

Lisa Smith

From: Cristina Slaton
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:45 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence 20200226
Attachments: Central Sewer System - Bayshore Circle 5355 -Palm Island; Docket #20200226-SU
Proposed sewer project for Little Gasperilla island; Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #
20200226-SU; docket #20200266-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Re Florida Atlantic
University Septic Sys Research; ~~Re Florida Atlantic University Septic Sys Research; Docket~~
~~#-20200226-SU~~; Docket #20200226-SU; SUBJECT Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #
20200226-SU

AT 1/19/22

Good afternoon,

Please place the attached emails in CORRESPONDENCE-Consumers & Representatives in docket 20200226.

Thank you!

Lisa Smith

From: Gary Buhler <gsbuhler@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:09 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Central Sewer System - Bayshore Circle 53/55 -Palm Island

I am writing in full support of the addition of a central sewer system and the elimination of septic tanks. As I am sure you are aware, septic tanks are very bad for the environment. These tanks allow nitrogen and other pollution to flow directly into our waterways. This pollution feeds algae blooms, kills fish, and kills sea grasses and is likely a contributing factor to red tide. Also, many of the old tanks are cracked or rusted and are leaking into our water supply and waterways. We can not afford not to install a central sewer system and eliminate the septic tanks. I am a property owner on Palm Island and DO NOT SUPPORT the local organization(PIE) that is against this proposal. Ignorance to real issues is not an excuse not to keep our waterways and water supply pristine. Please support this program and proceed with the system.

Thank You,
Gary Buhler
813-624-4337
gsbuhler@aol.com
53 Bayshore Circle

Lisa Smith

From: Randy Simmons <simmonsrandy77@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 2:32 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: Randy Simmons
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU Proposed sewer project for Little Gasperilla island

Commissioners and Clerk of the public service commission,

My name is Randy Simmons, I am a current owner of 8230 little Gasperilla Island, I am sending you this email in opposition to the proposed sewer project and Formally requesting that the PSC deny EUs request for waste water service. There are many reasons for this request .below are just a few. Not a comprehensive list
1. EU has not Secured/ Purchases the necessary right of way for the project as a portion of my property would be necessary to complete the project EU DOES NOT HAVE RIGHT OF WAY to install infrastructure needed for this project.

2.I currently my property has a well functioning septic system that is a very low to NO impact to the environment and don't feel that this project is justified, additionally if it were to go through I feel I should be grandfathered in and not required to hook up to the system at the proposed exorbitant cost.

3. It has not been determined that EU has the financial ability to handle such a project and I feel that this project should be performed by Charlotte County to ensure system is up to standards if we are forced to go on a sewer system.

4 it is in question rather EU has the technical expertise to perform the construction and oversight of a project such as this SINCE THEY HAVE ZERO experience and have not Installed a system anywhere else comparatively. Additionally I don't feel that EU can provide a system that is affordable to the owners of property on Little Gasparilla island.

Thank you for you consideration in these matters as I request that the proposal be denied

Randy Simmons

E-mail simmonsrandy77@gmail.com

Cell 812-310-4125

Lisa Smith

From: joe.noto@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:28 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Records Clerk
Cc: joe.noto@comcast.net
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Joe Noto and I live at 181 N. Gulf Blvd. #10, Placida, Florida 33946 on Palm Island. Please read my numerous concerns below and so that you understand why **I strongly oppose the central sewer system as proposed by Environmental Utilities.**

1. I do not see the need for this service at this time.
 - a. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for a central sewer system.
 - b. This project could very easily have a negative impact on, and interfere with the habitat of endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.
 - c. The risk of a central sewer leak into the intercoastal waterway seems greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.
2. I am concerned about the ability of Environmental Utilities to financially handle this project, and adequately maintain such a system.
 - a. I have not been provided any information about the financial history, stability or viability of Environmental Utilities and their management team.
3. I am also concerned as to whether Environmental Utilities has the technical expertise and capability to handle such a project.
 - a. EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer.
 - b. There is no performance bond required, and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.
 - c. It is my understanding that Environmental Utilities has not provided adequate information on how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions.
 - d. What experience do they have with other wastewater systems?
4. I am concerned about the hook up and monthly service costs

