

**Antonia Hover**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 4:31 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU - Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.; Docket #20240032-SU ; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket# 20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Re: Docket 20240032-SU Please Oppose EU's filing for Waste Water Servicesfor LGI & Palm Island!; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket#20240032-SU ; Docket #20240032-Su; Re: Docket No. 20240032-SU Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.; Objection to Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket # 20240032-SU (PLEASE SEND CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT); Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Environmental Utilities Request Wastewater Sewage Installation RE Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE:Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Re: New Docket#20340032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032

Thanks

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Josh Jaquish <joshjaquish@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 3:45 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; Josh Jaquish  
**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.

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

My name is Josh Jaquish and I own 9378 Little Gasparilla Island, which is within the proposed sewer service area for Little Gasparilla Island. **I am formally objecting to the sewer proposal and request that the PSC deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) for a central sewer system for Little Gasparilla Island.**

There is little doubt in my mind that proceeding with this particular party EU for providing private central sewer is the wrong move for Little Gasparilla Island. EU does not have the technical expertise to properly construct, operate and maintain a sewer system. Allowing EU to move forward with a central sewer system will result in situations that will be more damaging to the environment. While a central sewer system has its merits for improving the environment in the future, selecting the appropriate party and technology is essential for success of the project. From the information presented, EU is proposing a low pressure sewer system, that will only remove the clear water from the tank and leave the solids behind, similar to a septic tank. There are very few letters of support compared to the long list of homeowners that do NOT support this project. The support letters provided from Little Gasparilla Island residents mention times of flooding with sewage on the island. The currently proposed sewer system will cost millions of dollars to construct and will not change the situation in times of flooding having solids from inground sewage tanks overflowing on the island. Many current septic to sewer conversions are installed across the State of Florida using small grinder pump stations at the home to transport the solids and water from the home to the treatment facility. A sewage grinder pump station would provide more effective design and provide better environmental benefits to have a central sewer system that removed all of the wastewater to be treated.

We are currently customers of Little Gasparilla Water Utility, which is owned and operated by the same parties that are applying as Environmental Utilities, LLC. The owners have minimal experience operating a water system and no experience operating a wastewater system. The water system on Little Gasparilla Island is constructed poorly and not operated responsibly by these parties. The owners of the water system do not respect owners property rights and place water lines wherever they want without proper communication with the homeowner nor obtaining proper easements for their water lines. While the project to bring sewer services to the island has merit, Environmental Utilities is not the appropriate party to complete a project of this nature. Part of EU's proposal for the central sewer system is "claiming ownership" of a utility easement on private property without compensating the homeowner. Charlotte County should continue to seek other experienced parties to provide sewer service to Little Gasparilla Island or pursue funding to extend County sewer service to our residents. Septic to Sewer conversion projects are being successfully completed across the State of Florida. Converting these barrier islands to a central sewer system would be a strong potential project for Charlotte County to propose for infrastructure grants and funding. Millions of dollars are going to be available for these types of projects in the coming years, which would reduce the financial burden for connection charges for the residents of Little Gasparilla Island.

The costs of owning a home on Little Gasparilla Island have increased dramatically over the last 4 years since EUs first petition to provide sewer. With the devastation from Ian, many homeowners have significant repairs or complete rebuilds

of their homes. Construction prices have tripled in the last 2 years to get any work done on our home, no matter how small or big the project is. We continue to experience rising costs in every aspect of home ownership on Little Gasparilla Island. The insurance and property taxes alone have increased dramatically. This is NOT the time for an additional expense for the homeowners of Little Gasparilla Island, especially when the proposed project will not offer environmental benefits as currently proposed.

The proposed connection charges for the sewer system are listed from \$11,000 to \$20,000 and it does not appear the pricing provided for connection has changed since the 2020 petition to provide sewer service. Today a typical septic to sewer project is costing utilities between \$30,000 to \$40,000 per property to provide sewer service. It does not appear he has updated the construction costs for this project nor reflected that in his connection charges submitted. Many utilities performing septic-to-sewer conversions are doing so with grant funding and SRF loans to lessen the burden on the homeowner. Because EU is a private utility, they are not able to access any of the infrastructure funding being provided in the state of Florida. This area is currently designated in the Charlotte County Utility District and should stay that way to allow for funding dollars to assist with installation of a central sewer system.

On top of the significant connection charges, the proposed monthly sewer charges are VERY high compared to other utility rates. For the residents of Little Gasparilla Island, we already pay high monthly rates for the water system to the same entity. I currently pay \$83 per month as the base meter facility charge then the water usage is added on top of that fee. Adding the proposed monthly sewer charges would bring the monthly water and sewer charges to over \$250 a month which is a much higher than the monthly charge for water and sewer compared to other local utilities.

Mr. Boyer, the owner of Environmental Utilities, has been very vocal as a resident on Little Gasparilla Island that he has no intentions of completing this project, nor does he care about improving the environment on our island, he is solely making the petition to be granted the sewer service rights then sell them for his own financial gain. He has told other island residents that he is "locking in his retirement" expecting to make millions and retire. I personally want someone who cares about the future of our island to be involved in such an important public health and safety project for Charlotte County and Little Gasparilla Island. The residents and property owners in Charlotte County deserve fair and equitable rates and monthly charges for sewer service, not to be a private individual's retirement plan.

**In conclusion, due to the lack of technical expertise of the applicant, lack of respect for homeowner property rights of the applicant, and inability to provide fair and equitable rates, I formally request that Environmental Utilities, LLC Application to provide sewer service to Little Gasparilla Island be denied.**

Sincerely,

Josh Jaquish

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Jennifer McCullough <rummysway@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 3:38 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Cc:** mfriedman@deanmead.com  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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Hello,

I am a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island and I live here full time in order to care for my 95 year old parents. My husband, Orgain, lives in Colorado but visits often.

I'm writing to you today to formally request that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities' application for wastewater service.

I have the following concerns:

1. I am an extremely environmentally conscientious person and realize that sewer hookup is absolutely the best thing that could happen for the island environment. I do have a concern about putting EU in charge of the effort. The system that would need to be put in place would have to be absolutely perfect or there could be a catastrophe on our hands. I would be more onboard if county or state true professionals were in charge.
2. Mr. Boyer currently charges island residents one of the highest rates in the state for use of the water system he forced us all to hook up to. I have a very real and deep concern as to what my personal cost will be if forced to convert from septic to a sewer system managed by Mr. Boyer. I live on a very limited budget and my full time job is taking care of my 95 year old parents who first arrived on the island in 1968 and who still live here (Charles NeSmith - 8078 Grand Ave.). I would not only be responsible for replacing my septic system but my parents as well. That means double the initial and ongoing costs which is quite considerable.
3. Another major concern I have is if/when power on the island goes out for an extended period of time. This could be an absolute disaster for the environment! This reason alone should be enough to warrant waiting until a truly perfect solution can be put into place.
4. There is lush and beautiful landscaping all around my septic field and the thought of the destruction entailed if this effort gets approved is very upsetting.
5. I understand there is not a 'pay-over-time' option which would mean taking out loans that I cannot afford in order to pay for the new system(s).
6. The fact that there is no grandfathering of septic systems that are working perfectly and have been working perfectly is another concern.
7. The fact that there would be no one overseeing the project is yet another major concern. What options would we have in the event of significant issues arising?
8. What happens if we become completely reliant on this system and a tornado or other catastrophic event causes the system to be destroyed or incapacitated in an extended way?

9. I also have a real fear of running massive amounts of sewage across the bay. What if there is a leak or rupture? I can't even imagine how horrible the impact would be.
10. I'm also very concerned that if LGI has a sewer system, then the next step will be for large development efforts to get underway. LGI is an extremely special and fragile environment and must be protected.
11. Loss of habitat is already running rampant on the mainland. I'm asking you to please, from the most sincerest aspect of my soul, keep the island protected. Send an army out, if you want, to ensure that all of the septic systems are working perfectly but please do not let this wastewater goal of EU gain traction.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer & Orgain McCullough

8046 Grand Ave.  
Dock # 3  
Little Gasparilla Island  
Placida, FL 33946

303-809-0493  
RummysWay@gmail.com

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Naval Architect <naval\_architect@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 1:58 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU - Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.  
**Attachments:** Comer-Franklin Letter Docket #20240032.pdf

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Commissioners – Please find our input regarding the subject matter attached. Best Regards

*Joe Comer*  
251-709-0799

Joseph H Comer III  
Marsha L Franklin  
8934 Gulf St.  
Placida, FL 33946  
(Mailing address PO Box 422, 33946)

23 April 2024

Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumand Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Via email - Clerk@psc.state.fl.us, Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us,  
Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us, Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us,  
Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us, Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us

Subject: **Docket #20240032-SU** - Application for certificate to provide wastewater service  
in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

Dear Commissioner.LaRosa, Commissioner.Clark, Commissioner.Passidomo,  
Commissioner.Fay and Commissioner.Graham:

We are new owners to Little Gasparilla Island this year and have recently heard of the subject proposal that seems un-necessary and a system not widely used or proven. Please consider the following:

#### Environmental

There has been no study in our area that proves the need for a new system. A low pressure system, not being a central system that handles both liquid and solids would be a major destruction to the habitat and the endangered residence of the gopher tortoise.

What would be the impact of the removal of all the drain field mounds? There will be significant damage to public and private landscape and hardscape in the removal of old systems and the installation of the proposed new LPS system.

#### Sewer Spill

Our current septic system permitted #SW 85-264E on 7/17/1985 was inspected before we purchased the house this year and found to be in very good operating condition only needing a 'pump out' for which was immediately scheduled. To this day, this has not been accomplished because of the limited capacity of the 'honey wagon'. As we understand the proposed LPS system, this problem of timely pump-out capability would still exist. The cost and the delay for every day maintenance would not improve.

Walking the island, there is no noticeable sewage odor, not like when passing some public systems ashore. Even with heavy rains there are no spills which regularly occur at public systems.

Power outages are experienced often on Little Gasparilla Island especially during storms and hurricanes which occurred for a long period of time during Hurricane Ian. This will require homeowners to install emergency generators or incur the hardship and cost of living off island until the situation is resolved.

#### Mandatory Hook-up

Current Charlotte County regulations require homes to connect to central water and wastewater within one (1) year of availability and would assume this would apply to the proposed LPS system for which there would be enormous homeowner costs for installation. Most properties only have room for their current septic system, so the old system would have to be removed and the proposed system installed leaving the homeowner without service for some long period of time. If the existing tank were to be used, few properties would meet the ten (10) foot radius around the manhole.

#### Easements

Normal utility easements occur in public roadways, however on Little Gasparilla Island many roadways are private pathways, sand and one lane wide. Many homes do not front on these pathways and often septic systems are at the rear of the property so the LPS will have to cross private property with no regard for homeowner rights. There will be a cost to litigate these easements.

#### Transportation

Little Gasparilla Island is only accessible by boat. And we like it that way! However, a major construction project like this would take years to complete. Using Hurricane Ian two (2) years ago as an example, re-construction is still underway with some project completions not in sight. Construction equipment, material, labor would all have to come over by boat/barge. Not something most would look forward to after recent experiences.

It appears a new sewer system of any kind is not needed on Little Gasparilla Island. The subject proposed LPS system would have an associated exorbitant cost to homeowners as well as the operator and would translate into a high monthly homeowner utility costs. There is no apparent benefit to the subject proposed LPS system or any 'new' system.

We request that you vote to reject the subject application and do the same on any future similar ideas.

Sincerely



Joseph H Comer III  
Marsha L Franklin



## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Lynn Provost <lynn@thedockdoctors.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 1:53 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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

Property Owner on Don Pedro Island, 121 Bocilla Dr.  
Jeffrey & Lynn Provost  
Mailing: 8725 Placida Rd. Suite 7-510  
Placida FL 33946  
941-662-8701

We are writing to formally request PSC to deny the Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service. Please consider the following:

- There has not been an official study with comprehensive data to illustrate the need for this.
- Being that we live on a bridge less, barrier island, after a catastrophic event like Hurricane Ian, we were the last to receive power reconnection after the storm. Had this type of sewer system been in place at that time, it would have not been functional without electricity hence homeowners would not have been able to return home for an extended period of time. The traditional gravity fed systems that are in place on the island can still function without the necessity of power.
- If Charlotte Counties reasoning for allowing this application to be considered is truly for environmental purposes they should consider a completely different type of system such as the Advantex Wastewater Treatment Systems. We have attached a link to their web site for your information. <https://www.orenco.com/products/treatment-systems> Advantex is a very environmentally sound product and is ideal for small sites and environmentally sensitive areas. These units are dependable, proven technology for treating residential septic tank effluent to better-than-secondary standards, including nitrogen-reduction. I (Jeff) have personally been involved with the installation of several of these systems with my business and personal residences in Vermont where the soils are very poor and environmental guidelines are extremely restrictive. This type of system could be incorporated for new construction projects and replacement systems to make the change over time.
- There definitely should be some scrutiny on the fact of conflict of interest between our County Commissioner, Bill Truex being personal friends with the applicant, Jack Boyer.
- I (Jeff) have had communications with Jack Boyer during his prior application process for this same purpose. It is very clear that he does not have the desire or the structure in place to perform the project. His goal is simply to obtain the rights to do the project and then set his price to sell the rights to the highest bidder.
- The situation has gotten worse since Hurricane Ian with regard to the financial impact of rising insurance and inflation of property taxes over the past several years. If the County is requiring a sewage treatment system be put in place, they should assume some of the obligation versus putting the entire burden on the property owners and ridding themselves of a project of this magnitude.

