

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:22 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence - 20200226
Attachments: Docket #20200226-SU; Re Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226-SU; Fw Docket# 20200226-SU; RE docket no. 20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; RE. Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Support for #20200226-SU ; Fwd Failure Notice; Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU Objection to application for Proposed sewer for Don Pedro Island Knights island and Palm island ; RE. Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; Fwd RE. Docket #20200226-SU; Docket#20200226-su; Docket # 20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Docket No. 20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; RE. Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226-SU

Good afternoon,

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

Thank you!

Lisa Smith

From: Tim D <palmpinelake@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:20 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Copy and paste to send:

Dear PSC Commissioners,

I am a homeowner on Palm Island and writing to formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service to our island. This is an unnecessary service and poses risks and uncertainty to the sewer system and environment. Please see my major concerns below:

1. Costs. Mandatory hookup requirements, new equipment requirements to operate and monthly service costs - all at the homeowner's expense.
2. Risks. The proposed system reliability and maintenance is unproven. The applicant has not demonstrated any technical expertise with this type of project. There is no experience to safely and reliably run the proposed system.
3. Environmental. The impact of initial construction and the potential of future system failure. This alone should be enough reason to deny this project.

I urge you to take these concerns into consideration and deny the EU's application for wastewater service.

Respectfully,
Tim Danek
60 S Gulf Blvd
Palm Island, FL
palmpinelake@gmail.com

Lisa Smith

From: Mary Gillan <mjgillan@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:10 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioner La Rosa,

My name is Mary Gillan, and I am a property owner on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to object to the proposal by EU to install a central sewer system on Don Pedro Island, and to formally request that the Public Service Commission deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

I am objecting to EU's proposal for several reasons:

1. The cost to each homeowner is unreasonable and burdensome. The estimated cost of hook-up for each homeowner is over \$13,000 and the average cost per month is over \$178.00 per month. Also, landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area will need to be cleared at our expense, and an electric panel for the system pump will have to be installed by a licensed electrician which will also be at our expense. We would also be responsible for replacing equipment when needed which could be often since salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. These are expenses we were not planning on or made aware of when we purchased our house on Don Pedro Island. This creates an unnecessary financial hardship on me and other homeowners on the island, especially since EU's proposal does not include a pay-over-time option. We would be unfairly forced to take loans to cover these costs.
2. There is no proven need for a central sewer system to be installed on the island. This unnecessary project would result in the destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species that make our island a unique and beautiful place to live. Additionally, the risk is high for a central sewer leak affecting the Intracoastal.
3. The project is poorly planned. EU has not addressed how the system would be serviced in the event of failure, for instance during a storm or other event. There is no performance bond required and no single point of general oversight and recourse for the project in the event of cost overruns or project failure. This lack of planning could prove to be catastrophic for our island.

There are numerous other reasons for EU's proposal to be denied, but the fact is that the risks of going forward with this project far outweigh the benefits. I hope you will consider the impacts on the homeowners of Don Pedro Island who will be greatly affected by this needless and poorly planned project, as well as the detrimental impacts to our unique island environment, and deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you,

Mary Gillan

mjgillan@comcast.net

Lisa Smith

From: Vicki Johnson <srbvicki@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:54 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner LaRosa,

I am a property owner on Palm Island, specifically at 60 S Gulf Blvd. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed central sewer project. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service. It appears this new request is only to the benefit of an uncertain and unproven business. The proposed project has major implications and costs to the environment and residents.

Please see my major concerns below:

1. As a homeowner, I 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.
2. The proposed monthly residential cost for service is reported to be extremely high and not acceptable. The rates being shared are above and beyond current rates on the mainland and would be a totally new monthly expense for Palm Island homeowners.
3. The proposed system reliability and maintenance is unproven. The applicant 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.
4. The risk to the environment due to this project or future system failure is much greater and more adverse than the current private property septic system. You cannot wait for a catastrophe to occur for this fact to be proven. One storm can cause much more damage to a central sewer system than a residential septic tank.

I urge you to take these concerns into consideration and deny the EU's application for wastewater service. Thanks in advance for doing what is right for the residents of Palm Island.

Respectfully,
Vicki Johnson
60 S Gulf Blvd, Palm Island, FL
srbvicki@gmail.com / [\(850\) 619-0505](tel:(850)619-0505)

Lisa Smith

From: Joan Der <joan.der7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: Sally And dick Johnson
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

I am Joan Der and I live with my husband at 171 S. gulf Blvd. on DPI. I am formally requesting that the **PSC DENY EU's** application for wastewater service.

I wish to have Charlotte County provide the municipal wastewater service accorded other taxpayers, not abdicate to a novice, financially unstable private company like EU.

