

Yvette Gillespie

From: Yvette Gillespie on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 9:52 AM
To: 'Amanda Small'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Good morning Edward and Amanda Small,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely

Yvette Gillespie

Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
ygillesp@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: (850) 413-6195

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From: Amanda Small <amanda.small@redrockstech.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:44 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Edward Small <ed.small@redrockstech.com>
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk of the Commission,

We are writing to request the **DENIAL** of Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island. Quite simply: We love the island the way it is. We do not want to see a private entity "run" this utility for a profit. The out of pocket costs to us to implement and ongoing monthly fees and maintenance expenses would be burdensome now and especially so in a future fixed-income retirement.

To be more elaborate:

- 1) We don't believe EU or any other entity has ever "proven a need" for a central sewer service. The septic systems that have been in place for YEARS have never been shown to cause any issues to us as homeowners or to the surrounding environment.
- 2) For the reasons stated above in #1 and more, we have not and would not request a sewer service to be established on the island.
- 3) There is great concern to us that EU is a private and for-profit utility. Utilities should never be run as for-profit organizations. Especially, one deceiving folks on the surface with an "Environmental" name. How is there transparency in a private company to its stakeholders?
- 4) EU's lack of experience in owning a wastewater utility is of great concern. How can one man claim to suddenly know how to run a wastewater utility with no experience? It is my understanding his running of previous and current water utilities has been less than stellar and honest.
- 5) The estimated out of pocket costs to us that would be mandatory up-front to establish service and then the outrageous monthly fees plus ongoing maintenance costs are egregious for anyone. They will be a burden to all current homeowners. They will deter future buyers here. They will devalue our properties and limit our pool of potential buyers as ongoing costs will have to be factored into total cost of ownership. Those wanting to live the final years of their lives here will be forced to look somewhere other than the island. With a private for-profit utility any initial monthly rates are going to rise every chance they can and for the maximum amount. This is not affordable to most folks here now or in the future FOR SEWER BILL ALONE.
- 6) Since Hurricane Ian struck our island hard, it has oftentimes felt like living in a war zone with all of the machinery and service folks doing repairs and rebuilding. We can't imagine what it will be like and for how long with heavy machinery tearing up our sandy roads and yards.
- 7) After Hurricane Ian, the island was without power for several days. How will we be able to flush our toilets or use water with the suggested sewer system during the next hurricane/extended power loss? And if there's flooding that takes out the generators needed to run the systems in a power outage?
- 8) As we live on an island only accessible by private ferry or personal boat, accessing and living on our island while any sewer systems are implemented would make this place unlivable for an extended period of time.
- 9) We have abundant wildlife on the island including gopher tortoises and bobcats and very fragile plant life. The destruction of this precious environment cannot be allowed.
- 10) We are fortunate enough to also own a vacant lot on the island that could provide us with a larger home to better match our needs. However, we (and any other future land owners wanting to build) would be crazy to start building now and pay several thousands of dollars and be approved to install a currently valid septic system. Then, find out that EU's application had been approved and we have to shell out many more thousands of dollars remove that new no longer valid septic system and connect to sewers. While this drawn out application continues, any wise landowner would self-impose a moratorium on building until the final decision is made. But, then is it REALLY final if denied a SECOND TIME, and Jack Boyer applies a THIRD TIME? When does this end?

We feel in love with this special island years ago and were fortunate enough to buy a small affordable house here before the housing market went out of control. This is the affordable house that we plan to retire in, but it won't be that with the costs of implementation, monthly bills, and ongoing maintenance or replacement of a sewer system. If we wanted sewers, density, and high rise condos with zero character, there are many other overbuilt islands and cities in Florida. We chose this place as it was and there is almost nothing that is needed to improve life here. That certainly isn't an overpriced privately run for-profit sewer! Please DENY Environmental Utilities request to install a central sewer on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island.

Sincerely,

Edward and Amanda Small

Amanda@redrockstech.com

Ed.Small@redrockstech.com

720-235-9289

Owners and full-time residents of 30 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida, FL 33946

Owners of an undeveloped lot at 12 Pointe Way, Placida, FL 33946

Palm Island/Don Pedro Island

Mailing Address: PO Box 652, Placida, FL 33946