Thank you for consideration and reviewing our concerns and thoughts on this application.  
Regards,  
Jeff & Lynn Provost

Sent from my iPad

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Olga Kroslak <gogjoe76@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 1:43 PM  
**Cc:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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My name is Joseph Kroslak. My wife and I own two properties on Little Gasparilla Island, located at 9424 and 9426 Rum Runner Rd.

We are formally requesting that the PSC DENY EU'S APPLICATION FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE.

We are appealing to you with due respect because we feel that it is your responsibility as public servants to protect the interest of the taxpayers and homeowners, and not that of private enterprise.

Here a few reasons why we are against this service:

1. There is no evidence that supports a NEED for this service. The vast majority of existing septic systems that homeowners have are functional when maintained properly.
2. ENVIRONMENTALLY, this project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species
3. We feel it is unfair that we will be forced to give up our private property rights for free. According to 14.0, "the Customer shall grant or cause to be granted to the Company, and without cost to the Company, all rights, easements, permits, and privileges which are necessary for the rendering of wastewater service.
4. The COST of central sewer is very high and certainly comes at a very bad time for islanders. Many of us are still dealing with the many after-effects of Hurricane Ian and have had to lay out large sums of money for rebuilding, etc. Please don't saddle the homeowners with additional financial burdens.
5. Included in the above point is the need for a separate electric panel, a generator, tree removal around the septic area, etc, which all comes at the homeowner's expense.
6. The experience and ability of EU is certainly questionable as it is not a major operator with solid infrastructure support behind them.
7. We love our beautiful island just the way it is, including the privacy we have. Providing utilities to our island will draw more development and more population.

Once again, PLEASE, consider our request for denying central sewer service to our island!

We thank you for your consideration.

Joseph and Debby Kroslak

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Yasteio x <djdorita@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 1:24 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; commissioner.Clar@psc.state.fl.us; commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Fred Burrow  
**Subject:** Docket# 20240032-SU

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Fred and Dorianne Burrow  
Property owner at  
8686 Grand Ave  
Placida FL, 33946  
Little Gasparilla Island

Fl state licensed plumbers  
CFC1426792  
CFC1427775

My name is Fred Burrow and I own 8686 Grand Ave. on Little Gasparilla Island, which is within the proposed sewer service area. I am formally objecting to the sewer proposal and request that PSC deny the application for original certificate of authorization for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) for a central sewer system for Little Gasparilla Island.

I am a state certified Master Plumber #CFC1426792 and I have owned Swift Plumbers for 24 years. Since the purchase of my home in 2020 I have become the plumber who does a vast majority of the work on Little Gasparilla Island.

Similar to the water service installation me and my company will likely have a great financial gain second only to Environmental Utilities, LLC, should proposed sewer application be approved.

I set aside any potential financial gain because a low pressure system will have a limited benefit to our islands environment and its homeowners with extreme financial ramifications to all of my fellow homeowners except me.

Low pressure sewer system is also called a low pressure SEPTIC system. You still have a septic tank so all that would be eliminated are the drain fields. The benefit to the LPS is for it to be used in an area where the soil or water table is not suitable for a conventional drain field.

All soil and water table issues have been already solved by raised drain fields. A majority of the homes on Little Gasparilla Island have raised drain fields with a grinder pump that sends the waste water to the raised drain field. Over the past 4 years on Little Gasparilla Island we have endured multiple hurricanes and several floods and a vast majority of the septic systems were not affected.

If it were the Florida Department of environmental protection pushing this due to proven contamination on the aquifer that would be a different story. If the owners had solid proof from an independent unbiased source that eliminating drain fields would protect our island in a substantial way, I am sure everyone would be on board despite any financial ramifications. From what I can tell that is not what is happening. What is happening is one company with major financial benefit to this system going in is pushing their agenda. No one else.

Monopolizing a solution to an issue we don't even know exists, will benefit only Environmental Utilities, LLC. Nothing comes close to a gravity fed sewer system and this system would replace issues with new issues. Over the years doing plumbing I have see the alarming number of issues Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) has with current low pressure septic systems that they maintain. If this is ran the way CCU does their LPS, Environmental Utilities will be responsible for every pump and pit on the island. The power goes out on the island frequently. Do they have the manpower to handle the workload of all the issues that arise? The LPS demanding needs to be considerably more that the water service they currently provide. So if approved what we can expect is the pump to fail when electric goes out and the pumps not to work and the septic tanks getting overwhelmed. Sewer will then be all over the island because most of the houses are on stilts and unlike the mainland where it comes up your shower or bubbles the toilet, the now pressurized sewer will be coming out the smallest compromised pipes of mostly older pipe systems. One could argue approval may lead to an environmental nightmare.

In closing I am begging you NOT to approve a money grab. We have a responsibility to be thoughtful and careful.

Fred Burrow  
941-626-0420  
burrow24@icloud.com

Dorianne Burrow  
941-223-6307  
djdorita@hotmail.com

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** jim luscombe <jbluscombe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 12:04 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**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 Commissioners

My name is Jim Luscombe and I own and reside full time at 420 Bocilla Drive on Don Pedro Island with Kris Doubles. Our family home was built in the late 70's and we have been full time residents for 8 years. We live within the service district for the central sewer system being proposed by Environmental Utilities (EU). I request that you DENY EU's Application for Original Certificate or Authorization for the following reasons.

1: **Need:** For over a decade, our home owners association have been testing the waters surrounding our island. Hundreds of tests later, we have never been able to find any contaminated waters. E coli counts obtained over the past decade would indicate we do not have a problem. Spending 10's of millions of dollars to correct our water quality with a sewer system seems almost ridiculous. Charlotte county, Lee county and Sarasota county have all been in the news over the past year ( as recently as last week) BECAUSE OF SEWAGE SYSTEM FAILURES. Pumps fail, lift stations fail. Various reports ranging from 10,000 gallons to will over 100,000 gallons of raw sewage going into our waterways because of the same system being proposed.

If the County truly believed the logic of the applicants need assessment, the county would not be granting new permits on our islands for septic systems. This is not the case. Had the proposed system been in place post Hurricane Ian, this island would have been literally be swimming in SH+T. With no power, the proposed system fills and overflows. Septic tanks work 24/7. The only way you can justify moving ahead with this project based on NEED is for financial gain. Need has NOT been established. Studies have not been completed and the engineering lacking.  
**NEED.....NOT GREED**

2: **Technical Expertise:** I know and respect the applicant HOWEVER, he has no experience in wastewater management and has never completed a project of this magnitude. I spoke with him last year and he made it clear that he feels strongly that the best option for all involved is for the COUNTY to take it over. Another island resident had a meeting with the applicant and at that meeting the applicant advised that he had no intention of actually doing the project. There can be NO justification for moving ahead with this project based on Technical Expertise.

3: **Fair and Equitable Rates & Charges:** We the residents, have yet to be informed of the total actual costs. Hookup fees have been quoted from 10K to 20K. Unfortunately, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Our existing septic's have to be decommissioned. Many homes will require an electric upgrade to power the pumps: No estimate

Our lots will be torn up from the street to the house to lay the line and tankage. Cost of replacing landscaping: No estimate.

What will each resident be paid for the easement needed for them to do this: No estimate.

The best one is the ongoing cost. We will now have to pay an estimated \$200 plus monthly for wastewater. The average in the state of Florida is currently is published at \$61.24 for water and wastewater, excluding utility taxes.

With an average water bill of \$120 and an additional \$250 for wastewater for 4000 gallons, this easily makes our utility costs on Palm Island at **SIX TIMES THE STATE AVERAGE!** The applicant has stated that he will apply for the maximum increase allowed each year. The only way you can justify moving ahead with this project based on Fair and Equitable Rates & Charges is for financial gain. Period.

There can be NO justification for moving ahead with this project based on Fair and Equitable Rates and Charges.

Another area of HUGE CONCERN , is the damage to our fragile environment. We are home to a challenged gopher tortoise population. Has a study been done to determine the risk to this protected population?

**Collateral Damage:** Our island has a thriving vacation rental market. Tearing up our landscape for a few years will ultimately cost businesses and owners millions of dollars in lost revenue. After a pandemic and Hurricane Ian, this is the last thing we need as a community.

After all is said and done under the proposed program, our waste will be transported to Rotonda where it is treated. The gray water containing high levels of nutrients and Nitrogen will then be diverted to “Fertilizer Water” used by local golf courses, to ultimately end up in the water table and back into our rivers and coastal waters. This solves nothing.

**Sarasota has recently indicated that they should STOP hooking up septic systems to sewers UNTIL that have advanced waste water treatment systems in place. Advanced systems are designed to eliminate the nutrient waters that get recycled. This is a much more logical place for the County to start. Make Rotonda and advanced waste water treatment plant.**

The process we are going through seems and feels totally wrong. There is no engineering study, there is no need and there are no precise costs to the owners being presented.

As a non-engineer but a concerned resident, this feels like a total sham and does not at any level pass the smell test.

**Please make the right decision that is not based on a high profit permit to one individual, but on the best long term solution to our island that meets our needs now and in the future, has minimum environmental impact and is affordable to all.**

Regards

Jim Luscombe and Kris Doubles

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim", with a horizontal line above and below the name.

**Jim Luscombe**

Email: [jim@palmislandstays.com](mailto:jim@palmislandstays.com)

Cell: 727-515-0274

**[www.palmislandstays.com](http://www.palmislandstays.com)**



## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Stacy <billing2@respitekmedical.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 8:52 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  
**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.

Dear Commissioners: LaRosa, Graham, Passidomo, Clark, and Fay,

I live on Don Pedro Island in Charlotte County. My address is 190 Bocilla Drive. I also own lot #8 across from the county owned fire department. My family moved here 28 years ago. I built my home along with an approved septic system. Since 1996 I have experienced no problem with my septic tank or drain field. The pump has been pumped and inspected and works fine.

I oppose a private for mega profit company requesting to put in public sewer. Don Pedro/ Palm Island is relatively rural and has virtually zero commercial usages. The existing septic systems have and will continue to work fine, as they have since they were invented.

The costs expected to be charged by Environmental Utilities are not only exorbitant but totally unnecessary. Please respect our opinions as taxpayers. Should Charlotte County decide to add utilities, as a non-profit entity, I would consider this over a profit mongering group.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Anzulewicz & Family

190 Bocilla Drive

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Penelope Jahna <pjahna7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 8:33 AM  
**To:** mfriedman@deanmead.com; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Records Clerk  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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This letter is a formal request to reject the proposed sewer system for Little Gasparilla Island on the following grounds:

- this bridgeless, barrier island is only accessible by boat thus development is limited and does not create a volume sufficient to make this project feasible
- as the island is only accessible by boat or barge the logistics of installing this system make it financially excessive to homeowners
- the low pressure system proposed will not improve issues that arise when the island gets flooded (a sewage grinder pump would provide better environmental benefits)
- EU, the private company proposing this system, has shown no evidence that they have the technical expertise to properly construct or maintain this system
- if septic to sewer conversion is required, Charlotte County should be the entity to pursue the endeavor as they may be eligible for infrastructure grants and funding, which would reduce the financial burden the proposed plan will have on Little Gasparilla residents

This is a formal request that Environmental Utilities, LLC application to provide sewer service to Little Gasparilla Island be denied.

Sincerely,  
Farris & Penelope Jahna  
LGI property owners  
9710 Little Gasparilla Island and  
9686 Privateer Rd, LGI

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Roy & Wendy Petteway <oranges@embarqmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 6:34 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032

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I have photographs you may be interested to see concerning the water utility service provided by the Petitioner, Environmental Utilities, LLC. Before Hurricane Ian we had a fire hydrant in the back of our home at 9744 Little Gasparilla Island. During the cleanup of storm debris, heavy equipment broke the fire hydrant and as you can see from recent photos, it has never been replaced. They are aware of this as they capped off the pipe and left it. This is an example of the haphazard service provided by Environmental Utilities, LLC and leaves the homeowners on the south end of LGI by our home with no fire protection.

Wendy Petteway  
9744 Little Gasparilla Island  
Placida, FL



6:13 AM Tue Apr 23



March 13  
2:13 PM

Edit



94%



6:13 AM Tue Apr 23



LIVE



March 27  
11:05 AM



Edit



## Antonia Hover

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**From:** leerobertsdpt@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 10:39 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

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Dear Public Service Commissioners:

My name is Lee Roberts and I, along with my family, own a home at 8302 Little Gasparilla Island. I write this letter in opposition to the central sewer system proposed by Jack Boyer via Environmental Utilities (EU). I ask the Public Service Commission (PSC) to deny EU's application for wastewater service. It is appalling to me that the citizens in my area are being subjected to this request again after it was rejected by the PSC when it was last brought up less than two years ago.

My opposition is based on many issues. My family has owned our residence since 1985. We greatly enjoy the "old Florida" feel of the island. Unfortunately, Jack Boyer has tried to edge out that feel in preference to his desire to monetarily benefit from the citizens on the island. Several years ago, Mr. Boyer was able to convince the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners to change their own planning document, Charlotte 2050 Comprehensive Plan (Charlotte 2050), for future safe growth in the county in favor of Mr. Boyer and Gasparilla Water Utility. After that decision, the PSC awarded Mr. Boyer the highest water meter (base) rates in the entire state of Florida by almost double the nearest rate for another utility. Public counsel at that time advised against doing this.