1. **NEED FOR SERVICE** (environmental impacts, development concerns) I take care of my septic system and other must do the same, given the frequency of septic cleanout trucks I see on the ferry. Palm Island Resort has it's own waste treatment system so they should not be allowed to drag us into a contract. Don Pedro and Knight Islands are low-density residences. There aren't any buildings with owners living above each other. There is no commercial activity other than the Resort with its own sewer. We are a gentle, peaceful island already focused on conservancy. Lake Okeechobee releases are more problematic for water than our tiny island. A leak of wastewater under the inter coastal is riskier than perhaps a few residential leaks. **DENY EU.**
2. **FINANCIAL ABILITY** of the applicant. I met a former DPI resident at the ferry and I updated him on the upcoming sewer decision. When he found out Jack Boyer was behind the effort, he recounted troubles. When working for Jack, he resorted to receiving cash-only payment. The financial attachment to the PSC application is a blank tax return. No financial info is shown. Can EU be trusted with millions? Jack's conversations with other islanders indicate EU wants to maximize any charges possible. Can EU finance a project to completion? Do we deserve exorbitant charges to line EU pockets? **DENY EU.**
3. **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE** of the applicant My friend lived through the treated water distribution to Little Gasparilla Island. She had green bathtub water. The installation flooded her septic tank. She had to move out for a month. She repeatedly called Boyer and NEVER got a response. She has despises Boyer to this day. If treated water is handled in this reckless manner, what mishandling will happen with wastewater? Do contractors understand the difficulties of bringing equipment and workers over on a ferry? Will they observe the weight limits on our one-lane bridge? Who will choose these specialized contractors since EU has few employees? Does EU have the expertise to pick better contractors than they did for treated water for Little Gasparilla? They don't have my trust. **HURRY and DENY EU**
4. **Fair and reasonable rates** EU has already tried to apply as a private utility without providing rates. EU will charge the maximum. Why should I be charged an exorbitant premium for a complex project shrouded with doubtful design, installation and operation. We already fare unfavorably to other Charlotte County taxpayers in many respects for services.

I am concerned about the need to handle the waste processing at each house with the individual tank capacity at 60 gallons. Each house is projected to need 190 gallons per day in the application. It has been suggested that we will need an upgrade to our electric panel. But what worries me is need

of a generator and propane to prepare for the frequent and/or unexpected electrical outages. This would make us riskier for fires. Can our Fire Department team on the island handle 2-3 fires that could occur during a short outage and when there are days of outage caused by severe wind?

I am not saying sewers are never a good idea. But there is not a need now. And if a sewer is in our future, please have Charlotte County provide the municipal service at a fair rate afforded other county residents. Not a novice, charging exorbitant fees for inferior or checkered services.

Would you trust your waste system to EU? Please Deny EU.

Joan Der. Joan.der7@gmail.com

--

Joan Der

joan.der7@gmail.com

Cell phone in U.S. 1 630 217-7886

Lisa Smith

From: Bruce and Becky Rougraff <brougraff@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:46 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Fw: Docket# 20200226-SU

On Monday, January 24, 2022, 9:56 AM, Bruce and Becky Rougraff <brougraff@aol.com> wrote:

I am writing to you regarding the new sewer proposal for Palm Island. I am not sure why this proposal has come into existence, as I don't know of any homeowner on Palm Island who is unhappy with our current situation. Further, I don't know of any homeowner who has requested that we change to sewers on the island. I am gravely concerned about the damage this will do to our beautiful island. Further I am extremely

Concerned about the expense of this project and how members of our community will pay for it. Skyrocketing property taxes already make living in Florida much more difficult than it used to be. And other issues/expenses arising with having a home on a barrier island make it a very expensive place to live. Adding a gigantic sewer project to this seems unnecessary and financially catastrophic for many of us. We are not a super wealthy island like many barrier islands in Florida. We are a quiet island that has kept things low key. We have done a decent job of keeping the big money out, and have protected ourselves and our wildlife from much of the craziness going on these days in Florida. If there is concern about the age of our septic tanks, and protecting our environment, a program is easily established ensuring that we have our tanks maintained and checked on a regular basis. We are all more than willing to do this to protect our beautiful island!!!!

Because the costs and reasons for this monster project have not been laid out to us, this feels like it's being rammed down our throats. Typical government project. People have no say anymore!

For all of these reasons, we humbly request that you shelf this project, please! We don't want it!

Bruce and Rebecca Rougraff
280 North Gulf Blvd.
Palm Island, Placida Florida

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Lisa Smith

From: Wayne H <wharriso48@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: RE: docket no. 20200226-SU

Good morning Commissioner,

My name is Wayne Harrison and my wife and I own property located on Palm Island more specifically 16 Lemon Bay Lane, Placida, FL 33946.

I am formally requesting that the PSC deny the request from EU as identified in the subject matter herein.

I encourage you to visit the Island to view our lifestyle and how we live here prior to your decision. My objections are as follows:

- **Uncertain Cost-all to be paid by the land owner**
 - Hook-up fees have not been set, only estimated and have varied from 20k to 14k with no provision to pay this over time.
 - Monthly fees for this service is estimated to be twice the average cost paid on the mainland of which includes water
 - Fees required for electrical upgrades to my home for system pumps required by EU.
 - Cost associated to pump, fill existing septic systems and clear the area of vegetation and trees
- Damage to landscaping and trees around the home for access by EU and it appears an easement would be granted without compensation over my property from the house tie-in to main line
- According to Charlotte County regulations, it will require connection within one year of availability, even though your existing septic system is operational. So this is mandatory!
- Access to Palm Island is by car ferry. I feel that this single point of ingress/egress will be greatly impacted by this project causing more delays and serious traffic issues.
- From what I understand, this project requires a grinder pump which only has a capacity of 60 gallons. In the event of a power outage, once this capacity is met, will result in overflows. Are we required to have a generator back up to avoid this problem??
- A sewer line will be laid under the ICW and my concern is any major or minor breach in that line will be devastating to the environment.
- I am very concerned for construction oversight. Again, as I understand this project, there is no single point of recourse for cost or failure and no performance bond is being required. I have no confidence in the technical expertise of this contractor to complete this project.
- I also believe that there has never been any water quality testing in our area to justify the need for a central sewer system which should have been the first type of testing completed

Again, I am asking that this be denied. Palm Island is almost completely developed and the immediate need for this project is unwarranted and extremely costly to each landowner on the island.

