

Charlie Smith

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: RE: Docket#20240032-SU; FW: Docket #20240032-SU; Objection to Environmental Utilities, LLC's (EU) Plan for Installation of Central Sewer on Little Gasparilla Island; RE: RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Fwd: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Fw: REQUEST FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket NO 20240032-SU - 40 Kettle Harbor, Palcida FL 33946 (Palm Island/Don Pedro/Knights Island); FW: Docket #20240032-SU objection to application for certificate to provide wastewater service by Environmental Utilities LLC; Docket # 20240032-SU objection to application for certificate to provide wastewater service by Environmental Utilities LLC; Docket 20240032-SU; Docket No.20240032-SU- Knight - Don Pedro Island / EU Re-Application for Certificate of Authorization - OBJECTION TO RE-APPLICATION 04/03/2024; Re: New Docket #20240032-SU; #20240032-SU

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning,

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032. Thank you!

Hannah E. Branum
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
[2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.](https://www.fpsc.state.fl.us/2540-Shumard-Oak-Blvd)
[Tallahassee, FL 32399](https://www.fpsc.state.fl.us/Tallahassee-FL-32399)
(850) 413-6004



Charlie Smith

From: Joanne Dillon <jbd2691@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 9:51 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: RE: Docket#20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Clerk of Commission and County Commissioners:

As residents and property owners on Don Pedro Island, we adamantly oppose EU's application for waste water services on our Island, and ask that you deny their request.

We do not believe there is a proven need for a central sewer service, nor have we requested such services. We are especially concerned that EU is a private, for profit Utility company, with little (or no) experience in running a waste water facility . We understand their charges for implementing such services will be overwhelming and a financial burden to most, not to mention the continued monthly fee, which will not be regulated. The fact that this sewer system will run by electricity adds many other concerns and costs. The need for a generator in the event of a power outage to flush your toilet, for example. Once again, the need for such services is very much in question. Our septic system is in perfect working condition and is maintained on a regular basis.

Approval of EU's application will also be an environmental nightmare for our Island. Many island groups and persons have worked diligently for many years protecting our golpher tortoises, sea turtles and all wildlife that inhabit our island. We have just been certified as a "Community Wildlife Habitat." EU obviously has no concerns of the environmental consequences that will occur, if approved.

In closing, we urge you to deny EU's application for waste water services on our beautiful islands. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanne and David Dillon
5 Pointe Way
Don Pedro Island
jbd2691@yahoo.com

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Charlie Smith

From: Amanda Small <amanda.small@redrockstech.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:19 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; David Cohen (david.paul.cohen@gmail.com)
Subject: FW: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commission,

Please see the below forwarded email from David Cohen. It is my understanding that he has submitted this letter twice to the Commission, but he has yet to get a confirmation email that you have received it, nor is it currently posted to the docket. It appears he has the correct Docket number and email addresses. I'm submitting for him as I've had no problems getting confirmations of receipt from you and see my requests added to the docket.

Sincerely,
Amanda Small
Red Rocks Technology Partners, LLC
303-952-4655
www.RedRocksTech.com

From: David Cohen <david.paul.cohen@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 7:57 AM
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us
Cc: Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

To: Clerk of the Commission, Commissioner LaRosa, Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Passidomo, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Fay

My name is David Cohen and I live, full time, at 8 Pointe Way, Don Pedro Island. This location is within the area proposed for service by this application. My phone number is 201-600-1450 and I would be happy to have a polite conversation about this matter if you so desire. My email address is davidpaulcohen@gmail.com if you wish to contact me that way. I have had a residence on the island since 1990.

I am writing to respectfully ask that you deny EU's application for wastewater service.

I am further asking that EU be prohibited from ever applying for providing wastewater service in the future.

Only a few things have changed since I last wrote the commission with the same request.

What changed?

- The county has now changed their mind about sewer on the islands attempting a legal workaround to their own Comprehensive plan.
- The claim is that while the Comprehensive Plan prohibits the County from installing central sewer, but not a privately owned utility. This so obviously defeats the purpose of the existing comprehensive plan designation and is an example of politics at its worst, encouraging development in increasingly shrinking protected areas with a nod and a wink.
- If the county truly wants sewers on these barrier islands, they must attempt to change the land use designation and do the work themselves, not hide behind an obvious backdoor move.
- Surprise! There are now developers who desire the sewer system to be installed. What could possibly be the reason behind this? By convincing the county to skirt the comprehensive land use plan allowing for increased AND ALREADY PLANNED higher density development. This privately owned, for-profit limited liability company will maximize their profits on the backs of island residents (as they have previously declared they will apply for the maximum rates and increase legally allowed).

What has not changed:

- There is no need for this service.
 - There has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing held by the county commission refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service
 - There is zero scientifically proven need for this service. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove any water quality impact coming from the barrier islands.