We are now forced to work with EU again trying to put in a sewer system on the island. Mr. Boyer has never installed a sewer system and based on his previous installment issues with water, I am very concerned. As I stated in previous letters, Mr. Boyer seems to believe that he has "eminent domain" to go wherever he wants in installing his systems. His lack of trust from many on the island is of grave concern with regards to his intentions. From the aforementioned Charlotte 2050 plan, I refer you to several areas which should preclude consideration for this proposed sewer system. In the subsection referring to Coastal Services Planning, **CST Policy 1.1.3: Protection of Coastal Planning Area** states that "The County shall not approve projects that adversely impact the social, economic, or environmental productivity, integrity, or values of natural resources in the CPA" (Coastal Planning Area). In the second section of this planning is **CST Policy 1.2.3: Barrier Island Protection** which states that "The County shall require that all construction activities on or off the shore of the barrier islands shall not detrimentally impact the barrier island system and shall support local and State regulations pertaining to construction seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL). And in the fifth section of that area of the plan is **CST Policy 1.5.1: Coastal Construction** which states that "All construction activity is prohibited seaward of the CCCL except as permitted by the FDEP under Beach and Shore Preservation, Chapter 161, F.S." Many homes are seaward of the CCCL and could not be served by a sewer project nor a water system.

Moving forward to the section on Future Land Use, you will find numerous other policies that preclude central sewer installation on the island. The explanation for subsection three denotes that "To protect the existing rural character of those areas of the County within the Rural Service Area (FLUM Series

Map #3) and thereby ensure this lifestyle is preserved for existing residents and remains available to future generations.” On FLUM Series Map #3, Little Gasparilla Island is designated as a Rural Service Area. This policy is further strengthened in **FLU Policy 3.2.4: Limitation on the Extension of Urban Infrastructure** where it clearly states “Infrastructure such as water and sewer utilities and stormwater facilities within the Rural Service Area shall reflect a rural level of service and shall not be modified to the point that it allows for urban development. The County shall prohibit the provision of water and sewer infrastructure within the Rural Service Area and shall: 1. Continue to rely primarily upon individual on-site wells as the method of providing potable water to the residents and other occupants; 2. Continue to rely primarily upon individual on-site septic systems as the method of disposal of wastewater; 3. Require that new development shall not be designed nor constructed with centralized potable water or sanitary sewer systems with the following exceptions: a. Rural Community Mixed Use community; or b. It is clearly and convincingly demonstrated by the proponents of the system expansion that a health problem exists in a built but unserved area for which there is no other feasible solution. 4. Not require developments to connect to any central potable water or sanitary sewer services if these services are extended into the area except in those situations listed in 3. above.” My question is why would the PSC even consider this proposal when land use policy for Charlotte County is already in place stating that it will not be allowed. If “residents” or “owners of property” on the island come forward in favor of this request, I would suggest that the PSC mail each of those persons at their home addresses to verify their support thereby ensuring integrity for any requests. Please examine document 01108-2024.pdf and you will see that many of the letters asking for sewer installation are not home/land owners on Little Gasparilla Island and I have verified this by looking them up on the Property Appraiser’s website. I have spoken to no one who is in favor of this proposal.

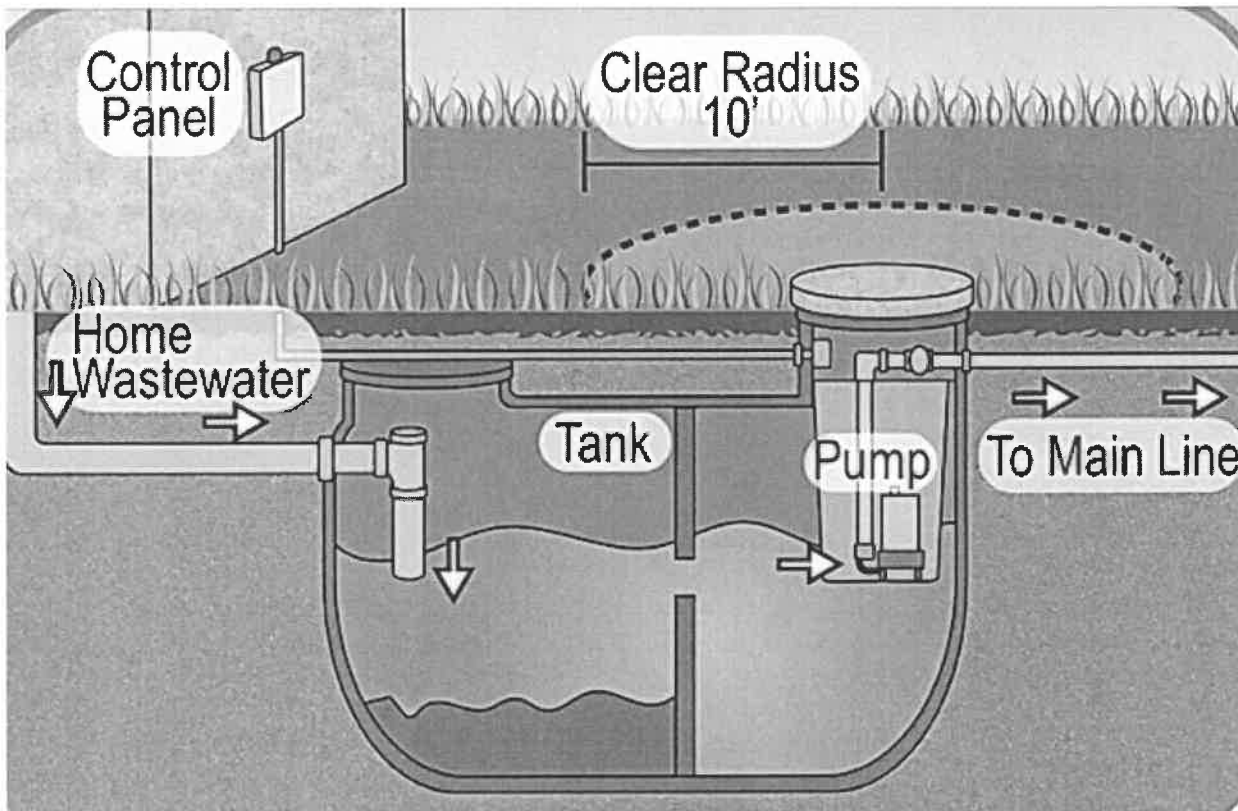
I question the need for the proposed service as well. Mr. Boyer has previously suggested that the Charlotte Harbor “could” have increased algae counts based on an article that examined the water quality in the Indian River Basin on the east coast of Florida. He is now pushing a study, Science Supports a Septic-to-Sewer Conversion on the Barrier Islands of Charlotte County, Florida by Brian E. Lapointe, Ph.D. Ironically, most of Dr. Lapointe’s work has been on the east coast of Florida including the Indian River Basin and in the Keys. His research is severely flawed in that it attributes all of the algal blooms, etc. in Charlotte Harbor to septic tanks. If Dr. Lapointe were to look a few miles east he would see the discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the Charlotte Harbor. These same discharges have been directly linked to algal blooms and Red Tide in the Gulf of Mexico. Other than this report, and another one which he was paid to complete by the Charlotte County Commission, there is no direct link from those blooms back to septic systems. This is an example of poor research based on a wrong hypothesis. Additionally, as a medical provider, I value research that is published in peer-reviewed journals where validity is therefore assured. I do not see where any of Dr. Lapointe’s articles are in peer reviewed journals. I would like to ask the commission to inquire as to who or whom paid Dr. Lapointe for this study as he does not list his financial agreements in the content of the report.

In addition to his questionable installation practices and dishonest PR campaign, the fees he is proposing, both start up and monthly, are unfathomably high. Mr. Boyer, in his current proposal for this system, has stated that hookup fees will be \$13000 with the expectation that this would be paid up front, in full, by the homeowner. This is an astronomical amount of money to expect homeowners to pay for a project up front, especially one that most of us oppose. This ridiculous start-up cost isn’t the only exorbitant financial expectation of the homeowners. There is an additional \$1097 for sewer lateral installation fee (the charge to un the pipe from the road the location of the equipment). The proposed base rate for the sewer is \$107 monthly, and that is if the system is completely unused. The average monthly bill for a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island for water and sewer if this proposal is approved will be \$183.08. That rate is more than double or even triple what other utility providers are charging. For example, just across the bay in Englewood, the average homeowner bill for both water and sewer is \$48. How can this be considered fair and equitable to homeowners? It simply cannot.

Additional costs are also noted that will lead to further financial hardship for the homeowners. The system proposed by EU requires a separate electric panel, installed by a licensed electrician at the expense of the



homeowner to power the pump. There is discussion about the homeowner needing a generator for the system in the event of power disruption. Add to that the cost of tree/brush removal to access the septic area as well as the cost to bring in someone to crush and fill the septic tank. All of these expenses are to be covered by the homeowner in addition to the hookup fees, bringing the actual start-up costs for this project to upwards of \$20K at a minimum. This also does not solve anything. On the graphic below regarding low pressure sewer systems provided on the Charlotte County website, the tank with solid products will still need to be pumped out again at additional cost to the homeowner.



For me personally, having the past experiences with Mr. Boyer that I have had, I am most concerned about the lack of oversight for this project. It is my understanding that there will be no “contract” and no single point of general oversight. Even with highway projects, there are bonds set up to protect the public from someone walking away from a project. EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer. There is no performance bond required, and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure. I would suggest that the PSC conduct a survey of all residents/landowners to ascertain their preferences. My father worked in the paving and excavation business for years. He was never able to walk in with a plan and not have at least one other bid placed to look at whether his proposal was viable and cost effective. Why is this not the policy in this case as well?

Little Gasparilla Island is a beautiful place that many people have grown up calling home. It is a retreat from the hustle and bustle of most other beaches in Florida. For a long time, it was an affordable place to own a home and vacation. My kids grew up visiting here. They learned to fish, swim, star gaze and find shark teeth. My grandkids are starting to do the same. If this new requirement passes, our family will not be able to afford the new system and will likely have to sell, as will other people who have called this place home for decades. Some homeowners will be forced to rent to cover costs or will sell to people who intend to rent, bringing more people and environmental impact to this beautiful barrier island. Mr. Boyer’s proposal has huge negative implications to the people who live here and to the environment. The costs are exorbitant, unnecessary, and frankly only benefit him.

With all of these concerns, I ask the PSC to deny EU’s proposed central sewer system.

Thank you for your time.

William Lee Roberts  
Candace Anderson Roberts  
22245 Stillwood Drive  
Land O Lakes, FL 34639  
(813) 230-1632

Willie Vance Brewer  
Cathy Marie Brewer  
5317 Falkirk Drive  
Durham, NC 27712  
(919) 215-0326

Cc: Martin S Friedman, Esquire  
Dean Mead  
420 S. Orange Ave.  
Suite 700  
Orlando FL 32801

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Jenny Dang <jenny\_n\_dang@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 7:19 PM  
**To:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Records Clerk  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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To all the Commissioners and Clerk addressed here:

My name is Jennifer Dang, and my husband (Tri) and I are property owners on **Palm Island in Placida, Florida.**

I respectfully request that the PSC **DENY EU's application for wastewater service once again** due to the following reasons:

(1) **Is there an environmental safety need?** I continue to believe that there is **NOT a proven need for EU's persistence to provide wastewater service on the Island when clearly the residents of Palm Island have voted against the proposal for years.** Currently, we live in rural Virginia, and our house has not only a well but also a septic system. My parents' house in Georgia also used a septic system for decades. **If enforced and maintained appropriately, septic systems are very efficient and safe to the environment.** To date, the islanders are not aware of any ongoing water quality issue with the current individual sewage systems that require a need for a central sewage system proposed once again by EU. I continue to reiterate this --- "If it's not broken, don't fix it." This ongoing saga with EU's proposal and you all - the commissioners are dealing with this **AGAIN, got to stop especially when folks on the Island are opposing to the EU proposal.**

(2) **The will of the people** --- As I stated above, the majority of owners on our island are opponents of the proposed service from EU.

(3) **Costs** --- Given the recent proposal provided by EU, the **added costs incurred by EU to the residents of Palm Island will be astronomical.** For instance, it would cost (a) \$12K for the initial hook up plus \$1,097 for the sewer lateral installation and not to mention an initial deposit of \$414, (b) the monthly bill of \$264 per month based on **PSC's estimated** average household usage of 4,000 gallons/month, (c) and other additional costs such as pump out, maintenance, electrical installation for the system and a generator to prevent possible sewage backup to the individual residences in case of a severe storm/hurricane, etc.

4) **The unknown** --- Since the County is not responsible for this project (so to speak), the homeowners on the Island will have no control over future costs due to rate increases over the years.