Thank you for your time.

Wayne D. Harrison
1585 Bougainvillea Way S.
Bartow, FL 33830
863-512-1600 wharriso48@gmail.com

Lisa Smith

From: Peggy Erickson <Peggy@midlandinfosys.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:45 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

I, Margaret (Peggy) Erickson, live at 111 N Gulf Blvd, Placida FL 33946 Don Pedro-Knight Island. Also, own a lot at 251 Bocilla Dr., Placida, FL 33946 Don Pedro-Knight Island.

I'm in opposition to the proposed central sewer. Therefore, I am formally requesting that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities(EU) application for wastewater service for the following reasons listed below.

Environmental Utilities(EU) has not provided reliable preliminary design and cost documentation from a licensed and reputable engineering firm with experience in this area.

Environmental Utilities(EU) has no point of general oversight. As homeowners on this island, we have the right to pick our contractor.

Environmental Utilities(EU) is a new company with no employees and no record to show they can obtain financing for or manage a project of this size with a total lack of experience of this complexity. In addition, environmental Utilities(EU) has zero technical expertise in this area.

Environmental Utilities(EU) reportedly runs the municipal water service on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI), which has a record of unhappy customers and service issues. I believe Environmental Utilities(EU) lacks the required technical expertise and continually fails to provide evidence in its capabilities.

I'm on a barrier island that only is accessible by a car ferry which would affect the rates and charges of the sewer system, maintenance, and emergencies. They have not provided documentation showing they are capable of a project of this magnitude and no history with this type of project.

I have extreme environmental concerns because they have no plan to avoid sewage back-up to prevent sewer spills into the Gulf of Mexico! In addition, the islands are home to a large population of endangered gopher tortoises. Heavy equipment traffic required by the sewer installation will affect the existing tortoise population because they have zero expertise in this area.

Before making your decision maybe you should visit our island and see for yourself.

The above reasons are why I'm in opposition to the proposed central sewer, and I am formally requesting that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities(EU) application for wastewater service.

peggy@midlandinfosys.com, peggy@rs-6000.com, ericksonpeggy01@gmail.com

Thanks so much,

Peggy Erickson

IBM Power Systems & Storage at Midland Information Systems

E-Mail: peggy@midlandinfosys.com

Direct Line: 1-407-571-3128

WEBSITE: www.midlandinfosys.com



Lisa Smith

From: Linda Miklos <lindamiklos@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:40 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Linda Miklos <lindamiklos@yahoo.com>
Date: January 24, 2022 at 9:35:29 AM EST
To: Terymiklos <terymiklos@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: docket #20200226-SU

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Terymiklos@aol.com
Date: January 24, 2022 at 9:30:48 AM EST
To: lindamiklos@yahoo.com
Subject: docket
Reply-To: terymiklos@aol.com

Docket #20200226-SU

I am Linda Miklos owner of 40 N. Gulf Blvd on Palm Island in Placida Florida. Palm Island is a magical place. Calm, tropical and relatively untouched as communities go. We on the island enjoy abundant wildlife and natural foliage. We live a slower, more simple life. There is no bridge access to the island. On the island we only use golf carts, or bicycles and we have a ferry which we utilize for our cars to take us on and off the island for shopping or personal needs. There is no gas on the island so we use electric appliances and we are all on environmentally approved septic tanks. We are all very conscience and appreciative of the gifts we have here on the island and work and volunteer to protect it.

I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service for the following reasons:

1. The installation/construction of this system will disrupt the ecosystem on the island. Wildlife and their habitat will be forever altered.

2. Residents daily lives will be severely and negatively impacted by construction, and construction equipment. The noise and access to utilize the ferry will exist for an unspecified amount of time.
3. EU has no experience in this field. A miss step by an unqualified wastewater company could result in an environmental disaster.
4. EU has not provided a cost analysts per unit.
 - A. Their monthly projected bill is twice the price of what mainland service is with no limit on increases.
 - B. They're requiring hook-up within a year with the price tag of over \$13,000.00 with no option of financing. Some residents on the island may not be able to meet that requirement.
 - C. EU has not provided an emergency plan in case of hurricane or power outage.
 - D. EU has not provided any information on oversight on the project, cost overruns or recourse if they fail to perform.
 - E. EU has not provided any maintenance or service information.
 - F. EU has not provided a cost analysis for the MANDATORY destruction and removal of our well maintained and perfectly functioning septic system at OUR expense.
 - G. EU is claiming ownership of an easement on my property without consent or going through proper channels for NO compensation.
5. EU is unqualified for this endeavor.