- The community at large does not desire such a service.
- Highly dangerous environmental impact.
 - During the implementation of this project:
 - There would be immense environmental disruption of the many endangered species that inhabit these islands as well as migratory species.
 - After implementation of this project:
 - Based on the specific type of implementation being considered, an event that causes a lack of electricity, fuel and prevents or severely restricts island access such as another hurricane Ian would spell an environmental disaster for the entire group of islands. Please note that the large existing gravity operated tanks currently in use would be replaced by very small tanks (yes, there would still be holding tanks with the new service) that rely on continuous access to end-user supplied power to operate. IMAGINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER OF THE ENTIRE ISLAND COMPLEX WITH ZERO SEPTIC MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME SUCH AS THE PERIOD FOLLOWING HURRICANE IAN.
- Quality of life impact for residents.
 - The combination of post-storm rebuilds, new home construction, and tourist traffic during season has made wait lines at the ferry both unpredictable and outrageous. Now, consider the heavy equipment and materials transport needed to construct an island-wide central sewer system. And how long it will take to build.
 - The sand roads (not dirt roads) do not lend themselves to manholes as the paved roads on the mainland do. The impact to the sand roads, both public and private, have not been explored or mitigated.
- The cost to homeowners. Do standard mainland sewers incur such cost? No.
 - Enormously more expensive, initially and on an on-going basis, than sewer systems on the mainland to the citizens impacted.
 - Grossly underestimated monthly costs based on erroneous average estimated household water usage.

- No access to gray water systems to offset landscaping water usage.
- Based on my personal water usage, the total for water and sewer service would often exceed \$500 / month.
- There is a whole host of related costs unique to this application that place an undue burden on island residents including but not limited to:
 - Cost of pump-out and maintenance of the new system tank. **Isn't the purpose of a sewer system to prevent tanks filling up and needing pump outs?**
 - Cost of removal of existing materials involving very high barge fees.
 - Cost of rehoming protected wildlife.
 - Cost of electric installation for the system, potentially requiring new or added panels.
 - Cost of replacing anything more than the "basic landscaping" that the hook-up agreement states will be replaced.
 - In the event of another bad storm or lengthy power outage, residents will need to have a generator continually running to prevent sewage backup on their property.
- EU's existing troubled track record as a company as well as a lack of experience owning a wastewater utility is a significant red flag. Any claim by EU to the contrary should be investigated thoroughly. Combined with the lack of county or state oversight of initial installation, ongoing operations as well as the potential for a true environmental disaster with no plan for mitigation being submitted and agreed upon should disqualify this application. This would not be a public service, it would be a public disaster.
- There are unexplored alternatives to a sewer system on the barrier island, including but not limited to:
 - Different types of septic systems that act as treatment plants.
 - County required inspections and maintenance of existing systems along with associated fees for non-compliance.
- There is also the 'elephant in the room' requirement for the Palm Island Resort to fix issues with their own privately operated sewage system. While the resort would not directly use the septic systems being contemplated, the costs of hooking up their system to the county via this private central line would be completely passed on to the citizens targeted on Don Pedro Island.

There are many more reasons, but I am confident that my fellow islanders will write in and, if needed, speak before the commission as they did the last time EU made essentially the identical application.

Once again, I ask that you deny the EU's application for wastewater service.

I am further asking that EU be prohibited from ever applying for providing wastewater service in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cohen
201-600-1450

Charlie Smith

From: Barber, Carley <carley.barber@ifco.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:27 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Lisa Simmons; Steve Egan; simmonsrandy77@gmail.com
Subject: Objection to Environmental Utilities, LLC's (EU) Plan for Installation of Central Sewer on Little Gasparilla Island

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good Afternoon Public Service Commission Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Carley Barber, and my family has deep roots on Little Gasparilla Island. My mother and father separately own two homes on the island (8230 Little Gasparilla, Placida, FL 33946 & 8270 Little Gasparilla, Placida, FL 33946). They both worked extremely hard and made other sacrifices in their lives so that their children and grandchildren could experience the unique place that is Little Gasparilla Island.

It is unfortunate that I am writing to you yet again to express my strong opposition to Environmental Utilities LLC's (EU) proposed application for wastewater service on our beloved island.

Little Gasparilla Island holds a special place in my heart and in the hearts of many others. Its unique charm, devoid of roads and cars, allows it to retain its pristine natural beauty. I have been coming to the island for over 30 years and I have witnessed the island's tranquil allure and the importance of preserving its unspoiled environment.

In my original letter, I outlined several concerns regarding EU's proposal, including the financial burden it would impose on homeowners and the potential damage to our fragile ecosystem. However, we now have the additional concern that further emphasizes the unsuitability of this project: the effect on the nesting pair of American bald eagles on the north end of the island.

As stewards of our environment, it is our responsibility to protect and respect the habitats of native species, which include the eagles, burrowing owls and many gopher tortoises. The installation and operation of wastewater equipment and services would undoubtedly disrupt the birds' nesting sites, as well as the gopher tortoises' burrows, jeopardizing their safety and survival. Such disruption is not only ethically unacceptable but also legally reprehensible under various environmental protection laws.

Furthermore, the adverse effects of this project extend beyond ecological concerns. The narrow paths and delicate vegetation of our island are ill-suited for the heavy machinery and service trucks required for wastewater installation. The potential destruction of these natural assets would not only diminish the island's aesthetic appeal but also infringe upon the property rights of homeowners. Under EU's plan, the homeowners would not be compensated for this use of their land or any of the landscaping and property destruction that would inevitably be caused by the equipment needed for wastewater installations. They are barely financially and emotionally recovering from the effects of last year's hurricanes on their island homes and under the proposed plan would be responsible for forking over an exorbitant amount for a service they don't want or feel is necessary.

I know that my family would face significant financial hardship due to the proposed wastewater installation. The initial costs and ongoing expenses imposed by EU, which are substantially higher than any other area in Florida, would force them to sell their properties, a devastating and unfair outcome for many people.

