; FW: Docket# 20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service; Sewer Docket 20240032-SU; Re: Objection to the Proposal to and Request the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the Proposed Central Sewer System; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Objection to the Proposal to and Request the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the Proposed Central Sewer System; Docket #20240032-SU; Message from Frank Guagliardo regarding Docket# 20240032-SU; Re: Docket #20240032-SU; 20240032-SU docket #; Docket # 20240032; Proposed EU application for wastewater services,

God morning,

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032. Thank you!

Hannah E. Branum

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark

Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850) 413-6004



FLORIDA PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

Antonia Hover

From: Janice Schroder <carpartjanice@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am opposed to the sewer proposal by Environmental Utilities, LLC

My name is Janice Schroder.

I live on Little Gasparilla Island.
I have a septic system.
It works fine.

I do not want the proposed sewer system, which is substandard to the septic system I have and own. It will require more work and money to maintain than my current septic system.

It will force me to pay a high price to “hookup” and then an expensive monthly fee.

It will force me to purchase a generator, since the proposed system is electricity dependent. Without electricity, putrid contents could leach out into the open. Consider how this would attract rats and disease.

It will tear up my personal property, including my vegetation. Who will replace and return my property to its pre construction state?

On Little Gasparilla Island, we use electric golf carts to haul our groceries and supplies from the docks to our homes.
Electric motors are located underneath the carts.

Many carts will not survive the mud, trenches and puddles from the construction. This will add another layer of frustration and expense to islanders.

As a community, we are still rebuilding our beautiful island to the way it was before hurricane Ian hit us so hard.

The sewer construction will tear up our entire privately owned island and ruin our fragile roads. Who will rebuild the roads?

I believe, for many, it would be devastating, both emotionally and financially, to deal with the negative impact of this proposed construction.

This bad idea has been turned down by islanders once before.
How many times do we have to say “no”?

I request that the PSC **deny EU’s application for wastewater** service.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Janice Schroder

Email: janice@schroder.net

Sent from my iPad

Antonia Hover

From: Sarah Daniel <athomethomasville119@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 1:53 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Deny Environmental Utilities, LLC Docket 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioner Clerk,

I live at 450 Bocilla Dr. on Don Pedro Island. We have been living there for the last 7 years. and have been coming to the Island for the last 27 years.

As you know, the cost of the initial installation is over \$12,000, and will probably be more. There is a cost to the owners to connect the system to the house, and a generator to buy and install, and a deposit to begin the service. We simply cannot afford these costs.

In addition, there will be huge disruption to the roads, which will impact the wildlife, including gopher turtles, which are endangered. It will disrupt the intercoastal waterway.

We have seen no reliable data that doing this will have a positive impact on the environment, rather we believe it will be very disruptive and have a negative impact on the environment and local wildlife.

Environmental Utilities LLC has no prior experience, and has already been denied approval. The island residents have been against this from the beginning. Why is this being debated again?

Please stop this silliness. Enough already.

Sincerely,

Tim and Sarah Daniel
450 Bocilla Drive,
Placida (Don Pedro Island)
229-200-2199

Antonia Hover

From: Mike Riley <mikenriley@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 2:54 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: 'Meryl Schaffer'; 'Linda Cotherman'; 'Meighan Kerr'
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

My name is Michael Riley

I am a Florida resident and property owner of 220 Kettle Harbor Drive, Don Pedro island, which is within the boundaries of the proposed service area of Environmental Utilities, Inc. (EU) application for waste water service.

I have lived at this address for over 15 years.

I object to the proposal under docket #20240032-SU and ask the Public Service Commission to deny the application for original certificate of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

Basically there is no proven need to do a 'septic to sewer' conversion in this service area. The water quality around our bridgeless barrier islands is good and the issues with the Lemon Bay water quality (high level of nutrients) has been found to be caused primarily by Charlotte County Utilities Recycle Water system which does not meet federal recycle water standards. Many forward thinking coastal counties have instituted a moratorium on septic to sewer conversions until each county can bring their own contaminating recycle water within federal standards. This process takes from 3 to 10 years to accomplish, yet Charlotte County has not seen fit to do a moratorium on conversions, and is in support of this private party septic to sewer conversion, which I do not understand – clean your own house before blasting others without proven need.

Our Islands are blessed with having a population of people that are environmentally conscious. We have the Bocilla Islands Conservancy, Inc. (BICI) to thank for implementing various programs to help maintain our islands attitude for nature and education on environmental issues.

BICI has a Gopher Tortoise relocation program to safely relocate this endangered species on new home sites. They also help residents build a Tortoise berm to provide habitat, and honor those with 'Tortoise Friendly Yards' (a unique and celebrated program by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservancy Commission).

BICI got our islands certified as a 'Community Wildlife Habitat' per below certificate. 'Palm Island' consists of Don Pedro and Knight islands as well as Thornton Key. Construction of the sewer system will devastate our certification and damage our wildlife habitat.



COMMUNITY WILDLIFE
HABITAT[™]



Palm Island is now a....
Certified Community Wildlife Habitat!

Leading a nationwide trend in community concern for habitat loss, Palm Island has been officially designated as a NWF Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

Palm Island is a unique barrier island that is home to a diverse array of wildlife, native & migrating birds, endangered species such as gopher tortoises, interesting insects, bob cats, seasonal sea turtles and of course, our abundance of fish & marine life. All of these animals play a role in the health & quality of our fragile environment. Some are productive pollinators while others balance the food chain.

Bocilla Islands Conservancy strives to protect island wildlife thru preservation of green space, and ongoing education.

BICI also has sponsored the 'Mini-reef' program on our islands. These are mini-reefs that are placed under docks to clean our waters as well as provide a safe habitat for fish and marine life. This is part of the 10,000 reef challenge that many communities along the Florida coast have adopted with great success. BICI also helps remove invasive species of plants and encourages plantings of native or Florida friendly plants and flora.

One of my major concerns is the devastation to our roadways, trees, landscaping, wildlife habitat, etc. with the proposed sewer system. We enjoy and properly maintain septic systems, sand roads, open spaces, parks, trails, etc. which make living on our islands peaceful and tranquil. One of the downsides of living on these bridgeless barrier islands is ferry access furnished by the Palm Island Transit, Inc., or private boat. Because of Hurricane Ian and all the rebuilding by contractors that do not live on island, our ferry wait times have been an hour or so to leave or regain access to our homes. This proposed multiyear sewer construction project would lengthen these wait times even longer causing frustration and additional cost to EU – eventually passed on to the homeowners in rates.

Another major concern is an environmental spill of wastewater from these tanks and the intra-coastal waterway. With our current septic systems, they continue to operate efficiently and environmentally sound without electricity. I and the other island residents maintain our septic systems with routine sludge removal and inspections to ensure proper operation, replacing when deemed necessary and Charlotte County continues to supply permits for rebuild or replacement. The proposed system would be reliant on electricity to operate the pumps to move the wastewater off island. If the power fails for a period of time (a frustratingly regular occurrence and definitely when there is a hurricane or high winds creating no ferry service), we would be subject to the possibility of a wastewater environmental spill (only a small 60 gallon storage tank without a septic field) which would have a devastating effect on wildlife, wildlife habitats, and also our residents. By taking the wastewater off island through a subaqueous line in the intra-coastal waterway, there is the potential of a horrible environmental disaster in our waterways.

Why does the application allow EU a non-compensated easement for each resident to place their tank on our property near our house and allow them 24 hour access without homeowner permission. EU should have to purchase the easement from each homeowner because granting an easement without compensation goes contrary to real property ownership laws in Florida. This oversteps the boundaries of eminent domain without adequate legal proceedings or representation. It is basically granting access and ownership of private property to another entity without due process.

The cost to Homeowners for this wastewater system is tremendous, especially considering the fact of having to rebuild from Hurricane Ian. Our insurance costs are out of sight, again because of Hurricane Ian and the States position on insurance programs. This proposal would cost each Homeowner slightly less than \$15,000 up front with no pay over-time option. The monthly cost of around \$250 (or \$3,000 per year) is unconscionable for the removal of wastewater only – no sludge. The additional 'homeowner' costs of electrical panel installation, electricity, and sludge removal from the storage tank are too much. The costs estimated by EU have proven to be inaccurate or only estimates and the actual cost could and probably would be significantly higher. We can't afford uncontrolled spiraling costs to force many to move from the islands. This application also **requires mandatory** hookup by each resident – no exceptions, even if they recently replaced their septic system with a new, permitted, latest code system at a cost of \$10-20,000. The newest septic systems being installed are highly efficient and have been proven to clean wastewater to levels that exceed current federal and state levels, so why create potential problems building an expensive sewer system when septic systems can and will work adequately for bridgeless barrier islands without environmental issues.

Septic systems retard high density development where sewer systems encourage it. Our bridgeless barrier islands need to remain an environmentally balanced residential area of Florida that seems to be disappearing state wide on a daily basis.

This application is a repeat attempt to do 'private' sewers on our islands without support of the homeowners or a proven need. The prior application from 2020 was denied by the PSC because no need for service was justified or proven. The 2024 proposed private sewer system design is the same as the old denied proposal. There is already a private sewer system (Knight Island Utilities, Inc.) to handle the Palm Island Resort, which trucks its wastewater and sludge off island via the ferry. I would assume that the Resort would prefer to use the proposed subaqueous intra-coastal wastewater crossing of EU to remove their wastewater, but does not want to pay the same initial hookup and monthly fees as the rest of the service area homeowners. EU has designed their system to handle this Resort's additional volume (at the cost of the proposed service homeowners), but does not include the Resort in their service area and does not provide for any bulk transmission rates or other commercial rates in their application. This question was not answered in the prior case and needs to be addressed immediately.

Bottom line – This application needs to be denied immediately and not allowed to proceed.

I cannot put into words all the objections I have for this unwarranted and unwanted attempt to force a high cost, unjustified, inadequate wastewater removal service, by a politically astute/active 'private' party (with a big profit incentive) down our throats.

Again, I object to the proposal under docket #20240032-SU and ask the Public Service Commission to deny the application for original certificate of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

Thank you

Michael Riley
220 Kettle Harbor Dr
PO Box 3554
Placida, FL 33946
mikenriley@comcast.net

Antonia Hover

From: Charlene Mackin <charlene@palmislandstays.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 2:27 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Commissioner.Passiodomo@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Palm Island Estates
Subject: Sewer System for Knight Island, Don Pedro Island, aka Palm Island

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

My husband, Kevin Mackin and I, Charlene Mackin are very concerned regarding the possibility of adding a sewer system to our island currently consisting of individual septic systems for each homeowner. These concerns are:

1. Environmental: No studies have been done to prove the need for sewer
2. EU is NOT a contractor and has no experience with a massive project such as installing a sewer system for the entire island. We all know what can happen if you get a bad contractor and the many issues that could befall on a project as complex and environmentally difficult as this would be.
3. Cost: The hook-up costs are exceeding high and are vague on the actual the costs will eventually be on not just a month by month water bill, but the installation fees can go up and up.
4. Warranty: There are no guarantees that the treatment of sewer waste will be processed in an environmentally efficient manner as well as no guarantees on lifespan of the equipment, system maintenance, and on and on. Again, a contractor who has never tackled an operation as complex as this would inevitably be a disaster.
5. Access to homes: What about some property owners would have physical restraints on getting access to their homes, the car ferry would be delayed in unbelievable amounts of time to prohibit a timely journey on and off the island, and this could take years to complete.
6. Potential of sewer spill in the Intracoastal Waterway. The risk of central sewer leak is far greater than the risk of septic systems developing leaks.
7. Grandfathering of septic systems regardless of age. My husband and I just spent \$12,000 installing a new septic system for our home at 381 Bocilla Dr. This fact would not even be considered.

Most importantly, NOTHING has been shown to prove that a sewer system would be environmentally beneficial over the current septic systems we homeowners have in place. We BEG you to not even consider this project. If you investigate the EXACT step by step procedures of this very complex and time consuming project, you will find that there are many open ended questions and concerns that have not been addressed or outlined. It is vague, unprofessional and environmentally NOT SOUND.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin and Charlene Mackin
381 Bocilla Dr.
Placida, FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: W COOPER <erniesheryl_cooper@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:56 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Re: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

April 24, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

Regarding Docket #20240032-SU

I am opposed to a central wastewater sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI), as I do not see any proven need for one. I am requesting the Florida Public Service Commission deny Environmental Utilities, LLC's application to install and operate a central wastewater sewer system on LGI.

I have owned my home on the island since 1976 and have always had a reliable septic tank and drain field. I have not requested sewer service and do not see the need for this service on LGI. We are not permanent residents on the Island, however, we and our family are frequent visitors to our home on the Island. We have raised our children and now have grandchildren and great-grandchildren that enjoy spending quality family time on LGI.

I am very concerned that the Environmental Utilities (EU) is a private, for-profit entity and they lack prior experience in owning and operating a wastewater utility. We have heard that the initial cost for connecting to the system would be at least \$20,000+ per household. There would be additional costs associated with having septic tank and drain field removed, and excessive monthly costs thereafter. This is ludicrous and not affordable to a private homeowner who is retired, on a fixed income, and did not ask for this service.

We strongly oppose the approval of Environmental Utilities (EU) application for original certificate of authorization and initial rates and charges for wastewater service.

Please DO NOT approve this application.

Respectfully,

W. Ernest and Sheryl S. Cooper

8316 Grand Ave.

Little Gasparilla Island

erniesheryl_cooper@yahoo.com

Phone: 863) 512-0951

Antonia Hover

From: Laura Roberts <lvr2570@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:24 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

My Name is Laura Roberts and I am a homeowner on Don Pedro Island

I would like to log my objection to the proposed sewer application for Don Pedro, Knight and Palm Island submitted by EU.

My concerns are many, starting with a private utility being awarded a contract to install sewers. I do not believe they will be able to fulfill the obligation to install and service the system proposed as they have no prior experience in this area. I further believe the system proposed is flawed and will ultimately cause harm to our beautiful island. The system proposed will not effectively remove our waste and will require it to be pumped out on a regular basis. The tanks proposed are also made out of fiberglass; there is a very real risk of them coming out of the ground during one of our frequent Florida storms. The system will be powered by each resident's electricity, thus requiring the service of licensed electricians to install power to each individual pump. Residents will also have to install generators in case the power goes out or risk backups into our homes, further increasing the already high price of installation and maintenance of this poorly designed system. The fees this private company submitted are very low compared to what residents historically use.

I understand Charlotte County wants what is best for the environment as do I, but I beg you to consider all the options before authorization is given. Including having the county install real sewers or letting us continue to use the septic systems that are working just fine, and will continue to function with proper maintenance.

Our island is unique in many ways. Please visit here to assess if there truly is a need before you make a blanket decision that will cause more harm than good.

Sincerely,
Laura Roberts
450 S. Gulf Blvd. (Don Pedro Island)
Placida, FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: John Day <johnday1000@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:21 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: No sewer LGI

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My personal perspective as a concerned homeowner of Little Gasparilla Island and environmental proponent is that the proposed wastewater service will have a devastating impact on the island and islanders. The service proposal has not demonstrated evidence to be better for the environment or residents/owners. It is, however, beneficial for those who stand to profit from the installation and forced hook up for ongoing service. This is an untenable situation. I can't fathom how the installation of such a system wouldn't create massive upheaval to the landscape, not to mention at a high cost to all owners. There seems to be little to no advantage of this project and it represents a major can-of-worms with potential problems in my mind. PLEASE deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you!

John Day
9552 And 9548 Buccaneer Trl
Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL. 33946
Sent from my iPhone

Antonia Hover

From: John Day <johnday1000@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:20 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: No sewer LGI

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My personal perspective as a concerned homeowner of Little Gasparilla Island and environmental proponent is that the proposed wastewater service will have a devastating impact on the island and islanders. The service proposal has not demonstrated evidence to be better for the environment or residents/owners. It is, however, beneficial for those who stand to profit from the installation and forced hook up for ongoing service. This is an untenable situation. I can't fathom how the installation of such a system wouldn't create massive upheaval to the landscape, not to mention at a high cost to all owners. There seems to be little to no advantage of this project and it represents a major can-of-worms with potential problems in my mind. PLEASE deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you!

John Day
9552 And 9548 Buccaneer Trl
Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL. 33946
Sent from my iPhone

Antonia Hover

From: Kristen & Colin <kristenandcolin@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 5:16 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Clerk of the Commission,

I am an owner of 9752 Little Gasparilla Island and would like to ask you to deny Environment Utilities (EU) application to install wastewater service on the barrier island especially Little Gasparilla Island (LGI).