For these reasons I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Sincerely,

Linda Miklos

Lindamiklos@yahoo.com

Lisa Smith

From: lburkhardt@charter.net
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:30 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

Good morning,

My name is Layton Burkhardt and I own a home at 120 Bocilla Drive on Palm Island, I am writing you to express my concerns regarding Environmental Utility's (EU) application for wastewater service for our community. In addition to not requesting wastewater service, I question EU's ability to plan, complete and manage this project. They have not proven that they have the experience and expertise for wastewater service. The lack of information regarding the initial and future costs to homeowners is also extremely concerning. I think it's fair to say that our entire community feels that this project is being forced upon the neighborhood with little or no regard for homeowner's rights.

I respectfully request that the PSC deny EU's application.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Layton Burkhardt
120 Bocilla Drive
Placida, FL

Lisa Smith

From: MICHELLE ZAKRAJSHEK <ROGERANDMICHELLE7@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo;
Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Hello we are Roger and Michelle Zakrajshek property owners at 430 Kettle Harbor Drive Placida Fl on Don Pedro Island.

I am emailing you to object to EU's proposal for central sewer on Don Pedro Island and request you deny the application for wastewater.

There is no need for new service. What we have on the island is working and there have been no studies done stating that the current septic systems are harming the environment. Most people on the island do not want more development which would come with more people and more pollution problems as well. Existing habitat will be destroyed which as well brings up a huge environmental concerns on an island with already fragile ecosystems.

We do not believe the applicant has the financial ability to perform the work. Nor do they have the technical ability to perform the work.

Also the rates that were proposed were not fair and equitable. Also there are hidden costs that have not been discussed.

Thanks,

Roger and Michelle Zakrajshek
430 Kettle Harbor Drive
Placida Fl 33946
email: rogerandmichelle7@msn.com

Lisa Smith

From: Linda Soderquist <linist@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:13 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Support for #20200226-SU

I want to express my support for the proposed central sewer system for the barrier islands (Palm Island and Little Gasparilla Island) of Charlotte County. Many of the current septic systems are woefully inadequate and leach effluent into the bay and gulf every extreme high tide and major wind or rain storm. I can think of no other project that would be of more benefit to the islands' fragile environment, its plants and animals, and the surrounding waters.

Linda Soderquist

Watercolor Artist
Florida Master Naturalist

Linda's Island Art LLC
www.Lindaislandart.com

P.O.Box 958
Englewood FL 34295

(941) 270 7994

Lisa Smith

From: fzody85044@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:11 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Fwd: Failure Notice

-----Original Message-----

From: MAILER-DAEMON@aol.com
To: fzody85044@aol.com
Sent: Mon, Jan 24, 2022 9:08 am
Subject: Failure Notice

Sorry, we were unable to deliver your message to the following address.

<CommissionerLaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>:
550: No such user (CommissionerLaRosa@psc.state.fl.us)

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

Please consider my opinion as a homeowner and taxpayer on Palm Island (the Knight Island portion) since 1984.

I do recognize that the island needs access to sewers and I do request that Charlotte County provide such service as soon as possible. But I am absolutely opposed to turning what should be a public utility into a for-profit operation.

The property taxes I have paid on my home since 1984 have helped provide utilities for the rest of Charlotte County; now you are saying that the rest of the County will not have part of their property taxes used to provide me with those same services. I am, therefore, being denied equal treatment under the law. I and all the other property owners on Palm Island subsidize the rest of the County; we're left on our own to pay for the same services.

And it cannot be questioned that we will pay higher prices for sewer service than the rest of the County because we will have to pay the cost of that service plus an extra premium to provide the owners with their profit. Again, we are being denied equal treatment under the law.

Please deny the application for a for-profit sewer utility on Palm Island and follow that by starting the process to provide government service as soon as possible. I should not have to pay a share of the costs to non-island taxpayers and 100% of the costs of a for-profit utility on the island.

Sincerely,

Brenda Wheeler Zody, 140 N. Gulf Blvd., Cape Haze/Placida 33946

Lisa Smith

From: Buzz <buzz@buzzmallett.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 8:50 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners;

I am writing this letter to oppose the granting of a sewer franchise for Knights and Don Pedro Islands to Environmental Utilities. I own property at 26 Palm Dr. on Knights Island.

I don't believe the need for central sewer on Knights Island has been proven. I was personally involved with the replacement of a 30 year old drain field on the island and was pleasantly surprised that there was no evidence of pollution of the underlying sands after all that time; no odor, no visible pollutants, just clean sand. And it was built before the current improvements to septic systems.

The franchise should not be granted to an entity with no experience in waste water management or construction.

I would like to build a house on my property and the prospect of this franchise being granted makes it financially impossible. I would have to build a \$20K septic system only to abandon it and spend an additional \$15-\$20K on a sewer hookup and lift pump station.

I am requesting denial of the above mentioned franchise.

Respectfully,

Walter Mallett
buzz@buzzmallett.com

Lisa Smith

From: Sandy MacKinnon <smackinnonadm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 8:50 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Commissioner.Clark@sc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: Robin Madden; LAURIE WEINSTEIN; Bob Madden; Beach To Bay Larry And Lucy Herman; Pritchard, A;
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU Objection to application for Proposed sewer for Don Pedro Island Knights island and Palm island

Dear county commissioners , first thank you for all your dedication and hard work as a county commission to our county and all the residence there in. I know there are many demands on your time and expertise and the above Docket number is no exception.

