

**Antonia Hover**

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**From:** Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 3:21 PM  
**To:** 'mlube1'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good Afternoon, Matthew Lube.

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

Thank you!

*Toni Hover*  
Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone: (850) 413-6467

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**From:** mlube1 <mlube3203@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 1:18 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>  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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4/15/2024

Dear Public Service Commission:

I recently received legal notice in the mail from Environmental Utilities, LLC alerting me to their application to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the installation of central sewer on Palm Island, where I own a home.

I vehemently oppose this for the following reasons:

- 1) I did NOT request this service, nor did the majority, if not all of the homeowners on the island, and I do not feel there is a proven need for central sewer service on our island. We have a septic system that works well and has never given us any issues. It is properly maintained and routinely inspected.
- 2) There would be a significant environmental impact and threat, with the potential destruction to endangered species that make our island their home (example: gopher tortoises).
- 3) Providing such infrastructure and utilities to our currently Rural Service area could attract high-density urban development to our unique Island and ruin it forever.
- 4) COST: In an area with significant property taxes, high utility costs (water) and escalating wind and flood insurance rates - installation, hook up, new tank and pump installation / current tank removal, landscaping and lifelong monthly costs (that are not insignificant) of this utility would just add to monthly living expenses, almost nearing the breaking point to many who already own their homes outright and no longer work and are retired. Not to mention that many of our island residents have had significant damage to their homes during Hurricane Ian are still fighting insurance companies – and will be paying for these damages / deductibles and other uncovered costs for years to come.
- 5) The potential difficulties in operation of the proposed system during storms and lengthy power outages that frequently come during not only major but even more minor storms, that would affect the operation of the proposed system.
- 6) We are still rebuilding our beautiful Island from a horrible storm a year and a half ago. This has been a monumental effort on everyone's part to say the least. I could not even imagine the time (likely years) and destruction to our beautiful island and its habitat that would be involved by installing an Island wide central sewer system – to not only the roads but to the individual properties themselves and the lush vegetation that surrounds them. THIS CANNOT BE OVERSTATED.
- 7) \*\*\* Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of all of this, is that EU is a private, for profit organization that has absolutely no stake in this whatsoever (other than profit). We have not asked for this, and the private operator in charge is not an island resident, and has never owned a wastewater utility company before. More so, this individual, to put it nicely, does not have a very good reputation when it comes to providing utility services to bridgeless barrier islands. \*\*\*

For the reasons outlined above, I ask the PSC to deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Sincerely,

Matthew Wilbur Lube  
290 Kettle Harbor Drive  
Placida FL 33946

(Don Pedro Island)

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