- a. Initially hookup was estimated to be \$20,000 and subsequently it was reduced to approximately \$13,000. This makes me wonder if that lower number is valid or was provided only to quell complaints they were hearing.
 - b. It is my understanding that the average monthly bill is estimated to be somewhere around \$178. This is twice the cost of monthly sewer AND water in Rotunda.
 - c. I am also concerned about the cost I will have to incur to install a separate electrical panel.
 - d. In the case of a power outage which we experience frequently, I'm concerned the system's grinder pump will not be able to function for long. I would need a generator to ensure there was no sewage back up during the power outage.
 - e. I am concerned about the life of the equipment installed by Environmental Utilities and their ability to maintain it. This could result in future upcharges to homeowners because of the needed repair costs
5. Also, it is my understanding that 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 me. It's my property and if they want an easement they should pay for it.

So, the central sewer system proposed by Environmental Utilities will have a significant impact on me, a homeowner in the proposed service area. As such, **I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.**

Sincerely,

Joe Noto

joe.noto@comcast.net

574-904-7224

Lisa Smith

From: Steve Egan <steveimprint1@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:03 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Commissioner.clark@psc.stat.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners,

My name is Steve Egan, with a vacation property at 8270 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida. I am in opposition to the proposed central sewer system that is being forced upon us by a private entity (Jack Bower's company, EU).

Being forced to hook up to this service, at a cost totally absorbed by residents, would put a financial hardship on many island residents, including my family. Our 900 square foot cabin is a weekend place, used about once a month. We barely were able to afford being forced to hook up to Mr. Boyer's water utility, and that was \$5000. Not to mention having to pay to hook up from the meter to the residence.

I don't feel there is a need for service due to the inconsistent use of the property, and the additional expenses beyond the initial hookup charge that is being forced upon us by a *for-profit* company. There have also been questions as to Mr. Boyer's technical expertise and financial wherewithal.

I would also encourage any commissioner that has not visited Little Gasparilla Island to please come see it for yourselves. You might gain an appreciation of the island for what it is not, instead of what it is. Most of us don't own big fancy places on the water. We are regular people that got on the island years ago before the market went crazy. We just can't afford it what Mr. Boyer is trying to do.

In conclusion, I object to EU's Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and would formally ask that the PSC deny it.

Respectfully,

Steve Egan
steveimprint1@aol.com
Imprintables International, LLC
1306 Orangewalk Dr.
Brandon, FL 33511
813-453-LOGO
iPrintTampa.com

Lisa Smith

From: Diane Reed <kkldreed@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:02 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark; commisioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: docket #20200266-SU

Commissioner,

I am a property owner on Palm Island 301 S Gulf Blvd Unit 420 under my company name K and L Property Management, LLC

I would like to that PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

The cost for the hook up is very uncertain along with the average residential bill and and the cost to close my current septic tank This is huge financial obligation.

The expense of the additional electric panel, electric bill associated with the pump needed and potential a generator in the event of power outages. Is also very uncertain.

My current septic is well maintained and should have the option to be grandfathered in.

Our island serviced by the ferry will have huge traffic disruptions, damaging our roads, yards, landscaping.

Please DENY this application.

Thank you,

Diane Reed
856-297-3013
owner and member of K and L Property Management, LLC

Lisa Smith

From: Kevin Reed <kevinreed1308@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 12:54 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

I am a property owner on Palm Island 360 S Gulf Blvd Unit A under my company name K and L Property Management, LLC

I would like to that PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

The cost for the hook up is very uncertain along with the average residential bill. This is huge financial obligation, which is not necessary to me as a homeowner with a very functioning and maintained septic system. and the cost to close my current septic tank.