We believe that as county commissioners, it is your elected duty to represent your constituents. It is worth noting that aside from those who would personally financially benefit from EU's plan, there are few, if any, residents that have expressed a need or want for this service on the island. This point reenforces the lack of genuine community support for the proposed wastewater service.

This wastewater service project does not make sense for Little Gasparilla Island. There have been no tests and no incidents to suggest that there are any quality issues with the water supply on or around the island. The community on the island has a small town feel and when one person is having a septic truck barged over to have their tank pumped, several others will plan together to have theirs done on the same day. Homeowners on the island talk to each other, help each other and take care of their homes and current septic systems appropriately. Approval of EU's application is going to force so many good, hard-working people off the island and cause an influx of big business, rental companies and new owners who do not appreciate what we have now.

In light of these considerations, I implore you to reject EU's application for wastewater service. The consequences of such a decision would be dire, not only for the residents of Little Gasparilla Island but also for the delicate ecosystem.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will make the right decision for the well-being of our island and its inhabitants.

Carley Barber

Manager, Customer Data Solutions



IFCO Systems US, LLC

3030 N. Rocky Point Drive W. | 33607 Tampa | US

T: 813.463.4118 | M: 813.323.4815

carley.barber@ifco.com | www.ifco.com

[Sign up for our newsletter](#) dedicated to the fresh grocery supply chain!

Charlie Smith

From: Amanda Small <amanda.small@redrockstech.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Edward Small
Subject: RE: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Additionally, can be added to the docket as an Interested Person?

Sincerely,
Amanda Small
Red Rocks Technology Partners, LLC
303-952-4655
www.RedRocksTech.com

From: Amanda Small
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:44 PM
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us
Cc: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us;
Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us;
Edward Small <ed.small@redrockstech.com>
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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

Charlie Smith

From: Lisa Simmons <lisabsimmons@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 1:07 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr. Clark

Here we are again! This is the second attempt by EU to provide a sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island and again I am writing this email to formally request that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island. I have owned a vacation home on the island since 1996. My children and family have enjoyed the tranquility of this island for many years. It is my intention to leave this little piece of paradise to my children when I die. After reviewing the expected costs to put in a wastewater system on the island, I realize that I will not be able to maintain the home I love so much. The costs are prohibitive for me as I am sure it will force many others to sell their places too. The proposed costs far exceed any other wastewater service in the state, and I find that totally unacceptable and unfair. The costs are not equitable to what other people are paying for the same services across the county and state. In addition, the need for a generator as a backup and installation of an additional electrical panel are ridiculous. The standing water caused by tropical storms last Fall and the electrical outages we often experience would not bode well with the system Mr. Boyer is proposing. Most homes on LGI are vacation homes and are unoccupied most of the time. There would be no one there to turn on a generator to run a sump pump for the sewer system. I suggest that the septic tanks be inspected, and ones found to be deficient be repaired or replaced. There is no reason to force this sewer system on us. I also have concerns about the environmental impact this project would have. We have gopher tortoises that have already been affected by the floods we have had in the past year and now would be disturbed by a project of this magnitude. We also have a pair of nesting bald eagles on the north end of LGI. If they are disturbed too much, they will leave the nest and find another home. If there were eaglets in the nest at that time, they would die. Please, I ask you to put yourself in my place and make the right decision for the residents of Palm Island and Little Gasparilla Island. It is truly heartbreaking for me to think about being forced to sell my place because of the exorbitant and unrealistic expense that would be imposed on me. Please vote no!!!

Lisa Simmons
lisabsimmons@gmail.com
8270 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, Fl. 33946

Charlie Smith

From: Bobbi Ruoss <ruoss1998@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 12:18 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Fwd: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

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

From: Bobbi Ruoss <ruoss1998@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 15, 2024 at 12:12 PM
Subject: Re: Docket #20240032-SU
To: <clerk@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>, <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state>, <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state>, <Commissioner.Graham@psc.state>, <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state>, <mfriedman@deanmead.com>

Good afternoon,

I am writing regarding my opposition to the sewer project referenced in the above docket.

We own a home on Little Gasparilla Island. We have not asked for, nor see the need for, sewer service to the island.

We are concerned that Environmental Utilities LLC is a private, for-profit company with no experience with a wastewater utility.

The charges for installation being quoted to us are beyond our means, especially as we are still trying to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Ian.

The monthly charges seem to be incredibly high considering that we will still have to pay to have the solid waste holding tank cleaned out regularly.

Thank you for your consideration of the negative impact this project will have on all Islanders.

Roberta & Douglas Ruoss
8434 Little Gasparilla Island

Charlie Smith

From: Julie Kienitz-Peak <juliekeenpea@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 9:22 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; mfriendman@deanmead.com
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To the Attention of: Clerk of Commission
Florida Public Service Commission

I am a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI), Placida, Florida, of Charlotte County, and I am writing to express my opposition and concerns to the application filed by Environmental Utilities, LLC, (EU) with their proposal to install central sewer lines to the barrier reef islands, including LGI. I respectfully ask that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater services to LGI.

My objections include the following reasons:

1. There is NO proven need for these services on LGI.
2. I did NOT request these services.
3. I am concerned that EU is a privately owned company with NO previous experience in the installation or maintenance of sewer lines.
4. This project would create tremendous disruption to the sensitive and volatile barrier reef islands for which it is proposed and would represent tremendous and unnecessary costs to all LGI home-owners for services that have literally no advantage to the environment and come with high stakes for property owners and the landscape itself.

