

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 9:16 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: Docket 20200226-SU

Good morning,

Please place the attached email in Docket No. 20200226.

Hannah E. Branum

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
[2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.](#)
[Tallahassee, FL 32399](#)
(850) 413-6004

From: lagvascular@aol.com <lagvascular@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2022 9:14 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket 20200226-SU

Laura A. Gruneiro, M.D.
20120 Granlago Drive
Venice, FL 34293

RE: Private Sewer Project, Docket # 20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner Clark:

I am writing again to formally restate my request that you deny EU's application for wastewater service to Palm Island in Charlotte County. I am a property owner within the proposed service area of Palm Island at 421 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida. This is a small barrier island with mostly second homes that are unoccupied by owners or renters a large portion of the time. It is a rural area where owners make environmental conservation and wildlife preservation a high priority. As a rural area, Charlotte County has discouraged central sewer system infrastructure that would promote higher density residential or commercial development. We have a large gopher tortoise population and a thriving sea turtle nesting season that would be jeopardized by overdevelopment and potentially by large scale machinery brought in to run sewer pipes, install holding tanks, and crush existing septic systems. To my knowledge, there have been no studies of the water quality in this service area that prove contamination from the current septic systems. The county ordinance requires inspection and pumping of septic system at regular intervals and there have been no documented septic system failures. The homeowners on Palm Island have a deep respect for the environment and strive to maintain its health. We place a high priority on the maintenance of our septic systems. There is no guarantee that conversion to a sewer system will eliminate nitrate and phosphate contamination, as evidenced by the contamination documented in Rotunda. There is also the risk of a sewage leak into surrounding waterways which would be more catastrophic than an isolated septic system failure.

Until the need for conversion from septic to sewer on Palm Island is supported by water quality testing, I do not see the rush to grant EU permission to develop a private sewer system. I have not seen any concrete data showing the feasibility and cost of such a project. I do not believe EU has the technical expertise to undertake a sewer project. I strongly believe that if such a project is deemed necessary for environmental reasons, that it should be constructed and managed by Charlotte County, not a private company that has not determined costs of hook-up and maintenance and that will not

be regulated to ensure that we Charlotte County residents will be charged fair and equitable rates as compared with other residents of the county. In addition, it is my understanding that the pump requires electricity, which is frequently disrupted on this island for long periods of time. This could cause sewage back-up. Disruption of the existing septic tanks on the island may require destruction of mature landscaping which in turn will affect wildlife on the island. I am also against the easement EU has requested that would go from the sewer equipment close to my home to the road. I have strong concerns regarding EU's ability to provide emergency service for sewer system issues, particularly on a barrier island only accessible by ferry from 6:30 am to 10 pm. Please, before rushing into such a large project with a private company without experience in sewer system construction, deny EU's application for wastewater service until you are presented with more data showing the need for such service and the cost for the installation and maintenance of such service.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Gruneiro M.D.