No proven need for service

On LGI there are a handful of full-time residents and the rest of the houses are only used occasionally on weekends as vacation homes, so the volume is not as much as it is with a full-time resident with large families. The low volume can be determined by looking at the water consumption. Additionally, water quality testing by independent/reputable firms have not been conducted so there is no creditable reason for converting to sewer.

Private property rights

Nobody seems to have an answer when asked why water lines were allowed to be run on private property. Utility easements on our private property especially for a tank and equipment is not acceptable as it we are giving up our rights for any sort of equipment to be placed there which could be a loud pump, unsightly tank, etc.

Monthly costs and EU's lack of experience

If this is truly a need Charlotte county should devise a better plan to roll this out versus entertaining a new company that has never done sewer. EU is owned by the same company that does the current water, and the service for the water has come under scrutiny of how they reach out to residents when there is a water main break or need for a boil water advisory, etc. If there is a spill for the sewer, they have no track record of being able to deal with this timely and effectively. It has been documented that the monthly cost for sewer will be over \$200 which coupled with the existing water cost of \$135, this is \$4,020 per year which is double what we pay for our full-time residence in Pinellas County for our family of 5.

Initial costs

We purchased our house less than 4 years ago and wanted to be good Stewards of the environment and decided at the time to replace the septic system with a new tank and drain field to ensure our house did not contribute to any wastewater issues. The proposal by EU to this new system mentions that our new system will be removed and replaced with a smaller holding tank which does not make sense. Coupled with the financial issues we have run into with Hurricane Ian, and the rising insurance costs, this is a huge financial burden for us and the other homeowners which will force many folks off the island. Additionally, the \$12,000 initial cost seems outdated and we are concerned that it will exceed this and homeowners will be forced to pay this exorbitant bill.

I hope that you will deny EU's application.

Kristen Lagor
kristenandcolin@outlook.com
9752 Little Gasparilla Island Placida, FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: Brittany Essig <brittanybythebay@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:27 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; governorrn.desantis@eog.myflorida.com; ltgovernorjeanette.nunez@eog.myflorida.com
Subject: FOR Centralized Wastewater

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners,

If not now, when? Our environment, specifically our waterways, are at great risk. The evidence is clear. As a local resident of Englewood, a soon to be property owner in Charlotte County (1654 Tarpon Ave), and a business owner in Charlotte County, I am in strong support for the implementation of a centralized sewer system. The current reliance on septic systems is having a detrimental effect on our local environment, community and economy.

I have two businesses in Charlotte County; one of which is real estate. When I was showing property on Little Gasparilla Island last year, after a high tide, there was clear evidence of septic waste on the road. The buyers were disgusted. The effect of this is multifaceted. First, it was a safety concern. Second, it negatively impacted the buyers (and my) desire to be on the island, let alone make an investment there. And lastly, our poor wildlife and beauty of such a place is being compromised. Shouldn't fragile, more vulnerable land such as these barrier islands be protected from septic waste? I understand that many many years ago centralized sewer systems weren't even an option but now they are. Why wouldn't we want to preserve what we have before it's negatively impacted? Our land value will hold and hopefully increase with this improvement.

The bottomline is simple: the environment, the wildlife, and our waterways are all being hurt by the lack of a centralized sewer system. Now is the time.

You know that saying, "More money, more problems"? Well, that goes with this. More people, more poop. Yikes. If not now, when? Please, please help.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Brittany Essig (LMHC & Realtor)

--

Warmest Regards,

Brittany Essig, Realtor®
Licensed Sales Associate



Cell: 941-626-0632 | Fax: 941-698-1403

Email: Brittanybythebay@gmail.com

Search for your piece of paradise: www.ParadiseExclusive.com

Main Office | 8300 Wiltshire Drive, Suite 3, Port Charlotte, FL 33981

Placida Office | 5855 Placida Road, #302, Englewood, FL 34224

Boca Grande Office | 471 Park Avenue, Boca Grande, FL 33921

Dearborn Office | 200 W Dearborn Street, Englewood, FL 34223

Antonia Hover

From: Karyn Flatau <kaflgi9148@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:10 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Fw: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Karyn Flatau <kaflgi9148@aol.com>
To: Commisssioner.Passidomo@psc.stste.fl.us <commissssioner.passidomo@psc.stste.fl.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 04:02:13 PM EDT
Subject: Fw: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Karyn Flatau <kaflgi9148@aol.com>
To: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us <commissioner.larosa@psc.state.fl.us>;
Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us <commissioner.clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.us
<commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 12:14:40 PM EDT
Subject: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island

Dear Commissioners,

I spoke at the FPSC hearing and sent a letter in favor of septic to sewer conversion. I was shocked to hear that we were turned down. I do not think they understood that we were requesting septic to sewer. I live on LGI, and am a full time resident. This is our only home. No second home. We built our home and moved here from Hernando County. We had a smaller home on the island and decided to live out our retirement on LGI. So we sold our vacation home and built our new home. We moved in 2010. We had to put in an ATU, County permit #273187. When we moved in we had no idea what that meant until the County came to inspect our unit and I received a bill for inspection, The inspector explained everything to me, including his opinion, "that septic to sewer would most likely be in the near future for the barrier islands." He stated that 'it would be environmentally better for our ECO SYSYSTEM."

Currently, we pay the County for the permit and inspection, but they never come to inspect (we have video cameras) and we pay Martin Septic service, who do come out and inspect every 6 mo.

My concern is that currently, we only have ONE service provider, who will come out to the island to maintain and pump out our septic systems. I am asking the Board to please let us know how this will be handled if Martin Septic decides not to service our Island any longer OR if we lose the barge service needed to get service trucks over to the island. Right now the barge service comes out of ELDREDS MARINA. THEY ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT TO SELL THE MARINA. SO THIS COULD BE A BIG PROBLEM!

It is very disappointing to know, that presently there is a company who is willing and able to establish septic to sewer conversion, who has been turned down. I am deeply concerned that we will one day, unexpectedly, have a huge problem on our hands.

I requested that the County send their contingency plan for the Island regarding Sewer systems, maintaining and assuring barge service for their trucks. To date, we have received no reply.

We would feel much better knowing that our elected officials are preparing for the future of our barrier Islands and the surrounding waters.

Sincerely,
Karyn & Art Flatau
9148 Grand Ave.
Placida, FL 33946

Home 941 697 0186
Cell 352 650 5751

Antonia Hover

From: Debbie Dunn <debbiedunn8457@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 3:54 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Commissioner.LaRose@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Proposed low pressure sewer system for Charlotte County Barrier Islands: DPP, LGI and PIE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioner:

This letter is to respectfully ask that you reject the proposed central sewer system for the above-referenced barrier islands here in Charlotte County. My husband, Pete, and I bought a house at 8314 Grand Avenue on Little Gasparilla Island. We have had a second home here in Placida at Boca Vista Condos for 20 years and decided after Hurricane Ian and its damage, to sell the condo and seek another property elsewhere to escape astronomical assessments and lack of control over our surrounding complex. We were familiar with Little Gasparilla Island and were fortunate enough to be able to purchase a home here where we will be spending most of our time. We do have another property and I travel back to DeLand, Florida to take care of my real estate brokerage, but will spend our time here at our homestead; one we bought with no plans of being under another mandatory assessment of any kind. So, we have been bonafide taxpayers in Charlotte County for over 20 years.

We are in receipt of a letter outlining the proposed sewer system for LGI. We are vehemently against it for many reasons. The first being that we see no problems with the current septic systems located on individual properties. There has been no study that I am aware of to determine that the septic tanks on the island are causing any damage to the estuaries or the surrounding environment.

The second reason that I am not in support of this system is because it is owned by a for-profit company and from my understanding, this is not a large corporation with the ability to install, handle and maintain for the long haul, this type of sewer/septic system. It depends on electric power, and should there be an outage, (and there are many on the Island) the system would go down... and I shudder to think about what the outcome of that mishap could be. In addition, why does a for-profit company get to apply and perhaps be awarded with this job when it has not even been put out for bids by the County or the State? I'm not sure how that works, but one would surmise that a job of this magnitude would require a governing body to request bids by qualified contractors. I do not know this contractor/company who has made an application to put in this system, have no personal reasons to object to him/it, but only care about what happens to this Lovely Little Piece of Old Florida that we now call home.

The third reason is that this island is a piece of off-the-beaten-path paradise. There are no vehicles allowed here, with the exception of a few workers still here making repairs to homes and properties destroyed or severely damaged by Ian and Irma; this island has only sandy paths and roads (if you can call them that) which are traversed by golf carts. There is no County, State or municipal infrastructure here that would be able to support the kind of elements putting this system in would require. There are many areas of native vegetation, landscaped properties with tropical plants and trees. There is also wildlife that would and should not be disturbed by such a project, including endangered species such as the gopher tortoise, many birds, native reptiles and mammals. Tearing up the sandy paths and its accompanying easements that are home to this

vegetation, trees and wildlife would be a huge detriment to all of the home owners and inhabitants of Little Gasparilla Island., especially after almost getting back to normal after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Ian.

The fourth reason is the expense that would be incurred by each homeowner: many have family homes that have been passed down through the generations and cannot afford to pay for the required hookup. Many others have a second home here and live elsewhere most of the time, so their septic tanks are rarely used. Furthermore, if a for-profit company wishes to come in and do such a project, why should any property owner bear the burden of this cost. Let that company foot the bill. The majority of the islanders do not wish to have this thrust upon them and their right to a peaceful existence, so why should they be forced to use their hard-earned resources to pay for something that is not needed nor wanted?

If a sewer system was deemed a necessity because what LGI has here is broken, then let there be studies to prove that. And, should such studies show the need, then let a municipal entity (the one who collects the majority of real estate taxes from the properties on the island) take care of the project, and do it as it is done on the mainland. I don't know alot about this proposed system, but I have read enough to understand that there are many problems that are associated with the mechanics of it. If these barrier islands are to be forced to hook up to a sewer system, it should be the same types of systems used by those provided to the residents of other parts of Charlotte County and/or the State of Florida; and this should be after a need for such a service has proven to be necessary.

As a side note: this island does not need a bridge. Everything is fine just the way it is and those of us who live here the majority of the time seem to manage just fine with our boats and taxi services or with a little help from our friends. Should our access be diminished due to the sale of the Eldred's Marina in the future, then Charlotte County should step up and provide a solution to the limited availability of parking, boat ramps and slips needed for the Island access. A bridge is certainly not the answer due to the lack of infrastructure on Little Gasparilla Island.

In closing, I wish to state my strong objection to the approval of this project and request that the application for a central sewer/septic system for these barrier islands, and in particular, Little Gasparilla Island be rejected.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to following this process and to continuing to be a voice of opposition.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dunn, wife of Emory "Pete" Dunn
Homeowners at 8314 Grand Ave., Placida, FL 33946
Little Gasparilla Island resident

Debbie Dunn, President/Founder
HOFFRW
DeLand, FL 32720

and last but not least:

Debbie Dunn, Broker/Owner

Town and Country Realty

Your Powerhouse of Real Estate

516 West New York Avenue

DeLand, FL 32720

386-734-8890 - office

386-479-7981 - cell



Antonia Hover

From: Scott Almand <scott.almand@smrranch.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Christa Almand; scotthbbc@gmail.com
Subject: PSC Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good morning,

My name is J. Scott Almand and I'm a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County within the proposed service area reference in **Docket #20240032-SU** currently at the PSC. I own a unit in the Hideaway Bay condominiums and I serve on the condo association board as Treasurer and Vice President.

I would like to formally request the PSC deny this application for wastewater services for the following reasons –

1. First and Foremost - The Island is still in the process of recovering from Hurricane Ian and more disruption to the landscape would be detrimental. We do not have public, traditional roads and many are simply shell paths over private property. To try to run a sewer system without public roads or roads able to accommodate construction equipment would be almost impossible.
2. Owners on the island are all financially strapped to the point of "breaking" after trying to recover from Hurricane Ian and then Idalia. This would put even more of a financial burden on many residents, dare I say to the point that they can not handle.
3. We are a Bridgeless Barrier Island that has a unique charm. We would like it to remain that way. Approving this application will only promote more development on the Island against the residents' desires.
4. EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer. The PSC approves certification based solely on four criteria: need for service, financial ability of the applicant, technical expertise of the applicant and fair/equitable rates and charges. Each of the other agencies (County, DEP, Army Corps, etc.) is responsible for supervising only their specific area where regulation and/or permitting is involved. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.
5. The applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions. Each homeowner would need a generator at their own expense to ensure their system continues to run.

6. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise. Gopher tortoise relocation is extremely expensive, with cost estimates up to \$10,000 per individual relocation.
7. Finally, Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service. Why are we doing this again when nothing has changed?

Specifically to Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condos – The proposed system is exactly the same as the current wastewater plant on our property that serves both HBBC and Placida Condos on LGI, just on a much larger scale. Requiring us to remove our system and connect to another system would be so unbelievably expensive and such a burden to the owners in hideaway that it might push some towards foreclosure. We have been unable to occupy or rent our units for the last 18 months as we continue to try and rebuild....this would be financially devastating to our unit owners.

Please add my email to Docket #20240032-SU

Sincerely,

J. Scott & Christa Almand
Scott.almand@smrranch.com
941-812-0715
9400 Little Gasparilla Island Road

Antonia Hover

From: Carol Rowe <carowe34@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:50 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket# 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To whom it may concern,

We are homeowners and full time residents of 8160 and 8162 Little Gasparilla Island.

We are in opposition of docket # 20240032-SU. A few of the concerns we have are as follows:

- There has been no study showing the need for a low pressure sewer system or evidence of environmental damage allegedly caused by the current septic tanks and/or leach beds.
- In the case of extended power outages, example being Hurricane Ian, we were without power for twelve days. How will the proposed system move waste without power?
- Forced hook up fees are estimated to start at \$12,000 with additional monthly surcharge fees (similar to our current water bills.) There is no maximum charge limitation.
- What will the impact be to the protected wildlife, vegetation and private properties by the equipment necessary to install said system? Will construction halt for the various nesting seasons of protected wildlife?
- We believe the sewer and water systems should be under Charlotte County Governmental service umbrella.

Please do the will of your constituents by denying this request made under docket #20240032-SU.

Sincerely,

Daveann Ceridon
Carol Rowe

Sent from my iPad

Antonia Hover

From: Chris Woodall <Chris@tranorindustries.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:40 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Please confirm that this was received and entered into the record.

I did not receive a reply that it was received as most others have.

Sincerely,

Chris Woodall
9400 Little Gasparilla Island Rd

From: Chris Woodall
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:47 AM
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Good morning,

My name is Chris Woodall and I am a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County within the proposed service area.

I would like to formally request the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater services for the following reasons –

We are a Bridgeless Barrier Island that has a unique "Old Florida" charm. We would like it to remain that way. Approving this application will only promote more development on the Island against the residents' desires.

The Island is still in the process of recovering from Hurricane Ian and more disruption to the landscape would be detrimental. We do not have public, traditional roads and many are simply shell paths over private property. To try to run a sewer system without public roads or roads able to accommodate construction equipment would be almost impossible.

EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer. The PSC approves certification based solely on four criteria: need for service, financial ability of the applicant, technical expertise of the applicant and fair/equitable rates and charges. Each of the other agencies (County, DEP, Army Corps, etc.) is responsible for supervising only their specific area where regulation and/or permitting is involved. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

The applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions. Each homeowner would need a generator at their own expense to ensure their system continues to run.

No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.

Finally, there has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service. Why are we doing this again?

Sincerely,

Chris Woodall

Chris@tranorindustries.com

313-909-3799

9400 Little Gasparilla Island Road

Antonia Hover

From: lia gray <uncpair@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:20 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To Whom It May Concern,

We are, and have been, property owners at 9810 & 9814 Little Gasparilla Island for over 30 years. We are writing to express our concerns regarding the low pressure central sewer system proposed by EU, LLC. Our primary concern is whether EU has the expertise to construct and adequately maintain the system. To our knowledge, EU has not done this type of project before. Constructing anything on a barrier island is met with unique challenges that require experience and expertise to address obstacles when they arise. Another major concern is the financial aspect. Will homeowners be required to pay a large sum of money up front without any guarantee that this system will be completed in a timely manner or completed at all? Who will maintain the system and provide service if EU becomes insolvent? We also are puzzled by the lack of information provided by EU. As homeowners, we have never received any communication regarding the plans or an attempt to explain why this would be beneficial to Little Gasparilla Island.

We are not opposed to a central sewer system on LGI, but do not think EU, LLC has the expertise to provide this service in a unique environment. **We are formally requesting that PSC deny EU's application to provide wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island.**

--

Lelia C Gray
uncpair@gmail.com
John H Gray, Jr.
jaygraywhfl@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: tandhburns@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:09 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; commissioner.fay@psc.state; Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Docket No. 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To Commissioner Larosa, Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Passidomo, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Fay and Clerk of the Commission:

My name is Heather Burns, and I am a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island. The greatest Public Service you can provide to our island community is to deny the application for Original Certification of Authorization that Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) has put before you in Docket No. 20240032-SU.