5) **Individual rights violation (most important of all)** --- Now from a personal perspective regarding individual rights, I would like to make a few statements. My husband and I are planning to finally break ground in 2025 for the construction of our retirement (forever) home on the lot that we purchased on the Island in 2013. We'll be

living full time on the Island in three years and cannot wait when that time comes. We both grew up in a communist regime (Vietnam) when we were little. We have been living in the States for close to 50 years now. **Freedom and individual rights especially during this tumultuous time that we as a country has been experiencing recently are very sacred to us**, and the state continues to allow EU to force their proposal down our throats is unacceptable and un-American. **As I stated in my previous communications to the Commissioners and Clerk, freedom and individual rights mean more to us than probably most folks because we know what it was like not to have it. My whole issue with this proposal is that when the majority of homeowners oppose to this proposal from EU over and over, why continue to force it down our throat again? And why are we (as property owners on the Island) have to endure this agony every few years because someone like EU thinks that they know best how we should all live. This is ABSURD. Again, as Americans, we cannot be forced to do something that we strongly oppose over and over (especially when there's no proven environmental safety need) just because someone believes that their proposal is better and good for the environment.**

I respectfully urge all PST commissioners to once again consider the long-term financial impact to the homeowners. As I stated a few years ago in my email to most of you, **please ask yourself this question, if you were the homeowner, what would you do and do you think that it's appropriate to allow someone continually forcing something on people that will have significant negative, long-lasting effects on people's lives especially when islanders are still dealing with the significant financial burden from the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. To me, again this practice is Un-American. Personally, this is something that you only see in third-world countries or what my husband and I used to experience in a communist regime when we were little kids and still carry those negative effects with us 50 years later - where we didn't have a say on our daily lives.**

I hope that it is time we bring an end to this agony and again respectfully request that the PST settle this matter once for all (we thought you ALL did last time) ---- that **FREEDOM** to choose from the homeowners on the Island prevail. I thank you again in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Jennifer Dang  
Email: jenny\_n\_dang@yahoo.com

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Sally Mingerink <smingerink@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 5:05 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Kenneth & Sally Mingerink

Don Pedro Island

Colony Don Pedro I-III

Unit 26

Full time resident

We are asking that the PSC deny the application for the original certificate of authorization for Environmental Utilities LLC application for central sewer system.

Environmental Utilities LLC has little or no experience in running or managing a sewer system.

So therefore, they will sell it and who knows who will be running it. If anyone should so this it should be Charlotte county

We live in HOA with 39 property owners, made up of duplexes and single family homes. No one has addressed how they are going to set up sewer system for our type of situation. We believe there has not been enough research.

This is just a few problems we see and there will be many more to come:

Hook up cost

Electric

Generators

Tree removal and landscape cost

Environmental issues

Therefore we are asking you to deny this application.

Kenneth & Sally Mingerink

[smingerink@yahoo.com](mailto:smingerink@yahoo.com)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Tri Dang <trindang@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 5:02 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioner Fay:

My name is Tri Dang. My wife (Jennifer) and I own a lot on Palm Island in Placida, Florida, where we plan to build our retirement home starting next year 2025. We received a notice from the Environmental Utilities (EU) LLC as well as Palm Island Estates (PIE) community about the proposed centralized waste collection services, an idea that was rejected in 2022. I am formally requesting that you and other commissioners **DENY** EU's application for wastewater services for the following reasons:

1) **High costs with little to show benefits:** we are living in a high inflation period as a country where everything is more expensive with no end in sight. We don't need another high price item levies on us from a rejected idea by a still unproven team. If this item is forced on the island community, it will force some of us to move off the island due to an unjustified expense. The basic costs of \$13,097 + \$414 + estimate monthly of \$264 are way too high for someone about to retire and most certainly for those already enjoy their golden years.

2) **Experiences in maintaining and operating a wastewater collection business:** running a business is not small feat. Running a wastewater collection business carries even more risks not only to the company but also to the environment should something goes not as planned. Does EU have construction insurance policy to sufficiently cover both the expected and unexpected expenditures? We all have experienced with insurance in the latest hurricane (hurricane Ian) and it can be painstakingly dragged out a very long time. Who will be responsible for surrounding damages due to the "participating" in the swapping out of the existing sewage system? If EU doesn't correct them then are the homeowners expected to pick up the expenses!!!

3) **Ability to participate or opt-out:** According to Mr. Boyer, one of the benefits that EU provides is to create and maintain an environmental-friendly system, where sewage water is collected, transferred, and treated off-island. This approach will prevent wastewater spillage on the barrier island that contaminate and cause damage to sea life. EU's proposed to replace existing concrete tanks with new tanks that made of composite material. These nouveau ideas are unproven as composite materials are not known to withstand the harsh conditions of salt water. According to concrete experts, the best material for sea water is concrete with reinforced steel though even these materials require periodic inspections to address performance degradation. EU's proposal requires full participation with one-year phased in. This is the United States of America and thus, I believe that we have the right to not be forced to accept a high cost, unknown quality of service solution. We, the people on the Island, can address the issue through enforcement and due diligence maintenance of our septic tanks according to the County Health Department guidelines.

Again, I respectfully request that you and other commissioners **DENY** EU's application for wastewater services to Palm Island. It is absolutely the wrong proposal, the wrong team, and the wrong approach.

Please submit your comments to the docket.

Sincerely yours,

Tri Dang

Email: [trindang@yahoo.com](mailto:trindang@yahoo.com)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** duffer2002@netscape.net  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 1:02 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Re: Docket 20240032-SU Please Oppose EU's filing for Waste Water Services for LGI & Palm Island!

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Dear Charlotte County Commissioners,

Please Do Not Support /or Approve Environmental Utilities application to provide LGI /or Palm Island Sewer Services

As a long time property owner on Little Gasparilla Island; I oppose the approval of the EU's sewage application on LGI and Palm Island for the following reasons:

1. A need for service for the island has never been provided  
-environmental testing?
2. Invasion of property rights- the island is a private island with few easements
3. Initial / upfront costs are a huge concern
4. On-going maintenance costs are also a huge concern
5. Any system proposed must have the requirement for few if any pump outs to be required.  
Continued transporting/barging of septic trucks need to be eliminated

Environmental Utilities:

The principals of EU proposed system are already on the island providing water services, LGI Water. That group has continually demonstrated disappointing performance to their forced subscribers. Issues I have personally encountered include:

-Billing challenges - I have 2 residences on LGI and I could never get billed properly. i.e. 2 bills got tired of calling to get my balance for one of the bills. When I quite calling and sent in the base monthly rate I was charged \$5.00 for late fees because they couldn't get their act together and send 2 bills. Really?

-Poor waterline infrastructure- bare water pipes physically seen in the roads. I have seen multiple breaks with water erupting. I was told that's no problem we (LGI Water) gets a 7% delta of billing vs. actual water use.

-I added an inch of shell to my driveway had a leak and was told my shell caused the leak, really? If so, it doesn't speak well of their infrastructure. They threatened to charge me \$300 for the leak in their infrastructure.

-LGI faced major damage from hurricane Ian. Did LGI Water help at all with island clean-up? Not that I know of. Even though most properties were not use-able. Did LGI water offer any billing relief? NO.



LGI Water was given exclusive rights as well as mandatory hook-up requirements: In exchange for that we have few fire hydrants on the island with the south end having no access to them. We recently lost a house to fire on the island on the south end of the island.

Instead of any assistance to the customers they have continued standard billing even though many properties were uninhabitable for an extended period of time. I have a condemned condo for since Jan.

19 mos x \$85 base fee per month = \$1,615.00 for a condo that is condemned and I cannot use.

Instead of any compassion or relief from LGI Water, we get a notice that their rates are going up. Last time, I asked the principal why he was raising the rates? His response was, "because I can." Nice answer really.....not courteous, no appreciation nor respect to one of his mandated customers.

If the county believes we need a central sewage system on LGI or Palm Island then I suggest Charlotte County undertake that responsibility and not let another "for profit" utility on LGI.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig Grant  
9476 Alborado (LGI)  
Placida, FL 33946

913-314-4146

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** William Parker <wepdas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 11:44 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** Sewer Letter Palm Island.pdf

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Please see my signed objection letter to the application from Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) for the installation of central sewer on Palm Island.

Thank you. Bill Parker

Reference Docket #20240032-SU

Request for PSC to deny Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) application for water waste service.

William & Alyson Parker  
360 Bocilla Drive  
Placida FL 33946  
wepdas@gmail.com  
alysonparker331@gmail.com

We are the current owners of 360 Bocilla Drive on Palm Island Florida. We oppose the installation of central sewer on the Islands by Environmental Utilities, LLC for multiple reasons including cost, mandatory hook up requirements, disruption of and increased traffic, easement considerations, system maintenance and emergency failure concerns, and environmental concerns to name a few. Specifically, our concerns include the following areas:

**NO NEED:** We have no need for this service. We installed and currently maintain a septic system at our home, and it operates flawlessly. We do not want to incur the cost and requirement to be attached to a public sewer system.

**COSTLY:** We do not want to be forced to pay a utility company for a service we have already invested in. This is a profit-making operation for another company, and we don't want to be forced to purchase a service we don't need or want.

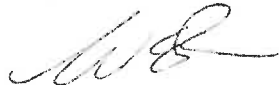
**Right of way easement:** We do not want to be forced to give up a right of way easement on our property to a "for Profit" utility company.

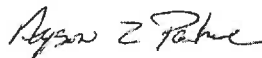
**Encourages High-density development and increased traffic:** We do not want the environmental serenity of Palm Island to be exploited by high-density traffic and real estate development companies. This is the first step in destroying the Island as we know it today. Explosive development and Highrise condos will come as soon as a public sewer company exploits the building limits of the Island which is now protected from this explosive growth by the access to septic systems only. We are a happy rural community.

**Environmental concerns for installation:** We have concerns for the negative environmental impact to the Island. This level of project will cause a major disruption to the current ecosystem including our turtles, birds, fish and other wildlife.

Please help us protect Palm Island from being exploited by this proposed business opportunity for Environmental Utilities, LLC.

Thank you. Bill & Alyson Parker

  
WILLIAM E. PARKER

  
ALYSON Z PARKER

22 April 2024

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## Antonia Hover

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**From:** danielle charmes <dcharmes@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 8:50 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  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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Danielle Charmes  
9482 Alborado road  
Little Gasparilla island  
Dcharmes@yahoo.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

My personal perspective as a concerned homeowner of Little Gasparilla Island and environmental proponent is that the proposed wastewater service will have a devastating impact on the island and islanders. The service proposal has not demonstrated evidence to be better for the environment or residents/owners. It is, however, beneficial for those who stand to profit from the installation and forced hook up for ongoing service. This is an untenable situation. I can't fathom how the installation of such a system wouldn't create massive upheaval to the landscape, not to mention at a high cost to all owners. There seems to be little to no advantage of this project and it represents a major can-of-worms with potential problems in my mind. PLEASE deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you!

A concerned LGI Resident,  
Sent from my iPhone

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Debbie Daugherty <ufdaugherty@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 11:41 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; 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

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

My name is Debbie Daugherty and I own 9850 Little Gasparilla Island, which is within the proposed sewer service area for Little Gasparilla Island. **I am formally objecting to the sewer proposal and request that the PSC deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) for a central sewer system for Little Gasparilla Island.**

I have over 25 years experience in water and wastewater utilities and a Bachelors and Masters in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida. I am currently the Water/Wastewater Officer for Gainesville Regional Utilities, responsible for all aspects of the water and wastewater system for the utility. There is no doubt in my mind that proceeding with this particular party EU for providing private central sewer is the wrong move for Little Gasparilla Island. EU does not have the technical expertise to properly construct, operate and maintain a sewer system. Allowing EU to move forward with a central sewer system will result in situations that will be more damaging to the environment. While a central sewer system has its merits for improving the environment in the future, selecting the appropriate party and technology is essential for success of the project. From the information presented, EU is proposing a low pressure sewer system, that will only remove the clear water from the tank and leave the solids behind, similar to a septic tank. There are very few letters of support compared to the long list of homeowners that do NOT support this project. The support letters provided from Little Gasparilla Island residents mention times of flooding with sewage on the island. The currently proposed sewer system will cost millions of dollars to construct and will not change the situation in times of flooding having solids from inground sewage tanks overflowing on the island. Many current septic to sewer conversions are installed across the State of Florida using small grinder pump stations at the home to transport the solids and water from the home to the treatment facility. A sewage grinder pump station would provide more effective design and provide better environmental benefits to have a central sewer system that removed all of the wastewater to be treated.

We are currently customers of Little Gasparilla Water Utility, which is owned and operated by the same parties that are applying as Environmental Utilities, LLC. The owners have minimal experience operating a water system and no experience operating a wastewater system. The water system on Little Gasparilla Island is constructed poorly and not operated responsibly by these parties. The owners of the water system do not respect owners property rights and place water lines wherever they want without proper communication with the homeowner nor obtaining proper easements for

their water lines. While the project to bring sewer services to the island has merit, Environmental Utilities is not the appropriate party to complete a project of this nature. Part of EU's proposal for the central sewer system is "claiming ownership" of a utility easement on private property without compensating the homeowner. Charlotte County should continue to seek other experienced parties to provide sewer service to Little Gasparilla Island or pursue funding to extend County sewer service to our residents. Septic to Sewer conversion projects are being successfully completed across the State of Florida. Converting these barrier islands to a central sewer system would be a strong potential project for Charlotte County to propose for infrastructure grants and funding. Millions of dollars are going to be available for these types of projects in the coming years, which would reduce the financial burden for connection charges for the residents of Little Gasparilla Island.

The costs of owning a home on Little Gasparilla Island have increased dramatically over the last 4 years since EUs first petition to provide sewer. With the devastation from Ian, many homeowners have significant repairs or complete rebuilds of their homes. Construction prices have tripled in the last 2 years to get any work done on our home, no matter how small or big the project is. We continue to experience rising costs in every aspect of home ownership on Little Gasparilla Island. The insurance and property taxes alone have increased dramatically. This is NOT the time for an additional expense for the homeowners of Little Gasparilla Island, especially when the proposed project will not offer environmental benefits as currently proposed.