The address of my island home is: 8234 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida, FL 33946.

My name and contact information is: Julie M. Kienitz-Peak, juliekeenpea@gmail.com, 608-632-4905

Thank you for your time and consideration,
J.M. Kienitz-Peak

Cc: Martin S Friedman, Esq, Dean Mead, Orlando FL

Charlie Smith

From: G.S. Buhler <gsbuhler@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 2:22 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Fw: REQUEST FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am writing to you today in complete favor for a "**Centralized Sewer System**" for Don Pedro/ Palm Island. I am an owner on Don Pedro Island and have been on the island over 20 years. I came to this island because it was quiet, clean, and fresh. Our waters are in danger of pollution from septic tanks. There have been a large amount of research surveys done on communities that use septic tanks and all are in agreement that they are terrible for the environment.

I was shocked in 2022 that this was voted down - I did send in a letter requesting sewer service. I know there is a group on the island that is very vocal against this idea. I am writing today to let you know that there are many others that understand why we need a central sewer system. I would suggest having an educational seminar for those residents to educate them on the damage that their septic tank is doing to the waters around the island. They are simply voting against it due to the cost. There are many things in life that I do not want to pay for, but maintaining the quality of our water is one that I am willing to pay for.

I have been a resident of Florida since I was 5. When I was 10, I went to Key Largo and stayed with friends - they lived on a canal and it was crystal clear - I put on a mask and snorkeled. I went back to that same house 40 years later - that canal was black with algae growth and you could barely see anything. The algae killed all of the coral and most of the fish that lived in the coral. This was directly caused by all of the septic tanks leaking into their water. There are many stories like this around our great state.

All we hear every day is how important our environment is - I am struggling to understand how this is even an issue? Lets bring our waters back to pristine level they were 20 years ago when I came to this island- PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH A CENTRAL SEWER SYSTEM!!!

Thank You,
Gary Buhler
gsbuhler@aol.com
55 Bayshore Circle

Charlie Smith

From: RaeAnne Brenneise <rabrenneise@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 2:20 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU
Attachments: To whom it may concern 2024.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Thank you for your time.

To whom it may concern,

Once again, My name is RaeAnne Brenneise. My Husband Paul and I have resided at 47 Bocilla Dr. on Knight Island for 11 years. Since we moved here in 2013, we have had an aerobic system, of which we have had no issues at all. We report to the health dept 2x a year with no issues ever, year after year.

My question is why? Why are we continually having to write letters to defend what happens on our property from one individual who has never paid our taxes, our insurance or even been on our property. One individual who has no experience and no education on the subject of sewers and truly only sees dollars signs.

On September of 2022, we had a devastating hurricane hit Florida. The worst to hit our area, the islands were in shambles. For weeks there was no power, no communication. Our island families lost roofs, siding, windows, trees were down, power lines were severed. To date there are still far too many people not back in their homes due to insurances not paying, taking too long to pay and the amount of contactors unable to keep up. People have used up their resources just to keep surviving. Food prices higher than ever, rent is outrageous, insurances have doubled, mortgage's have increased. While still trying to recover families are still going into a deficit.

The last time we were approached with this was after Covid which also finically crippled many people, some were not able to recover.

Once again this comes up. This would all be out of pocket expense to the property owner, nothing would benefit any of us only one individual who would only reap benefits from our struggle. This would not only be the enormous one time payment of \$20000 to install, but a financial struggle every month of an extra 150-200 dollars, not to mention the expense of a generator to install and maintain and all the other "little hidden fees."

This is not to improve OUR lives this is to only benefit the greed of one person who forged a plan to pad his pockets off the backs of the families still trying to put their lives and homes back together. We had a cat 4 and our septics did not fail us and we hope you won't either.

We ask that you stand with our Island families who do not want this, do not need this and are so incredibly tired of fighting this person who keeps encroaching his greed unto our homes, our properties and our lives by once again saying NO TO JACK BOYER!

Thank you for your time.

Paul and RaeAnne Brenneise

47 Bocilla Dr.

Placida, Fl 33946

Charlie Smith

From: Iris Grioli <igrio@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 10:35 AM
To: Records Clerk; mfrdiedman@deanmead.com
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket NO 20240032-SU - 40 Kettle Harbor, Placida FL 33946 (Palm Island/Don Pedro/Knights Island)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To Whom this may concern,

I Iris E Grioli, owner of 40 Kettle Harbor Placida, FL 33946. On the 3rd Day of April, 2024 I received a memo docket no 20240032-SU Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Enviornment Utilities, LLC. I am asking that this application be denied for the following reasons.

1. There is no need for a wastewater system as the existing septic systems are functioning properly with no evidence of any negative environmental impact. This is supported by the abundance of natural species inhabiting the island including a significant breeding population of endangered species. Such as the Gopher tortuous
2. A massive construction project such as would be required to install a wastewater system on the island would significantly and negatively impact the indigenous wildlife including the displacement of inhabitation destruction of endangered species. Such as Gohper tordoues
3. Forcing citizens to support a PRIVATE venture that they do not need would cause undue harm and financial burden in perpetuity and would be an abuse of governmental authority.
4. Constructing a wastewater pipeline connecting the island to the mainland would cause significantly irreparable disturbance to the wildlife in the intercoastal waterway.
5. The entirety of this proposal serves to enrich private investors by providing a service that the residents it serves do not want or need.
6. There have not been sufficient measures or safeguards established to provide that the residents and citizens, will not be subject to undue financial harm resulting from supporting the operational cost of maintaining the waste water system.