I don't know what exactly EU is offering as a change since being denied less than a year ago for the same Certification, but it definitely has not included community involvement or approval. I have not seen evidence of feasibility studies for implementation nor how the proposed plan is better than properly functioning septic systems for our unique environment and isolated situation.

Little Gasparilla Island is designated Rural according to Charlotte County for good reason, and has additional logistical and topographic issues compared to a mainland rural area. Not only is it a low density, bridgeless barrier island with sand paths, it doesn't have a continuous North/South platted public route. Every service, supply, and piece of equipment must be brought over by boat or barge, and the cost of this has steadily increased over the past 5 years. The cost estimates cannot be comparable to what it might cost on the mainland.

EU's proposal puts a heavy burden on individual homeowners for initial expense, including electrical requirements, and uncertain ongoing service and maintenance issues in a salt air and storm sensitive area. Stating that EU will hire the experts is just further proof that they don't have any themselves. Where will these experts be based once the system is in place? Will we need to wait for days for them to get to the island to fix issues? When there is a power outage from either a storm or a transformer exploding, FPL is often limited for how quickly they can get across to the island to make repairs. The EU option has our sewage reliant on electricity as well. If, indeed, Mr. Boyer is hoping to get this system in place and then hand it over to the County for future control and maintenance, LGI residents will be even less well-served, with no resident control or say in operations.

Well worded applications and nicely drawn diagrams do not give a full picture as to the unique nature of Little Gasparilla Island, and I respectfully ask that until such a time as there is community involvement, oversight, and a better plan for bringing sewer to the island, that you DENY this application.

Sincerely,

Heather Burns

8960 Seagrape Lane

tandhburns@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: Bridget Bush <bbush927@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 1:55 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Commissioner.LaRose@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Proposed low pressure system for Little Gasparilla Island

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am an owner in Hideaway Bay Beach Club on Little Gasparilla Island, and write to express my strong objection to the proposed low pressure "sewer" system for Little Gasparilla Island.

First, it is not necessary. Hideaway and Placida Beach condos have professionally maintained septic systems that work well, and have been continually updated at considerable cost.

Second, the residents did not request this proposed system and overwhelmingly object to it.

Third, the system itself is not even a true sewer: it would not remove solids. What then is the point? A grey water system is no different than what is now in place.

Fourth, the cost (I estimate it would cost us \$20k to hook up) and the monthly/ quarterly costs would make Little Gasparilla Island's sewage and water costs the highest in the state of Florida.

Fifth, to impose these unwarranted costs on an island that has not even recovered from Hurricane Ian, almost two years later, is beyond unfair: it is cruel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bridget Bush
9400 Little Gasparilla Island
Hideaway Bay Beach Club D-9

Antonia Hover

From: johnspurvis@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:55 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa
Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

We are John Purvis and Gayle Moore, husband and wife, owners of 380 Bocilla Drive on Don Pedro Island. Our email is johnspurvis@yahoo.com.

We are writing to OPPOSE the application of Environmental Utilities, LLC to install central sewer on our island.

We are not opposed to sewer but we are opposed to Environmental Utilities providing it. If we get sewer, it should be provided by Charlotte County, not a private for profit company. This company has no (zero) experience in central sewer. They are very opaque with the rates but from what we have gleaned, they will be much higher than the rates that would be charged by the county. We do not believe that they know what they are doing and are terrified of potential spills that would spoil our pristine islands. They have conducted NO tests of the surrounding waters that indicate that there is any problem with the current septic systems. They have demonstrated NO need except the need to make money. Please do not allow inexperienced operators to muddle this in one of the most pristine areas in our state.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Antonia Hover

From: Todd Belden <todd.belden@onedigital.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:48 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; mfriedman@deanmead.com; cbelden@huff.com
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Clerk, Commissioners, and Mr. Friedman,

As homeowners effected by the above application, we object to EU's application to provide wastewater services. Here are several reasons:

Hook-up Cost: According to the application, the initial connection fee will be \$12,000. There is an additional \$1,097 "Sewer Lateral Connection" fee to run the pipe from the road to the location of the equipment near your home. There is also an initial deposit required of \$414, which is identified as 2x the estimated monthly bill. That's a total of \$13,511.00. Note that costs could exceed the estimates by large measure and homeowners will likely be saddled with additional burdens.

Average Residential Bill: The rates and tariffs submitted to the PSC shows a base rate of \$115.81 per month just to provide wastewater service. In addition, the monthly residential service charge is \$39.64 per 1000 gallons. EU estimates average household usage at 2,500 gallons/month. Based on this, the monthly billing would be \$207.00/month. However, when the PSC prepared a Rate Case summary that was distributed at the 2022 Administrative Hearing, they cited a more realistic average household usage estimate of 4,000 gals/month. Using this average the monthly billing would be \$263.57/month for wastewater service alone. This is exclusive of your water bill.

Electric: the system pump requires a separate electric panel, installed by a licensed electrician at the expense of the homeowner.

More electric: If the owner has maxed out their main electric grid with pool equipment or other large-draw items, the panel will need an expensive upgrade.

Generator: the pump has a limited capacity (60 gal) and in the event of a power outage will be unable to function for long. Homeowners will need a generator to keep the system running to avoid sewage back-up.

Tree removal: Landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area will need to be cleared at the expense of the homeowner to gain access to the crush & fill the existing septic tank and install the new one.

No pay-over-time plan: Ratepayers may need to take loans to cover the cost of connection.

Mandatory Hook-up: Charlotte County regulations require all homes to connect to central water and wastewater within 1 year of availability.

No grandfathering of septic systems: regardless of age or condition.

No "contractor" and no single point of general oversight: EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer. The PSC approves certification based solely on four criteria: need for service, financial ability of the applicant, technical

expertise of the applicant and fair/equitable rates and charges. Each of the other agencies (County, DEP, Army Corps, etc.) is responsible for supervising only their specific area where regulation and/or permitting is involved. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

Access to homes: Some properties have physical constraints that will complicate how the applicant gains access to the property without leaving the boundaries or damaging the grounds.

Disruption of traffic: Vehicles have only one point of entry/egress -- the car ferry. With normal traffic, service and construction trucks, delays at the ferry line in season can be an hour or more. This project could result in years of traffic issues.

New easement giveaway: Most utility easements are placed in the road right-of-way. EU has claimed ownership of a utility easement that will go from the sewer equipment, located near the house to the connection in the road without compensating the homeowner.

System maintenance and emergencies: The applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions.

Lifespan of the equipment: Salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. Equipment will need replacing when it fails, possibly at 5-year intervals. This proposal places too much responsibility on the homeowner at too great a cost.

Environmental concerns: No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.

Potential of sewer spill in the Intracoastal: The risk of a central sewer leak with a subaqueous crossing is greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.

Please STOP this ridiculous ask!

Todd J. Belden
171 Bocilla Drive
Placida, FL 33946



HEALTH + BENEFITS | WORKFORCE + HR | RETIREMENT + WEALTH | MERGERS + ACQUISITIONS

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT: This e-mail message, including any attachment(s), may contain confidential information. This information is intended only for the use of the individuals or entities listed above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or action taken in reliance on the contents of these documents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this information in error, please notify the sender immediately and arrange for the return or destruction of these documents. **NOTE:** Please be advised that we cannot add, delete, or bind coverage by e-mail; you must speak with someone directly. This email has been scanned for viruses and malware.

Antonia Hover

From: John Granger <jfgranger60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: lagranger@comcast.net
Subject: Docket #20230032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

My name is John Granger and I am a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island. The address is: 8050 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida, FL 33946. I live on the north end of LGI, dock #4. I am formally requesting the Public Service Commission (PSC) deny Enviromental Utilities (EU) application for wastewater service. The basis for my request is as follows:

1. EU will be owned and operated by the same people and organization that handles Little Gasparilla Water Utilities (LGWU). The water service on the island is very expensive and water quality is generally poor. We have chronic problem with "iron bacteria" which causes an orangish ring in toilets and sinks. I have complained several times but was told not much they can do about it. It is supposedly harmless but still gross. I believe the cause is lack of chlorine in the water and lack of a continuous flow loop. We are at the end of a long radial line and so water gets stagnant and conditions get worse during the summer heat.
2. I would like to see an implementation plan that prioritizes removal of septic systems based on condition, age and size (north end condos should go first). Houses with newer septic systems and designed/installed correctly would be required to connect after some reasonable time (e.g. 10 years)
3. Due to the critical nature of the wastewater system, the design needs to be very robust and should be performed by a Professional Engineer that specializes in wastewater systems and equipment. It's recommended and an Independent Engineer performs a design and installation review.
4. Operations and Maintenance (O&M) processes and procedures need to be developed that are specific to LGI. This needs to include off-normal procedures for expected equipment problems and a Emergency Response Plan for major failures, pipe breaks, or Hurricane.
5. A good cost estimate for each property should be provided. This will be tough to swallow with cost of everything sky rocketing. LGI residents pay extremely high taxes considering the very limited services on the island. There is basically no fire or police (needs to come by boat), no school access/busses, no roads or bridges to repair. Is there a way that residents can receive some sort of tax break to offset the sewer costs?

In summary, I think we all want to help the environment we are destroying so a wastewater system would be a good thing. However, due to its critical nature and location, it has to be very well planned, designed, installed, and operated. I do not think the proposed owner/operator is capable of this and EU application should be denied.

John Granger
8050 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL 33946

jfgranger60@gmail.com
561-309-1481

Antonia Hover

From: stop jack boyer <stopjackboyeronceandforall@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:58 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; bill.truex@charlottecountyfl.gov; ken.doherty@charlottecountyfl.gov; chris.constance@charlottecountyfl.gov; stephenr.deutsch@charlottecountyfl.gov; joseph.tiseo@charlottecountyfl.gov; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: 2 letters of objection to Environmental Utilities Wastewater Application Docket# 20240032-SU
Attachments: sewer objection Lleras.pdf; sewer objection barney.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I have attached 2 letters of objection to docket @20240032.

Julio Lleras
3046 Huron Ave.
Oldsmar, FL 34677

Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

April 24, 2024

Re: Objection Letter - Environmental Utilities Wastewater Application Docket #20240032-SU

Cc: Florida Public Service Chairman LaRosa, Florida Public Service Commissioner Clark, Florida Public Service Commissioner Passidomo, Florida Public Service Commissioner Graham, Florida Public Service Commissioner Fay
Charlotte County Commissioner Truex, Charlotte County Commissioner Doherty, Charlotte County Commissioner Constance, Charlotte County Commissioner Deutsch, Charlotte County Commissioner Tiseo
Marty Friedman

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Julio Lleras. I own multiple properties on Little Gasparilla Island, specifically 8630 Wharf Avenue, 8556 Little Gasparilla Island, 8554 Little Gasparilla Island, 8558 Little Gasparilla Island, 8618 Marsh Street. I am asking that you deny Environmental Utilities Wastewater Application Docket #20240032- SU.

This is the second time we have had to fight the same illogical proposal for an inadequate, antiquated system by the same person. In addition to denying this application, please, please, please do not let him submit again.

The following are the main reasons to deny this application.

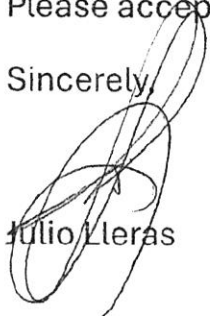
A. Will there be destruction of protected native wildlife and foliage - YES.

- B. Does Jack Boyer (EU) have the technical expertise and/or financial ability to run this project and provide ongoing services – NO as evidenced by the state of Little Gasparilla Water Utility. (Also a Jack Boyer private company)
- C. Is there a need for this particular service - NO. This is the wrong system to fix a problem that has not been proven to be caused by the current systems in place. Removal of the current sewage systems will cause massive destruction to our ecosystem. Replacing the septic tanks with a septic tank and pump system only removes liquids, not solids. The mechanical parts are going to need constant maintenance in this atmosphere with far more opportunity for spills. What is next? In 5 years, is Jack Boyer going to come up with a new system to replace the inadequate systems he is proposing? Again, at the cost of damage to the environment. The property owners will be, once again, putting their hard-earned money in Jack's pocket.
- D. Are the costs reasonable to ask the property owners to pay? - NO.
- a. There are grants available that would bring down the cost. However, since Jack Boyer is a "for profit" entity, he is not allowed to apply for them. Why isn't Charlotte County in charge of this project?
 - b. In addition to the very high, up front costs and destruction of the environment, there will be operating costs of approximately \$4,000 a year plus maintenance per property. All of the property owners suffered losses during Hurricane Ian. Many are still fighting the insurance companies. Many don't have insurance because of the massive increase in cost. How will these people be able to afford this system?

Attempting to fix one problem while creating multiple, more devastating problems is not smart!

Please accept this letter as my **formal objection** to this application.

Sincerely,



Julio Lleras

Bryan and Cyndy Barney

**8654 Wharf Ave
Placida, FL 33946**

Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

April 24, 2024

Re: Objection Letter - Environmental Utilities Wastewater Application
Docket #20240032- SU

Cc: Florida Public Service Chairman LaRosa, Florida Public Service
Commissioner Clark, Florida Public Service Commissioner
Passidomo, Florida Public Service Commissioner Graham, Florida
Public Service Commissioner Fay

Charlotte County Commissioner Truex, Charlotte County
Commissioner Doherty, Charlotte County Commissioner
Constance, Charlotte County Commissioner Deutsch, Charlotte
County Commissioner Tiseo

Marty Friedman

Dear Commissioners,

Our names are Bryan and Cyndy Barney. We are residents/owners of 8654 Wharf Ave. on Little Gasparilla Island. We are asking that you deny the application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County(CC) by Environmental Utilities,LLC (EU).

In the two years we have owned our property, this is the second time we have had to fight the same illogical proposal for an inadequate, antiquated system by the same person. In addition to denying this application, please, please, please do not let him submit again.

We realize you have many objection letters to review, so we included a summary of the very unnecessary, very long, very stressful, very expensive ordeal that Jack Boyer is putting us through followed by 1/10th of the detail I would like to include.

Summary:

- A. Does EU have the technical expertise and/or financial ability to run this project and provide timely ongoing services - NO.
- B. Is there a need for this particular service - NO. This is the wrong system to fix a problem that has not been proven to be caused by the current systems in place.
- C. Will there be destruction of protected native wildlife and foliage - YES. The removal of the current septic systems and subsequent installation of the new will decimate the protected flora and fauna that have managed to fight their way back after the hurricanes.
- D. Are the costs reasonable to ask the property owners to pay? - NO. If the environment is really EU's main concern, they should be willing to become a Non-profit Public Utility.
- E. Do we want Jack Boyer to have Perpetual use of our land? - NO
- F. Where is Jack Boyer? - Can't be found
- G. Do we get a vote? You are our vote. Please help.

A. Lack of technical expertise and/or financial ability to run this project and provide ongoing services.

1. There is a lack of faith in EU to run a utility based on Mr. Boyer's history with LGI Water Utility (LGWUO). Mr. Boyer has proven that he cannot adequately operate a public utility as evidenced by his current and past operation of LGWU. A lot of these concerns were brought to the PSC attention previously. Some of the issues were shoddy work; repairs made with duct tape, pipes not buried to the proper depth; unavailability of LGWU employees during water pipe breaks; lack of timely boil water notices, water pipes crossing through property lines without permission; excessive lengths of time from request for service to the repairs being made (if at all).

We have personal experience with this. The water main in front of our house is frequently hit by carts going by. It is raised above the surface level of the path. We requested that it be repaired over two years ago. Amazingly, now that this proposal is before you, someone showed up and changed out the box around the shutoff so it looks "pretty". They did NOTHING to fix the problem, only make it prettier. It is now higher above ground and more of a hazard. If they are currently taking all of the profit from LGWU and putting it in their pocket instead of investing in staff and repairs for the water system, why would we think they would do anything different with the new utility they are creating. They have learned

that they can do this without any recourse from those of us funding it.

2. The LGWU office is operating on antiquated equipment. They can't even take an electronic payment for the quarterly fees. They want more than double the number of properties they currently service when they can't handle the current load.

3. The owners of EU don't have any experience or licensing for wastewater.

4. EU has less than \$5,000 in the bank. They don't want anyone to know what other resources they have as evidenced by the redaction of the financial information. What are the Boyers hiding? Have they made so much money off the backs of residents from LGWU that they are afraid to show their financials?