The proposed connection charges for the sewer system are listed from \$11,000 to \$20,000 and it does not appear the pricing provided for connection has changed since the 2020 petition to provide sewer service. Today a typical septic to sewer project is costing utilities between \$30,000 to \$40,000 per property to provide sewer service. It does not appear he has updated the construction costs for this project nor reflected that in his connection charges submitted. Many utilities performing septic-to-sewer conversions are doing so with grant funding and SRF loans to lessen the burden on the homeowner. Because EU is a private utility, they are not able to access any of the infrastructure funding being provided in the state of Florida. This area is currently designated in the Charlotte County Utility District and should stay that way to allow for funding dollars to assist with installation of a central sewer system.

On top of the significant connection charges, the proposed monthly sewer charges are VERY high compared to other utility rates. For the residents of Little Gasparilla Island, we already pay high monthly rates for the water system to the same entity. I currently pay \$83 per month as the base meter facility charge then the water usage is added on top of that fee. Adding the proposed monthly sewer charges would bring the monthly water and sewer charges to over \$250 a month which is a ridiculous monthly charge for water and sewer compared to other local utilities.

Mr. Boyer, the owner of Environmental Utilities, has been very vocal as a resident on Little Gasparilla Island that he has no intentions of completing this project, nor does he care about improving the environment on our island, he is solely making the petition to be granted the sewer service rights then sell them for his own financial gain. He has told other island residents that he is "locking in his retirement" expecting to make millions and retire. I personally want someone who cares about the future of our island to be involved in such an important public health and safety project for Charlotte

County and Little Gasparilla Island. The residents and property owners in Charlotte County deserve fair and equitable rates and monthly charges for sewer service, not to be a private individual's retirement plan.

**In conclusion, due to the lack of technical expertise of the applicant, lack of respect for homeowner property rights of the applicant, and inability to provide fair and equitable rates, I formally request that Environmental Utilities, LLC Application to provide sewer service to Little Gasparilla Island be denied.**

Sincerely,

Debbie Daugherty

Water/Wastewater Officer

Gainesville Regional Utilities

[ufdaugherty@yahoo.com](mailto:ufdaugherty@yahoo.com)

## Antonia Hover

---

**From:** Barbara Dwyer <bdwyer31@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 5:10 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Cc:** mfriedman@deanmead.com; Barb Dwyer  
**Subject:** Docket#20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Barbara Dwyer. I am a full time resident of Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condos (HBBC) on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI). I am asking that you **deny** the application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County(CC) by Environmental Utilities,LLC (EU).

I did not receive the notice of the application for this certificate in the mail. Of the people I have spoken with here at HBBC, 3/4 of the people have not received the notification including our property management company (Grande Properties) & our Board of Directors. I get my LGI Water Bills on a regular basis. I find it disturbing that this legal notice went 'missing'.

HBBC does not need sewers. We have a DEP permitted septic plant in good working order. NES - the service provider we use to insure the proper working of our plant has a Class A wastewater license.

I have concerns about the cost of this project. There is no differentiation in prices listed between single family homes and condos. Prices quoted by EU total \$13,511.00. The prices estimated in the CC Sewer Master Plan (SMP) are significantly higher and listed **in 2017 dollars**. Costs at LGI would be \$22,540.00 based on occupied lots. Costs at Don Pedro Island would be \$30,773.95 based on occupied lots. Costs at Knight Island would be \$16,138.52 based on occupied lots. These figures assume the transmission lines that EU is responsible for installing according to the CC Bulk Sewer Agreement are included in each area calculations. If, EU was able to secure the permitting to put the sewer line through Don Pedro State Park and the mangrove islands between the mainland & the barrier islands, only one transmission line would be necessary. In that case, the average cost based on 964 ERC's would be \$20,722.12. Again these numbers are based on 2017 dollars. Construction costs have increased between 19 - 37 % since 2020. That would more than double EU's stated costs based on the CC SMP figures. I don't find these costs for sewers to be fair & equitable.

In addition, there are the hidden costs that are not addressed in this submission. They include: Electrician & electrical upgrades; barge fees for pump trucks & fill material; pump outs; the landscaping costs; back up generators; interest costs on loans. Another hidden cost will be the decommissioning of the HBBC septic plant. NES indicated to properly decommission our plant the costs could run upwards of \$500,000. This could be an additional \$3787.88. This approx cost would be shared by only the 132 residents that currently use the plant. I don't find these costs for sewers to be fair & equitable. Because EU is a for profit company, the island residents are also not able to defray the costs of the sewers using grants, bonds or MSBU's. The cost of a loan becomes a personal expense that cannot be transferred with the property if sold.

I am a single, retired resident on a fixed income. My quarterly bill for sewer would average \$495.00. My current cost for septic services at HBBC is \$151.36 per quarter. I don't find these costs for sewers to be fair & equitable.



There is a lack of faith in EU to run a sewer project and to do the job properly based on his history with LGI water. A lot of these concerns were brought to the PSC attention previously. Some of the issues were shoddy work; repairs made with duct tape, pipes not buried to the proper depth; unavailability of LGWU employees during water pipe breaks; lack of timely boil water notices, water pipes crossing through property lines without permission. The owners don't have any current experience or licensing for waste water. A water spill is not good, but it won't hurt anything. A sewage spill in the island environment could be catastrophic.

One of the letters submitted with EU's application in favor of sewers was from a resident that moved off the island in 2022 (Berdine Miller). Just another reason not to trust EU.

To sum up:

Is there a need for service - NO.

Are the rates fair & equitable - NO.

Does EU have the technical expertise to run this project - NO.

Please **deny** this application by EU.

Barbara Dwyer  
HBBC - G8  
(585)698-9828  
bdwyer31@yahoo.com

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Glen Taylor <Glen.Taylor@centriclearning.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 11:32 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Graham@psc.state.fl.us; commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Heather Taylor; Glen Taylor  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-Su

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Glen and Heather Taylor  
9586 Almirate ct.  
Placida Fl. 33946  
4/21/24  
[Glen@centriclearning.net](mailto:Glen@centriclearning.net)  
[Heatherjgrigg@gmail.com](mailto:Heatherjgrigg@gmail.com)  
Docket #20240032-Su

Dear Commissioner,

We are full time residents of Little Gasparilla Island. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed sewer plan outlined in the Sewer Master Plan commissioned by Charlotte County (CC) and the subsequent application by Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) for a certificate to install central sewer in our area, inclusive of Knight Island, Don Pedro Island, and Little Gasparilla Island. We object to and request the PSC deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system

While we understand the need for compliance with state priorities regarding septic system conversion, we have several concerns about the proposed plan that we believe warrant reconsideration:

1 Lack of Water Quality Testing: The plan's high priority score for conversion in our area was based on general summary data without any water quality testing in proximity to the Islands. This omission raises doubts about the necessity and efficacy of the proposed sewer system.

2 Financial Burden on Homeowners: The proposed connection fees, monthly charges, and additional costs associated with the low-pressure sewer system pose a significant financial burden on homeowners, with estimates likely to exceed the initial projections provided by EU.

we, like most homeowners on the island, are still recovering from the extreme financial burden of Hurricane Ian. Our septic is in great running order and does not need to be replaced.

3 Lack of Oversight and Accountability: The absence of comprehensive oversight and accountability mechanisms for the project raises concerns about the potential for mismanagement, insolvency, and environmental risks associated with the installation and maintenance of the sewer system.

4 Environmental Concerns: The project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species, as well as the risk of sewer spills in sensitive areas such as the Intracoastal.

5 Disruption of Island Life: The mandatory hook-up requirement, disruptions, and encumbrance of property with new utility easements threaten to disrupt the unique lifestyle and character of our island communities. Given these concerns, we urge the Charlotte County Commission to reconsider the proposed sewer plan and explore alternative solutions that prioritize environmental sustainability, affordability for homeowners, and preservation of our island way of life.

Thank you for considering our concerns. I hope that together, we can find a solution that meets the needs of our community while safeguarding our environment and quality of life.

Sincerely,

Glen and Heather Taylor

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Bernitt, Beth <Elisabeth.Bernitt@aecom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 9:12 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** wbernitt@tampabay.rr.com; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Re: Docket No. 20240032-SU Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

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

Re: Docket No. 20240032-SU Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

To Whom it may Concern,

The residents of 262 South Gulf Boulevard oppose the installation of centralized sewers by Environmental Utilities, LLC for the following reasons:

- We have a perfectly functional septic system that is in good condition. This system is maintained by us and is in good working order.
- Environmental Utilities, LLC has no proven experience installing or running a Utilities company, so we have no information regarding the performance of this firm.
- No rates have been publicly released, we have no information about the costs that will be imposed on us for services supplied by Environmental Utilities, LLC. We understand this utility company will be a private, for-profit company.

Regards,

Elisabeth and Wayne Bernitt

262 South Gulf Boulevard

Placita, Florida 33946

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Robert Hoerr <bobhoerr@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 5:41 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Objection to Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** LG Water Utility Boil Water Notice 10\_6\_22.pdf; LG Water Utility Precautionary Boil Water Notice 11\_7\_22.pdf; LG Water Utility Precautionary Boil Water Notice 09-2023.pdf

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### Objection to Docket #20240032-SU

I am a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island, at 8676 King Street. I am writing to object to the proposed sewer service outlined in Docket #20240032-SU and to ask you to deny EU's application for wastewater service. My reasons are as follows:

1. **Unanticipated and grossly excessive cost burden during vulnerable, post-hurricane recovery.** My home at 8676 King Street on Little Gasparilla Island was extensively damaged in Hurricane Ian, had to be completely gutted, and only now is being repaired. I have not been able to use my home since Hurricane Ian and anticipate that this will continue at least through the remainder of the year. My insurance claims resulted in a settlement covering only part of the over \$300K cost of repairing my home. I am paying for the remainder of hurricane damage costs out of my retirement savings. **I am outraged that a private entity with no prior experience in sewage management can now use a public process, facilitated by elected but silent public office holders, who are not representing and did not solicit our views, to inflict an additional and perpetual cost, during this vulnerable rebuilding period.**
2. **No demonstrated need for service.** Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service. Our home is occupied less than 3 cumulative months per year (prior to Hurricane damage). We have a very functional septic system with a large mound drain field. Our location on the island occupies high ground. Our septic tank has not flooded in 25 years, including during the recent hurricane, which it survived without damage. I objected to the last proposal by EU, which was unsuccessful and I am grateful that the Commission saw fit to reject it as unnecessary and unwanted by residents. The present proposal is even more objectionable. **Charlotte County has not seen the need for a public sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island and has invested none of our property taxes to provide county infrastructure on the island. Why is this private for-profit utility allowed to assert a need that is inconsistent with County's plan, will disrupt the land for months with a messy installation, and impose considerable and perpetual costs on potential and unwilling customers?**
3. **No request for sewer service.** For the stated reasons in the prior paragraph, we are very satisfied with our present septic system, which was installed in the 1990s according to modern code, setbacks and permitting requirements. **We do not need a 12-month, private sewer system service with hook-up and ongoing service fees that are exorbitant, compared with public system costs elsewhere in Florida, for a home that generates effluent easily**

handled by a modern septic system.

4. **Environmental Utilities is a for-profit entity. This utility has no experience operating a sewer system.** Their experience is limited to operating a small-scale potable water facility. As mentioned above, **EU's installed water system has experienced periodic and recurring line breaks and urgent notices to customers that they need to boil water** (see attached email notices from the Utility). Periodic and recurring line breaks in a sewer system owned by the same private utility could be an environmental and public health disaster. We pay considerable property taxes to Charlotte County with little to no infrastructure assistance. **In the event of a failure of EU's proposed sewer, will Charlotte County commit to back up EU with taxpayer-funded infrastructure repair resources? EU has unproven emergency response funding or capabilities.**
5. **Environmental damage, creating new risks for sewage contamination.**
  - - **No septic-generated water contamination issue to address.** I am unaware of any water quality testing in the bay or gulf waters adjacent to LGI that has demonstrated the presence of coliform bacteria from residential septic system contamination. **If this is an ongoing problem, show me the data.**
    - 
    - **In contrast, the EU-provided water service has had to issue boil water notices on several occasions due to line breaks. What is to prevent sewer overflow during the frequent power outages we experience on the island?** Sewer system line breaks would be just as likely, or even more likely to result in contamination. Furthermore, given that there is an electrically powered pump element in each residential hook-up, there is no electrical generator back-up system for individual customers proposed in EU's sewer application. As I understand the system's design, this would be the only way to ensure that the household hook-up powered elements would not overflow. **Island power outages will result in sewer overflow, while this does not occur with existing septic systems.**
    - 
    - **Disruption of landscaping and habitat of our property's protected gopher tortoise.** The need for tunneling and digging to install the proposed sewer hook-up to my home will destroy the habitat of the endangered gopher tortoise that resides in my yard, which is completely landscaped with native shrubs and grasses.
6. **High, ongoing monthly cost burden to Island residents.** This latest attempt by Environmental Utilities to provide an unwanted, unneeded service, if successful, will **more than double my monthly utility costs.**
  - - **Private utility charges far exceed public utility charges.** I already pay a premium for the Utility's private water service, with high minimum monthly charges that exceed my water usage, for no additional benefit. The proposed monthly fees will more than double my monthly expenses and these expenses will continue even during the months when I do not reside in my house and would not be using water or generating sewage effluent.
    -

- **Non-disclosed fees and expenses.** EU has not guaranteed that they will not pass on costs, above the hook-up fees, for additional electrical work or plumbing that they will claim is “unanticipated.”