Should you have any questions please reach out to me directly at 201-681-1207

Regards,

Iris E Grioli, MA
201-681-1207

Charlie Smith

From: bob@rowemitchell.com
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 4:47 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: FW: Docket #20240032-SU objection to application for certificate to provide wastewater service by Environmental Utilities LLC
Attachments: objection to wastewater utility application Public Service Commission.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Clerk and Commissioners.

See attached letter

Thank You

Robert Mitchell

Robert & Brenda Mitchell
3708 East Forest Lake Drive
Sarasota, FL 34233

8304 Lil Gasparilla Island
Email bm1962srq@gmail.com

March 13, 2024

Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re; Docket # 20240032-SU

Dear Commissioner;

My wife and I have been property owners on Lil Gasparilla, Island since 2000.

We are writing to express our objections to the Environmental Utilities, L.L.C. application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, specifically the bridgeless barrier islands of Lil Gasparilla, Don Pedro and Knight Island.

Our objections to the application are as follows.

- We do not feel there is a need for a central sanitary sewer on the above barrier islands. To our knowledge there is no general substantiated environmental issue with the existing private septic systems on the 3 barrier islands for single family residences. Furthermore, if there were drastic environmental issues with the existing septic systems why is there no outcry from the state DEP or Charlotte County Health Department?

Re; Docket # 20240032-SU

- We do not know a neighbor or island resident who has requested central sewer service on the noted barrier islands.
- We are very concerned about the financial and organizational stability of Environmental Utilities in the undertaking of such a project. The for-profit utility has demonstrated a profit first attitude with many people on Lil Gasparilla Island over their water service connection demands. Water service that many island residents did not want. Does this sound familiar to objections voiced by islanders during the last application for certificate to provide wastewater service from this same utility and the current sentiment of the islanders? We certainly think so!
- This mom-and-pop run utility lacks the structural/organizational stability and size to respond to major problems that will occur in the operation of a vital system like wastewater disposal. The utility work conducted by Environmental Utilities I have witnessed on the island was like the wild west. FYI I was a Florida Certified General Contractor (1985-2021) that worked with many large site development subs and Utility Contractors and what I witnessed on the Island was never done on our jobsites!
- The rates the utility charges for water are absurdly high based on the small economy of scale of the customer base, the enormous cost for a wastewater project in our current inflationary economic environment will be staggering. Correspondingly the rates charged to a customer will be unaffordable to many.

In these challenging economic times of historic inflation, the last thing we single family homeowners need is another huge expense for a wastewater utility that WE DO NOT WANT ! We islanders just incurred huge expense (emotional/economical) putting our homes and island back together after hurricanes Ian 2022 and Idalia 2023, we cannot afford this wastewater utility and its sky-high costs.

We implore you to see through Environmental Utilities for profit motives and DENY their application for certificate to provide wastewater services.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Mitchell

Brenda S. Mitchell

Charlie Smith

From: bob@rowemitchell.com
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 4:45 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU objection to application for certificate to provide wastewater service by Environmental Utilities LLC
Attachments: objection to wastewater utility application Public Service Commission.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Clerk and Commissioners.

See attached letter

Thank You

Robert Mitchell

Robert & Brenda Mitchell
3708 East Forest Lake Drive
Sarasota, FL 34233

8304 Lil Gasparilla Island
Email bm1962srq@gmail.com

March 13, 2024

Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re; Docket # 20240032-SU

Dear Commissioner;

My wife and I have been property owners on Lil Gasparilla, Island since 2000.

We are writing to express our objections to the Environmental Utilities, L.L.C. application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, specifically the bridgeless barrier islands of Lil Gasparilla, Don Pedro and Knight Island.

Our objections to the application are as follows.

- We do not feel there is a need for a central sanitary sewer on the above barrier islands. To our knowledge there is no general substantiated environmental issue with the existing private septic systems on the 3 barrier islands for single family residences. Furthermore, if there were drastic environmental issues with the existing septic systems why is there no outcry from the state DEP or Charlotte County Health Department?

Re; Docket # 20240032-SU

- We do not know a neighbor or island resident who has requested central sewer service on the noted barrier islands.
- We are very concerned about the financial and organizational stability of Environmental Utilities in the undertaking of such a project. The for-profit utility has demonstrated a profit first attitude with many people on Lil Gasparilla Island over their water service connection demands. Water service that many island residents did not want. Does this sound familiar to objections voiced by islanders during the last application for certificate to provide wastewater service from this same utility and the current sentiment of the islanders? We certainly think so!
- This mom-and-pop run utility lacks the structural/organizational stability and size to respond to major problems that will occur in the operation of a vital system like wastewater disposal. The utility work conducted by Environmental Utilities I have witnessed on the island was like the wild west. FYI I was a Florida Certified General Contractor (1985-2021) that worked with many large site development subs and Utility Contractors and what I witnessed on the Island was never done on our jobsites!
- The rates the utility charges for water are absurdly high based on the small economy of scale of the customer base, the enormous cost for a wastewater project in our current inflationary economic environment will be staggering. Correspondingly the rates charged to a customer will be unaffordable to many.

In these challenging economic times of historic inflation, the last thing we single family homeowners need is another huge expense for a wastewater utility that WE DO NOT WANT ! We islanders just incurred huge expense (emotional/economical) putting our homes and island back together after hurricanes Ian 2022 and Idalia 2023, we cannot afford this wastewater utility and its sky-high costs.