The Boyers are the sole owners of what should be a public utility.

Is this smart? NO

B. Is there a need for this particular system ? NO, it is not the correct system.

1. While there is a need for a centralized waste removal system, this is not the correct system. This system does not remove all waste, only wastewater. The septic "tank" would still need to be pumped thereby not alleviating one of the challenges of septic tanks. I haven't made it through all 493 pages of the application, but, it has come to my attention that the only one permitted to fix or maintain these systems is EU. This creates a monopoly, not to mention the fact that they have NO experience with this type of system. They can't even maintain the "Public" Utility that they currently have.
2. Jack Boyer included information from Dr. Brian Lapointe about the need for a central sewer system. While he has many valid points, I didn't see anywhere in his information that the system proposed is the correct system. He did not indicate which type of Central System would cure the issues he listed.
3. The proposed system relies on an electric pump. Water was transported to LCI by many different means following Hurricane Ian. While some people were able to get their wells functioning and run them from generators, most were

without water for weeks. This was an Act of God and therefore, I don't hold Jack Boyer responsible. However, if the proposed sewage system had been in place, there would have been no sewage disposal available and there would have been a much, much larger problem on the island and the surrounding waters!

4. The septic systems in place have been working very well if maintained properly. There has been no proof that the problems in the Bay have been caused by septic system overflow. There are many different contributing factors that are not being addressed and certainly not cured with this system. In the meantime, wildlife and plant life are thriving.

This is NOT the correct system.

C. Will there be destruction of protected native wildlife and foliage - YES.

1. The paths will be decimated. This was evident during the recovery efforts after Ian and Idalia (which are ongoing). Heavy equipment was necessary for many reasons including, but not limited to, cleanup and rebuilding. The paths were destroyed and the residents were left to repair them on their own. Jack Boyer is proposing that he have unlimited access to all Rights of Way. He is proposing to clear the entire width of Rights of Way. Currently, our path is approximately 10 feet wide with foliage on both sides. Our right of way is 40 ft wide. He will be removing mature trees that are necessary for maintaining the ecosystem and protecting the island from storms. The equipment necessary for this type of project will cause the same problems with the paths as it did after Ian. Ian was an ACT of GOD. Jack Boyer does not have the right to play God.
2. Oh, and by the way, he wants perpetual access to our property. God only knows what he will do to our beautiful trees! Our remaining trees have struggled since the hurricanes. We have done our best to help them recover. They are not his, nor will we sit by and let him remove them. We do NOT grant him access to even look at our property, let alone walk on it and destroy it.
3. The Island's Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) will be decimated by this type of activity. They have had a hard enough time recovering after Ian and then Idalia. **Are they not protected from Jack Boyer? Islanders and visitors alike are**

very, very careful to take care of the Gopher Tortoise population. There are many other species that will also be affected.

D. Are the costs reasonable to ask the property owners to pay? - NO.

1. **Up-front costs in the submission:** There are many concerns about the cost of this project. Prices quoted by EU total \$13,511.00 for up-front costs. The prices estimated in the CC Sewer Master Plan (SMP) are significantly higher and listed in 2017 dollars. Costs at LGI would be \$22,540.00 based on occupied lots. These figures assume the transmission lines that EU is responsible for installing according to the CC Bulk Sewer Agreement are included in each area calculations. If, EU was able to secure the permitting to put the sewer line through two areas that are **vital** to the ecosystem, Don Pedro State Park and the mangrove islands between the mainland & the barrier islands, only one transmission line would be necessary. In that case, the average cost based on 964 ERC's would be \$20,722.12. Again these numbers are based on 2017 dollars. Construction costs have increased between 19 - 37 % since 2020. That would more than double EU's stated costs based on the CC SMP figures. We don't feel that EU has any idea what the monetary costs will be and less idea of the environmental impact of the construction. (Or maybe Jack just doesn't care). I don't find these up-front costs to be worth the damage that will be caused to the ecosystem for a system that is no better and probably worse for the environment than the septic systems we have.
2. **Up front costs not addressed in the submission:** They include: Electrician & electrical upgrades; barge fees for pump trucks & fill material when removing the current septic; landscaping costs; back up generators; loss of use of the homes while this is ongoing, interest costs on loans. Because EU is a for profit company, the island residents are also not able to defray the costs of the sewers using grants, bonds or MSBU's. The cost of a loan becomes a personal expense that cannot be transferred with the property if sold.
3. **Ongoing costs:**
 - a. Monthly charge from Jack Boyer: Who knows what the monthly bill for the sewer will be? An estimate of the monthly bill is a minimum of \$200 per month with additional usage fees.

- b. Pump out charges....according to epa.gov, the typical septic tank needs pumped every 3-5 years. The type of system proposed should be pumped, repaired and inspected every year. More importantly, the pump out trucks would need to be at every home every year....what will that do to our environment?
 - c. Maintenance of the system at our home: According to the EPA, "A service contract is important since alternative systems have mechanized parts". As we, the residents, know, mechanized means broken on LGI since the salt air and water is particularly harmful to mechanized equipment. Jack Boyer is requesting the exclusive right to service these systems...this creates a monopoly in addition to him having NO experience with this type of system.
- 4. The regular property owner cannot afford these additional costs.** This is highlighted as we struggle to carry inflated costs for property insurances (flood, windstorm, and homeowners), increasing Charlotte County property taxes with precious little services to LGI , and our ever increasing private water supply utility service charges. This is also on top of the FACT that we are still rebuilding our property after destruction from Hurricane Ian!
- 5. If the health of the island and Bay are really the reason to do this project, then EU should be willing to become a Non-profit public utility.**

E. Perpetual Use of our Land

Jack is asking for new easements, rights of Way, etc. onto our property. There is no reason for him to have perpetual right to our property since there is no reason for this type of system. He is making us responsible for all costs, but wants our property too? This doesn't make sense.

F. Where is Jack Boyer?

Jack Boyer is nowhere to be found. He hasn't been seen on this island in months. Does he care about this island and the others included in his reign of destruction? Has he asked for input from residents? Has he held a "town hall" meeting to talk to residents? The answer to all of these is an emphatic NO.

G. Do we get a Vote?

We as property owners do not get a vote since it is approved/denied by the Commission. We **BEG** you to do the **RIGHT** thing. This application **MUST** be **denied** and Jack Boyer must be barred from submitting another application. He is abusing the time and money of the Taxpayers, The Commission, the County, and the property owners to the **detriment** of this protected piece of "Old Florida".

Attempting to fix one problem while creating multiple, more devastating problems is not smart!

We are formally requesting an administrative hearing by the PSC for this application and to become, an intervenor and/or party of record.

Please accept this letter as our formal objection to this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bryan Barney".

Bryan Barney

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cyndy Barney".

Cyndy Barney

Antonia Hover

From: Wayne Evans <snartlet@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:30 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Commissioner.LaRose@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket No. 20240032

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioner:

This letter is to respectfully submit that we are against putting the low pressure sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island.

We are homeowners in Hideaway Bay Beach Club. The system is not a complete solution and it puts undo burden on HBBC where we have a system in place that is already environmentally friendly and better than what you are proposing to change to.

Thank you.

Wayne Evans K6 Hideaway Bay Beach Club
Ann Townsley-Evans K6 Hideaway Bay Beach Club

Antonia Hover

From: Louise Volpe <loubreez570@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service
Attachments: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners:

I, Louise Volpe, am the owner of property on Little Gasparilla Island within the proposed service area for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) application to provide wastewater service. My properties are located at 9842 Little Gasparilla Island and 9848 Little Gasparilla Island.

I am writing to object and oppose this APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION AND INITIAL RATES AND CHARGES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE (the Application). I request that you DENY the Application. The Application does not demonstrate sufficient need for service, and the application and service are not in the public interest.

My family has owned property on Little Gasparilla Island since 1963. Like me, many of the homeowners have held property on LGI for decades. I have installed a private septic system at significant personal expense, and maintain this system in good operation. Eliminating the raised drain field will not provide an environmental benefit. And the risk of environmental hazard from the low-pressure system outweighs any potential benefit from the system.

The Application has not provided sufficient demonstration of need for the proposed service. The applicant has not received any approvals from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The Application relies on general statements about removal of septic systems on barrier islands as the basis for need for service. It references service needs for failing systems and septic to sewer conversions as a basis for need. However, this is irrelevant because the proposed low-pressure system does not remove septic systems. If systems are in failure, the low pressure system will not cure those defects. Further, in the event of power loss (which occurs often on LGI) the low pressure system could fail causing back-ups and septic failures and resulting in increased environmental risk. In short, the justification for the application need is unrelated to the proposed system and irrelevant. The Application does not demonstrate need.

The proposed low pressure sewer system would be overly burdensome on the homeowners of Little Gasparilla Island. The proposed connection fees (over \$13,000) and proposed rates of over \$250/month are extremely high and a financial burden to many of the owners. These onerous rates would be among the highest in the state and cause an extreme hardship on many of the owners.

I stand with many of my neighbors in opposing this Application. It would not provide the intended benefit and the costs surely outweigh any anticipated benefit. The only one that stands to benefit is the utility owner. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We respectfully request that you DENY the Application.

Sincerely,

Louise Volpe

Loubreez570@gmail.com

Florida Public Service Commission

Adam Teitzman, Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of
Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service

Dear Commissioners:

I, Louise Volpe, am the owner of property on Little Gasparilla Island within the proposed service area for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) application to provide wastewater service. My properties are located at 9842 Little Gasparilla Island and 9848 Little Gasparilla Island.

I am writing to object and oppose this APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION AND INITIAL RATES AND CHARGES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE (the Application). I request that you DENY the Application. The Application does not demonstrate sufficient need for service, and the application and service are not in the public interest.

My family has owned property on Little Gasparilla Island since 1963. Like me, many of the homeowners have held property on LGI for decades. I have installed a private septic system at significant personal expense, and maintain this system in good operation. Eliminating the raised drain field will not provide an environmental benefit. And the risk of environmental hazard from the low-pressure system outweighs any potential benefit from the system.

The Application has not provided sufficient demonstration of need for the proposed service. The applicant has not received any approvals from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The Application relies on general statements about removal of septic systems on barrier islands as the basis for need for service. It references service needs for failing systems and septic to sewer conversions as a basis for need. However, this is irrelevant because the proposed low-pressure system does not remove septic systems. If systems are in failure, the low pressure system will not cure those defects. Further, in the event of power loss (which occurs often on LGI) the low pressure system could fail causing back-ups and septic failures and resulting in increased environmental risk. In short, the justification for the application need is unrelated to the proposed system and irrelevant. The Application does not demonstrate need.

The proposed low pressure sewer system would be overly burdensome on the homeowners of Little Gasparilla Island. The proposed connection fees (over \$13,000) and proposed rates of over

\$250/month are extremely high and a financial burden to many of the owners. These onerous rates would be among the highest in the state and cause an extreme hardship on many of the owners.

I stand with many of my neighbors in opposing this Application. It would not provide the intended benefit and the costs surely outweigh any anticipated benefit. The only one that stands to benefit is the utility owner. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We respectfully request that you DENY the Application.

Sincerely,

Louise Volpe

Loubreez570@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: Hankin Family <dhankin@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:27 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Clerk and Commissioners,

We are writing to you to let you know that we oppose the approval of the application by EU, LLC to install and manage the sewer project on the barrier island chain in southwest Florida which would encompass the islands of Palm Island, Don Pedro Island, and Little Gasparilla Island. For the record, we are owners on Little Gasparilla Island. Our opposition starts with the previously and often stated arguments of:

-Need for Service. There has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service.

-Environmental. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.

-Providing utilities is the way local government promotes high-density development. Our barrier islands are in a Rural Service Area. The Charlotte County Comp Plan mandates on-site septic systems for the Rural Service Area. Now they are insisting that the Comp Plan prohibits the County from installing central sewer, but not a privately owned utility.

-We would be forced to give up our private property rights for free. You will be forced to give up easement rights across your property without compensation.

-Traffic Congestion. The combination of post-storm rebuilds, new home construction, and tourist traffic during season has made wait lines at the ferry both unpredictable and outrageous. Now, consider the heavy equipment and materials transport needed to construct an island-wide central sewer system. And how long it will take to build.

-The Costs. The costs of central sewer are quite considerable at a very bad time for Islanders. Many are still engaged with fighting their insurance companies for settlements

from Hurricane Ian and have had to lay out large sums for their re-builds while they wait for compensation. Some owners have just paid deep-pocket sums to install new septic systems at their newly built or re-built homes. Many property owners simply do not have the resources available to convert from septic to sewer.

Additionally, there are other concerns:

Has this system, which is designed for single dwelling use and has one tank per lot, been successfully deployed on a much larger scale? What were the results?

The person behind EU, LLC, is also the person behind the Little Gasparilla Water Company. We have grave concerns of one individual having majority control/power over our utilities. The current water company is not very responsive to service requests and I fear the same will happen with the sewer company if owned and operated by same individual.

A bigger concern of ours is the current lack of routine testing of water quality in relation to septic tank waste and the absence of ongoing septic system inspections beyond the initial permitting and installation inspection.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
David and Joellie Hankin
Little Gasparilla Island homeowners

Antonia Hover

From: jordan schlandt <jschlandt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 4:08 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To whom it may concern,

My wife and I are owners and full-time residents of Little Gasparilla Island. We absolutely oppose the proposed low pressure "sewer" system and the idea that Jack Boyer and company and his greed should be allowed to be mandated to us. I have worked on pumping systems for over 20 years and have spent a lot of time in leachate pumping, transfer stations, lift stations, and the plumbing, pumps, motors, and controls for these systems. This system is a terrible idea for our island. It will not have the manpower, cost effectiveness, redundancies, oversight, or common sense for this specific place. I cannot even believe that after Ian and a lack of power for weeks this is still even in question, not only that, reliable systems in this environment and labor are incredibly expensive and a lot of that will go to Jack's wallet and unproportionally benefit him to an obscene amount. The county and state continue to mandate extremely expensive private industries and geographical monopolies and that in itself is simply anti-American and anti-free market. The county and state do little more than take our taxes and mandate private industry to us. We have no mainland parking, boat ramps, trash or any service that should be provided by our tax dollars, yet here we are arguing about another obscene mandate to truly only benefit 1 company and leave the homeowners with a massive bill, a bad system, and more destruction on our fragile island.

Jordan and Amy Schlandt

Antonia Hover

From: Martin Mueller <martinmueller07@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 4:06 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Cc: mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Docket #20240032 - SU - Martin and Janet Mueller - Interested Party LGI Property Owners

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

CC: Environmental Utilities Counsel
Martin s. Friedman
Esquire Dean Mead
420 S. Orange Avenue
Suite 700 Orlando, FL. 32801

Re: Docket #20240032-SU (open) - Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

Dear Florida Public Service Commission members:

I am writing to you, as a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island, to express my concerns regarding the application referenced above submitted for your consideration by Environmental Utilities, state my objections to their application and urge you to deny their request.

I have 35 years' experience with government funded utility infrastructure projects. I am not sure how a proposed project of this scope would be considered without a more thorough process.

I have the following concerns regarding the current scenario:

- No notice to concerned parties

As a property owner on Little Gasparilla I did not receive a notice as to this proposed project.

- No Need

As an Owner of a condominium unit at Hideaway Bay Beach Club I am not aware there is a need for this project for our association. We have a functioning, reliable sewage treatment plant that is managed by an experienced and licensed service provider on a regular basis.

- Lack of petitioner sewage license or experience

I am not aware that Environmental Utilities has a license or any expertise in Sewage treatment management.

- Not fair and Equitable proposed fees

The proposed fees would make the sewage treatment expenses the highest in the state of Florida for a service we do not need.

Please let me know how I can be added to the notifications list related to these proceedings.

Thank you in advance.

Martin and Janet Mueller

Property Address:
Hideaway Bay Beach Condominium
9400 Little Gasparilla Island
Unit C-6
Placida, FL 33946

Correspondence Address:
4405 W 111th Terrace
Leawood, KS 66211

Antonia Hover

From: Caron Hoffman <choffman40@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:23 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am writing to firmly request that you DENY the EU's application for wastewater service. We do not want a private for profit company without experience servicing our area. We do not want the associated expense and have NO problem with the system we use now. WE, the island owners, are NOT asking for sewers on our island that may disrupt our way of life. We do not want this change and do not want to be forced into something that we don't want that will cause us financial hardship. I own two properties on the island and the financial hardship would be devastating.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE deny their application. "If it 'aint broke, don't fix it"

Thank you for your consideration.
Caron Hoffman
1829 Wildberry Drive, Unit H
Glenview, IL 60025

Antonia Hover

From: Keelan Armstrong <keearm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:03 AM
To: Records Clerk; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Re: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Could I get a proof of receipt that you received the above email letter?
Thank you, Will and Keelan Armstrong

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Keelan Armstrong <keearm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:01:35 AM
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us <clerk@psc.state.fl.us>; mfriedman@deanmead.com <mfriedman@deanmead.com>
Cc: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us <Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

I am a homeowner at Hideaway Bay Beach Club, 9400 Little Gasparilla Island, Unit K1, Placida, FL 33946 on Little Gasparilla Island, Charlotte County, Florida. We currently have on onsite septic system for all of the 102 owners here at Hideaway Bay that we pay for with our quarterly assessments. We paid extra money out of our homeowners funds to repair/clean out the septic system after Hurricane Ian. Our system abides by any environmental codes and works well for us here at Hideaway Bay. We certainly don't need to pay any extra for a new low pressure system that may end up having or creating a whole new set of problems/fixes it may need. Please don't allow this new system to be put in place on our little island which seems to be functioning just fine as we are.