**This unwanted, unneeded service will represent a burdensome new tax that we will have no recourse but to pay.** For the reasons I have outlined, and other compelling reasons that you will read in my neighbors' comments, I urge you to respect our rights as citizens and taxpayers and reject the application by Environmental Utilities to provide wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island.

Sincerely,  
Robert A. Hoerr  
bobhoerr@comcast.net

## Boil Water Notice 10/6/22

To Little Gasparilla Water Utility <lgwuoffice@gmail.com> • ashton boyer <ashtondboyer@gmail.com> •  
Jack Boyer <lwjd777@yahoo.com> Blind copy bobhoerr@comcast.net

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### BOIL WATER NOTICE 10/6/2022

A Boil Water Notice is in effect until Charlotte County Utilities gives the all clear and our water samples on the island come back clear. Also, LGWU will be disinfecting the water lines over the next few days so please expect an increase in Chlorine smell.

For precautionary measures a lot of homes are shut off at the meter, so please check there first and call/text Ashton if there is an issue.

Our office is not usable at this time and our phone lines are down, but we are trying to proceed as normal. We will also try to respond to any calls, texts, or emails as soon as we possibly can.

Please watch for our notices via email, this website and Facebook. For any emergencies you can call or text Ashton at 941-626-8295 or Jack at 941-626-8294.

--

Joyce  
Little Gasparilla Water Utility  
941-681-2778  
<http://www.littlegasparillawater.com>

Little Gasparilla Water Utility <lgwuoffice@gmail.com>

11/7/2022 12:16 PM

## Precautionary Boil Water Notice 11/7/22

To Little Gasparilla Water Utility <lgwuoffice@gmail.com> • Jack Boyer <lwjd777@yahoo.com> • ashton boyer <ashtondboyer@gmail.com> Blind copy bobhoerr@comcast.net

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Little Gasparilla Water had a feed line break due to an uprooted tree. We had to shut the water down beginning at the Placida Condos and going South. Water is back on now, but we are under a Precautionary Boil Water Notice until samples are clear.

This email is being sent out to those with email addresses on file. Please spread the word to those in the mentioned area.

Thank you

--

*Joyce Luke*  
Little Gasparilla Water Utility  
941-681-2778  
<http://www.littlegasparillawater.com>



Little Gasparilla Water Utility <lgwuoffice@gmail.com>

9/22/2023 2:24 PM

## Precautionary Boil Water Notice

To Little Gasparilla Water Utility <lgwuoffice@gmail.com> Blind copy bobhoerr@comcast.net

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**A Precautionary Boil Water Notice is in effect for the homes along the North Canal and all homes to the South (addresses between 9694 & 9912) due to an incident with equipment hitting a fire hydrant. We will update you as soon as our lab results come back clear, which should be Monday or Tuesday.**

**Please spread the word to those in the mentioned area that may not go to our website or have their email on file.**

**Please watch for our notices via email, this website and Facebook. For any emergencies you can call or text Ashton at 941-626-8295.**

**To receive timely notifications, please send your email information to [lgwuoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lgwuoffice@gmail.com) if you haven't done so already.**

**Thank you**

--

*Joyce Luke*  
Little Gasparilla Water Utility  
941-681-2778  
<http://www.littlegasparillawater.com>

## Antonia Hover

---

**From:** Penelope Jahna <penelope.jahna@warner.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 5:23 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Records Clerk  
**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 Commissioner

This is a plea from a five generation Florida family lucky enough to discover a slice of old Florida called Little Gasparilla Island. My name is Penelope Jahna and we have owned property on Little Gasparilla Island since 2009, but we have been enjoying this little piece of grace poking out of the Gulf for over 40 years. Our plea is that you reject the proposed central sewer system.

If you have never been to this island you may not understand the unique environment and lifestyle of its residents. There is no bridge to get here and we like it that way. You can only access the island by boat. My husband likes to say "it's an island-island." That attribute creates its own issues with construction of any kind, both financially and logistically. But that characteristic helps to preserve the island as it is. There are no paved roads, only a few dirt paths, and some properties have no utility easements. The challenges of the island keep it from becoming overcrowded. While there are a few full time island families, most homes are vacant as much as they are occupied, which means volume of waste is not an issue. Even after Irma, Idalia and Ian, which were devastating to this location, there was no evidence for an environmental need for a sewer.

We are currently in the process of building our second Sanctuary on the island after our first was damaged beyond repair. The septic we are required to install is estimated to cost in excess of \$50,000, but it is made to protect the environment. Should this proposal pass, I and every other

resident who has installed a septic recently may well have flushed that cash right down the toilet as there is no plan for grandfathering of septic systems. According to EU estimates the installation fees of the proposed EU system are in excess of \$20,000 per household plus anticipated monthly charge of over \$250. This will certainly create a hardship on many families who have owned on this island for generations as well as new owners who just want to experience what it was like to live in the great state of Florida back before everything became automatic.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject the application for the sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island. My husband and I are formally requesting that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater service.



**Penelope Jahna**

Warner University

Mathematics Instructor

O: 863.638.7518 |

E: [penelope.jahna@warner.edu](mailto:penelope.jahna@warner.edu) | [warner.edu](http://warner.edu)



**Security & Confidentiality:**

Warner University has sent this E-mail in the understanding that Internet messaging is not a 100% secure communications medium. We advise that you also observe this lack of security when E-mailing us. This email and its attachments are intended for the person to whom the E-mail is addressed and may be confidential. If you are not the intended recipient you must take no action based on it, nor must you copy or distribute the information. Thank you.

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Laurie Barclay <it000016@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 3:09 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

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**From:** Richard Collett <rhapsodyballroom@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 10:48 PM  
**To:** eu777offices@gmail.com <eu777offices@gmail.com>; mfriedman@deanmead.com <mfriedman@deanmead.com>  
**Cc:** Richard Collett <rhapsodyballroom@aol.com>; Laurie Barclay <it000016@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** Docket # 20240032-SU

Being a property owner on Don Pedro Island for over 34 years (CDP #8 and 50 S Gulf Blvd), I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater services, based on the arguments in opposition to the proposed central sewer system as listed below.

There is no proven need for a central sewer system, nor did I request it. EU is a private, for-profit utility company with no experience in wastewater management. The proposed rates and expenses to homeowners are exorbitant and excessive.

This beautiful and peaceful island has been our family's place to unwind from the stress of daily living for, as I said, well over 30 years. We have come to love the wildlife that is part of our daily walks. There is something about seeing an endangered Gopher Tortoise walking ever so slowly, and stopping to feed on grasses, that adds to the tranquility of this island paradise. We are also fortunate to have other endangered species on this tiny island such as the Indigo snake. We have armadillos, iguanas, rabbits and a large variety of birds too numerous to mention. This small barrier island is home to more than just the people who take care for and respect these beautiful creatures.

The amount of heavy equipment, manpower and noise pollution, as well as the digging of trenches for who knows where and for how long, will no doubt cause stress to all wildlife, some of which may leave the island permanently.

Other concerns for owners on the island have to do with the disruption this will cause the vacation rental situation. The majority of owners depend very heavily on rental income to cover costs such as enormous insurance and property tax bills as well as general maintenance costs.

It has taken some of us well over a year and a half to recover from Hurricane Ian. Some are still in the process of recovery. If another hurricane hits the island, what will that do to a sewer system? Is this company financially able or qualified to handle such emergencies? This is a very fragile barrier island. Building homes on the island probably isn't what the good Lord had in mind when he created it for a "barrier" to protect the mainland. Digging deep trenches and putting a sewer line throughout these sandy roads, I believe, would cause more harm than good.

All property owners maintain their individual septic systems on a regular basis. The additional financial burden to each of us that this project would bring would cause many to give up what have been their dream homes for many years. I believe that the owners of this venture are looking at the possibility of making a lot of money at others' expense. I have been unable to find out about the experience this company has in the wastewater business, or backing it has to be financially sound in case of extreme emergencies. Unless, of course, they plan to pass that on to someone else.

Therefore, based on the arguments above, I hereby formally request that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater services.

Sincerely,  
Richard Collett  
Rhapsodyballroom@aol.com

## Antonia Hover

---

**From:** Laurie Barclay <it000016@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 2:56 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

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

From Laurie Barclay, MD, property owner on Don Pedro Island (Colony Don Pedro unit #8; 50 S Gulf Blvd.)

I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service, based on the arguments in opposition to the proposed central sewer as listed below.

As a property owner on Don Pedro Island for more than 30 years, I firmly believe that it is a unique treasure, reflecting unspoiled Florida at its finest. It is a pristine environment and beautiful, idyllic location bringing much needed peace and restoration to our hectic, troubled world.

In these 30 years, I have never had issues with my current septic system, nor has any water quality testing indicated a need for sewer. I have the current septic system maintained regularly. I did not request a sewer system, nor have any of my neighbors, to my knowledge.

The proposed central sewer would be extremely disruptive to our environment and way of life. The noise and disturbance of sand and soil by installing the proposed system would be devastating to wildlife, human residents and visitors, and the natural beauty of our beloved island. Installing and maintaining a sewer system may destroy the natural habitat and interfere with the gopher tortoise and other endangered native species.

Sewage spill in the Intracoastal could be devastating to fish and sea turtles, as well as to human life by encouraging red tide and potential infection from contact with coliform bacteria in the water: The risk of a central sewer leak with a subaqueous crossing exceeds the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.

I am also extremely concerned regarding the proposed high costs of wastewater service. I rent out my property when possible and enjoy it myself the rest of the time. As a retired senior, the costs of island living are substantial already, and the proposed system would inflict an unnecessary financial burden of upfront and ongoing costs.

The extent of this burden is uncertain, with estimated connection fees ranging from \$13K to \$20K; the requirement of installing an electrical panel at my expense; the need to buy and maintain a generator to avoid sewage back-up during power outages; removal of trees, landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area at my expense; and monthly fees in the range of \$200, or approximately twice the amount paid on the nearby mainland for water and wastewater combined, and far exceeding my current sewage-related expenses.

As the grinder pump has a limited capacity of 60 gallons, and will be unable to function for long if there is a power outage, each property would need a generator to keep the system running and avoid sewage back-up. Again, more unnecessary expense, inconvenience, noise, storage, and potential fire and environmental hazard of storing gas.

To gain access to crush and fill the septic tank, landscaping, trees and structures around the septic area would have to be cleared at my expense, which would disrupt the environment and wildlife, disfigure my property, and take away useable outdoor recreational and parking space.

In any event, these are additional expenses I cannot afford, at no benefit whatsoever to me, my renters, or my neighbors. In fact, the only beneficiary of the proposed sewer system is EU itself. Even worse, there is no pay-over-time plan, so that a loan (and associated interest and negative impact on credit rating) could be needed to cover connection cost.

The pandemic and Hurricane Ian have created enough economic and other disruption to our way of life, and imposing the expenses of a sewer system could put me over the edge of having to give up island living that I so dearly love. We are already at risk with an anticipated more active than usual hurricane season, and likely failure of the sewer system during a storm imposes unnecessary additional economic and other hardship.

No renters want to have their time away spoiled by sewer system installation, with the associated noise, inconvenience, and increased local and barge traffic, nor do I. Increased traffic, and delays waiting to get on the barge to access or leave the island could continue for years and would further detract from the joys and peace of island living. The proposed system would therefore negatively impact Florida tourism and hospitality industries on the island and nearby mainland.

In addition, I view the EU's proposal for a sewer system as offensive, as it is an infringement of my personal rights and my rights as a property owner. The septic system in current use works perfectly well, and I cannot understand why I should be forced to change it, as said change would be harmful to me for reasons expressed herein.

Unfortunately, however, should the sewer system proposal be approved, connection would be mandatory. Charlotte County regulations require all homes to connect to central water and wastewater within 1 year of availability, with no grandfathering of septic systems, regardless of age or condition.

As EU has claimed ownership of a utility easement going from the sewer equipment near the house to the connection in the road, without compensation to homeowners, their proposed system would lower property values at no benefit to us.

The proposed sewer system has no accountability, as EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install the sewer, and there is no "contract," no single point of general oversight, no performance bond required, and no single point of recourse for homeowners should there be cost overruns or project failure. EU is a private, for-profit company with no experience in wastewater utility management.

Furthermore, EU has not addressed how the sewer would be serviced if it fails during storms, which are frequent on tropical islands. Another concern of island living is the corrosive effect of salt air on mechanical and electrical equipment, resulting in the need for frequent replacement of sewer components, again at the expense of the homeowner.

Based on the arguments above, I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service. These arguments include, but are not limited to, negative impacts on the environment, island living, Florida tourism and hospitality industries, property rights, and homeowner expenses. Please do not destroy our beautiful island and the oasis of tranquility it provides.

Sincerely,

Laurie Barclay, MD

[lt000016@hotmail.com](mailto:lt000016@hotmail.com)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Jennie Ann Freiman <jfreiman@usa.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 1:01 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; iterating  
**Subject:** RE: Docket # 20240032-SU (PLEASE SEND CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT)

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

4/20/24

RE: Docket # 20240032-SU

Dear Clerk Of The PS Commission and Commissioners,

We, property owners at 8942 Gulf Street on Little Gasparilla Island, submit this letter to voice our strongest opposition to the Environmental Utilities LLC proposal for a central sewer system.

We oppose the central sewer proposal for the following reasons (and more):

\*it's a "fix" for a problem that does not exist - the overwhelming majority of LGI owners are not utilizing their property full time, thus, there is no burden of excess sewage that warrants anything more than the septic systems currently in place.

