

Yvette Gillespie

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:34 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032
Attachments: New Docket #20240032-SU ; Palm Island - Request for Wastewater Service; Request for Wastewater Service

Good Morning:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Art Graham
Florida Public Service Commission
bleland@psc.state.fl.us
(850) 413-6024

Yvette Gillespie

From: shannon ridings <sridings10@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 6:00 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: New Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk/Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you AGAIN deny the request by Environmental Utilities to provide wastewater services to Little Gasparilla Island. There has been no demand for this type of service, nor any indication such service is warranted. There have been no health concerns identified, nor any water quality issues. If this were an issue, then why does the County still issue permits for new septic systems on the island? So it makes me wonder what has changed since the first denial?

Concerns:

1. Our properly maintained septic system is still more appropriate than the proposed system, which requires EU to remove or abandon our septic tank to install their septic tank. How is that a better solution? Several homeowners have just put in new septic systems and others have spent thousands on improvements. In addition, EU's system needs to be connected to each homeowner's electrical service, on a separate electric panel at the cost of homeowners. The system will also require the installation of a pump at each homeowner's expense. During power outages, which occurs frequently, each homeowner would also need to have a backup generator installed in order to prevent a sewage backup. Again, this responsibility and expense would fall upon the homeowner, not Jack Boyer. Being on a "bridge-less" island it takes several hours and sometimes even days for the electricity to be restored to the island. Several of the homeowners do not live on the island full time to monitor this, therefore, this system is a horrible idea and would be a disaster. In addition, this type of system costs considerably more to maintain and operate. Not to mention the initial "estimated" cost to homeowners of \$12,000-\$15,000 is astronomical. Then there's a base facility charge, and a monthly charge, and a connection charge and so many unknown charges. A true cost has not been provided by EU, all is speculation. What recourse does the homeowners have in case of failure? These "estimated" fees don't even include the water bill that EU currently charges, which is radically much higher than the water costs on the mainland. Very apparent it's now all about making money.
2. Also of concern is the question of possible easements to our personal property for EU's proposed system. In Mr. Boyer's presentation he requests that our private property be given to him at "no cost". There has been no discussion of access, or how much property is required or negotiations with homeowners to obtain any reasonable compensation, or how future easements would be granted. The majority of the island is not occupied by full time residents or renters. There are no bridges to the island, nor any real roads. The island is transversed mainly by golf carts, or on foot via sand paths. Basically the entire island is land locked and not suitable for high density development.
3. EU is a private, "for profit" company with no financial history or technical expertise needed to operate a wastewater system on a barrier island, nor have they provided any documentation of any qualified professionals. EU should be required to provide a history of all sewer projects of this magnitude, especially since it involves environmentally sensitive areas, but they cannot. Isn't that a red flag? How will the system be

serviced in the event of a disaster or an emergency? If the County has changed its mind and now desires the barrier islands to implement a wastewater system then why doesn't the County do it themselves?

4. The environmental impact of this proposal is extremely high not only due to the septic issues that will surely arise due to electrical issues but to the environmental disruption of habitat and endangered species on the island itself.

This is my formal objection to the wastewater proposal by EU. I request that PSC again deny EU's certificate for wastewater services and also deny any future requests without us all being required to address this over and over.

Shannon Ridings
sridings10@gmail.com
LGI Dock 21

Yvette Gillespie

From: Chad Durrance <chad@durranceappraisals.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 5:48 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Palm Island - Request for Wastewater Service

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Commisioner Graham-

I have been a property owner on Palm Island for over 20 years, first having lived in Palm Island resort and I am currently building a home at 461 North Gulf Boulevard. I would very respectfully request that you vote in favor of centralized wastewater service for the entirety of the island for a number of reasons.

1. I am in the process of building a home and in probably about 12 months will be spending a little over \$20,000 for a septic tank and drainfield system that most government agencies and scientific bodies would tell you is not as beneficial to the environment as a centralized waste water system. So not only is it better financially for my particular situation, but as with everybody else it is overall better for the water quality surrounding the island. I realize there are some folks that have recently built a house and therefore recently spent money to install a new septic and drain field and they are against centralized sewer simply because of the cost. I understand their position and am I sympathetic, but I will let them write their own letter to the council and plead their case.
2. A raised drainfield and septic system takes up about a third or more of my lot area outside of my home footprint. With centralized sewer I could be using that area for a lot more productive uses by freeing up the space.

As with most communities, persons on the island see issues through different sets of lenses and from different perspectives. I respect everyone's opinion and position that writes to this commission but wanted to let you know there are long time property and homeowners on the island that would like to see a centralized wastewater system. Thank you for your consideration.

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Yvette Gillespie

From: jack murray <jkmurrayiii@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 5:44 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Request for Wastewater Service

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Hello-

I own Lot 28 on Palm Island and would appreciate it if you would support the extension of wastewater services to the Island. I am in the process of building a home there and based on the amount of money I am investing there, as well as the amount of taxes I pay there, I feel this is an appropriate request. These services will greatly enhance the community in a number of ways. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Jack Murray

Jack Murray III
Partner, Murray – Bertron, LLC

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