My name is Alex Mackinnon i own properties at 400 s. Gulf blvd and 300 s gulf blvd unit 28. Don Pedro Island I have owned both properties for over 25 years and have never had septic issues with either. The usage of these two beach properties amounts to no more than two months a year in they are reserved for family use for the most part. This is hardly a strain in any way on either of the two septic systems . Further i believe the county at least once per year has an inspector inspect all tanks on the island. My good conversations with your inspector by coincidence maybe 8 months ago i saw him looking at the 400 gulf septic system he added that the septic systems on the island created no real problems or really exist on the island . You might want to follow up on his reports. I was totally unaware of the county inspection on septic systems.

Having been a part of the community for so long and no reported issues to my knowledge i am not sure what the need or sense of urgency to create the havoc , expense, inconvenience and disruption to our ecological system as well as the enviromental impact that will take years to return back to how it is today. This is to say nothing of the expense to implement and maintain the system going forward. Totally unnecessary in this writers opinion.

I would hope this is not being purposed by a special interest groups that are looking to reduce their costs of doing business at the expense of all those that this is directed to. FURTHER i wish there was a way to have you help and work with the counties to the north of us to have them eliminate the Piney Point recent disaster and as well the continual dumping of sewage in communities to the north when their sewer systems fail to handle the overload issues when heavy storms occur. The dumping that occurs is shocking.

In the 25 years and more that i have owned the property i have seen the Gulf of Mexico continue to deteriorate and fish kills increase and i assure you it is not because the little island of Don Pedro and adjoining islands, do not have a sewer system.

Thanks for listening and i encourage a no vote for the application that the PSC deny the application for the original certificate of authorization on this proposal .

Grateful for you all, and doing the right thing on this issue.

ALEX (Sandy) Mackinnon

A.D. "Sandy" MacKinnon
CEO ADM Family LTD

Property Management / Consulting
334 Blanca Avenue
Tampa FL 33606
Cell: (813) 629-6266
Smackinnonadm@gmail.com

Lisa Smith

From: Dave Dillon <poppadillon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:18 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

I am a resident homeowner on Palm Island. I am writing to encourage you and the other commissioners to vote NO on the application of Environmental Utilities to become the provider of waste water services to our island. First and most importantly, I have not seen or heard of any engineering studies that state that the current septic tank/ sand mound system is not providing the required filtration satisfactorily. How can the subject of who gets to build a system come before it is established that such a system is needed? The people who live on the island are not in favor of any system being built until such time as it is PROVEN that such a system is needed. Secondly, the applicant does not possess the necessary expertise to carry out such a project. What similar projects have they done? Do they have the necessary financial wherewithal to finance a multi-million project? What time frame are they proposing? What will the costs to the homeowners be, both for initial hook-up and for ongoing maintenance and service? Until all of the above questions are answered satisfactorily, neither Environmental Utilities nor anyone else should be given a permit or license to provide and operate a central sewer system.

I urge you to reject EU's application at this time.

Sincerely,

David L. Dillon. 5 Pointe Way, Placida, FL.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Lisa Smith

From: Jeff Bashore <jeffreybashore@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:11 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: Mel
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Jeffrey & Melissa Bashore
8738 Marsh Street
Placida, FL 33946
Jeffreybashore@gmail.com

January 21, 2022

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

I am a property owner at 8738 Marsh Street on Little Gasparilla Island, which is a property within the service area of the proposed central sewer system, Docket #20200226-SU.

I formally object and request that PSC deny Environment Utilities (EU) application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

While I feel strongly that the barrier islands and low lying inland areas of the state should be swiftly migrated to a sewer system to protect our fragile ecosystem, I am concerned that the current proposal is deeply flawed.

Turning a project of this magnitude over to an LLC that has zero experience with installing or operating a sewer system is unacceptable. Environmental Utilities lacks both the experience as well as the capital to take responsibility for the proposed massive undertaking that will impact some of the most delicate, unspoiled areas of the SW Florida coast. The proposed solution leaves many critical questions unanswered about right-of-way access and how the many points of failure involved with a 'low pressure' sewer system would be effectively managed in the harsh climate presented on the barrier islands.

Charlotte County should be held responsible to implement and manage the project directly. It is clear that they are trying to find any bidder to insulate them from the obligations of managing this important work. Turning this over to an inexperienced, under-capitalized, for-profit LLC with the county maintaining no accountability for the outcome is not the right move for the environment, property owners in the affected areas or the citizens and visitors of Florida at large.

Regards,
Jeff and Melissa Bashore

Lisa Smith

From: Joanne Dillon <jbd2691@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:06 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner LaRosa,

This email is to voice my opposition against EU's private sewer proposal. My husband and I just recently moved to Don Pedro Island and have attempted to find info on the qualifications of this company to partake in such a project, as well as the impact it will have on our Island and the financial costs to be imposed on homeowners. At this time we cannot get any accurate information regarding these concerns and therefore feel more studies and technical expertise need to be done before considering a permit for this project, which could have a devastating financial impact on homeowners and our quaint community. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joanne Dillon
5 Pointe Way
P. O. Box 567
Placida FL 33946 Mail for iPad

Lisa Smith

From: Matthew Weston <mattwestoncontact@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:54 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Fwd: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

To whom it may concern,

As a homeowner on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island. I Object to the proposal and ask the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization. To be straightforward I'm a common sense person and I do not understand all of the reasons why this particular company would like to take on this project but it seems to me that it is not in the best interest of me personally. There are a lot of red flags that gives me caution. In my personal life when there are red flags I take a step back and research more until I'm comfortable with the decision. I sincerely request that you deny EU's request of their application.

I appreciate your service to our community no matter your decision!

Thank you,

Matthew Weston

Mattwestoncontact@yahoo.com

Lisa Smith

From: lillyonufрак (null) <lillyonufрак@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark;
commisioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Docket#20200226-su

To whom it concerns,

We are the homeowners at 17 Palm dr., Placida. We would like to voice our concerns over the proposed central sewer. We are asking that you reject Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service.

Some areas of concern:

Fluctuating hook up costs

Inflated monthly costs , twice the amount residents pay on the mainland
Costly electrical hook up
Questionable sewer function in the event of a power outage
Costly tree removal, disturbance to existing landscape and turtle/wildlife habitats
Concerns over being able to afford the cost of connecting
Mandatory hook up (my septic system is a year old)
Most importantly no oversight and no recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure and no responsibility for sewer spills, environmental destruction, system maintenance and emergencies

On a personal note. We have only lived on Palm Island for a year. We have spoken to many of our neighbors and there is an overwhelming agreement based on their years of experience that Environmental Utilities is not a company to be trusted.

Sincerely,
Jim and Lilly Onufрак

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Smith

From: David W Adams <dadams@bja-law.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:25 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: Records Clerk
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU
Attachments: EU PSC Sewer system application.docx; Ackerman Study.pdf

Dear Commissioners:

My name is David Adams, and with my partners, I own property at 8356 Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) in Placida, Florida. We have owned our property for approximately 11 years and have purchased water through Little Gasparilla Water Utility which I understand is related to Environmental Utilities (EU).

Lack of Proven Need for Service

I have reviewed the PSC docket and spent some time reviewing the documentation associated with the EU application. I am unable to locate sufficient background facts and documentation to show there is a proven need for the service. The vast majority of LGI houses are vacation properties for which the residents occupy occasionally on the weekends. It is not like there is a heavy nitrogen load coming from the south end of the island. While Charlotte County made reference to nitrogen load studies in their correspondence to the PSC, none of those were conducted at or around the proposed service area. Additionally, the Ackerman study is not comparable for LGI because the Ackerman subdivision contained a plethora of canals near the studied septic systems, which canals increased the plume of nitrogen entering the bay, prior to the StoS conversion. Therefore, additional study and facts demonstrating a proven need for service should be in the record before the commission approves the application.

Sewer Service

I am not aware of anyone requesting sewer service on LGI. However, if there was a proven need, then I would expect Charlotte County to provide the utility. Providing water and sewer is a core governmental function. It is not fair for Charlotte County to shirk its obligation to provide core government services to the ratepayers. It is also unfair to the ratepayers to force them to use a private utility which has an unproven track record for a project of this magnitude. If construction or operation of the sewer system is compromised (such as a hurricane or flooding), then the ratepayers will be left without any means to dispose of raw sewage because the plan requires all homeowners to remove properly functioning septic tank systems. EU does not have the same resources as Charlotte County to mitigate climate change and flooding. Additionally, if Charlotte County undertook the project, then it would be done with governmental bonding and financing which results in a significantly lower cost of capital. For example, EU requires a large lump sum payment for construction of the system, as compared to Charlotte County which allows ratepayers to spread the hookup fee over a long period of time (I believe 10 years). The operating costs would also be spread among the entire Charlotte County population as opposed to the LGI residents. This would result in lower rates and operating costs. Some of the homeowners are on fixed incomes and the abnormal hookup cost and operating fees will force them to sell their properties on the island. As proposed, EU will receive a guaranteed profit for constructing and operating the

Sewer System. As a governmental entity, Charlotte County does not need to make money operating the sewer system, which is better for the ratepayers. Moreover, Charlotte County has the expertise and experience to install and operate complex sewer system such as the one proposed by EU. It seems insincere for Charlotte County to claim that this project is a priority in its long term septic to sewer plan, but is unwilling to schedule and complete the project consistent with its claims that LGI is a priority project to reduce nitrogen load in Charlotte Harbor.

Technical Expertise/Customer Service

The application does not demonstrate any experience or expertise in constructing or operating a sewer system. The ratepayers are at risk if EU is unable to properly construct or operate the system. Charlotte County is in a much better position to design construct and operate the sewer system proposed by the applicant. While I have not had much interaction with the affiliated party to the applicant, Little Gasparilla Water Utility, when we did have billing problems, there was no one who answered the telephone and our billing correspondence was not answered on a timely basis. If ratepayers are required to use EU, they deserve prompt and professional customer service.

Costs and Rates

The documentation attached to Charlotte County's letter to the PSC includes plans and estimates that were based on 2017 dollars. Accordingly, the estimates for construction and operation of the system are grossly understated (considering inflation, labor and cost of materials). Additional information and estimates are necessary in order to make a thoughtful decision of this magnitude. There is a lack of information available for analysis at this time.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, I ask that the Commission deny EU's application to provide Sewer Service at Little Gasparilla Island at this time.

Thank you,

David Adams
813 452 2882

Lisa Smith

From: robinmadden@islanderproperties.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:23 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: Nickolas Zakov
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU
Attachments: Dr Zakov Letter to PSC.docx

Letter from an island resident, Nicolas Zakov, 380 N Gulf Blvd.

Lisa Smith

From: Lindsay Yates <lyates@springsips.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket No. 20200226-SU

Commissioners:

My name is Lindsay Yates and I live at 2 Pointe Way on Don Pedro Island. I write to you to state my **opposition** to the application of Environmental Utilities for your approval of a Certificate of Authorization.

I have been a property owner on Don Pedro Island since 2001 and a fulltime resident since 2008. During that time I have replaced a septic system in an older home and installed two septic systems in homes which my husband and I built. The more recent home was completed in 2019. I am not necessarily opposed to central sewer, but I am vehemently opposed to this proposal. There is absolutely nothing about the EU proposal that would inspire any sort of confidence in this operator to build, operate and maintain a system. Many of the letters that have been sent to you were written by people with more expertise than I in the areas of environmental impacts (not just the arguments for septic vs. sewer, but also the environmental impacts of construction of the project on this fragile barrier island), the disadvantages (including additional costs to the homeowner) of a grinder system as proposed by EU vs. a vacuum system, the financial ability and technical ability of the applicant, and the outlandish rates and charges proposed by EU.

I think that previous correspondence on file and the testimony of expert witnesses has proven beyond a doubt that EU does not have the ability to satisfactorily meet the needs of the residents on these islands. Additionally, I personally find it offensive that during his deposition Mr. Boyer when describing his personal observations of seeing human waste on the ground, waste floating around after storms, septic tanks under water, and waste contained in 55 gallon drums did not make it clear that these observations were confined to Little Gasparilla Island, not Don Pedro, Knight or Palm Islands. I guarantee you that those are not the conditions under which I live. It's rather hard to believe that the tourists who continue to pay to rent homes on Little Gasparilla Island are not complaining about the awful odors that Mr. Boyer describes.

On July 14th, 2020, the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners approved a Bulk Sewer Treatment Agreement with EU. This Agreement was entered into with no fanfare, no advance notice to island residents and no (as far as I know) request for proposals from other companies. As far as I know, the County did not even put out a request for competitive proposals. To the best of my knowledge, the County did not consider the financial ability of the applicant, the technical expertise of the applicant nor did they care what the applicant might charge its customers. This was not a civic-minded offer to improve a problem that no one is sure really exists – no water studies have been done; no numbers generated on the number and age of the existing septics – this was a simply a way for EU to profit at the expense of its friends and neighbors.

Central sewer installation?? Maybe. But not by this particular for-profit company. The island residents deserve honesty and professionalism. I have been told by acquaintances of Mr. Boyer that he has indicated that this is "a done deal." I certainly hope that is not true.

I hereby formally request that the PSC deny the application of Environmental Utilities LLC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsay C. Yates
lyates@springsips.com

970-879-1879

Lisa Smith

From: robinmadden@islanderproperties.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 1:51 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners: I own two properties, a residence located at 64 Tarpon Way and a business, Islander Properties, Inc . located at 330 S Gulf Blvd Unit 40 on Don Pedro-Knight-Palm Island. I am formally requesting that you deny Environmental Utilities, LLC. application to provide a central sewer system. My concerns are as follows:

- the applicant's financial ability to take on this project
- the applicant's technical expertise
- the uncertainty of future rates and charges
- the need for additional costs, such as electrical panels, tree/landscape removal/replacement, installation of a generator
- the applicant's inability to provide a pay over time plan
- the lack of statistic analysis that proves we are polluting the waters

As a business owner and real estate Broker who sells and help buyers purchase property on our island, this entails additional costs, when in fact a new septic tank and/or septic field has been paid for recently. I personally have to replace my septic field in the next month for \$9000 and certainly do not want to incur another \$25,000 plus for a sewer replacement, when this new field will have a life span of 15 years.

Again, please deny the application.

Robin Madden

Owner/Broker

Islander Properties, Inc.

7025-A Placida Rd

Englewood, Fl 34224

941-276-6902 direct

941-697-2000 office

www.islanderproperties.com

Charlotte County Tourist Development Council Member

2018-2020 President Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association Gulf Island Coast Chapter

2015 President Englewood Area Board of Realtors

Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist

Lisa Smith

From: S Crymes <s_crymes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 1:32 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: Rhonda Freeman
Subject: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

EMAIL TO:

Clerk of the Commission clerk@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner LaRosa: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner Clark: Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner Passidomo: Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us
RE. Docket #20200226-SU

We object to the proposal and ask the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization. We are asking the PSC to deny EU's application for wastewater service.

1. FINANCIAL ABILITY of the applicant

We have had a reasonably good service experience with the applicant related to the water service. However, we have seen no evidence that convinces us that the applicant has the financial ability to build, maintain and service this type of sewage system. Also, the applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or conditions.

There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

This project is too important to sub out to an unqualified applicant

2. TECHNICAL EXPERTISE of the applicant

We have had a reasonably good service experience with the applicant related to the water service. However, we have seen no evidence that convinces us that the applicant has the technical expertise to build, maintain and service this type of sewage system.

Also, a failure will concentrate sewage into the failure point, potentially resulting in significant impacts to the environment and all the creatures living near a concentrated spill. Manatees are already dying at high rates due to loss of seagrass due in part to red tide. If there was a failure that dumped a concentrated and high amount into the bay where the manatees feed, for example, they could be even more negatively impacted than they are today.