The expense of the additional electric panel, electric bill associated with the pump needed and potential a generator in the event of power outages. Is also very uncertain.

Our island serviced by the ferry will have huge traffic disruptions, damaging our roads, yards, landscaping.

Please DENY this application.

Thank you,

Kevin Reed

Affordable Tire, LLC
Celebrating 30 years 1987-2020
4 Locations

K and L Property Management, LLC
Commercial Leasing: Office, Warehouse, and Manufacturing

K and L Real Estate, LLC
Real-estate Development

856-297-3011 cell/text
856-825-5748 office
1-888-295-9869 fax

Lisa Smith

From: Robert Jensen <rjensen2525@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 12:22 PM
To: Environmental Utility; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; robinmadden@islanderproperties.com
Subject: Re: Florida Atlantic University Septic Sys Research

Received, thank you.

Jack:

Thank you for this generalized description of ground water pollution. Unfortunately, it does not contain specific information for any sources of ground water pollution, run-off pollution from commercial and industrial sights, and pollution from the release of untreated sewage into the estuaries from overloaded sewage treatment plants during heavy rains or tropical storms. Even if sewers were installed everywhere in Charlotte County, ground water nutrients leaching into the estuaries is a complex problem that cannot be solved or measurably mitigated by the installation of sewers on PI and DPI. For instance, Cape Coral in Lee County with 300 mile of canals is entirely sewerred, and they have experienced the worst algae blooms in SWF. They have discovered that run-off from roads and parking lots into the drainage systems as well as fertilizers from homes and golf courses is the leading cause of pollution in the estuaries. Living directly on the back bay of Ft. Myers Beach for 25 years, I have personally observed and investigated raw sewage discharges during severe storms directly into the estuary from a Lee County sewage treatment plant several miles from our house. These discharges of raw sewage are large and Gross with disgustingly visible debris, and are sometimes reported to the news media.

In closing, your problem is the installation of sewers on LGI where substandard lots and many years of unpermitted buildings combined with poor drainage resulting in large areas of standing water have created an unhealthy mixing of ground water and pollutants from substandard septic systems. These conditions do not exist on PI or DPI. I believe that most citizens would support your installation of sewers on LGI to help mitigate the ever evolving health hazard created by LGI residents during the past fifty years.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robert Jensen

On Tue, Jan 18, 2022, 1:37 PM Environmental Utility <eu777offices@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Interested Party/ Island Resident:

Attached is the most recent study on how Septic Systems affect our pristine waters. This article was posted January 7, 2022 in South Central Florida Life online.

You can access the report with this link

<https://www.southcentralfloridalife.com/stories/septic-tanks-feeding-algal-blooms,26750>

or for those who do not like to click links, the whole article is attached in pdf format.

Please give it a read.

Thank you for your time,

Lisa Smith

From: Andy & Julie Nichols <clweagle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 11:46 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU

Andrew & Julie Nichols
2 Adele Way,
Don Pedro Island

We are formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

We have been homeowners on Don Pedro Island for 20 years, having built our house on Adele Way in 2002. We and all our fellow islanders live on this pristine island oasis. Our home is on the Gulf of Mexico and meandering behind our house is the water inlet into Bocilla Lagoon from the Intercoastal Island. You can see to the bottom where schools of fish and crabs abound and one of the favorite past times of islanders and visitors is fishing off one of the two bridges connecting Knight and Don Pedro islands.

Our community of homeowners take the environment very seriously and there has been a Bocilla Islands Conservancy since 2003. Incidentally, in 2003 a developer wanted to come and build higher elevation condos and promoted a sewer. The homeowners successfully got the County Commission to agree to our position and kept our island the low-rise density it still is.

All islanders take their septic tanks very seriously, making sure they are inspected and pumped on a regular basis.

Many of us on the island have had experience with the Boyers through a myriad of their businesses and many were unsuccessful relationships. Their plan would cost homeowners thousands of dollars not just in hooking up to their system but the additional demands of generators, expensive additions to electrical panels and destruction to existing lawns and irrigation systems that would have to be replaced.

As I mentioned generators, we just investigated the addition of a generator and was told it would have to be elevated, five feet from any window and the propane tank buried fifteen feet away from the house. And if you are a beachfront owner you must go to the State DEP for approval, an expensive and very timely process. We have been waiting eleven months to get a new survey of our property.

Our position is if you force this on us, the project **MUST** go out to bid as you would be required to do with any major project. You cannot take the easy way out with something of this magnitude. That is what the Commission did with our water system, allowing a middleman to make his buck rather than the County hook us up to the Englewood Water District.

If I was one of these new homeowners that just put in a very expensive septic system, I would be incensed at the actions you want to take where there is obviously not the need. If the Commission thinks we are ready for sewer it's the County's job to properly bid it out, not take the easy way out with the Boyers.

We invite each and everyone of you to visit our islands and see the water quality where nature abounds.

Andrew & Julie Nichols

Lisa Smith

From: Roy & Wendy Petteway <oranges@embarqmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 11:06 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

To whom it may concern,

My name is Roy Petteway and I have been a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County, Florida, since 1983. Little Gasparilla Island is a bridge-less barrier island with no access other than by boat. There are few designated "roads", which are sand paths, and do not connect north and south completely. Where the north/south paths end, they meander through private property, some with the owners' knowledge, and some without. Golf carts are the main mode of transportation, or bike.

I am stating that I am in opposition to the central sewer system proposed by Environmental Utilities (EU) and I am respectfully requesting that the Public Service Commission deny EU's application for wastewater services on Little Gasparilla Island, Palm Island, Knight Island, etc.

The reasons I am opposed are as follows:

1. I do not feel there is a need for service, as the island has working septic tanks at this time, many of which are inspected regularly. There are also many new septic tanks that have been installed in the past few years.
2. The cost of this service will add a financial hardship to my family, as well as other residents on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI). We were forced to hook up to Mr. Boyer's water system, with exorbitant rates. I would add we are paying some of the highest water rates in the state, over \$75 per month before the first drop of water is used. From what I can determine, there are uncertain hookup charges for the sewer system. When this was first proposed to our Property Owners Association, the installation fee was in the \$20,000 range. Now I understand that amount has changed per the PSC filing to \$13,221. Also, the average residential bill for service will be \$178 per month, which is roughly twice the amount that is paid on the mainland by homeowners for both water and sewer combined. If you add the proposed sewer bill to the already high water bills, there will be homeowners who can no longer afford a home on the island.

Another thing, there is no "pay over time" for the installation, homeowners will have to obtain a 2nd mortgage on their homes to cover this high cost of connection and other costs that have not yet been identified. Charlotte County regulations will require all homes on the island to be connected to the sewer system within 1 year of installation. There will be no grandfathering of any existing septic tanks on the island, no matter if they were installed recently or not.

3. The sewer system proposed requires a separate electric panel to be installed at the owners expense to operate the grinder pump. The grinder pump has limited capacity, with only a 60 gallon tank. And in the event of a power outage, which happens frequently, it will not be able to function. Electric power on the islands are very undependable, we have frequent power outages that can last for hours. Just last week a tree fell over a power line and much of the island was out for 8 hours or more. I have seen power off at the island for over 24 hours. Because of this, the homeowner will be required to install an expensive generator to operate the grinder

pump when the power is out. This places an undue financial hardship on homeowners to purchase the generator, as well as the hardship of hauling fuel for the generator over to the island in a boat.

4. We have a pristine, natural landscape on LGI. We have endangered species such as bald eagles and gopher tortoises, as well as osprey nests on the island, which need to be protected. To put in the sewer system that is being proposed, much of the island's landscape will be irrevocably destroyed. Also, landscaping around the existing septic tanks will have to be destroyed to give the ability to crush and fill the existing septic tanks, which will again be at the homeowners expense.

5. Many of the properties on LGI are of various sizes, and some lots are set up in a way to not have adequate easements between them or around them to be able to run the sewer lines without having to be run through private property to access them. Not to mention, most utility easements are placed in the road right of way. EU has claimed ownership of utility easements that he has not purchased, or been granted. The proposal is that homeowners will be forced to "give" easements for utilities. This is un-American. Utility easements are granted by the owner, or purchased, they are not just taken. I would also mention that staging areas for excavation equipment and supplies will have to be placed on private property, as all property on the island is private. There is no "public" land on LGI.

6. I will remind you again, LGI is a bridge-less, barrier island and access is only by boat. Equipment may be brought to the island by barge from the mainland at Eldred's Marina, which is neither punctual nor dependable. The barge operates solely at the discretion of the owner, and may not run for days at a time. For the scope of this project to depend on this barge service is not only not feasible, it would totally shut down any resident's need for the barge as it would be tied up with this project. Homeowners and contractors use the barge service to deliver all necessary items that cannot be brought over in a personal boat, such as a golf cart, or a load of shell, or building supplies, etc. Because of this, in the event of an emergency spill or regular maintenance, EU has not stated how they would be able to address any emergency that would require equipment that was not already on the island.

7. In such a hostile salt environment as this coast, it is my experience that equipment needs replacing on a regular basis, and this will be another homeowner expense, not to mention the additional electric expense that will be borne by the homeowner to operate this equipment.

8. To my knowledge, no water quality testing has been done on LGI to even show the need for a sewer. I feel the risk of a sewer spill in the bay from a sewer pipe crossing the Inter-Coastal is far greater than the unproven risk of septic tank use.

9. Lastly, EU has no experience with sewer installation, as this is the first wastewater project they have been involved with. A company with no track record in this area should not be allowed to begin a project with this scope and magnitude on a bridge-less barrier island.

I would offer an invitation to any commissioner to come to our island and let me show you the pristine environment of LGI and see for yourself what will be irreparably destroyed to install this sewer system.

For the reasons above, I respectfully request that you deny the application by Environmental Utilities to install a sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Petteway

oranges@embarqmail.com

Lisa Smith

From: Lisa Simmons <lisabsimmons@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:54 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: SUBJECT: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing this email to formally request that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island. I have owned a vacation home on the island since 1996. My children and family have enjoyed the tranquility of this island for many years. It is my intention to leave this little piece of paradise to my children when I die. After reviewing the expected costs to put in a wastewater system on the island, I realize that I will not be able to maintain the home I love so much. The costs are prohibitive for me as I am sure it will force many others to sell their places too. The proposed costs far exceed any other wastewater service in the state and I find that totally unacceptable and unfair. The costs are not equitable to what other people are paying for the same services across the county and state. In addition, the need for a generator as a backup and installation of an additional electrical panel are ridiculous and I am appalled that as a commissioner you would even think about voting yes for this project. Please, I ask you to put yourself in my place and make the right decision for the residents of Palm Island and Little Gasparilla Island. It is truly heartbreaking for me to think about being forced to sell my place because of the exorbitant and unrealistic expense that would be imposed on me. Please vote no!!!

Lisa Simmons
lisabsimmons@gmail.com
8270 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, Fl. 33946

Lisa Smith

From: Kelly Lube <lubekelly@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:52 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

This letter is in reference to the proposal to incorporate a private sewer company on Palm Island. As a property owner (290 Kettle harbor Dr), I'm concerned about the cost that will be mandated for hook up to a Private company, that will have a lifetime Monopoly over the price we pay monthly. This price, I'm sure will be Way above and beyond what the mainland property owners pay for county owned sewer. This is not fair! The cost for hook up and destruction of our yard and beautiful landscaping will be more out of pocket costs. Costs, not within monthly budgets.

I'd also like to mention, this private company, that wants a monopoly on our services, has NEVER, had a sewer company. This is a disaster..waiting to happen. And I predict the county will have to come in and clean it all up when shit hits the fan.

Kelly Lubē

Sent from my iPad