Thank you, Will and Keelan Armstrong (keearm@hotmail.com)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Antonia Hover

From: Keelan Armstrong <keearm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:02 AM
To: Records Clerk; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am a homeowner at Hideaway Bay Beach Club, 9400 Little Gasparilla Island, Unit K1, Placida, FL 33946 on Little Gasparilla Island, Charlotte County, Florida. We currently have on onsite septic system for all of the 102 owners here at Hideaway Bay that we pay for with our quarterly assessments. We paid extra money out of our homeowners funds to repair/clean out the septic system after Hurricane Ian. Our system abides by any environmental codes and works well for us here at Hideaway Bay. We certainly don't need to pay any extra for a new low pressure system that may end up having or creating a whole new set of problems/fixes it may need. Please don't allow this new system to be put in place on our little island which seems to be functioning just fine as we are.

Thank you, Will and Keelan Armstrong (keearm@hotmail.com)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Antonia Hover

From: Georgiana Sinnett <georgiana.sinnett@compass.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 10:01 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Clerk and Commissioners,

My husband Scott and I are new homeowners on the island at 431 Bocilla. We have been a part of the island for 20+ years. We owned a home on island approximately 15 years ago. The island has drawn us back again. We have never had issues with the septic system in our previous island home. Our home in Illinois for 38 years, was on septic with never an issue. We are not new to the septic process and do not feel the new proposed sewer system is needed. The expense involved is unnecessary and the unmonitored installation of the systems, abandoning of my current system, the lack of control or oversight of a private FOR PROFIT entity is nothing that we would like to be involved in.

We are recently retired and this is an expense that we do not wish to entertain along with the fact that the actual costs and expenses are completely unknown for us as the homeowner.

With the overwhelming lack of support from the residents that actually live on the island, it is unimaginable that the same proposal is to be forced upon the residents again.

Along with being forced unnecessarily into an expensive legal battle that has never had support from the major population on the island.

There are too many unknown factors to blindly move forward with this proposal.

We emphatically are NOT in support of EU's proposal!!

We appreciate you hearing our concerns and supporting the community voice over the ONE.

Please confirm receipt.

Scott and Georgiana Sinnett

🏡 🏡 NOW LICENSED AND LIVING IN FLORIDA 🏡 🏡
North Shore-Barrington Humanitarian of the Year 2016
CHICAGO Magazine Top Agent
2023 Top 5%
Broker Associate
COMPASS
1575 Main Street

Sarasota, FL 34236

Cell 847-533-6912

As always.....I am never too busy for any of your referrals!

Sent from my iPhone

Antonia Hover

From: Mary anne Sanderson <maryannesanderson@yahoo.ca>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 12:55 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Cc: Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Commissioner.Fav@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Fwd: Docket 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mary anne Sanderson <maryannesanderson@yahoo.ca>
Date: April 26, 2024 at 12:46:08 PM EDT
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us
Cc: mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Docket 20240032-SU

I am a property owner unit k8 hideaway bay beach club little Gasparilla island
Please register my objection to this proposal and confirm receipt of this objection
MASanderson
Sent from my iPhone

Antonia Hover

From: Stacey Noor <stacey@peoplecenteredmarketing.org>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 12:52 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To all whom may concern,
I am an owner at Hideaway Beach Club on Little Gasperilla Island- Troy and Stacey Noor E4. My condo is condemned. Our insurance company-Citizens a non-profit owned by the State of Florida for Florida Citizens has demanded we get an adjuster, an appraiser and now finally an umpire. Our umpire found 18.1 million of damage, the 3rd party umpire agreed that Citizens needs to pay us 15.9 million dollars. Shame on politics and the State of Florida. Citizens is now not paying and our buildings are missing siding and windows as we head into our 2nd hurricane season!!! We have to sue to get our insurance funds back while we keep paying our premium. The last wind premium was \$505,000 to renew.

Jack Bower is using this stressful time on our island to again and push forward for his gain and only his gain.

1. Bower is suggesting we pay \$1 million to dismantle our pristine septic system that services 132 condos on LGI. We have been paying association dues of the tune of \$3,400 per quarter to keep up our septic system. It is checked daily and has been kept up on servicing.
2. Bower is proposing to confiscate our land that our system sits on. Adding a lift station where our private property sits.
3. Bower is suggesting that by increasing our servicing from \$151 for water to almost \$500 for water and sewer monthly that this would somehow benefit us???!! This is a huge increase for a system that is gray water at best, and increases the occurrence of Red Tide(which is detrimental to our marine life and the State of Florida's tourism.)
4. The system Bower is proposing has no improvements added for the environment, just a financial gain for himself.
5. The financial strain he is suggesting when we are already heading into another hurricane season with broken windows and exposed buildings is 100 percent congruent with his character. No Government would entertain this deal.
6. Then he suggests we will all have to pay an additional \$13,000 each to hook up to his system....WHAT, for what gain?
7. We have heard it is Florida State Statute that he has to inform all owners of his plan. We have confirmed at least 75% of us have not been informed.
8. I also want you to know I have no plumbing at my unit and I pay \$280 per quarter just to be hooked up even though I get no water. Please stop this continued nonsense and financial abuse.

Our condo complex was exempt in 2018 when he tried these shenanigans then.

During this trying time where most of us are floating our properties and association dues we are paying about 30-40 k per year for condemned buildings that our State of Florida insurance company won't fix and now the State of Florida again is having us hire more legal counsel as they suggest we dismantle our current septic system that is a better system than the one proposed. We are not in the position to sue two State agencies that are causing extreme HARDSHIP.

I urge you to consider our already financial despair caused by Citizens of the State of Florida. I urge you to valiantly step in our behalf and again in our behalf defend us from this poor proposal being brought forth while we are all busy with condemned properties. We have kept up our system. We share it with others. We care about our environment and the Bower proposal has been looked at by our civil engineer owners at our complex. It is a couple steps down not a step up. Please do not let this proposal go through. None of us want it.

Please help us! Please address Citizens and this greedy business owner who is trying to create another monopoly.

Stacey Noor

--

Stacey Noor

peoplecenteredmarketing.org/952-393-7350

[marketing.events.partnerships.community outreach](http://marketing.events.partnerships.communityoutreach)

*"You can have everything in life you want,
if you will just help enough other people
get what they want. - Zig Ziglar*

Antonia Hover

From: Patricia Crofts <pattycrofts2017@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 12:03 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Cc: Mfriedman@deanmead.com; Tom Crofts
Subject: EU Proposal Docket # 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To whom it may concern,

I am 100% against the proposed waste water treatment for Little Gasparilla Island. This new system doesn't solve any problems for Hideaway specifically, and it would be extremely expensive. Why spend a lot of money for a system that only removes gray water, leaving the dense sludge behind? Thanks anyway!

Patricia and Thomas Crofts
HBBC Unit H2

PS: I'm requesting a confirmation receipt.

Antonia Hover

From: agorgei73@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:50 AM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Proposed EU sewer application for the islands of LGI, Knights Island, Palm Island and Don Pedro Island

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners- I am an owner on Little Gasparilla Island and am formally objecting to the sewer proposal and request that PSC deny the application for original certificate of authorization for Environmental Utilities LLC (EU) for a central sewer system for all islands named in the subject line. I am not against sewer being brought to the island, however do not believe that it should be at the financial gain of a single individual or company. As a tax paying citizen of Charlotte County, I demand to be treated as any other citizen and feel it is my and all other tax paying citizens of these islands to not be gouged for basic services, as we currently are being with our water supply and will be with the proposed sewer system being owned by EU!

To provide you with some insight on the unfair treatment of these islands, let me share with you some facts about the current water system that is single handedly making the owners of LGIWU rich...simply by supplying these islands with water! Since Hurricane Ian, we have been unable to use or access our home for nearly 2 years. Therefore have used ZERO water, however for the last two years I have received a bill from Little Gasparilla Water Utility for approximately \$250 on a quarterly basis!!! That's \$83 a month for NOTHING, or as Jack Boyer states 'to cover his administrative fees'. Can I ask you what a mainland tax payer pays in administration fees for there water? I'm sure it's nowhere near \$83 a month!

The above serves as and example as to why our islands should not be subject to any further unfair treatment of setting up a private monopoly to gouge it's residents, just to supply our island with the basic essentials!! If Charlotte county wants us to have sewer, they should provide it to us, just like any other resident and not outsource it to a private entity who will receive significant persona financial gains!!

Thank you!
Angela & David Gorgei
9400 Little Gasparilla Island #D7
Placida, FL 33946
813-263-8210

Antonia Hover

From: Kathleen Waltz <kwaltzjim@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 2:52 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Docket 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am a resident owner of 25 years on Little Gasparilla Island. I have a home at Hideaway Bay Beach Club. My career of over 25 years was in industrial water treatment for Nalco Chemical. I had many wastewater treatment plant accounts.

HBBC maintains our own wastewater plant with a Florida licensed treatment plant operation company.

In addition to not needing the plant it would be a significant cost to HBBC residents at a time when we are struggling with ongoing hurricane Ian repairs/expenses. My business experience included work on "decommissioning" waste plants. The related costs can run into millions of dollars. There will also be "tie-in" fees.

I'm totally against the proposed wastewater treatment plant. Please register my objection. Please confirm receipt of my objection.

Kathleen Waltz
(412) 262-0758
Sent from my iPhone

Antonia Hover

From: Joan Der <joan.der7@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 2:50 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Fay; commissioner.graham@psc.state
Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Commissioners,
From Joan Der, wife of Robert Der at 171 s. Gulf Blvd. On Don Pedro Island. Please deny the application for original certificate of authorization

As more details are uncovered, I need to emphasize the issue of why we must deny EU their desire to be a provider. On record, our island has not been a source of leakage in Florida. This sewer installation could provide maybe an inconsequential impact of a clean water solution for a gigantic cost, grief, uncertainty and inconvenience to individual owners. There isn't much land to install a new tank in a spot apart from the septic tank while transitioning. Will we be without sewage disposal for a spell? Replacing a perfectly fine tank and drainage with grinders and pipes run by electricity prone to outages is not an improvement. Our individual septs are much safer than new lines to carry the waste water from curvy shell roads (which are finally graded by the County) across two lagoons and the inter coastal waterway. The intercoastal waterway is used continuously by the car access ferry a minimum of 16 hours a day, subject to boat traffic and strong tides. Isn't a drainage septic system servicing this unique bridgeless barrier island a wiser solution?

We already pay the highest rates for water in Florida through a private business seeking every rate hike possible. Must we also be subjected to the excessive rates threatened by EU , yet another private service provider, for negligible improvement of waste waters? I don't want EU to reap a premium rate for what has historically been their problematic and subpar installation processes and subsequent service. Why must we be made vulnerable to a contractor setting up a business that hints of intent to resell the service?

Why does our island get pawned off to a contractor of such disrepute? I don't wish the to service your home or mine. Deny sewer on our island. Deny EU for anything to do with our island. Thanks for seriously considering these issues of great concern.

Joan Der

Joan Der
joan.der7@gmail.com
Cell phone in U.S. 1 630 217-7886

Antonia Hover

From: gasparillaville <gasparillaville@mindspring.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 2:20 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Docket# 20240032-SU
Attachments: Letter to Public Service Commission.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners:

Attached is our letter related to the proposal under Docket# 20240032-SU. We would appreciate your confirmation that this letter is being entered into the docket records.

Regards,

Dwayne and Gena Huebner
9400 Little Gasparilla Island, Unit C4

Dwayne & Gena Huebner
PO Box 323
Placida, FL 33946

April 26, 2024

Commission Clerk,
Office of Commission Clerk,
Florida Public Service Commission,
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd,
Tallahassee, FL 32801

RE: #20240032-SU

Dear Commission Members:

We have been residents of Little Gasparilla Island since 1995 when we purchased our condo unit at Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condo. Our association operates its own batch sewer plant and provides this service to a neighboring association, Placida Beach Club Condo. Together, our 103 units and Placida Beach Club's 30 unit constitutes a significant percentage of the island residents. We are guessing about 20% of Little Gasparilla Island.

Bringing up the sewer utility issue again comes at a time when many residents are still struggling to recover from Hurricane Ian. Our condo unit is still not habitable. Repairs ground to a halt when Citizens Property Insurance Company offered a ridiculously low settlement offer and we have been fighting them ever since. The excessive cost of appraiser and the umpire is not covered by insurance and we will be left to burden the expense on our own. That is on top of the high windstorm deductible on our policy. The possible legal fees that we may have to incur to recover insurance proceeds that we are entitled to could be the straw that breaks the camels back. Now we are faced with very significant costs that will come our way if you move forward with the private sewer utility. We feel that putting this on our backs now is completely uncalled for and insensitive.

We can't say that we are informed on this particular attempt to bring the sewer utility to Little Gasparilla Island. As we said, our home is not habitable and we don't get mail frequently since we have to make a special trip to retrieve our mail. As of two weeks ago, we received no official notification from anyone. As such, we have relied on social media for our information. That source is hardly reliable. Our community needs time to figure out just what is being proposed. We may need legal representation that we haven't put in place yet.

One of the things that we have heard through social media is that the proposed utility company intends to utilize the batch plant existing at Hideaway Bay Beach Club in their system. How can that be when no one has contacted the board that represents our association? Our contact information is filed with the State of Florida Bureau of Condominiums, so it's is easy to find us. How will that benefit us? It doesn't appear that our association will receive any services that we don't already provide for ourselves.

In summary, the timing of this proposal is poor at best. Please relieve us of the battle that would surely come with this proposition. This is not the first time we addressed this type of a project, so we know that it is contentious. Let us rebuild our home and our community and recover from the overwhelming economic consequences that come with the rebuilding process. Our board members are volunteers that have their hands full already without worrying on how to best represent our association in your proceedings. Don't put this back on the docket until the community has a chance to get the facts of the proposal without relying on social media. In blunt terms, please work for the best efforts of our community rather than the business interest of private enterprise. Now is not the time for this proposal!

Best Regards,

Dwayne & Gena Huebner

The block contains two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is 'Dwayne L. Huebner' and the second is 'Gena Huebner'. They are written in dark ink and are positioned to the right of the typed name 'Dwayne & Gena Huebner'.

CC:

Mfriedman@deanmead.com or
Martin s. Friedman, Esquire Dean Mead
420 s. Orange Ave. Suite 700
Orlando, FL. 32801

Antonia Hover

From: Kari Harju <karanne.harju@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 1:41 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Docket No. 20240032-SU, Environmental Utilities

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding Docket No. 20240032-SU
Certificate of Application For Wastewater Service In Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities

We are writing this email to strongly oppose Environmental Utilities (EU) providing waste water service to Little Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County, we are homeowners on the island at Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condos.

EU was denied a similar application two years ago, my question is what has changed? Other than the devastation incurred by hurricane Ian, which at Hideaway Bay Beach Club we have not started the rebuild process.

Another question would be what expertise does EU claim to have in building and maintaining a waste water service? Have the easements been established? To hook up to the sewer which would be required within 1 year at an estimated cost of \$13,000 per home seems excessive.

The sewer system would only remove waste water and not solids, which would need to be pumped out at the owner's expense. What other waste system in the state only does the waste water? And the proposed quarterly cost would be the highest in the state of Florida and a burden to all the owners.

As proposed, if the electric goes out there is only a 6 hour window to get the system back up and running, needing to have back-up generators at whose cost? and who will be on the island to monitor this?

Previously our association was considered its own utility since we have a working septic system, which is maintained by a class A company, NES. This time it is proposed that our septic be converted to a lifting station which would result in having to decommission the current septic system for a price tag of around \$1 million dollars. It is just not fair to expect 102 owners to pay this bill. It would be extremely devastating to both our community and island.