We implore you to see through Environmental Utilities for profit motives and DENY their application for certificate to provide wastewater services.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Mitchell

Brenda S. Mitchell

Charlie Smith

From: William O'Connell <bohaus@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 7:53 AM
To: ClerkoftheCommissionclerk@psc.state.fl.us
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa
Subject: Docket 20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

We do not need a sewer system. We will all re write the letter below to express our opposition. We have a great community on LGI and only strengthened by hardships such as Hurricane Ian.

This letter expresses the strong opposition of many LGI residents to the proposed mandatory connection to a new sewer system on our barrier island. We believe this project is unnecessary, financially burdensome, and raises significant environmental concerns.

Unnecessary Infrastructure:

- LGI residents have successfully used septic systems for decades without any reported issues of leakage or contamination.
- The recent addition of "city" water further reduces concerns, as shallow wells for drinking water are no longer in use.

Financial Burden:

- Many residents are still recovering from the financial devastation of Hurricane Ian.
- The rumored \$20,000 connection fee is an unreasonable additional expense, especially for those who recently replaced their septic systems.
- Forcing residents with fixed incomes to connect to a new system disregards their financial limitations.

Environmental Concerns:

- Environmental Utilities, the applicant, lacks experience managing wastewater utilities.
- Proper wastewater treatment is crucial for the health of Placida Bay and our island environment.
- We lack confidence in Environmental Utilities' ability to handle unforeseen circumstances or manage the system effectively.

Alternative Solutions:

- We are open to exploring options for affordable, well-managed sewer service if necessary.
- A system overseen by a reputable entity with a proven track record, such as Charlotte County, would be preferable.

Request for Denial:

We urge you to deny the current application for this proposed sewer system. LGI residents value our existing septic systems, our financial well-being, and the environmental health of our island. We believe alternative solutions can be explored if necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Residents of LGI Barrier Island

Charlie Smith

From: John Baird <jbaird@highlandag.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 12:59 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Cc: lane.baird@verizon.net; Bill.Truex@CharlotteCountyFL.gov
Subject: Docket No.20240032-SU- Knight - Don Pedro Island / EU Re-Application for Certificate of Authorization - OBJECTION TO RE-APPLICATION 04/03/2024
Attachments: Docket #20240032-SU (BAIRD).pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear County Commissioners and Public Service Commissioners,

I write to you today with a sense of urgency and deep concern regarding the **ongoing consideration of Environmental Utilities LLC's** application for a Wastewater Certificate in Charlotte County, Florida. **Despite previous rejections and undeniable evidence against the applicant**, it appears that this matter is being revisited, raising serious doubts about the integrity of the decision-making process.

The very fact that Environmental Utilities LLC, an applicant with a criminal background directly related to the industry they seek to enter, is being considered for such a crucial project is **alarming**. The lack of experience, funding plans, and business planning further underscore the unsuitability of this applicant for such a responsibility.

As elected representatives entrusted with the well-being of our community, it is imperative that you uphold the will of the people you serve. The initial denial of the application was a reflection of the community's concerns and the absence of any substantial justification for such a project. **Revisiting this decision undermines the trust placed in your governance and raises questions about ulterior motives.**

I urge you to consider the following points:

1. **Lack of Substantiated Need:** The previous denial highlighted the lack of evidence supporting the necessity of the proposed project. Without empirical data to justify the need, approving this application would be unjustifiable.
2. **Zero Experience in Wastewater Management:** Entrusting such a critical infrastructure project to an applicant with zero days of wastewater systems management experience is reckless and irresponsible.
3. **Absence of Funding Plans and Business Planning:** The applicant has failed to provide any concrete plans regarding funding, business strategy, or environmental impact assessments, further highlighting their unsuitability for this endeavor.
4. **Potential Environmental Impact:** Approving a project without proper planning and justification could have severe environmental consequences, threatening the pristine condition of our properties and islands destroying habitat and interference with species such as the endangered and protected gopher tortoise.
5. **Criminal Record:** Environmental Utilities LLC has a criminal record directly related to the utilities industry, casting serious doubt on their suitability for such a project.
6. **Power Related Issues & Unjustified Financial Burden:** Since we have purchased our home on the island, our property taxes have skyrocketed with no additional support by Charlotte County. Now, in addition, a private utility wants to charge for something that is **unwarranted and unmerited**. How we will use a **basic function** without power, as we lose electricity frequently during the numerous Florida summer storms, has yet to be explained.

I implore you to prioritize the interests and well-being of the community and the native species over any potential special interests or ulterior motives. Uphold the integrity of our governance by rejecting Environmental Utilities LLC's application and ensuring that decisions are made in the best interests of the people you represent.

The eyes of the community are upon you, and your actions in this matter will have lasting repercussions. Please stand on the side of integrity, transparency, and the will of the people.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

// John and Elaine Baird

John & Elaine Baird

241 Kettle Harbor Drive,

Placida, FL 33946

April 12, 2024

Subject: Urgent Appeal to Reject Environmental Utilities LLC's Wastewater Certificate Application

Docket No. 20240032 – SU – Knight – Don Pedro Island / EU Re-Application for Certificate Authorization

Dear County Commissioners and Public Service Commissioners,

I write to you today with a sense of urgency and deep concern regarding the **ongoing consideration of Environmental Utilities LLC's** application for a Wastewater Certificate in Charlotte County, Florida. **Despite previous rejections and undeniable evidence against the applicant**, it appears that this matter is being revisited, raising serious doubts about the integrity of the decision-making process.