\*its destructive environmental impact will harm the local flora and fauna. Owners will be forced to cut down mature trees to accommodate the installation and maintenance of the equipment. The habitat of already endangered species will be forever altered.

\*it violates the 5th Amendment to the US constitution, which protects private property rights. Owners would be forced, at their own expense, to grant "all rights, easements, permits and privileges" to EU for construction and maintenance of the system. In other words, we will be forced to pay for something we don't need and don't want and will cede legal rights, in perpetuity, through force.

Little Gasparilla Island property owners are already stretched to the limit economically...many are still dealing with the fall out of Hurricane Ian...the central sewer project offers benefit to one company at the ongoing expense of all owners. It's unjust, unfair, unneeded and economically burdensome.

Please stop this project, for once and for all. Please deny Environmental Utilities LLC application for wastewater service.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennie Freiman / Stuart Mendel



8942 Gulf Street. (Little Gasparilla Island) Placida, FL 33946

Email: iterating@pm.me

PS. I previously sent this letter on 4.10.24 from iterating@pm.me, but never received confirmation of receipt. I am re-sending the letter from a different email, in case my previous attempt ended up in your spam folder, Please send an email confirmation that you received this. Thank you!

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Sharon Roth <ressan4u@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 10:08 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** sewer letter2.pdf

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

Hi, my name is Sharon Roth and I own a home at 40 Gasparilla Way Placida FL 33946 on Don Pedro Island. I have attached a letter that you deny the application for central sewer system by EU.

Thank You,  
Sharon Roth  
sroth61@verizon.net

04/20/2024

# FLORIDA PSC

Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Dear Commissioner,

My name is Sharon Roth and I own 40 Gasparilla Way on Don Pedro Island. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater server. I am concerned that the issue of the central sewer system is being reviewed again. I am against this as I was a couple of years ago for the same reasons. I will list some of the reasons for concern.

Our islands are in a rural service area which mandates on site septic systems to reduce development.

There is no quality water testing proving that it is needed, and the project would have the potential of destruction of natural habitat for endangered gopher turtles.

The islands are not easy to access during weather emergencies which with a central sewer system would cause environmental impacts that our current septic systems would not.

Our island has ferry access which is utilized about to it maximum, and it was after Ian and Little Gasparilla has no scheduled means of access for large equipment. This would be a major nightmare for several years for something that is not needed or necessary for a private company to make a fortune on the people of the barrier islands.

Most homes on the islands are part time residence or vacation rentals and do not have the sewer load that a full-time residence does on the mainland.

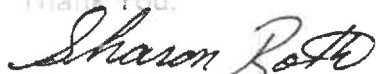
The rates that a proposed for service are excessive. I owed a home in the Florida Keys up to last year and my Quarterly water and sewer bills averaged \$400. Our base water on the island is over \$70.00 per month and the proposed sewer bill is estimated at \$200.00 per month. We don't need another private company charging us exorbitant rates.

The person involved in this is also the owner of the water company on Little Gasparilla and has difficulty operating it and has no experience in a central sewer system.

The cost of this to the residence of the island are excessive and most of the islander have not even recovered fully from the impact of hurricane Ian. If the system would be install there is numerous cost that aren't even address such as longevity of some of the system due to the exposed environment, the upgrades that may need to be made at the homes for the installs, what needs to be done for loss of electricity so there are no spills (doesn't happen with septic systems)

It is time for this to be tabled and put your energy into an area that a central sewer system is needed and would benefit the people and not a few that just want to make money.

Thank You,



Sharon Roth

Sroth61@verizon.net

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Thomas Roth <tsroth@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 10:00 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** sewer letter.pdf

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

Hi, My name is Thomas Roth an I am a property owner at 40 Gasparilla Way Placida Fl 33946 which is on Don Pedro Island. I have attach a letter requesting the you deny the application for EU's central sewer system.

Thank You,  
Thomas Roth  
tsroth@verizon.net

04/20/2024

# FLORIDA PSC

Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Dear Commissioner,

My name is Thomas Roth and I own 40 Gasparilla Way on Don Pedro Island. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater sewer. I am concerned that the issue of the central sewer system is being reviewed again. I am against this as I was a couple of years ago for the same reasons. I will list some of the reasons for concern.

Our islands are in a rural service area which mandates on site septic systems to reduce development.

There is no quality water testing proving that it is needed, and the project would have the potential of destruction of natural habitat for endangered gopher turtles.

The islands are not easy to access during weather emergencies which with a central sewer system would cause environmental impacts that our current septic systems would not.

Our island has ferry access which is utilized about to its maximum, and it was after Ian and Little Gasparilla has no scheduled means of access for large equipment. This would be a major nightmare for several years for something that is not needed or necessary for a private company to make a fortune on the people of the barrier islands.

Most homes on the islands are part time residence or vacation rentals and do not have the sewer load that a full-time residence does on the mainland.

The rates that a proposed for service are excessive. I owed a home in the Florida Keys up to last year and my Quarterly water and sewer bills averaged \$400. Our base water on the island is over \$70.00 per month and the proposed sewer bill is estimated at \$200.00 per month. We don't need another private company charging us exorbitant rates.

The person involved in this is also the owner of the water company on Little Gasparilla and has difficulty operating it and has no experience in a central sewer system.

The cost of this to the residence of the island are excessive and most of the islander have not even recovered fully from the impact of hurricane Ian. If the system would be install there is numerous cost that aren't even address such as longevity of some of the system due to the exposed environment, the upgrades that may need to be made at the homes for the installs, what needs to be done for loss of electricity so there are no spills (doesn't happen with septic systems).

It is time for this to be tabled and put your energy into an area that a central sewer system is needed and would benefit the people and not a few that just want to make money.

Thank You.



Thomas Roth

tsroth@verizon.net

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** cheryl klaus <cherylbethklaus@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 10:09 PM  
**To:** Consumer Contact  
**Cc:** Bill.Truex@CharlotteCountyFL.gov; Joseph.Tiseo@CharlotteCountyFL.gov; StephenR.Deutsch@CharlotteCountyFL.gov; Ken.Doherty@CharlotteCountyFL.gov; Chris.Constance@charlottecountyfl.gov; LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Environmental Utilities Request Wastewater Sewage Installation RE Docket #20240032-SU

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

I am a full time Florida homesteaded resident - 540 South Gulf Blvd - Preserve Don Pedro - Don Pedro Island cherylbethklaus@hotmail.com

I am asking the PSC to deny EU's application for wastewater service for the following reasons:

1. A central waste water system has not been proven to be necessary.
2. Environmental Utilities has no experience with installing a waste water system. This is a barrier island and as such has a unique ecological environment and soil complexity.
3. Cost: EU is putting forth a \$13,511.00 hook up fee and an initial deposit of \$414.00 - all for a system that is not needed now nor in the foreseeable future. These are the basic costs - not including installation of an electrical panel by a licensed electrician - said cost to be born by home owner - again all for an unnecessary system. Further, in the event of power outage, the pump has a small capacity and then everyone gets sewage backup and/or overflow causing severe environmental damage.
4. In the event the County should determine that there at some point is a need for a central system, it is incumbent upon the County to install such system and not farm out its responsibility to a private company.
5. Does EU have the financial ability to carry out what they are proposing?
6. There are protected species on this barrier island. Installation of a system that is not needed by a private company with no experience is a road to disaster.



## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Fred Brown <fredwbrown@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 2:49 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Fay  
**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 Commissioner Fay:

As an owner of three properties on Don Pedro/Palm Island I am requesting the PSC deny the EU application for wastewater service.

I cannot believe that this is even being considered given that our current septic system has worked great over the years and currently we have no monthly fees. I am aware of issues where (St. Petersburg) sewer systems will back up and sewage will go in the roads and the Gulf. I have never heard of any issues with septic spillage for the over 35 years we have enjoyed Palm Island.

It appears to me that certain people are pursuing this project only for profit at the expense of exploiting all the residences of Don Pedro/Palm Island with unnecessary hook up charges and monthly fees. **I do not see how anyone on the Commission would even consider adding to the financial burden for costs to replace something that is working fine unless they too are receiving a kick-back.** Even considering awarding this project to Mr. Boyer, who is inexperienced in sewer, and can provide no actual costs or monthly fees for this is inconceivable at best. Just because the resort's septic is aging and needs to be replaced, let them update and replace their own. All the residents on Don Pedro should not have to pay. **Please represent the people of Don Pedro Island and don't make people pay for something that is not needed to represent the financial benefit of a few.**

Thank you

Fred Brown  
fredwbrown@hotmail.com

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** b OK <oneillkieler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 2:41 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Edward Small  
**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.

Dear Clerk of the Commission,

I am writing in earnest to ask that you Please **DENY the request for the Environmental Utilities** application for wastewater service on Palm Island/Don Pedro. We do not want to see a private entity insert this utility (and themselves) for personal gain. The out of pocket costs to us to implement the service and ongoing monthly fees/maintenance expenses would be a tremendous burden for the residents of this island.

You will be receiving many letters outlining the rational reasons for denying the implementation of a central sewer service so I will not be redundant. Please take these notable arguments into serious consideration. The vast majority of residents do not support this application. Please know and hear my vote against any private entities coming to the island to introduce a sewer service not needed nor invited by the people who call Palm Island/Don Pedro "Home".

Sincerely,  
Roberta O'Neill  
Residence: 390 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida, FL 33946

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Susan Brown <sjbday@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 1:23 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**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.

This email is in reference to EU's application for central sewer service on Don Pedro Island. I have coming to this beautiful island for 38 years and have been a homeowner for over 15 years.

I am asking you to DENY EU's application for wastewater service. I have not asked for this service, it is being forced on residents.

There is no proven need for this service and the cost to homeowners is astronomical. From initial costs, from hookup and additional electric required.

Charlotte County is definitely going through a building boom that is destroying a lot of animal habitats. The destruction to put in sewer that is not needed will only disrupt /destroy our fragile ecosystem on the island which is home to a lot of endangered species like the gopher tortoise.

EU is not a contractor and has no experience in installing sewer. They are a private for profit company, again, with no experience in owning wastewater systems.

There is no proven need for sewer. I have lived on the west coast of Florida for 59 years. There are several reports of spilled sewage during storms from just Pinellas County only, which have polluted waterways incredibly.

Please, deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you,

Susan Brown  
Don Pedro Island  
101 S Gulf Blvd  
Placida, FL 33946

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Roy Petteway <roypetteway@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 10:52 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** EU Letter 4 7 24.odt

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

Please find attached a letter protesting the above docket.

Thank you,  
Roy Petteway

9744 Little Gasparilla Island  
Placida, FL

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

April 7, 2024

Re: Docket No. 20240032-SU – Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to file a vehement objection to the application by Environmental Utilities (EU) for a permit to install a sewer/wastewater system on the barrier islands of Charlotte County, specifically, Little Gasparilla Island, Palm Island and Knight Island.

I am a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island, my address is 9744 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida, Florida.

To begin, there is no requirement for a sewer system on the barrier islands, as Charlotte County is issuing septic tank permits frequently for the said islands. As a matter of fact, I was issued a new septic tank permit in August of 2023. There is no evidence of damage or pollution in the Lemon Bay Estuary from septic tanks.

Second, the said barrier islands are still desperately trying to recover from the direct hit the island took during Hurricane Ian on September 28, 2022. Homes are still in varying states of damage, or are in the process of either repair or rebuild. My house specifically was destroyed by a tornado in the eye wall and we are just now beginning to rebuild. We also have been given a permit for a septic tank as recently as August of 2023. With the cost in the tens of thousands of dollars per household for the installation of the wastewater system, it could prove catastrophic to homeowners on the island struggling with rebuilding their homes in the wake of the storm and subsequent insurance issues that could possibly lead to some homeowners abandoning their homes due to the inability to pay for such an expense.

Third, this issue was dealt with in the spring of 2022, with the Public Service Commission (PSC) declining to issue the certificate to EU. Hundreds of objections were raised either by mail or in person at one of the public hearings. Mr. Boyer himself was found to be less than honest about issues in the previous application by the PSC. I feel the present application by EU is yet another attempt by Mr. Boyer to install a wastewater system that is not necessary, and not required by the County. If indeed Charlotte County thought it necessary to rid the island of septic tanks, it should do so, and manage it as any other municipality does. The owner and operator of the wastewater system should not be a for-profit, private entity that has absolutely no experience managing a wastewater system.

Fourth, as was brought to your attention at the previous public hearings and in the letters sent to the PSC in 2021 and 2022, the damage to the island with the installation of a wastewater system would be catastrophic. The island is a unique ecosystem, with nesting gopher tortoise, nesting bald eagles, bobcats, armadillos, osprey and the wildlife would either be permanently displaced or would be outright destroyed with the installation of a wastewater system. The trees that are recovering from

Hurricane Ian, along with native grasses would be pushed over and ground up to make way for the sewer lines that would have to be installed all over the island to facilitate the wastewater system. As was brought to your attention previously, Little Gasparilla Island especially, has no roads, save a few. Most of the dirt paths on the island are easements, and some of those end up going over private property. Some homeowners have been kind and allowed the north/south path to continue as it goes, but some do not. Getting easements all over the island for the purpose of installing the wastewater system would be time consuming and extremely difficult. And there are some homes that have very small lots, and getting the equipment in-between houses to install would be next to impossible. It could take years just to obtain easements, and those easements would be obtained at no cost to EU, causing homeowners to give up their property rights for free. Not only would the side boundary easement be on each property, but yet another easements would be on each piece of property for the tanks and equipment so they could be installed and serviced. And if anything more than "basic" landscaping were removed for installation, it would also be at the homeowners expense to remove and replace if able once the tank and equipment were installed.