For the above reasons and many others that were previously stated 2 years ago, we do not feel it would benefit our small island and would be unjust and not equitable for owners to pay for a system that is simply not needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven and KarAnne Harju
9400 Little Gasparilla Island, Unit C1
Placida< FL 33046
612-240-2177

Antonia Hover

From: Joann Giglio-Guagliardo <jguag@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 1:38 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Fwd: Docket# 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon,

I, Joann Guagliardo, and my husband Frank are homeowners of several properties on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) which is in the proposed service area in Environmental Utilities (EU) central sewer proposal.

We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for original certification of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

We strongly object to EUs proposal and application for certification. We request an administrative hearing be held before a ruling on the application. We also request status as a Party of Record so that we can participate in legal proceedings.

We as homeowners do not need this service or request this service.

We have many concerns regarding this proposal. We are retired seniors who have been homeowners of LGI for more than 20 years.

-First and foremost we invested in our current septic system which has served us very well throughout the years. This new proposed system is not needed and very expensive and adds additional burden for us as homeowners.

-It is our understanding that the connection charge of this system is estimated between \$13,000 to \$20,000 per homeowner and monthly cost estimated at nearly \$200. An electric panel separate from our home will also be needed with additional cost.

-We as the homeowner will also need to invest in a generator to avoid sewage back up in the event of power outages. This is very concerning as power outages occur frequently on our island. Also, Hurricane Ian in 2022 was devastating for our island. We are still recovering from this major hurricane with our home still in repair.

-Another concern is that we have current dealings with this owner through Little Gasparilla Water and there are constant issues and unnecessary costs with extremely high base fees as well as usage fees.

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and urge you to deny EU's application.

Sincerely,
Joann Guagliardo

Antonia Hover

From: Eric Buffkin <eric@buffkin.net>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 1:13 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Records Clerk
Subject: Application for Original Wastewater Certificate in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities LLC, Docket 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners,

As a lifelong Florida resident and property owner at Hideaway Bay Beach Club on Little Gasparilla Island who would be significantly affected by the requested Certificate, I encourage you to reject this application for the following reasons:

- the need for the public system has not been established
- there has been no demonstration that the current wastewater treatment has materially contributed to any pollution
- the applicant has not demonstrated it possesses the financial, technical, or operational experience or expertise to realize, operate, or maintain such a system
- there is no clear understanding of the timing or the cost affected property owners will incur if such a system is installed.

Further, our island is yet to fully recover from Hurricane Ian. It is hardly an understatement to say it was the most destructive event to affect the island in most of our lifetimes. It is useful to note that even with the widespread damage, there was no significant pollution released.

I appreciate the Commission's dedication to serving the citizens of our State.

Sincerely,
Eric

—

Eric Buffkin
Hideaway Bay Beach Club
Unit A-6
9400 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: Candyce Cohen <candycecohen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:42 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Request to DENY Docket #20240032-SU
Attachments: CC Docket20240032-SU.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Commissioners,

My name is Candyce Cohen and I am a full-time, year-round resident of Don Pedro Island in the proposed service area having first purchased a home here in 1990. My primary and only residence is on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to request that you **DENY** this latest EU application for Service. I have provided my reasoning, documentation and concerns in the attached PDF

Thank you very much for your service and consideration of my position.

Respectfully submitted,

Candyce Cohen
8 Pointe Way
Don Pedro Island
candycecohen@gmail.com

EMAIL TO:

Clerk of the Commission clerk@psc.state.fl.us

COPY TO:

Commissioner LaRosa: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us

Commissioner Clark: Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us

Commissioner Passidomo: Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us

Commissioner Graham: Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us

Commissioner Fay: Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us

SUBJECT: DENY Request for Docket #20240032-SU

April 26, 2024

Hello Commissioners,

My name is Candyce Cohen and I am a full-time, year-round resident of Don Pedro Island in the proposed service area having first purchased a home here in 1990. My primary and only residence is on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to request that you **DENY** this latest EU application for Service.

NOT A DEVELOPER

I am writing to this commission, once again, to ask that you DENY Environmental Utilities LLC's (EU) application to provide wastewater service to this area. I wrote you once before and spoke to you at a local hearing just two short years ago. I reviewed the application to see what if anything has changed and not a lot has. I do not the application has the support of several developers including one who submitted 21 separate letters requesting service and another who sent in 3 along with a handful of Little Gasparilla Island owners. Reviewing the docket to date, I see more multiple submissions from another 4 developers – one with 7 letters, another with 4 letters, then 3 letters. Reviewing the supporters, I see only a half dozen individual homeowners requesting service and one is the daughter of EU's principal, Jack Boyer. One EU supporter blamed 17 deaths on raw sewage from septic overflow on Little Gasparilla Island following Hurricane Ian. I know the hurricane was devastating, but I somehow missed this headline.

My husband and I are NOT developers, we're just islanders who have worked hard to build our dream home here. We support the Bocilla Islands Conservancy, pick up litter on the beach and try to help neighbors in need and keep our septic tank inspected and maintained.

SEWAGE FLOWS VIA PUMP EXCEPT WHEN POWER IS OUT – THEN IT OVERFLOWS

Hurricane Ian's devastating landfall on the barrier islands has taken a significant toll, costing islanders a lot of time, money and emotion in rebuilding. Many have not been able to complete due to challenges with insurance carriers. The power and water outages for over a week following landfall were difficult, but I remain thankful that we were not on the central sewer solution such as the one proposed by EU which requires each property owner to have electricity to pump waste out of what is essentially a small holding tank. Loss of power for any extended period would lead to an environmental disaster as these much smaller tanks are all connected.

Evaluation of Standards for Low Pressure Sewer Systems

Sarasota County – ESBC Utilities

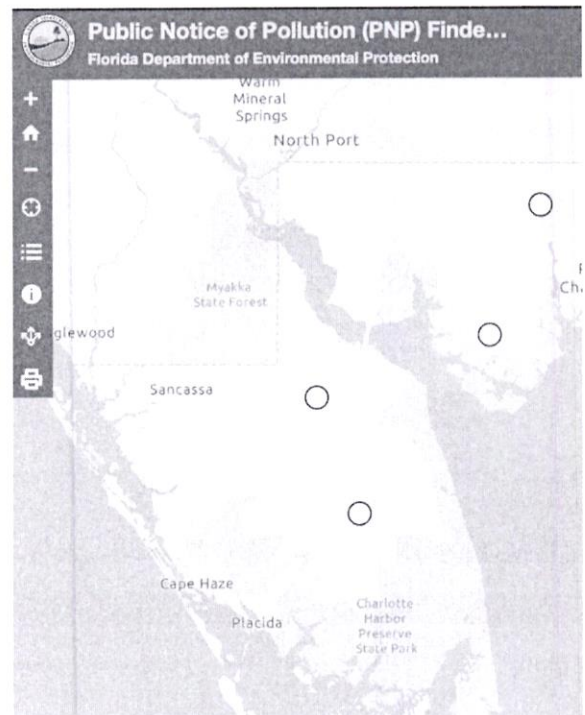
Section 6 - Survey of Florida Communities Using Low Pressure Grinder Pumps Systems

Their units do not have an emergency power receptacle. In the event of a power outage, if they need to perform an emergency pump down, they would hardwire the system.

During the last three hurricane seasons, there were instances where the power was out for up to three days. For the commercial properties, it was the property owner's responsibility to pump down their own system. For the single family homeowners, it was the County's responsibility to pump down the systems. However, the County advised the residents to pop the top on the clean out and let the sewage flow in the yard so that it would not back up into the house. The county did not go out to pump down the units with a generator.

The pumps had some maintenance issues as well. After about 6-8 years, the pumps began to have problems. They found that the ABS Piranha 09 model had fewer problems than the E-one. The E-one pumps had some manufacturer defects that the manufacturer replaced. The source of the problem was a defect that allowed water to enter the section of the station lid where the electrical components were housed, resulting in electrical failures.

With the landfall of Hurricane Ian, sewage spills have not made the top headlines, but the state PNP (Pollution Notice Reporting) publishes sewer and wastewater spills. Since 2019 Charlotte County had more than 120 spills with nearly 6.6m gallons of wastewater lost to the environment. In the past 2 years, there have been an additional 40k gallons of wastewater across 5 spills from lift stations and pumps failing. Of this, a mere 300 gallons was recovered. The rest went into our land and waterways. In the past 30 days, there have been additional incidents registered in Charlotte County.



Incident Name	SWO Incid	Incident Report	Gallon	Recover	Report Date
18091 Avonsdale Cir 4-16-24	202403290	Incident Description: LPS pump failed, which caused the tank to fill and overflow. New pump was installed with new float sensors. 300 gallons spilled, with 150 gallons collected with Vacuum truck. 23-30 gallons entered the storm drain at	300	150	04/17/2024 03
Liftstation # 210 overflow	20238502	Incident Description: We received a high-level alarm at our Lift Station # 210 at about 20:30 on 10/12/2023. Heavy rain had created high flows and high pressures in our collections system. When another lift station pumped to this	10000	0	10/13/2023 12
2022-1117 Reclaim spill Edgew.	20229531	Incident Description: Contractor broke off the air release valve(ARV), while removing old pipe on the job site. A thrust block fell off old pipe onto the ARV, breaking the pipe below the ARV. The valve feeding the ARV was located and	10500	0	11/18/2022 12
2022-0609 Reclaim ARV Break	20224230	Incident Description: Reclaim break in 2" line. Shut valve at main. Break will be repaired on 6/6/2022.	3500	0	06/09/2022 07
2022-0604 Reclaim Break	20224008	Approximately 15,000 gallons of reclaimed water spilled. No waterways affected.	15000	0	06/04/2022 02

The devastation from these bulk sewage spills has proven far-reaching impacts to our water quality, many multiples of the impact from low density septic tank usage.

> 120 Charlotte County Sewage Spills (since 2019) of nearly 6.6m gallons of Wastewater

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

About DEP How Do I Divisions Air Lands Parks & Rec Waste

POLLUTION NOTICE

Enterprise Solutions

A-Z Index Forms News Events Contact Us

Incident Name	Incident Report	Gallons	Recover	Facility	Release	Hours	Affected
Cypress Pkwy Reclaimed Water Mai	On December 11, 2020 at 7pm a 12" reclaimed water main malfunctioned causing a break. On December 12, 2020 at 10:45 the line broke.	2,760,000		MSKWP Te	12/11/2020	22	Charlotte
3100 Loveland Blvd	On 2/20/2021 @ 3:30AM crews responded to a force main break at 3100 Loveland Blvd. Port Charlotte. During reworking of a force main.	1,090,000	800,000	East Port	02/20/2021	35	Charlotte
Reclaim Break 05/27/2021 CCPW 77: Customer's irrigation system main line broke and spilled approximately 425,000 gallons of reclaimed water. Shut off customer's meter until		425,000		Charlotte	05/27/2021	114	Charlotte
Cannon Ct. and Telegraph Creek	Approximately 385,000 gallons of treated effluent was released due to a break in a 10" pipe. No cleanup actions are required for this spill.	385,000		MSKWP Te	06/07/2019	2	Charlotte
Reclaim Break 06/01/2021 CCPW 54: Customer's irrigation system main line broke and spilled approximately 268,000 gallons of reclaim water. Shut off customer's meter until		268,000		Charlotte	05/30/2021	49	Charlotte
Curry Preserve Extension	Contractor broke an 18" reuse line excavating and laying electrical lines. Incident time was 1-21-2020 at 9:00am and repaired completely	249,000		MSKWP Te	01/20/2020	25	Charlotte
1409 Redo Oak Ln. / Quesada Ave.	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	200,000	120,000	East Port	06/28/2020	3	Charlotte
6470 Coliseum Blvd	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	160,000		Charlotte	04/18/2019	12	Charlotte
Quesada Ave.	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	150,000	125,000	East Port	06/07/2020	3	Charlotte
Charlotte County	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	100,000	43,500	East Port	01/27/2020	3	Charlotte
CCU Loveland and Dan Healey	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	100,000	80,000	East Port	10/12/2022	2	Charlotte
2511 Luther Rd	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	70,000		Charlotte	09/24/2020	21	Charlotte
8675 Harborside Rd	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	60,000		Charlotte	01/11/2021	4	Charlotte
CHARLOTTE CI Walenda overflow	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	56,000	54,000	East Port	01/11/2021	1	Charlotte
	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	50,000		Charlotte	01/19/2022	1	Charlotte
	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	48,800		Burnt Sto	11/16/2020	1	Charlotte
	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	40,000		CHARLO	11/11/2019	3	Charlotte
	On 6/28/2020 @ 6:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to have	20,000		Charlotte	09/20/2019	1	Charlotte

More than 400,000 gallons of sewage spills in Venice

HUGE SEWAGE SPILL Charlotte County

Reporter: Stephanie Byrne, Matthew Seaver

Published: January 25, 2022 3:39 PM EST

Updated: January 25, 2022 4:15 PM EST

100k gallons of sewage spills from pipe in Charlotte County community

1 MILLION GALLON OF WASTE WATER SPILLED

Reporter: Stephanie Byrne, Drew Hill

Published: March 2, 2021 8:01 PM EST

Updated: March 3, 2021 2:17 PM EST

1 million gallons of untreated wastewater spilled in Charlotte County

A million gallons of untreated wastewater spilled in a Southwest Florida county as crews were working to improve the area's sewage system.

Public Notice of Pollution (PNP) Finder: Last 30 Days

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Engineered

8675 Placida RD main break 01192022

Incident #: 2022355

Incident Name: 8675 Placida RD main break

Report: Reclaim Main break, possible fitting failure. Isolated section of pipe.

Awaiting parts for repair. Estimated repair time 1 week. Estimated 50,000 gallons of reclaim water spilled.

Report Date/Time: 1/26/2022, 5:17 AM

Facility: Charlotte County Utilities

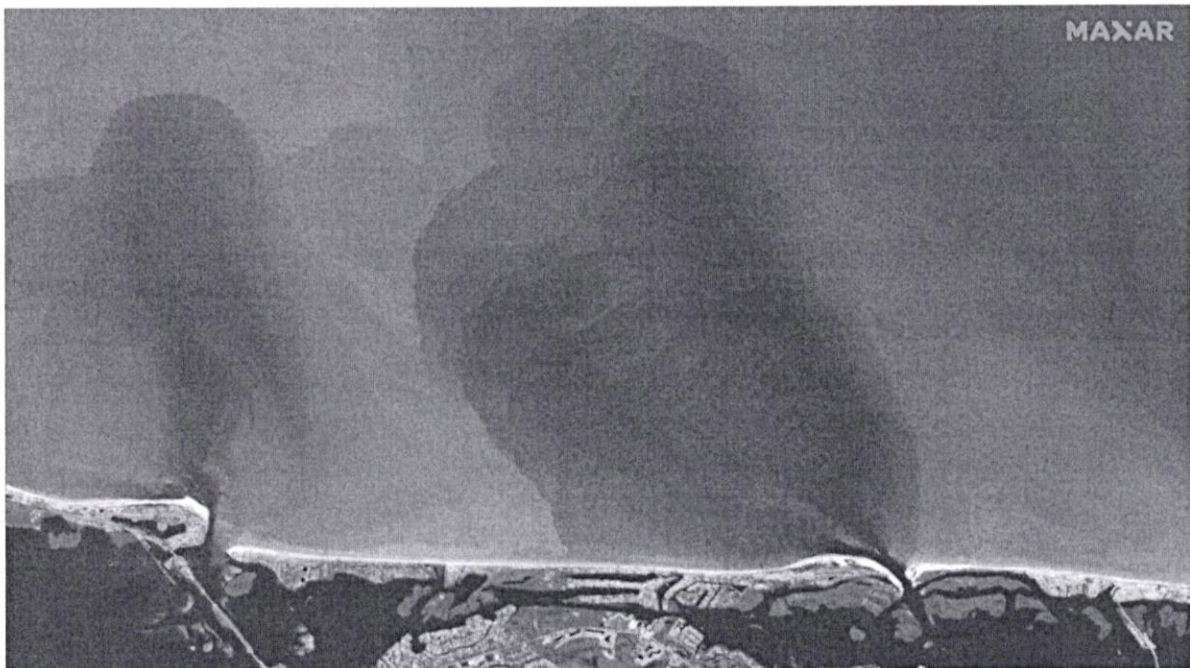
Name: 2550 Harborview RD Suite 3

Address: Line 1

WATER QUALITY AND NITROGEN LEVELS

No local water studies have shown that septic tanks are damaging island waters— but CCU's own Sewer Master Plan shows groundwater and watershed flows. Higher nitrogen levels are found in both fertilizer and reclaimed wastewater used to irrigate the several golf courses that flow directly into Lemon Bay. This nitrogen-rich runoff also exacerbates any red tide issues.