The very fact that Environmental Utilities LLC, an applicant with a criminal background directly related to the industry they seek to enter, is being considered for such a crucial project is **alarming**. The lack of experience, funding plans, and business planning further underscore the unsuitability of this applicant for such a responsibility.

As elected representatives entrusted with the well-being of our community, it is imperative that you uphold the will of the people you serve. The initial denial of the application was a reflection of the community's concerns and the absence of any substantial justification for such a project. **Revisiting this decision undermines the trust placed in your governance and raises questions about ulterior motives.**

I urge you to consider the following points:

1. **Lack of Substantiated Need:** The previous denial highlighted the lack of evidence supporting the necessity of the proposed project. Without empirical data to justify the need, approving this application would be unjustifiable.
2. **Zero Experience in Wastewater Management:** Entrusting such a critical infrastructure project to an applicant with zero days of wastewater systems management experience is reckless and irresponsible.
3. **Absence of Funding Plans and Business Planning:** The applicant has failed to provide any concrete plans regarding funding, business strategy, or environmental impact assessments, further highlighting their unsuitability for this endeavor.
4. **Potential Environmental Impact:** Approving a project without proper planning and justification could have severe environmental consequences, threatening the pristine condition of our properties and islands destroying habitat and interference with species such as the endangered and protected gopher tortoise.
5. **Criminal Record:** Environmental Utilities LLC has a criminal record directly related to the utilities industry, casting serious doubt on their suitability for such a project.
6. **Power Related Issues & Unjustified Financial Burden:** Since we have purchased our home on the island, our property taxes have skyrocketed with no additional support by

Baird - 241 Kettle Harbor Dr – Docket No. 20240032 SU – Knight - Don Pedro Island

Charlotte County. Now, in addition, a private utility wants to charge for something that is **unwarranted and unmerited**. How we will use a **basic function** without power, as we lose electricity frequently during the numerous Florida summer storms, has yet to be explained.

I implore you to prioritize the interests and well-being of the community and the native species over any potential special interests or ulterior motives. Uphold the integrity of our governance by rejecting Environmental Utilities LLC's application and ensuring that decisions are made in the best interests of the people you represent.

The eyes of the community are upon you, and your actions in this matter will have lasting repercussions. Please stand on the side of integrity, transparency, and the will of the people.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

// John A and Elaine M Baird

John & Elaine Baird

241 Kettle Harbor Drive,

Placida, FL 33946

Charlie Smith

From: Angie Ridings <a.ridings@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:41 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Pat Ridings
Subject: Re: New Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Clerk/Commissioners,

We are truly surprised Environmental Utilities (EU) request has once again been submitted when the prior application was denied in 2022 (Old Document # 20200226-SU). Our objections in regard to EU providing a wastewater service to Little Gasparilla Island have not changed. The conclusions for denial remain the same now as in the original filing.

There has been no evidence provided that supports the need for such service, and no request for such service has been requested or warranted. Nor will it be a request in the future. Little Gasparilla Island is a small private, bridge-less barrier island that we believe falls under the Rural Service Area Classification, which prohibits the county to extend a central sewer service to a bridge-less barrier island. Individual septic systems are already in place. This island is not suited for high-density development.

Again, how does EU plan to use "our" private property and/or easements for their pump stations/waste collection system without cost to them? Our property will just be donated? Access to our private property would be required at all times in order for EU to empty their septic tank. How is installing "their" septic tank and taking out our septic tank any improvement? In addition, their system needs to be connected to each homeowner's electrical service. In Florida, electricity is unavailable quite frequently. Especially on a barrier island, the time it takes to restore electricity can be extensive thereby making the system unusable with the likelihood of a sewer backup. How is that environmentally sound?

The "estimated" cost to homeowners is astronomical. Best guess hook up fee at \$12,000, plus this fee, and that fee and oh yes, that other fee. Not including the wastewater charge and probably a maintenance charge, and I'm sure there is just one more charge to add on. This doesn't even include the water bill that EU currently charges, which is radically high as well. With the recent devastation from Hurricane Ian, many islanders are still engaged in fighting with insurance companies, and many have already paid out large sums to rebuild their homes. Several have just put in new septic systems and others have spent thousands on improvements. This places excessive burden on all the homeowners of LGI.

The owners of EU still have no technical expertise needed to operate a wastewater system on a barrier island, nor have they provided any documentation of qualified professionals who they "may" hire to operate such a system. No health concerns have been identified, nor any water quality issues. IF this were the case why would the County still continue to issue permits for new septic systems on the island?

It makes me ponder, what is the real reason this application is back on the table?
Please consider our concerns. They are the very same as before, nothing has changed.
Best Regards,

> JP Ridings
> pridings1109@gmail.com

> Angela Ridings
> a.ridings@att.net

> On Jan 20, 2022, at 1:01 PM, Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US> wrote:

>
> Good Afternoon, JP Ridings,
>
> We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket 20200226-SU and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

>
> Thank you.

>
> Lisa Smith

>
> Commission Deputy Clerk I
> Office of the Commission Clerk
> Florida Public Service Commission
> 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
> Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
> 850-413-6770

>
> PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your email message may be subject to public disclosure.