Fifth, the type of wastewater system that Mr. Boyer was to attempt to install last time was a grinder tank system. This system is a low cost to install, but high cost to maintain for residents. The electric power on the island is sometimes out for whatever reason, sometimes for hours. To keep the raw sewage from filling in the tank and backing up into the yard or homes, homeowners would have to have a generator to pump the grinder tank out into the wastewater lines. The cost of generators alone for each household would be a monumental undue expense, especially in light of attempting to recover from the Hurricane in 2022. Mr. Boyer is heartless to attempt this project again, in light of the struggles of the island to recover.

It is also my understanding that Mr. Boyer plans to have this system installed at great expense to the community then sell the system to Charlotte County, and make untold amounts of money off the backs of the island property owners. You should also be advised, Mr. Boyer owns a home on Little Gasparilla Island, which is now for sale. So, after everything, Mr. Boyer would not even have to live with the system he wishes to install, nor would he have to live with the ecological and physical damage the installation of this system would inflict on Little Gasparilla Island.

I would invite any of you who have never been to Little Gasparilla Island to come for a visit and see first hand the terrible obstacles to provide the service Mr. Boyer wishes to attempt again. You will also see that septic tanks are working properly and there is absolutely no need to change the system already in place. The island is a very special place, and no homeowner on the island wishes to harm the island any more than Hurricane Ian did. I am afraid the wastewater system Mr. Boyer wants to install would do just that.

I formally request that you deny the petition of Environmental Utilities, LLC, a for-profit private company that has absolutely no experience in wastewater service, to install a wastewater system on Little Gasparilla Island, Knight Island or Palm Island.

Sincerely,

Roy Petteway  
roypetteway@gmail.com

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Roy & Wendy Petteway <oranges@embarqmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 10:48 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** EU letter 4 19 24.odt

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

Please find attached my protest concerning the above docket.

Thank you,

Wendy Petteway

9744 Little Gasparilla Island  
Placida, Florida

Commission Clerk  
Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
April 19, 2024

Re: Docket No. 20240032-SU – Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to formally request that you deny the above stated application to install a sewer/wastewater system on the barrier islands of Charlotte County, specifically, Little Gasparilla Island, Palm Island and Knight Island.

As a long time homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island, my family has enjoyed the serene beauty of the barrier island. We own a home at 9744 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida, Florida.

I have many concerns about the wastewater system Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) wishes to install against our will on the island. The main reason is the environmental disaster during the installation, which would be catastrophic for the nature of the island. There are nesting bald eagles, osprey, bobcats, endangered gopher tortoises and many other native Florida wildlife that call the island home. The installation of the system would severely disrupt the nesting habitats of these animals. Also, the destruction of the native flora and fauna to run the underground pipelines necessary for the effluent to be removed from the island.

The island took a direct hit from Hurricane Ian in 2022 and is still recovering very slowly. Most of the homes on the island in all three communities were either severely damaged or destroyed by the storm. Many homeowners are still in the process of getting the necessary insurance monies to repair their homes and would be severely impacted by the cost of the installation of this system. The cost of the system installation would be in the tens of thousands of dollars and a monthly cost of over \$200 for sewer alone. After Hurricane Ian and the direct hit the island absorbed, it is unconscionable for Mr. Boyer to attempt to force the island to install this system after he was rejected by this board just two years ago. Nothing has changed on the island since the application by EU then. The installation of the system would even destroy landscaping and decks, walkways, etc. on people's property. It would be done with no reimbursement to the homeowner to replace. The collecting of easements to run the underground lines would be done with no payment to the homeowner, which is unconstitutional.

The Lemon Bay Estuary is a pristine coastal body of water and there is no data to support that septic tanks are polluting the waters. We all enjoy the fishing, boating and swimming in the area and would never want anything to pollute the waters. There is a great risk with a pipe running across the bay to the mainland from our bridgeless barrier island carrying effluent. There is always the risk of an accidental spillage that we don't have to deal with now, having septic tanks. A well maintained septic tank system will last many, many years.

The system that EU proposes to install would require the demolition of all septic tanks on the island and then the installation of a very small tank to hold as it's pumped out to the sewer lines. In the



event of power outages, which occur frequently and last for hours and hours, a generator would have to be purchased by every homeowner to keep the tank from overflowing into their yard. Being on a barrier island, the salt atmosphere is very hard on any equipment, necessitating the need to replace pumps on the system every so often, at the homeowners expense. If you look at the application, you will see that everything being done to install the wastewater system is done at the homeowners expense. This is patently unfair and holds the homeowner responsible for expenses that are exorbitant and way beyond the scope of what would be required in a mainland community. EU has no expertise in the wastewater system arena, and the possibility of a damaging mistake is a certainty, with no recourse to the homeowner.

The only way to the barrier island is by boat. There is a barge service operating to the island, and if the installation is approved, EU would dominate the use of the barge service to bring over the hundreds of tanks, the multiple trips required to bring over the heavy equipment required for installation and the regular homeowners would not be able to use the barge service for normal necessary maintenance on their homes.

If any of you have never been to Little Gasparilla Island, Palm Island or Knight Island, I would like you to come and see the beauty and old Florida nature that EU would destroy with the installation of the wastewater system. There aren't many old Florida coastal communities left in the state and it would be an awful shame to see this pristine environment changed forever. All of us homeowners on the island have worked diligently to clean up after Hurricane Ian and the island looks better than ever now. It would be a shame if it all was for naught.

Again, I am formally requesting that you deny the above application for a wastewater system on Little Gasparilla Island, Knight Island and Palm Island.

Sincerely,

Wendy Petteway  
9744 Little Gasparilla Island  
oranges@embarqmail.com

cc: Commissioner LaRosa  
Commissioner Clark  
Commissioner Passidomo  
Commissioner Fay  
Commissioner Graham

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Lesley Finch <lesley747@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 10:05 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  
**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 Commissioner,

I want to strongly object to Environmental Utilities, LLC application for installation of central sewers to the barrier islands.

Why is this coming up again when it was denied two years ago?

Have been a resident for 20 years on Little Gasparilla Island in two different homes. Been on a septic system with no problems and none to the environment. I am retired and on a budget. Cost to hook up is proposed between \$15k-\$20K, with other added expenses, then \$100 a month additional service bill.

What happens when the power goes out, everyone will have to run a generator. Have you ever heard 400 generators running? It will be heard on the mainland. It was the only sound you heard on LGI plus chainsaws for months due to Hurricane Ian.

I still have no roof on my residence and repair in the house needs attention.

Certainly don't need the stress and expense of a sewer system that doesn't work by a company that has no experience. E.U. Took away islanders perfect good water forcing everyone (at great expense) to hook up to the public water. In my case crossed my property without an easement and hooked up

water to my neighbor without permission saving installation cost of EU to my detriment. Who knows what damage this waste water system will entail. Let alone devastating results for wildlife, especially the gopher tortoises that have burrowed in my yard for years.

Please consider my concerns and confirm you have received this.

Lesley M Finch

8276 Little Gasparilla Island. Dock 18

[Lesley747@gmail.com](mailto:Lesley747@gmail.com)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Amy McCully <amymccully11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 8:08 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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

Amy McCully

Property owner at 61 Kettle Harbor Dr. on Don Pedro Island, in Placida Florida.

This letter is to serve as my formal request that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities (EU) application for wastewater service. Bringing a central wastewater system to our precious island would forever change it and not for the better. I personally invite you to my home, to experience our beautiful island.

This proposed project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species. The heavy equipment and materials transport needed to construct an island-wide central sewer system will bring unbelievable congestion to our islands and ferry, our only form of transportation to and from our homes. The logistics of this project are endless and will only benefit the EU as a private company.

This letter is to also serve as my formal request to be added to the docket as an interested person.

Kind regards,

--

**Amy McCully**

Cell: (224) 715-8163

[amymccully11@gmail.com](mailto:amymccully11@gmail.com)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** James Davis <drjwdavis@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 9:13 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Fay  
**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.

Good Morning,

As a home owner on Don Pedro Island I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to put a sewer system on the island. I have carefully reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal and have come to the conclusion that this is not going to benefit the island community, the environment or the home owners. The initial cost will be excessive and the monthly rates will be extremely high. It will be dependent on electricity and not function when the power goes out, which it frequently does on the island. After Ida we were without power for over a week. This would have resulted in sever sewer backups and spillage of raw sewage. Who will service the system after a severe storm?

It appears the cost of insulation, hookup, maintenance and repairs will be the responsibility of the homeowners. We will end paying thousand of dollars to have and maintain a system that we do not want, does not benefit the island, or those living on the island.

Please deny the proposal from Environmental Utilities LLC to install a central sewer on the island.

Sincerely  
James W Davis  
161 S Gulf Blvd  
Don Pedro Island

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** ROCKY MANLEY <the4manleys@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 7:07 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**Subject:** Re: New Docket#20340032-SU

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Dear Clerk/Commissioners,

We received information and a request by county commissioners regarding the proposal to again pursue a waste water service to Little Gasparilla island. Our objections have not changed. The conclusions for denial remain the same as in the original filing. There has been no evidence provided that supports the need for this service. Little Gasparilla Island is a small barrier island which remains under 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. No water testing has been done to prove that there is need. Each home owner is responsible for their own system which they maintain. This project also brings the possibility of harm and destruction of our endangered species. There are power outages from bad weather and this could cause problems with the pump stations operating with electricity. Home owners do not have the resources to pay for something that is not needed. We are just recovering from a major storm which caused a lot of damage to our homes at major expense. our home on Little Gasparilla Island has been a gathering place for our family and friends for over 30 years during the spring and summer months. We have the same concerns as before. This system is not in our best interest for the island. Higher costs would only further impede the care of our beautiful island .

Thank you,

Jerry and Ruth Ridings

Rocky and Suzzanne

Manley

Dock 21

8318 Grand Ave. (Peacock lane)

Little Gasparilla Island

ruthridings@yahoo.com

the4manleys@bellsouth.com

Sent from my iPhone

## **Antonia Hover**

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**From:** Wendy Carlton <wencarlton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** April 16 Letter to Commish.docx

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**April 16, 2024**

**RE. Docket #20240032-SU**

**Dear: Clerk of the Commission**

**I am writing to formally request that the PSC DENY Environmental Utilities (EU) application for wastewater service. As a homeowner on Don Pedro island, and I have many reasons to object:**

- 1. I currently have a permitted Advance Treatment Unit (ATU) for my home that cost me an inordinate amount to install. It is designed to do the very things that the applicant claims. Having to attach to another system, pay the additional costs and ongoing fees is not possible.**
- 2. Our island has been subjected to having to fend off these permit requests with legal fees and time-consuming aggravation. There is precedence in denying this application AGAIN!**
- 3. The rates and charges proposed are laughable for an applicant that owns no other such facility servicing a barrier island.**
- 4. These facilities will cause higher density development to come to the island and further damage our environment that they are 'trying to protect'. It is a developer's gambit.**
- 5. All costs for permitting, pump out costs, electricity, maintenance, installation costs, the cost of landscaping and irrigation. I have already paid on my system and continue to pay. WHY WOULD I WANT TO START OVER AGAIN AND ENCUMBER THE COSTS WHEN I ALREADY OWN A COMPARABLE SYSTEM?**
- 6. The permit requests would grant an easement over my property to EU without compensation. It is not just a sewer line easement. It is an entire section of yard.**
- 7. As a ferry served barrier island, the added congestion, roadway demolition, and heavy equipment requirements will cause an undue burden for the residences. There are no alternative routes on single land roads that do not interconnect.**

**Respectfully,**

**Wendy Carlton**

**340 Bocilla Dr. Placida, FL 33946 (residence), PO Box 3790, Placida, FL 33946 (mailing)**

**wencarlton@gmail.com 828-506-6418**

April 16, 2024

RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Dear Clerk of the Commission

I am writing to formally request that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities (EU) application for wastewater service. As a homeowner on Don Pedro Island, and I have many reasons to object:

1. I currently have a permitted Advance Treatment Unit (ATU) for my home that cost me an inordinate amount to install. It is designed to do the very things that the applicant claims. Having to attach to another system, pay the additional costs and ongoing fees is not possible.
2. Our island has been subjected to having to fend off these permit requests with legal fees and time-consuming aggravation. There is precedence in denying this application AGAIN!
3. The rates and charges proposed are laughable for an applicant that owns no other such facility servicing a barrier island.
4. These facilities will cause higher density development to come to the island and further damage our environment that they are 'trying to protect'. It is a developer's gambit.
5. All the costs for permitting, pump out costs, electricity, maintenance, installation costs, the cost of landscaping and irrigation. I have already paid on my system and continue to pay. WHY WOULD I WANT TO START OVER AGAIN AND ENCUMBER THE COSTS WHEN I ALREADY OWN A COMPARABLE SYSTEM?
6. The permit requests would grant an easement over my property to EU without compensation. It is not just a sewer line easement. It is an entire section of yard.
7. As a ferry served barrier island, the added congestion, roadway demolition, and heavy equipment requirements will cause an undue burden for the residences. There are no alternative routes on single land roads that do not interconnect.

Respectfully,

Wendy Carlton

340 Bocilla Dr. Placida, FL 33946 (residence), PO Box 3790, Placida, FL 33946 (mailing)



[wencarlton@gmail.com](mailto:wencarlton@gmail.com) 828-506-6418