If the county is focused on local water quality, Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) would follow the lead of neighboring Sarasota, Manatee and Lee counties and prioritize work with Charlotte Harbor's National Estuary Program (CHNEP) to upgrade wastewater treatment to Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) standards reducing excess nutrient in reclaimed wastewater – again which all flow into Lemon Bay. In the wake of Hurricane Ian, several wastewater treatment plants around the state dumped raw sewage into Florida Waterways. From the October 2, 2022 Bloomberg article highlighting the service area, note the sewage is flowing through the passes into the gulf and NOT from the individual island septic tanks.



A view shows sediment discharging to sea after Hurricane Ian hits Don Pedro Island, in Florida, U.S. September 30, 2022. Courtesy of 2022 Maxar Technologies/Handout via REUTERS.

Hurricane Ian Dumped Raw Sewage Into Florida Waterways

Bloomberg

Total Views: 6384

October 2, 2022

In these articles, Professor LaPointe makes his position clear – that billions will need to be spent on sewer infrastructure for many of these urban areas. Urban does not describe our barrier island community.

Charlotte County has a third of the population density of the counties to our north and south. Our islands do not support high-rise, multifamily nor commercial developments. Our delicate island environment is at much greater risk of pollution from centralized sewage spills than any low-density septic tank issues.

The counties north and south acknowledge sewage spills happen and have focused on protecting sensitive estuaries by implementing Advanced Wastewater Treatment to reduce excess nitrogen and nutrients in reclaimed water.

Charlotte County Utilities should prioritize upgrading to AWT standards removing red-tide fueling nutrient from wastewater before dismantling functioning low-density tanks (OSTDS).

The cost of these upgrades can be offset in full or in part with Clean Water / Clean Waterways funding and grants. EU as a private, “for-profit”

limited liability “utility” has no standing to garner Clean Water / Clean Waterways funds. The nature of a Limited Liability Corporation providing this service provides no recourse to the public or the county for any costly mistakes and does not meet criteria for Clean Water grants or other financing alternatives. The limited liability nature of the LLC limits public and private funding opportunities.

Central sewer provided by an inexperienced, private, for-profit entity and NOT by a qualified, municipal utility is NOT REASONABLE environmentally or economically.

**BNN
Bloomberg**

≡ NEWS LIVE VIDEO SHOWS MORE ▾

“I’d say this is going to be unprecedented,” LaPointe said in a phone interview. “We are anticipating seeing a number of these algal blooms in the wake of Hurricane Ian.”

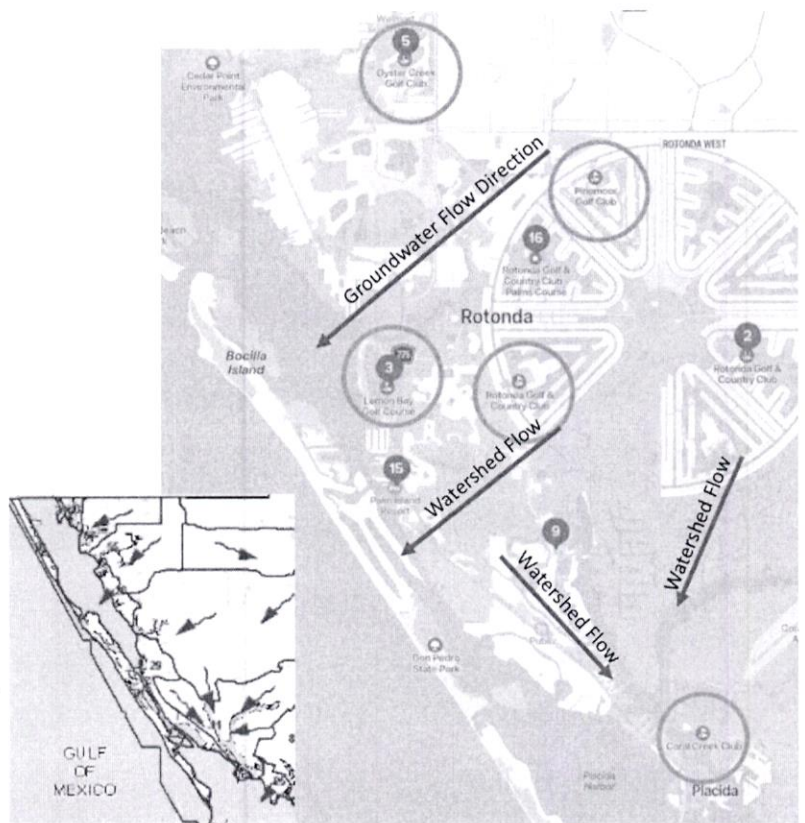
One model the state could look to in the future is in the Florida Keys. Monroe County spent about \$1 billion on a septic-to-sewer upgrade that included new, tightly sealed pipes to keep stormwater out and an advanced wastewater treatment system to remove nitrogen, preventing algal blooms that damage coral reefs. The water is then injected more than 3,000 feet underground, LaPointe said. The area reported no sewage spills after Irma, despite being flooded, he added.

“This is really where I think Florida is going to be heading in the future,” LaPointe said. “We are going to have to spend billions of dollars in many of these urban areas.”

THE NEED IS GREED

We have yet to see evidence and testing documenting the NEED for a septic to sewer migration. Where is reporting that our local water quality issues result from individual septic tanks versus the millions of gallons of fertilizer-enriched, reclaimed wastewater runoff from a half dozen local golf courses and green lawns on the mainland into Lemon Bay? None of this is addressed in EU's application rather continuing to reference East Coast/Urban waterways. And "urban" does not come close to describing our barrier island community – at least so long as the developers who have been writing in support are not successful convincing the County to change zoning in our community. This is just one concern of seeing so many developers pushing endorsing the EU service ... is their end game to develop properties as platted or to change zoning on the islands to increase density and commercial activities? If I wanted to live on Ft. Myers Beach or Siesta Key, I would have moved there and I don't want to see our county leaders swayed by wealthy developers to change zoning and forever change our community and love of the natural environment we have here.

For the record, it is rare that an islander considers uses sod as most embrace Florida Native landscaping options. In fact, the islands under encouragement of Bocilla Islands Conservancy Inc, the island is now a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat. We are very proud of our care of the environment and can't imagine the devastation to and disruption of our wildlife habitat proposed by EU.



CONCLUSION:

I want to be able to continue living in my island home, but I already pay amongst the highest water rates in the state to a private utility. Even considering another private utility much less a Limited Liability Corporate for sewer service with no ability to make use of Clean Water grants and funding options is an incomprehensible proposition our county is promoting.

Before considering disruption to our carefully protected environment, we would need to see evidence of the need for service from our LOCAL waters – not some urban, East Coast studies – and evidence that water quality issues are attributable to low density septic tanks – and not the millions of gallons of nitrogen-enriched runoff from commercial activities surrounding Lemon Bay. If these were our actual conditions, the our county should not shirk responsibility and subject our residents to another private, for-profit company with scant experience. Counties to the north and south have undertaken improvements to reduce nitrogen levels in their treated water thereby reducing the nitrogen-load of reclaimed water runoff into Lemon Bay.

We just went through this process less than 2 years ago and we still have yet to see EVIDENCE of the need for this project from our LOCAL, LOW DENSITY Waters. In that time, we endured Hurricane Ian, rebuild to whatever extent possible our homes and our lives and here we are again facing another round with EU

- still a private for-private LLC
- still with scant to no experience
- still with no access to funding/grants for municipalities who undertaking these projects
- still with no guarantee - other than it is a for-profit company that will always take the highest rate increases available.

EU offers neither a SAFE, REASONABLE nor RELIABLE solution for our community. For all the reasons I have stated, I respectfully ask that the commission **DENY** EU's request for service.

Thank you very much for your patience reading this and I am happy to support or clarify any of these arguments,

Respectfully submitted,

Candyce Cohen
8 Pointe Way
Don Pedro Island, FL
candycecohen@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: dave ferri <kdisland@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 7:39 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Joel D Piktel
Subject: Sewer LGI
Attachments: swwer lgi.pages

We are property owners on Little Gasparilla Island, specifically at 8594 Marsh Ave, Placidia , Fl. 33946. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed central sewer project on Little Gasparilla Island. We are formally requesting that the Public Service Commission deny the application for wastewater service proposed by Environmental Utilities, LLC. It appears this request is not driven by the needs of the island, but only to benefit a business that has no experience installing sewers. The proposed project has major implications and costs to the environment and island residents. Our major concerns include:

1. As homeowners, we have major concerns about mandatory hookup requirements. We are not willing or able to pay extraordinary costs to convert to a new system when there is nothing wrong with our current septic that we maintain. We are not willing or able to pay the cost of additional electric service if and the potential cost of installing a new or added panel. We see this as an unwarranted and expensive complication of what has been a simple, affordable, and reliable septic system that we have used for decades without any problems.
2. The proposed monthly residential cost for service is reported to be extremely high and not acceptable. The rates being discussed are above and beyond current rates on the mainland and would be a totally new monthly expense for Little Gasparilla Island homeowners.
3. The proposed system's reliability and maintenance is unproven. Environmental Utilities, LLC has not demonstrated any technical expertise with this type of project, nor do they have a proven record that they can safely and reliably service the proposed system. If a central sewer system is proven to be an urgent need for the barrier islands, it should be installed and

maintained as a municipal project with county and state officials responsible and accountable for the project's oversight and success.

4. The installation of sewer lines, tanks, and pumps at each property presents a large and immediate impact to the nature and landscape of the island. This disruption has the potential to harm our local wildlife, such as our cherished gopher tortoise population, which is included in the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List. The installation project activities would also endanger and damage the island's vegetation that we have carefully and thoughtfully maintained for decades. The ongoing risk to the environment due to future potential system failures in the event of storms is much greater and more severe than the current private property septic system. One storm can cause much more environmental harm in the event of damage to a central sewer system than to a residential septic tank.

5. The need for electric pumps at each property presents a new burden on Little Gasparilla Island's electricity supply. We have concerns that this burden on the existing electrical infrastructure could lead to a risk of fires. A proliferation of propane generators being used to prevent sewer back up in case of power outages also presents an increased risk of fires on Little Gasparilla Island.

Thank you,

Kathy and Dave Ferri

Antonia Hover

From: Rick Jenkins <Rick.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 5:28 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.u; Chris Brooks; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: LGI Serer System

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

My wife Susan Jenkins and I are homeowners of several properties on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) which is in the proposed service area in Environmental Utilities (EU) central sewer proposal.

We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for original certification of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

We strongly object to EUs proposal and application for certification. We request an administrative hearing be held before a ruling on the application. We also request status as a Party of Record so that we can participate in legal proceedings.

We as homeowners do not need this service or request this service.

We have many concerns regarding this proposal and have been homeowners of LGI for more than 20 years.

-First and foremost we invested in our current septic system which has served us very well throughout the years. This new proposed system is not needed and very expensive and adds additional burden for us as homeowners. Our original septic system that we were forced to install in 2006 is the aerator system that requires yearly service and fees to the Heath department of Charlotte County. We have used this system all this time and were forced to spend \$23,000.00 in 2006 when a normal septic system cost \$12,000.00 After all this time of spending extra money on a septic system, we are not willing to spend another exorbitant amount of money on a different system that does not meet our needs. We are in our 60's and close to retirement and can't afford this new system.

-It is our understanding that the connection charge of this system is estimated between \$13,000 to \$20,000 per homeowner and additional cost quarterly estimated at nearly \$200. An electric panel separate from our home will also be needed with additional cost.

-We as the homeowner will also need to invest in a generator to avoid sewage back up in the event of power outages. This is very concerning as power outages occur frequently on our island. Also, Hurricane Ian in 2022 was devastating for our island. We are still recovering from this major hurricane with our home still in repair.

-Another concern is that we have current dealings with this owner through Little Gasparilla Water and there are constant issues and unnecessary costs with monthly base fees of over \$200 per household plus usage.

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and urge you to deny EU's application.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Jenkins | CEO | Quality Roofing, Inc.

1905 N 40th Street | Tampa, FL 33605

(813) 620-4797 Office | (813) 626-1756 Fax | Rick.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com

This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not distribute or copy this e-mail.

WARNING! WIRE FRAUD ADVISORY: Wire fraud and email hacking/phishing attacks are on the increase industry wide! If you have a monetary transaction with us, and you receive an email containing Wire Transfer Instructions, DO NOT RESPOND TO THE EMAIL! Instead, call Quality Roofing, Inc. immediately, using previously known contact information and NOT information provided in the email, to verify the information prior to sending funds.

Antonia Hover

From: Gary Richardson <traderrichardson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 5:13 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

My wife (Robyn) and I oppose the approval of Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) application to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the installation of central sewer on Don Pedro Island.

Our biggest concern is the applicant: Environmental Utilities LLC. On paper, EU simply does not have the experience on similar projects to be successful. Off paper, the EU principals have a bad reputation in the area for previous failed ventures.

- Need for Service. There has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service.
- Environmental. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.
- The Costs. The costs of central sewer are quite considerable at a very bad time for Islanders. Many are still engaged with fighting their insurance companies for settlements from Hurricane Ian and have had to lay out large sums for their re-builds while they wait for compensation. Some owners have just paid deep-pocket sums to install new septic systems at their newly built or re-built homes. Many property owners simply do not have the resources available to convert from septic to sewer.

Please do not approve the application.

Gary & Robyn Richardson
301 S Gulf Blvd #22
Placida FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: Susan Jenkins <Susan.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 5:05 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: FW: Docket# 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

My husband Rick Jenkins and I are homeowners of several properties on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) which is in the proposed service area in Environmental Utilities (EU) central sewer proposal.

We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for original certification of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

We strongly object to EUs proposal and application for certification. We request an administrative hearing be held before a ruling on the application. We also request status as a Party of Record so that we can participate in legal proceedings.

We as homeowners do not need this service or request this service.

We have many concerns regarding this proposal and have been homeowners of LGI for more than 20 years.

-First and foremost we invested in our current septic system which has served us very well throughout the years. This new proposed system is not needed and very expensive and adds additional burden for us as homeowners. Our original septic system that we were forced to install in 2006 is the aerator system that requires yearly service and fees to the Heath department of Charlotte County. We have used this system all this time and were forced to spend \$23,000.00 in 2006 when a normal septic system cost \$12,000.00 After all this time of spending extra money on a septic system, we are not willing to spend another exorbitant amount of money on a different system that does not meet our needs. We are in our 60's and close to retirement and can't afford this new system.

-It is our understanding that the connection charge of this system is estimated between \$13,000 to \$20,000 per homeowner and additional cost quarterly estimated at nearly \$200. An electric panel separate from our home will also be needed with additional cost.

-We as the homeowner will also need to invest in a generator to avoid sewage back up in the event of power outages. This is very concerning as power outages occur frequently on our island. Also, Hurricane Ian in 2022 was devastating for our island. We are still recovering from this major hurricane with our home still in repair.

-Another concern is that we have current dealings with this owner through Little Gasparilla Water and there are constant issues and unnecessary costs with monthly base fees of over \$200 per household plus usage.

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and urge you to deny EU's application.

Sincerely,

Susan Jenkins | Marketing Director | **Quality Roofing, Inc.**

1905 N 40th Street | Tampa, FL 33605

(813) 620-4797 Office | (813) 626-1756 Fax | Susan.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com

This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not distribute or copy this e-mail.

WARNING! WIRE FRAUD ADVISORY: Wire fraud and email hacking/phishing attacks are on the increase industry wide! If you have a monetary transaction with us, and you receive an email containing Wire Transfer Instructions, DO NOT RESPOND TO THE EMAIL! Instead, call Quality Roofing, Inc. immediately, using previously known contact information and NOT information provided in the email, to verify the information prior to sending funds.

Antonia Hover

From: Robert Volpe <rvolpe@HoltzmanVogel.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 4:54 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Kayla Kentnor; Louise Volpe
Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon,
This is a request to be added as an interested person in docket # 20240032-SU on behalf of Louise Volpe. Please send all relevant docket entries and notices to:
rvolpe@holtzmanvogel.com and
Kkentnor@holtzmanvogel.com
Thank you,



PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

This communication and any accompanying documents are confidential and privileged. They are intended for the sole use of the addressee. If you receive this transmission in error, you are advised that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance upon this communication is strictly prohibited. Moreover, any such disclosure shall not compromise or waive the attorney-client, accountant-client, or other privileges as to this communication or otherwise. If you have received this communication in error, please contact me at the above email address. Thank you.

