

**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 4:41 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20200226  
**Attachments:** Re Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU Excellent Intentions with too many unresolved issues; Docket #20200226-SU; Palm Island and Little Gasparilla Island future sewer ; Opposition to Docket #20200226-SU; RE. Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20200226.

Thank you!

**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** Candyce Cohen <candycecohen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 4:32 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Subject:** Re: Docket #20200226-SU  
**Attachments:** PSC Letter Docket #20200226-SU .pdf; ATT00001.htm

Dear Clerk of the Commission and Commissioners,

I apologize if this is duplicative, but I just checked the Docket 2020226-SU and did not see my letter appearing on the list of letters received. In case a glitch has happened, I wanted to resend to ensure my concerns are captured. Thank you for your consideration.

**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** Dave D <dboulder@cinci.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 4:28 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Cc:** dboulder@cinci.rr.com  
**Subject:** Docket #20200226-SU Excellent Intentions with too many unresolved issues

To PSC Commissioners and Interested Parties:

I am a property owner on Bocilla Drive Palm Island. I have also owned and operated a Construction Company for 27 Years. Being a good steward of our fragile environment is very important to me. The basic premise of having a quality common Wastewater System is an excellent one. So much time, care and money was spent to develop the Sewer Plan Report. Similar care must be used in implementing a detailed plan specific to Palm Island's fragile Environment before irrevocable damage is done.

It would be premature to grant the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization to Environmental Utilities. **I ask that you to Deny Environmental Utilities application for Wastewater service at this time.** There are too many unanswered and unresolved issues surrounding EU's ability to effectively perform the installation, maintenance and current / future management of this substantial project. Approving the application without all the necessary due diligence, contingency plans, and vetting would be inconsistent with the Charlotte County's Sewer Plan Objectives.....

***“Our goal is to collaboratively develop and prepare an implementation plan for an affordable, reliable, and efficient collection and treatment system for a sustainable environment.”***

It is unfair and unreasonable to expect the collective property owners of Palm island to be forced into a situation with no reasonable assurance EU has the wherewithal to see this project through. The terms within the **“Bulk Wastewater Treatment Agreement”** as it relates to care, maintenance, costs, and a potential *“Abnormal Occurrence” (Environmental Emergency)* are vague. Charlotte County touts a 24/7 monitored contact system, yet the County has no responsibility to address this private sewer whatsoever. There also needs to be an inspection and system testing regiment during construction, not unspecified and intermittent. Throwing caution to the wind and hoping for the best is not a strategy. No rational person would enter into an agreement with so many open ended issues.

From the start the legal posturing and motions filed on behalf of EU seem rushed. It looks like EU and their Council wants to circumvent the system of checks and balances that has been put in place for everyone's benefit. There appears to be a **HUGE CONFLICT OF INTEREST** here. This project

warrants quality over expediency. What's motivating EU? The Charlotte County's initiative repeatedly states this is a Non for Profit endeavor intended to protect our waterways and way of life. It's simply not realistic for the property owners to accept this approach in good conscience? Its imperative the property owners of Palm Island have some say in our utility services and the Island's future. A thoughtful well laid out Business Plan is in order. Perhaps a private waste water utility may be the best route, but let's get our ducks in a row first. Education dismisses fear. We need more information and can't be held hostage to the unknown. There's too much at stake here.

Respectfully,

Dave G Dannenberg

[dboulder@cinci.rr.com](mailto:dboulder@cinci.rr.com)

513-617-5799

**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** Mic McCully <mic\_mcc@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 4:25 PM  
**To:** Mic McCully  
**Subject:** Docket #20200226-SU

County Commissioner/Clerk,

My name is Michael McCully and I am a current home owner at 61 Kettle Harbor Dr, Placida Fl, 33946 on Don Pedro Island.

It's been brought to my attention that county is in process of approving privatization of a centralized sewer system on Don Pedro Island.

I object to the current plans of the proposal and the unnecessary financial burden being placed on the homeowners to solve a problem which has not been researched, documented or shared with the homeowners. What exact issue is the sewer trying to solve? What is the new solution going to provide that is better than what exists today? What are all the options/alternatives? Why is it required? Why is the cost be pushed down to the homeowners?

I'm also confused how the County can forcibly create an unregulated monopoly on the homeowners of Don Pedro Island. My understanding of government control, laws and regulations is to protect its citizens from exact situations like these, not to create them. What protection mechanisms are provided to the homeowners?

I request that the proposal is denied.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mic McCully  
61 Kettle Harbor Drive  
Placida, Fl  
33946

**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** Rob W Brown <rwbrown@atlasinsuranceagency.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Subject:** Palm Island and Little Gasparilla Island future sewer

Dear Commissioner,

The barrier island ecosystem would benefit from converting from septic to sewer. No one knows exactly how many under performing and low lying drain fields are inundated with each storm tide...suffice to say there are quite a few. The islands are growing in population and waste. The issues of water quality degradation will only get worse unless action is taken to get the nutrients handled properly.