>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Angie Ridings <a.ridings@att.net>
> Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 12:46 PM
> To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
> Cc: Pat Ridings <pridings1109@gmail.com>
> Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

>
> Dear Clerk of the Commission,

>
> As an interested party in property located on Little Gasparilla Island, We object to the Application of Certificate by Environmental Utilities (EU) for the proposed central sewer system based on the following:

>
> 1. Environmental Impact. Little Gasparilla is a Barrier Island with no connecting roadways or bridges to the mainland of Florida, you arrive only by boat. There are no commercial facilities, no roadways or retail development on the island, only our modest homes. It is old Florida, not Boca Grande. If a sewer pipeline is installed across the intracoastal waterway, how will a pipe leak in the middle of the waterway be detected? Who will be responsible for cleanup of such an environmental catastrophe? Who will be responsible for maintenance and/or equipment failure of such proposed sewer line? A private company with no employees or experience? To our knowledge, no water testing has been performed to determine the actual need of a sewer line vs. the septic systems currently in place. The waste management system in Florida is already overtaxed. If a central sewer system is installed, how will the mainland system handle additional households from the barrier islands, along with any additional development occurring on the mainland itself? Millions of gallons of raw sewage have been spilled into waterways by damaged lines throughout the State of Florida; therefore, is a sewer pipeline across the waterway the correct solution for our island and the environment?

>
> 2. Financial Stability/Experience of EU. Environmental Utilities (EU) is a "for profit" private company with no financial history and unknown sewer utility management experience regarding environmentally sensitive endeavors such as tying

a sewer line from the mainland to a private barrier island. EU should be required to provide a history of all sewer projects of this magnitude, especially since it involves environmentally sensitive areas including the intracoastal waterway. Do they have such history? No, they do not. In addition, how will EU financially complete this project? What happens when EU runs out of money or goes bankrupt prior to the completed project? Where does that leave the homeowners? Where is our recourse?

>

> 3. Unknown Cost to Homeowners. There are so many unknown/hidden costs to the homeowners with this proposal. An estimated upfront hookup fee of \$15,000-20,000 per homeowner has been rumored regarding the system connection and current septic removal. Since there are no "roads" on the island how will large equipment transverse the island to fill or remove all septic tanks without destroying private property? Who pays for that damage? In addition, no estimated cost of monthly rates, no estimated amount of maintenance costs and no estimated operational costs have been provided. What happens when equipment needs to be replaced in five years due to the nature of island living? Will this be our expense directly or indirectly through rate hikes? Power outages occur frequently on the island, what happens if the system uses a grinder pump? The system will be unable to operate without power, resulting in a sewer back-up. Is that more environmentally friendly than septic? Will homeowners be required to purchase and have generators in place to ensure EU's system is operational during power outages? Will the homeowners pay for the charges to run those generators? In addition, if there is an upfront fee required, there should be other payment options available to homeowners such as payments spread over time. Rates should be fair and equitable, not just to the benefit of a private company who can increase rates whenever they want.

>

> 4. 2017 Sewer Master Plan. If this sewer project is state mandated, why is this environmentally sensitive project being proposed by an unknown inexperienced sewer utility management company (EU) and not handled by the County and/or State of Florida?

>

> 5. Location of Lift Station(s) and Sewer Lines. No map has been provided indicating the location of any lift stations, lines, etc. The island is private; therefore, no easements. Homeowners should be provided with a map(s) of the proposed location of all lift stations, lines, etc. and given ample time to review such plans prior to any approval or commencement. IF this project is approved, EU should be required to pay all homeowners current market value for any and all easements they may require for implementation.

>

> Possible Alternatives:

> 1. Perform a Water Quality Test to determine if such a system is necessary.

> 2. Property owners commit to have current septic systems inspected, and upgraded/improved (if necessary).

> 3. County to initiate, complete and maintain the project vs. a "for profit" private company with no financial history or sewer utility management experience.

>

> As a stakeholder in the proposed service area, it is important to have all of the relevant information regarding the proposed central sewer, including but not limited to, the proposed rates, connection fees, maintenance and operational costs, homeowners recourse, and the type of system intended for installation. We therefore request that EU's request be denied.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> JP Ridings

> pridings1109@gmail.com

> Angela Ridings

> a.ridings@att.net

Charlie Smith

From: Leslie Scaletta <ldscaletta@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 12:58 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Commissioners La Rosa, Clark, Passidomo, Graham, Fay,

I am a 26 year resident of Don Pedro Island. My husband and I worked very hard to afford our very modest dream retirement home. I find my home and my rights as a property owner in dire jeopardy from the proposed private central sewer system.

As a teacher I used analogies to clarify concepts. Please read the following analogy and put yourself in my shoes.

I'm sure you live in a well maintained community as do I. Every dwelling has and needs a roof just as I need to process my sewage and have a functioning septic system. Now you have been put in a situation. A roofing contractor with a proven poor business acumen petitions that he replace all the roofs in your community regardless of necessity, age or condition. You will be required to allow access to your property, replace your roof whether it needs it or not, and to pay whatever this contractor charges. In addition he will be given a contract to charge whatever he pleases for service and maintenance. You ask yourself. Can this possibly be legal? What about my property rights? How will I budget my retirement for this mandatory replacement and blank check service and maintenance proposal? REALLY? How could my elected officials even consider this?

PUT YOURSELF IN MY SHOES. Would you be happy if it was your property rights being given away to a private contractor's greed?

PLEASE DENY THIS PETITION.

Respectfully,
Leslie Scaletta
184 N. Gulf Blvd
Don Pedro Island
ldscaletta@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad