

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 8:13 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20200226
Attachments: Sewer System for Knight Island, Don Pedro Island - Against; RE. Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Objection of Palm Island Sewer Project; Objection to private sewer; Docket #20200226-SU; Palm Island; Docket #20200; RE. Docket #20200226-SU; Docket - #20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226-SU - 43 Bayshore Circle Placida, FL. - Daniel Petersen; 20200226- SU; Docket#20200226-SU; RE. Docket # 20200226-SU ; Docket #20200226-SU

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20200226.

Thank you!

Lisa Smith

From: JoAnn Elardo <outlook_3BD59017611E759F@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 7:39 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Sewer System for Knight Island, Don Pedro Island - Against

Hello Commissioner,

I am a home owner on Don Pedro at 177N Gulf Dr. I have lived in Florida for over 15 years own several businesses and sit on several boards.

I am against the present plan to have an unqualified party put in the islands sewer systems. At present time we have a family business handling our water – we have problems with our water – first off it is yellow most of the time. Band-Aids and Duct Tape hold the system together.

The first approval of this we will see a sell off to a larger company. It is a money game – like having a non profit Coop start up – there is no need – if you are set on going this route get a major utilities to do it. Not a new family business. I am also unaware who requested this sewer service – I have never even heard it was needed. I am uncomfortable with any of the information that has been sent by this party regarding the sewer – No information on the cost or how it will be done?

We urge you to really look into to this first instead of putting this in the hands of a firm that has never done it before.

Please vote No
Thank you

JoAnn & Robert Elardo

Lisa Smith

From: Linda Burkhardt <linda.burkhardt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 6:59 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

My husband and I own a home at 120 Bocilla Drive on Palm Island and I am writing this email to request that the PSC deny Environmental Utility's (EU) application for wastewater service for our community.

My main concern is whether any real need for this service has been established by those of us who live in this community. If our homeowners' association or a group of concerned property owners had established a need for wastewater service, I would support moving forward with a solution. I cannot understand how a privately held company like EU could be allowed to force their wastewater treatment plan on residents without their input. It seems to me that if a need was actually established, the property owners in our community should have the opportunity to evaluate the plans and rates of multiple service providers. Every neighbor I have spoken to is opposed to the plans and tactics of EU. Our community is also concerned by the lack of EU's experience in this field and who is overseeing their planning, construction and costs to the homeowners.

Thank you for your time and again, please deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Linda Burkhardt
120 Bocilla Drive
Placida, FL
(573)280-4826

Lisa Smith

From: Feiner Daniel <feinerdr@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:04 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; clerk@psc.fl.state.us
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear commissioners

My name is Veronica Miks and I own a house on Little Gasparilla Island. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny the application of the company EU for wastewater services and their Original Certificate of Authorization.

I have many concerns about this company. When they originally provided water as a private company, due to their inexperience, they overextended their capabilities on Little Gasparilla Island, subsequently needing the county to oversee, and now, by default, many had to forsake water saving cisterns and force hook up to his private company. His rates for metering cost more than an average homeowner on the mainland, and the island had to go to the state commission to object to his overcharge of water rates.

Now there is a costly proposal by his company, which has no experience in sewer development, to place a sewer system on our island, a small barrier island, with no commercial development and very few permanent year round residents. There is no farming or grass which contribute to fertilizer runoff and the current sewers should be up to current Florida code. Looking at the state records, pollution and runoff are non existent in the waterways around our island. I know for a fact that my well, which I don't use, was tested for nitrogen and e. Coli and passed, showing that the ground water is not being contaminated in my area. There is no urgent need for a sewer system in this area to be placed by a company with no experience.

My other concerns include prohibitory costs to a person with a fixed income. This company has not been forthright in costs, but I have been told it will probably be greater than 10K to be paid up front along with secondary costs of electrical panel to support the type of sewer they want to build, which is not practical on an island with frequent power outages. Supposedly, they want to place a grinding type sewer, which although cheaper initially, is potentially more costly as time goes on, especially if electrical panels need upgrading, the grinder deteriorates faster in a costal climate and needs replacement every 5 years. If there is a prolonged loss of power, there is no backup plan because this type of sewer doesn't work without power, potentially causing a health problem. Other than supplying and maintaining your own generator, another cost, there is no alternative. I imagine it would be very hard on the elderly if there was a problem.

My other issue is the environmental impact and there has been no studies to see the effect. EU has sent misleading articles about how the Crystal River is affected, but this is an area with a higher population impact and density, totally dissimilar to the area of Little Gasparilla Island. We have no cars, no grass, no agricultural areas, no commercial property. It has two small condo areas that are not high rise buildings, just side by side units, and empty lots and single unit family homes which are mostly 2 bedrooms; not high density. There are protected gopher tortoises here and the other protected animals that use their burrows. EU plans on going through a state park for their set up and through the intercostal to connect to the mainland. I have not heard of their plan to mitigate their environmental impact.

These are a few of my issues with this unproven company, and it will impact me both financially as well as concerns of damage to my property and landscaping, especially as I have explicitly used native plants, bushes and trees to attract birds, butterflies and other native species and allow them a habitat on the barrier island. I maintain my septic system. Please do not allow this unproven, inexperienced company the rights to place an unwanted, non urgent, inappropriate expensive sewer on the island.

Thank you very much for reading my concerns.

Veronica Miks

Feinerdr@sbcglobal.net

8226 LGI

Sent from my iPad

Lisa Smith

From: leerobertsdpt@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 11:30 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU
Attachments: Commissioner Passidomo PSC letter January 2022.docx

Please find attached a letter requesting that the PSC deny EU's request for a central sewer project on Little Gasparilla Island.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

William Lee Roberts

Lisa Smith

From: RaeAnne Brenneise <rabrenneise@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 10:39 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Objection of Palm Island Sewer Project
Attachments: sewer objection letter.docx

Lisa Smith

From: Paul Brenneise <pbrenneise@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 10:34 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Objection to private sewer
Attachments: Objection to private sewer proposal.docx

Please find attached objection to EU's central sewer system on Palm Island.

Paul Brenneise
941-445-0898
pbrenneise@yahoo.com

Lisa Smith

From: Cathy Derr <cathy@gwamarillo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 10:09 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

I am the property owner of 530 N Gulf Rd, Unit A & B.on Don Pedro Island.

As a property owner, I firmly object to the proposal referenced above and ask PSE to deny the application for Original Certification and Authorization for this Proposed Central Sewer System

Thank you,

**Cathy Derr CBD Investments, LLC
530 Gulf Rd Unit 1 & B
Don Pedro Island**

**My phone number 806-679-8436
Home address : 1601 S. Rusk, Amarillo, Texas 79102**

Lisa Smith

From: Cathy Derr <cathy@gwamarillo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 9:55 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Palm Island

Cathy Derr - -
530 N Gulf

I am a Property owner on Don Pedro island.

I object to the proposal and ask the PSE to deny the application for original certification and authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

Thank you.
Cathy Derr

Cathy Derr, CCIM | Agent

Gaut Whittenburg Emerson | Brokerage & Property Management

600 S. Tyler St., Suite 101 | Amarillo, TX 79101

Office 806.373.3111 | gwamarillo.com

cathy@gwamarillo.com



Emails sent or received shall neither constitute acceptance of conducting transactions via electronic means nor shall create a binding contract or lease in the absence of a fully executed written agreement between buyer and seller or tenant and landlord. Email communications shall be subject to final client review and approval.

Lisa Smith

From: Judy Galloway <judary54@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 9:50 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200

I am a homeowner on Don Pedro Island in Charlotte County. I am writing to **formally request that the PSC deny** EU's application for wastewater service based on the following concerns:

- 1) No need for service has been determined based on environmental impact. **No water testing has been done** on our island to determine that septic tanks are contributing to water pollution. I object to the destruction of natural habitats on our island when no proof has been established that our islands water quality is compromised.
- 2) EU (Jack Boyer) has **NO experience** in developing, installing or maintaining **any** sort of sewer system. It seems that his lack of this technical expertise would eliminate him from consideration. I do not want my property to be his "guniea pig" for learning how to do this at **MY** expense.
- 3) **The high cost of installing EU's propose system is not fair or equitable.** The proposed monthly rate is about twice as much as residents in Rotunda (on the mainland) pay for both sewer and water combined. As a homeowner I would be responsible for providing the required electrical upgrade which may be needed plus the cost of providing a generator to keep the pump running in case of power failure. I would also be responsible for paying for clearing any landscaping in order for EU to gain access to the current septic system. And there is no "pay over time" option for the hook up fee for the project. This would create a great financial hardship for me.
- 4) I object to the **lack of oversight** for this project. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure. We would have to deal with multiple agencies in order to get problems solved. And with EU's lack of experience with installing sewer systems, there are going to be problems. The applicant has not even addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions.

The PSC is required to use this criteria in order to grant certification:

1. **NEED FOR SERVICE** (environmental impacts, development concerns)
2. **FINANCIAL ABILITY** of the applicant
3. **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE** of the applicant
4. **FAIR & EQUITABLE RATES & CHARGES**

I sincerely hope that you can see that EU (Jack Boyer) does NOT meet the criteria

Judy Galloway
Judary54@gmail.com

Lisa Smith

From: Andy Ball <gab_three@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 9:03 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners,

I am a resident on Don Pedro Island, FL. I am writing in opposition to the approval of Environmental Utilities application for wastewater services here on the island. I have several concerns that have not been addressed and believe are grounds for denial of the application.

The first concern is that there are no proven grounds for the need of service on this island. Water sampling in and around the island has not demonstrated a need for a wastewater system. While septic tanks can leak, simply requiring a sewer system based on data collected from other areas does not justify the installation of a costly wastewater system as proposed on this island. The need for a wastewater system should be based on actual need such as sampling data and an evaluation of the risks. I understand that water sampling in the past has not shown any sewage contamination. Additionally, a sewer system has risks as well. A wastewater system leak would prove more environmentally hazardous than a leaking septic tank. A leak of a wastewater system into our waters would be catastrophic to the environment. Compared to occasional septic tanks leaking, a sewer leak would prove much worse. Such a leak in the sewer is a real possibility. Aside from that, and probably more importantly, if septic tanks are so bad and there is a critical need for sewer, the county should not be issuing permits for new homes with septic. Yet, the county continues to issue permits for new buildings with septic tanks. This is a complete contradiction. Since the county continues to issue permits, the need cannot be critical and therefore not justified.

The desire for a wastewater system appears to be purely of financial gain. I, nor any of my neighbors that I have talked with, have requested a wastewater system. Installation of the wastewater system will primarily benefit EU considering there is no demonstrated critical need.

Another concern is the lack of transparency regarding financing of the project. It is unclear that the project is well financed. Having this clarity would provide some confidence that the project will be done properly and actually get completed. Should EU default and not complete the project due to lack of finances, I have concerns as to what that will mean to me and the condition of the island.

There is also the issue of a lack of technical expertise by EU installing and operating a wastewater system. Operating a drinking water system is much different than operating a wastewater system. The risks and complexity are far greater with a wastewater system. If EU had experience in wastewater systems, I might have some confidence in EU's ability to install and operate the system. In the event of a sewage leak, I am also concerned that EU will not have the experience or expertise to address the problem thus, creating an even larger environmental problem than a leaking septic tank.

Lastly is my concern regarding rates and charges associated with the project. At first there was a ball park estimate of \$20,000. I recently received communication from EU explaining that hook up costs could be at least roughly \$12,000. However, that amount does not appear to address other hidden charges such as costs for new electrical panel, septic tank destruction, cost of grinder, generator, etc. I do not recall seeing anything that addresses rates. However, given the high rates we pay for water, I anticipate similarly high rates for wastewater too. This will create a significant financial burden to me while a private company profits for a service that I have already paid for. The septic tank method of treating wastewater at my residence is a safe and effective system.

Please understand that most islanders are responsible about maintaining their septic tanks and, conscientious about protecting the island where we live. Until these concerns are satisfactorily addressed, I hope the application will be denied by the PSC.

Sincerely,

George A. Ball

191 Bocilla Dr.

Gab_three@yahoo.com

Lisa Smith

From: Christopher Zenaty <czenaty@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 7:54 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket - #20200226-SU

To PSC Officers

Christopher Zenaty - Owner
45 Palm Drive, Placida, Florida - Palm Island

I am formally requesting that PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

I am concerned with the ability of this company to responsibly complete the project without an exorbitant fee as well as overall ability to complete the project at all.

Due to lack of oversight Palm Island residents currently pay more for water usage than any other water district in the US.

We are not against upgrading to a newer sewer system but do not believe the new plan is acceptable.

We are looking for fair and equitable rate charges and do not have confidence in the technical ability of EU to complete.

There is,
1-Uncertain hook up cost
2-High additional electric costs
3-Tree removal, landscaping will damage the islands fragile ecosystem
4-No single point of general oversight
5-Traffic disruption
6-New easement giveaway- EU claims ownership of utility easement
7-Overall technical proposal not acceptable

Christopher Zenaty
45 Palm Drive
czenaty@aol.com

Lisa Smith

From: dpetersen7735@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 7:22 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: dpetersen7735@comcast.net
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU - 43 Bayshore Circle Placida, FL. - Daniel Petersen

I am requesting that the Public Service Commission deny the application for the proposed centralized sewer system requested by Environmental Utilities LLC (Jack Boyer).

I live at 43 Bayshore Circle on Don Pedro Island. We care about our ocean and waterways here and have great concerns about Environmental Utilities request to obtain a permit to install a central sewer system.

From 1981 to 1992 I was a District Manager for Indiana Gas, Inc. for several cities in Southeastern Indiana, then Accounting Manager in the Corporate Office in Indianapolis. I know and have experience on the details of managing a utility operation and had the opportunity to work with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. I am familiar with how utilities work and the resources necessary to run a successful utility.

In reading through the testimony provided in the dockets, it is quite clear that EU does not have the experience running a sewer system, nor has he proven the financial capacity to undertake this project.

We are a barrier island accessible by a ferry ride across the intercostal waterway and we often lose power for extended periods of time. Since we have moved here only three years ago, we have lost power for an extended period at least once a year. The LPS system that EU proposes has considerable issues during power loss. The only way to protect the environment in these situations so the smaller tank does not back up and overflow during an extended power loss, would be the installation of a generator at each home. EU has not considered any of these issues and is clearly looking to build the cheapest system available without consideration of the extreme environment on the island. Besides not properly considering all the costs associated to the homeowner, my concern is the "estimated" hook up cost of approximately \$13K that EU has submitted. These proposed hook up costs are not based on anything but EU's estimates. I have not been able to find anything that EU provided that substantiates these construction costs and what happens or what is EU's plan if the construction costs are higher than the estimated costs? What is the impact to us homeowners then, especially since EU has not provided information that they have the financial ability to complete the project in the first place?

For the above reasons and for the protection of our environment on this island, I respectfully request that you deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for EU's proposed central sewer system.

Thank you-

Daniel Petersen
Palm Island homeowner.

Lisa Smith

From: Holly Parrish <hollyparrish@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 6:15 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: 20200226- SU

Holly Parrish homeowner - 540 N Gulf
Steve Parrish homeowner - 540 N Gulf

Property owners on Don Pedro island

We object to the proposal and ask the PSE to deny the application for original certification and authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Smith

From: Richard Collett <rhapsodyballroom@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 5:56 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket#20200226-SU

From Richard J. Collett, property owner on Don Pedro Island (Colony Don Pedro unit #8; also 50 S. Gulf Blvd)

I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service, based on the arguments in opposition to the proposed central sewer system as listed below.

I have been an owner on this beautiful island for over thirty years. My love for this special place is based on the unforgettable memories of wildlife, ocean and the fellowship of friends that we have met over the years. I can't count the many times this fantastic getaway has helped released the stress of life's burdens.

I just cannot even think of the unimaginable upheaval and disruption that the incredible noise of heavy equipment, the endless digging, and dramatic traffic disruption that full time residence and vacation renters will have to endure for months or, yes, even years. But I personally believe that the most damage will be done to the other residents of this island, the wildlife. The biggest thing that makes this island so very special is seeing things like a gopher tortoise snacking on vegetation or as simple as rabbits with their offspring enjoying a morning adventure. Not to mention the numerous species of birds that have called this island home for so many years. It will not take much to disrupt this delicate balance of nature. Past history tells us that once it has been disrupted by, yet again, man's desire to change something that does not need changing, it will never be the same.

The thirty plus years I have been coming to this island I have yet to hear of problems with the septic systems that is in place. I did have to address the septic system on my property once, and that was due to the drain field being clogged by roots. Which brings up the point that I now have a new drain field and septic tank at a cost of approximately \$17,000. If this proposal is approved what am I to do with a perfectly good septic system? Will EU reimburse me for a 1 year old system, or will they just dig it up and haul it away, in the name of "progress?"

The cost that has been mentioned in this proposal would most likely force many long term owners to abandon their dream. The cost of living for property owners on the island is extreme as it is. The upfront costs as well as future expenses proposed would place an extreme financial burden to each family. All of this to replace a system that has worked perfectly, just as it was intended to, because a company that really has no track record in safety or in financial stability, wants to do it. Once they completely disrupt what is now a beautiful and peaceful island, they will move on and leave the residents with the full responsibility of physically and financially maintaining their "new and improved system". As anyone can tell you, these last few years have been taxing on everyones pocketbook. This company is telling us that we must come up with large sums of money up front and who knows how much in "special assessments" for unexpected maintenance due to corrosion and mechanical and electrical breakdowns for years to come. They are also taking away part of our property to make room for the laying of the sewer pipes. My question is simple. Why go through this horrendous change when it really is not needed? Again, I state, that I have been a property owner for over thirty years. I have two properties on the island and I have never heard of anyone, from other owners, renters or property managers having problems with our current sewer system.

Therefore, based on the arguments above, I hereby formally request that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater service. The overall impact on our livelihood both emotionally and financially, the devastation of the wildlife and overall uniqueness of our island makes this, I believe, a very easy decision to make.

Sincerely,
Richard J. Collett
Rhapsodyballroom@aol.com

Lisa Smith

From: Gary Galloway <garudy54@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 8:07 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioner Passidomo,

I am asking the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization to Environmental Utilities for central sewer on Don Pedro Island, Knight Island, etc.

My name is Gary Galloway and I own a house and live on Don Pedro Island. I was an engineer with a multinational corporation for 32 years. I have sponsored, developed, managed, and directed several multi-million-dollar capital projects. In all those years I have developed and written multiple specifications for various projects. I have interviewed countless contractors and reviewed their qualifications and experience. So, to say the least, I have had some experience with capital projects, engineering, and maintenance systems.

After reviewing various information about Environmental Utilities(EU) I see several areas of concern about Environmental Utilities(EU) and what they are recommending for installing for a sanitary drainage system on Don Pedro, and Knight Islands (aka Palm Island).

*First and foremost Environmental Utilities has NO experience. EU has shown NO qualifications and technical expertise.

*To my knowledge EU has not provided any study on the best system to install on a barrier island such as ours (strike1).

*Limited and/or weak descriptions of cost to property owners associated with installation and the maintenance of the type of system being proposed. EU has not provided any efficient administrative fee structure that would include transparency, horizontal equity, or administrative ease (strike 2).

*No justification for the need for service. EU has not demonstrated any need for service at this time on these islands. No water quality testing, no environmental impact study, no biological assessment of the impact to wildlife and possible endangered species. (strike 3).

*EU has not demonstrated its financial literacy in both word and deed. That leads me to question EU's insubstantial financial ability. To my knowledge EU has not provided evidence of their financial ability to accomplish a project of this magnitude.(strike 4).

It is true that the county has recommended sewers in its future plans for barrier islands. That, I will not deny, but Environmental Utilities is not the company to do it. I strongly recommend Environmental Utilities be denied the Original Certificate of Authorization for central sewer on Don Pedro Island, Knight Island, etc. both now and in any future request.

Gary Galloway

Lisa Smith

From: Schaible, Evelyn J <Evelyn.Schaible@flhealth.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 8:09 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

I, Evelyn J. Schaible, an Island property and homeowner within the proposed service area of Don Pedro island, oppose the proposal for central sewer by Environmental Utilities. I object the proposal. Please deny the application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

Thank you for your time!
Evelyn J Schaible

*By providing this electronic signature, I **<Evelyn Schaible>** am attesting that I understand that electronic signatures are legally binding and have the same meaning as handwritten signatures. I am also confirming that internal controls have been maintained, and that policies and procedures were properly followed to ensure the authenticity of the electronic signature. This statement is to certify that I confirm that this electronic signature is to be the legally binding equivalent of my handwritten signature and that the data on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.*