DISCLAIMER

Any accounting, business or tax advice contained in this communication, including attachments and enclosures, is not intended as a thorough, in-depth analysis of specific issues, nor a substitute for a formal opinion, nor is it sufficient to avoid tax-related penalties. If desired, Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky & Josefiak PLLC would be pleased to perform the requisite research and provide you with a detailed written analysis. Such an engagement may be the subject of a separate engagement letter that would define the scope and limits of the desired consultation services.

From: Louise Volpe <loubreez570@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 4:18 PM
To: Robert Volpe <rvolpe@holtzmanvogel.com>
Subject: Fwd: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Records Clerk** <CLERK@psc.state.fl.us>

Date: Thu, Apr 25, 2024 at 3:53 PM

Subject: RE: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service

To: Louise Volpe <loubreez570@gmail.com>

Cc: Consumer Contact <Contact@psc.state.fl.us>

Good afternoon Louise Volpe,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Best regards,

Charlie Smith II

Office of Commission Clerk

Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

850-413-6770

PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your email message may be subject to public disclosure

From: Louise Volpe <loubreez570@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:36 PM

To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>

Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners:

I, Louise Volpe, am the owner of property on Little Gasparilla Island within the proposed service area for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) application to provide wastewater service. My properties are located at 9842 Little Gasparilla Island and 9848 Little Gasparilla Island.

I am writing to object and oppose this APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION AND INITIAL RATES AND CHARGES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE (the Application). I request that you DENY the Application. The Application does not demonstrate sufficient need for service, and the application and service are not in the public interest.

My family has owned property on Little Gasparilla Island since 1963. Like me, many of the homeowners have held property on LGI for decades. I have installed a private septic system at significant personal expense, and maintain this system in good operation. Eliminating the raised drain field will not provide an environmental benefit. And the risk of environmental hazard from the low-pressure system outweighs any potential benefit from the system.

The Application has not provided sufficient demonstration of need for the proposed service. The applicant has not received any approvals from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The Application relies on general statements about removal of septic systems on barrier islands as the basis for need for service. It references service needs for failing systems and septic to sewer conversions as a basis for need. However, this is irrelevant because the proposed low-pressure system does not remove septic systems. If systems are in failure, the low pressure system will not cure those defects. Further, in the event of power loss (which occurs often on LGI) the low pressure system could fail causing back-ups and septic failures and resulting in increased environmental risk. In short, the justification for the application need is unrelated to the proposed system and irrelevant. The Application does not demonstrate need.

The proposed low pressure sewer system would be overly burdensome on the homeowners of Little Gasparilla Island. The proposed connection fees (over \$13,000) and proposed rates of over \$250/month are extremely high and a financial burden to many of the owners. These onerous rates would be among the highest in the state and cause an extreme hardship on many of the owners.

I stand with many of my neighbors in opposing this Application. It would not provide the intended benefit and the costs surely outweigh any anticipated benefit. The only one that stands to benefit is the utility owner. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We respectfully request that you DENY the Application.

Sincerely,

Louise Volpe

Loubreez570@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: floridabuckeye 362 <floridabuckeye362@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:52 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Sewer Docket 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Commissioners:

My wife and I are Rodney and Alice Henderson. We have owned our home on Little Gasparilla Island for 24 years and are writing to strongly and formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service
We can not believe that Jack Boyer is once again pushing his sewer system.

The reasons against his plans still exist. I can list a few.

The electric system on the island is under severe strain. We lose power several times a year. What will happen then?

This is a harsh environment, with salt mist in the air and salt water incursion from high tides. Our yard was flooded twice in the last 8 months by over a foot of sea water. Any equipment suffers with more maintenance requirements and a much shorter lifespan. Especially electrical equipment.

Movement of service vehicles is severely restricted due to our narrow sandy trails and dense vegetation. Many of the trails would have to be widened and would destroy the look of the island. This is a special place and I know of no other like it.

As I stated when he last applied, Jack Boyer has no experience installing or operating a sewage system !! This is not the place for him to be learning. A mistake here could cause severe impact with limited resources to deal with the situation.

Just yesterday, I rode past a water meter that is close to the trail. It had been run over by equipment, the water line coming from it was broken and had flooded the trail. What if it was sewage?

There is no consideration for septic tanks in good working condition. In 24 years we have not had a problem with ours.

We are retired on fixed incomes. I'm 74 & my wife is 79. After our recovery from hurricane IAN & flooding from Idalia we are at our limit financially and emotionally. The greed of this man "Jack Boyer" will force us to leave our home on Little Gasparilla Island.

In his newsletter April 2024 Chairman La Rosa mentions reliability and reasonable rates are areas where the PSC can help.

I think these should be a consideration and once again ask that you DENY EU's application.

We can't afford this and don't need it.

Your consideration is appreciated,

Rodney & Alice Henderson

8848 Bay St.

Little Gasparilla Island

floridabuckeye362@gmail.com



Virus-free www.avg.com

Antonia Hover

From: robert.der.der@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:26 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; comissioner.graham@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Re: Objection to the Proposal to and Request the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the Proposed Central Sewer System

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Updated for two incorrect email addresses.

Thanks and best regards,

Bob Der

Mobile telephone numbers:

USA: +1-630-373-7886

China: +86-136-6196-0494

Email: robert.der.der@gmail.com
or derro@yahoo.com

On Apr 26, 2024, at 3:18 PM, robert.der.der@gmail.com wrote:

RE. Docket #20240032-SU

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Robert Der, Trustee and Owner of the Trust for the property located on 171 South Gulf Boulevard (on Don Pedro Island) Placida, FL 33946. The property is within the service area contained in the application from Environmental Utilities, LLC [EU] for a proposed central sewer system.

I am writing specifically to object to the proposal to and specifically request the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the Proposed Central Sewer System by EU.

I want to reiterate that a complicated major infrastructure project with possible significant environmental impact and financially significant to the homeowners on a barrier island is not an ideal for a novice company without demonstrated significant financial support and engineering expertise such as EU. Especially when there is not a demonstrated need for such service. The water testing that is done periodically on Palm Island has not demonstrated any need for the sewer system. Plus, the project could inflict major damage on the local habitat and environment.

Yours truly,

Robert Der

Trustee for property at:

171 South Gulf Blvd on don Pedro Island
Placida, FL 33946

Mail address:

PO Box 3294

Placida, Fl 33946-3294

Mobile telephone numbers:

USA: +1-630-373-7886

Email: robert.der.der@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: Dona Cabela <cdjean20@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:27 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Commissioners:

I am sending this letter regarding Environmental Utilities and the installation of a central sewer on the Islands.

I want to start with a firm request to "deny" E.U's application for wastewater service to our barrier islands. Not only do we (the majority) not want this, we do not need it.

I do not have anything negative to say about the family that owns E.U, my reservation is for the following reasons.

1st: We will still have a sewer system and a pump. Currently, if we lose power we are still able to flush our toilets as long as we have water. With this new system unless you have a generator you will be unable to flush your toilet. That will be a nightmare.

2nd: This is a for-profit company without any experience owning or running a wastewater utility company.

3rd: The expense is going to be placed on the homeowner. For us this is going to run us more than the average; we face the loss of a previously installed underground propane tank (1,000 gallons). We were informed a couple of years ago this line would run directly in front of our house. This is exactly where our propane tank is buried. Along with our house generator which is located on the north side of our house; we will stand to lose. This cost us over \$55,000 for that project; which we only had installed 4 years ago. During permitting we were told this was the only place we could bury the propane tank. If this goes through we will lose our house generator, and have the added expense to have this all removed. Not to mention we had our entire house transferred to gas. This is a huge hardship. This can all be avoided. Please deny E.U the permit to install this central sewer system.

4th: I believe the environmental impact of so many unforeseen issues that will arise from this could be devastating. If something should go sideways; the commissioners that voted for this will be held responsible. (not legally, but in the eyes of your constituents).

5th: I am sure you are all aware of the delicate dance we have of getting off and on this island we already face; with all this heavy equipment and the length of time this will take will have a far more negative impact. Homeowners; rental companies, workers that already come here etc.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and realize that we not only don't want this system but we don't need it. This is only a person/company out to make money and cause undue stress and hardship to so many people. He has already been denied before. Please do the right thing and continue to not support this.

Have a good day

Respectfully
Dona Cabela (homeowner)
110 N. Gulf Blvd
Placida, FL 33946
Knights Island

cdjean20@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: robert.der.der@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:18 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: commissioner.larosa@psc.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Clark;
commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Fay;
comissioner.graham@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Objection to the Proposal to and Request the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the Proposed Central Sewer System

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

RE. Docket #20240032-SU

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Robert Der, Trustee and Owner of the Trust for the property located on 171 South Gulf Boulevard (on Don Pedro Island) Placida, FL 33946. The property is within the service area contained in the application from Environmental Utilities, LLC [EU] for a proposed central sewer system.

I am writing specifically to object to the proposal to and specifically request the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the Proposed Central Sewer System by EU.

I want to reiterate that a complicated major infrastructure project with possible significant environmental impact and financially significant to the homeowners on a barrier island is not an ideal for a novice company without demonstrated significant financial support and engineering expertise such as EU. Especially when there is not a demonstrated need for such service. The water testing that is done periodically on Palm Island has not demonstrated any need for the sewer system. Plus, the project could inflict major damage on the local habitat and environment.

Yours truly,

Robert Der
Trustee for property at:
171 South Gulf Blvd on don Pedro Island
Placida, FL 33946

Mail address:
PO Box 3294
Placida, FL 33946-3294

Mobile telephone numbers:
USA: +1-630-373-7886
Email: robert.der.der@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: Tony December <tonydecember727@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:16 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To our Commissioners:

We have once again received notice from Environmental Utilities, LLC that they are applying to provide wastewater services to our islands.

We vehemently oppose the installation of sewer systems. We've owned a home on Don Pedro Island for 22 yrs and have enjoyed the peace and natural beauty of the area.

We just replaced our septic in 2018, it works fine. We see no point in changing something that works - a sewer installation that's going to tear up our roads and property, disturb our fragile estuaries and wildlife, create havoc in traveling around the island during an installation.

I understand the estimated startup cost per property is appr \$13,000. and we will have an additional monthly bill to add to our water, electric and cable bills, not to mention incidental costs associated with the electrical panels or service to run everything. NO Thank you.

Please consider the homeowners that will bear the costs and the land that will be forever changed and probably not for the better.

Tracy and Tony December
290 South Gulf Blvd #31
Don Pedro

Antonia Hover

From: Joann Giglio-Guagliardo <jguag@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:14 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Message from Frank Guagliardo regarding Docket# 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

>
> Good afternoon,
>
> I, Frank Guagliardo, and my wife Joann are homeowners of several properties on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) which is in the proposed service area in Environmental Utilities (EU) central sewer proposal.
>
> We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for original certification of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.
>
> We strongly object to EUs proposal and application for certification. We request an administrative hearing be held before a ruling on the application. We also request status as a Party of Record so that we can participate in legal proceedings.
>
> We as homeowners do not need this service or request this service.
>
> We have many concerns regarding this proposal. We are retired seniors who have been homeowners of LGI for more than 20 years.
>
> -First and foremost we invested in our current septic system which has served us very well throughout the years. This new proposed system is not needed and very expensive and adds additional burden for us as homeowners.
>
> -It is our understanding that the connection charge of this system is estimated between \$13,000 to \$20,000 per homeowner and monthly cost estimated at nearly \$200. An electric panel separate from our home will also be needed with additional cost.
>
> -We as the homeowner will also need to invest in a generator to avoid sewage back up in the event of power outages. This is very concerning as power outages occur frequently on our island. Also, Hurricane Ian in 2022 was devastating for our island. We are still recovering from this major hurricane with our home still in repair.
>
> -Another concern is that we have current dealings with this owner through Little Gasparilla Water and there are constant issues and unnecessary costs with extremely high base fees as well as usage fees.
>
> We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and urge you to deny EU's application.
>
> Sincerely,
> Frank Guagliardo

Antonia Hover

From: DONALD NIVER <dgniver@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 7:39 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Re: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm urgently encouraging you all to deny EU's application for wastewater service to Don Pedro Island, Palm Island/Knight Island, Thornton Key, and Little Gasparilla Island. I'm sure you've heard all the reasons why this is a terrible idea. I know of no one who owns property or even who visits there, who feels this is a good idea. There has been no request that I'm aware of from property owners or residents for this service. Financially, the initial cost to owners will be exorbitant, and if it becomes a reality, we will incur ongoing routine expenses significantly over what our current costs are, which is understandable since this is a private, for profit company requesting to provide this unwanted "service". And this is not even an experienced, proven company, which we would all be required to use. If a major storm hits with electrical outages, most everyone will be in a sewage mess till that can be resolved. Environmentally, it could well be a disaster. The service set up will destroy habitat on the islands and pose possible major contamination of the intercostal waterway in the event of a pipe leak or break.

If it were proven, without question, that the current system is a danger environmentally, and that the new system would pose fewer problems, it would be worth looking at, but to me it looks as though we'd be trading to a worse and much more expensive, unneeded and unwanted system.

These are extraordinary islands and there aren't many like them anymore. We need to do everything in our power to maintain them in the least obtrusive way we can.

I thank you for reading my ramblings and hope you consider the opinions of the actual property owners and residents of these amazing islands.

Sally N Kimbrell
William L Kimbrell
301 S Gulf Blvd
Colony Don Pedro, unit 27
Don Pedro Island
813-758-8873
dgniver@aol.com
sallynkimbrell@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: Julie Watts <watts7@earthlink.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 1:04 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: 20240032-SU docket #

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello

I am opposed the the proposed application for sewer for HideawayBay on Little Gasparilla Island. We have a great sewer system and if changes are made we will have an empurmous expense and be paying outrageeous fees. May will have to go into foreclosure- We aren not a wealthy community. Please Please Please do not allow!!

S

Sincerely Julie and Bob Watts

Jay Keller

K4

Antonia Hover

From: Kelly Lube <lubekelly@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 28, 2024 9:34 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; commissioner.grham@psc.state.fl.us; commissioner.Fay@psc.state.us
Subject: Docket #20240032

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am writing my opposition letter regarding EU's application for wastewater service on Don Pedro Island. This was opposed two years ago and I'm not sure why it is back. He is wasting everyone's time and as of yet there has been no evidence that this is a needed service. If it was a needed service at some point, the county should be providing this and not a profit driven business.

I live at 290 Kettle Harbor Dr. on Don Pedro Island and I have an Aerobic Treatment Unit for septic. The Charlotte County Department of Health inspects my unit once a year and I pay extra fees for an operating permit & inspections that follows the guidelines of the Charlotte county health department. Please see the below document which was directly taken from the Charlotte County health Department website regarding the system that I currently have. I should not have to remove and replace a perfectly working system and one that follows county health guidelines. Thank you in advance-for opposing this non environmentally friendly-profit driven company. Kelly Lubē



For Owners/Users of Aerobic Treatment Systems:

Aerobic Treatment Units (ATU) are a special kind of wastewater disposal system that are more efficient at processing waste. They are highly versatile and efficient systems and have many advantages including the ability to be installed in a place where a conventional systems could be installed (due to soil quality or site conditions), or providing the ability to build a larger house on a smaller lot (ATUs require a smaller drainfield size than conventional systems). ATUs reduce the amount of biological material that enters your drainfield. This may extend the lifespan of your drainfield, and is more environmentally friendly than a conventional system.

There are fees associated with maintaining an ATU as a direct result of the requirements to maintain a valid operating permit and a maintenance contract for the life of the system.

What are the requirements?

- The homeowner must maintain a current operating permit for the life of the system. The operating permit must be renewed every two years, and costs \$200.00 payable to the Department of Health.
- The homeowner must maintain a valid maintenance contract with an approved maintenance entity for the life of the system. The maintenance contract on new construction will initially be good for two years. Subsequent renewals must be good for at least a one-year term for the life of the system. Prices vary depending on the maintenance entity selected and type of system.
- Maintenance entity is required to inspect/service the ATU at least two times per year. Inspection reports must be submitted to the Department of Health in Lee County.
- The Department of Health must inspect the maintenance and performance of the ATU at least once per year.

•

Sent from my iPad

Antonia Hover

From: kevinkendall@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 10:44 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Proposed EU application for wastewater services,

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Commissioners,

This letter is being written in regards to the proposed EU application for wastewater services on Little Gasparilla Island--Docket# 20240032-SU.

As a homeowner at Hideaway Bay Beach Club, we are satisfied with our current system of wastewater services and are ***NOT seeking sewers***. The disruption, cost, and environmental impacts will be detrimental to Hideaway and our island.

Please consider denying Jack Boyer's application to install sewers on Little Gasparilla Island. He has his own personal gains in mind instead of the island and it's residents' best interest.

Please provide confirmation of receipt of this email.

Thank you,
Kevin and Pamela Kendall

kevinkendall@verizon.net