Thank you for your full attention toward sorting through this vital initiative.

Rob Brown

Sent from my iPad

**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** John Tillis <JTILLIS3@tampabay.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 3:40 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Subject:** Opposition to Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioner Passidomo

I am a generational homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island and I am writing to you today in opposition to the EU's proposed central sewer.

The EU has not been clear, or forthcoming, with the connection fee for each residence to this proposed new system. The estimated cost of over \$13,000 to the initial approximation of \$20,000 per unit is certainly a substantial amount of money for any household to pay lump sum. I have not yet seen an itemized statement explaining how these numbers have come to be. Having previous experience with repairs and construction cost with the unique dynamics of island living, delays and fees seem to have a way of multiplying once a project gets under way. The before mentioned numbers are given as estimated cost, I am uncomfortable with not having a bottom line.

The water cost on Little Gasparilla Island are definitively higher than mainland residences. With a flat rate of \$70 per month, whether the house is occupied or not, plus an increased rate per gallon water bills are sometimes several hundred dollars due to billing being on a quarterly basis. Where is the guarantee that the sewage rates would be affordable? The EU will certainly increase the county's sewage rate to cover their fees for profit. Where is the agency to govern and regulate costs passed on to the homeowners?

Several homes on our LGI street have recently purchased and had professionally installed and inspected new septic systems. These systems range in age from 2-6 years old. They are being well maintained and regularly inspected as instructed by the county. The penalization for these homes to be forced into connecting to a sewage system they didn't ask for is beyond absurd. The time, scheduling, and cost incurred to upgrade the septic systems shows that these homeowners are will to carry the burden of environmental responsibility individually without a private company forcing their hands to connect to a sewage system without a clear cut maintenance plan or outline in place to handle emergency failures.

Continuing with the concerns to the environment, the destruction to the roadways and easements on our private island will wreak havoc not only to transportation, but the already existing fragile water lines run to our homes. Several water lines, installed by EU, have not been installed to regulation standards, with many being visible on the surface of the ground and repeatedly driven over by our choice of transportation, golf carts, daily. The frequent fracture of water lines or damaged connectors causes the immediate need for boil water notices that are poorly communicated. The majority of the residences are not full-time dwellings, with many of the homes being vacation rentals. The guests vacationing on the island are rarely aware that there has been a boil water notice issued due to poor communication from the EU owner and staff.

These are just a few of the reasons I object to the certification for this proposed sewer. Please reject this application and allow us as homeowners the privilege of enjoying our island as it is without any further intrusion or damage to its land and natural beauty.

Respectfully,  
John D. Tillis  
jtillis3@tampabay.rr.com

**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** Dave Dillon <poppadillon@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 3:21 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**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**

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**From:** Joanne Dillon <jbd2691@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 3:12 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Subject:** RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner Passidomo,

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

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

## Lisa Smith

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**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**

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**From:** Jeff Lenz <wexirl@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 4:35 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Subject:** Docket: #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner Passidomo,

We, Jeff Lenz and Deirdre Fortune, are concerned property owners on Don Pedro Island. The reason for this letter is to express our objection to EU's private sewer proposal for the island. There are number of reasons for our objection.

First, we nor our neighbors have ever requested sewer service on the island. There hasn't been any water quality tests in our area to prove an environmental need for a central sewer system. The sewer project itself brings a high potential for destruction of local habitat and interference with the Island wildlife which includes endangered species such as our beloved gopher tortoises. We believe there is a far greater risk to our environment if a central sewer leak were to occur with a subaqueous crossing compared to one or more septic systems developing leaks.

Next, the lack of information regarding the finances as well as the rates and charges associated with this project is UNACCEPTABLE. The uncertainty of hookup costs as well as other costs and charges that we will incur as a homeowner is of great concern!!! With this uncertainty and no pay-over-time plan to cover large ticket expenses on our property, due to EU's sewer project, could cause us along with many other homeowners financial hardship. To add to the unknown initial expense, the subject of system maintenance which includes emergencies and the lifespan of the equipment, has not been addressed. All of which would cause future financial burden to us and other homeowners.

EU's inability to address and provide vital information to us and other homeowners leads us to question EU's expertise in a project such as this. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure. The sparse information that EU has provided shows NO COST BENEFIT and ONLY COST BURDEN. As concerned homeowners on the Island we object to EU's proposal and formally ask the PSC to deny EU's Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely

Jeff Lenz and Deirdre Fortune  
Email: wexirl@hotmail.com