I'm also concerned about how the project will impact the gopher tortoise and other species that are native to Little Gasparilla Island.

3. FAIR & EQUITABLE RATES & CHARGES

We are extremely concerned that the mandatory costs of sewage in addition to the mandatory water hook up is going to drive our retired neighbors that are full time islanders off island. Many live on fixed incomes. Also, increased costs will

make ownership out of reach for many more in the future. We do not want to island to become financially accessible only to the most wealthy. Already, the market prices are pushing us in this direction and this project has the potential to drive off existing full time and retired neighbors. Historically, LGI has had some economic diversity given to its lower cost basis to own a home. Our concern is related to one time fees as well as the ongoing cost including:

- Average monthly cost. Our water bill is already extremely high. Total cost for water, sewage and trash removal should be higher than the mainland due to cost of providing service, but not many multiples of what it costs on the mainland. Common sense would suggest that while providing this service is more difficult, the multiplier should be within a reasonable range. **Our water bill is already much too high in our opinion and some of the most expensive in the State of Florida**
- Uncertain Hook-up Cost: We have no realistic idea of what it will cost
- Electric: the system pump requires a separate electric panel, installed by a licensed electrician at the expense of the owner. We don't have specifications to get bids and estimate what this will cost
- No grandfathering of septic systems: regardless of age or **condition**. We installed a new septic at 8394 Little Gasparilla Island before we sold the house to our neighbors recently. The cost of this new system was included in the price set to sell the house. The new buyers just paid for this system recently and are retired. As long as the system is serviced and operating per requirements, don't see a need to replace immediately unless mandated by Federal, State or County law or regulation. We do not see evidence that this is the case.

•
Our names are Sarah Crymes and Rhonda Freeman. We own a home on Little Gasparilla Island at 8342 Grand Ave., Placida, FL 33946. We also own land on Little Gasparilla Island at 8336, 8338, 8346, 8400 Grand Ave and 8392, 8396 Little Gasparilla Island.

Our mailing address is 1255 Jackson St. N, St. Petersburg, FL 33705. Our emails are s_crymes@hotmail.com and rfreeman123@yahoo.com

Thank you

Sincerely,

Sarah and Rhonda

Lisa Smith

From: James Greenbaum <jamesgreenbaum@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Hello,

My name is James Greenbaum. I am a Florida resident at 170 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida, FL 33946.

I am very concerned about EU's application for a private wastewater service. I do not feel there is a need for this service. Furthermore, I never inquired, or requested any service like this. I take excellent care of my private septic system.

The owner of EU has no experience or expertise in this area of business, and this concerns me. He has not provided proof of financial security to take on such a project, causing even more concern. There is no evidence or reason for their rate structure, and no information provided by them regarding the structure of charges in the future.

It is my opinion that this project application should be denied. I am worried not only for myself, but for other residents as well.

James Greenbaum

James Greenbaum
170 Kettle Harbor Drive
Placida, FL 33946

978-815-1577 cell

Lisa Smith

From: Kevin Stevens <palmisland70@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:35 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; commissioner.passodomo@psc.state.fl.us;
Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Cc: Kevin Stevens
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU

Kevin Stevens—Knight Island property owner.

Vote

NO

on Docket #20200226-SU

I strongly Object to the proposal and ask the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

Signed

Kevin Stevens

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Smith

From: William Gillan <bgillan@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:27 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioner LaRosa,

My name is Bill Gillan, and I am a property owner on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to object to the proposal by EU to install a central sewer system on Don Pedro Island, and to formally request that the Public Service Commission deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

I am objecting to EU's proposal for several reasons:

1. The project is poorly planned and the finances necessary for a project of this magnitude cause me grave concern. EU has not addressed how the system would be serviced in the event of failure, for instance during a storm or other event. There is no performance bond required and no single point of general oversight and recourse for the project in the event of cost overruns or project failure. This lack of planning could prove to be catastrophic for our island.
2. The cost to each homeowner is unreasonable and burdensome. The current estimated cost of hook-up for each homeowner is over \$13,000 and the average cost per month is over \$178.00 per month. This amount does not include the landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area that would need to be cleared at our expense, and an electric panel for the system pump will have to be installed by a licensed electrician which will also be at our expense. We would also be responsible for replacing equipment when needed which could be often since salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. These are expenses we were not planning on or made aware of when we purchased our house on Don Pedro Island. This creates an unnecessary financial hardship on me and other homeowners on the island, especially since EU's proposal does not include a pay-over-time option. We would be unfairly forced to take loans to cover the costs for a project that the residents do not want.
3. There is no proven need for a central sewer system to be installed on the island. This unnecessary project would result in the destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species that make our island a unique and beautiful place to live. Additionally, the risk is high for a central sewer leak affecting the Intracoastal waterway.

There are numerous other reasons for EU's proposal to be denied, but the fact is that the risks of going forward with this project far outweigh the benefits. I hope you will consider the impacts on the homeowners of Don Pedro Island who will be greatly affected by this needless and poorly planned project, as well as the detrimental impacts to our unique island environment, and deny EU's application for wastewater service that the residents of Don Pedro do not want.

Thank you,

Bill Gillan

bgillan@comcast.net