F ire mark	Office of Commissioner Passidomo
From:	
Sent:	Monday, April 29, 2024 9:01 AM
То:	Commissioner Correspondence
Subject:	Docket No. 20240032
Attachments:	Docket #20240032; Re: Docket #20240032-SU; 20240032-SU docket #; Request to
	DENY Docket #20240032-SU ; Sewer LGI; FW: LGI Serer System; Docket #
	20240032-SU; FW: Docket# 20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to
	Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for
	Wastewater Service; Sewer Docket 20240032-SU; Re: Objection to the Proposal to and
	Request the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the
	Proposed Central Sewer System; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU;
	Message from Frank Guagliardo regarding Docket# 20240032-SU; Docket 20240032-
	SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; Docket# 20240032-SU; Docket No. 20240032-SU,
	Environmental Utilities; Fwd: Docket# 20240032-SU; Application for Original Wastewater
	Certificate in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities LLC, Docket 20240032-SU;
	Fwd: Docket 20240032-SU; 20240032-SU; Proposed EU sewer application for the islands
	of LGI, Knights Island, Palm Island and Don Pedro Island; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Re:
	Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #
	20240032-SU

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

q.

Thank you!

From:	Kelly Lube <lubekelly@icloud.com></lubekelly@icloud.com>
Sent:	Sunday, April 28, 2024 9:34 PM
То:	Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; commissioner.grham@psc.state.fl.us; commissioner.Fay@psc.state.us
Subject:	Docket #20240032

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I am writing my opposition letter regarding EU's application for wastewater service on Don Pedro Island. This was opposed two years ago and I'm not sure why it is back. He is wasting everyone's time and as of yet there has been no evidence that this is a needed service. If it was a needed service at some point, the county should be providing this and not a profit driven business.

I live at 290 Kettle Harbor Dr. on Don Pedro Island and I have an Aerobic Treatment Unit for septic. The Charlotte County Department of Health inspects my unit once a year and I pay extra fees for an operating permit & inspections that follows the guidelines of the Charlotte county health department. Please see the below document which was directly taken from the Charlotte County health Department website regarding the system that I currently have. I should not have to remove and replace a perfectly working system and one that follows county health guidelines. Thank you in advance-for opposing this non environmentally friendly-profit driven company. Kelly Lubē





CHARLOTTE COUNTY

FLORIDA

For Owners/Users of Aerobic Treatment Systems:

Aerobic Treatment Units (ATU) are a special kind of wastewater disposal system that are more efficient at processing waste. They are highly versatile and efficient systems and have many advantages including the ability to be installed in a place where a conventional systems could be installed (due to soil quality or site conditions), or providing the ability to build a larger house on a smaller lot (ATUs require a smaller drainfield size than conventional systems). ATUs reduce the amount of biological material that enters your drainfield. This may extend the lifespan of your drainfield, and is more environmentally friendly than a conventional system.

There are fees associated with maintaining an ATU as a direct result of the requirments to maintain a valid operating permit and a maintenance contract for the life of the system.

Sent from my iPad

What are the requirements?

- The homeowner must maintain a current operating permit for the life of the system. The operating permit must be renewed every two years. and costs \$200.00 payable to the Department of Health.
- The homeowner must maintain a valid maintenance contract with an approved maintenance entity for the life of the system. The maintenance contract on new construction will initially be good for two years. Subsequent renewals must be good for at least a one-year term for the life of the system. Prices vary depending on the maintenance entity selected and type of system.
- Maintenance entity is required to inspect/service the ATU at least two times per year. Inspection reports must be submitted to the Department of Health in Lee County.
 The Department of Health must inspect the
- The Department of Health must inspect the maintenance and performance of the ATU at least once per year.

From:	DONALD NIVER <dgniver@aol.com></dgniver@aol.com>
Sent:	Saturday, April 27, 2024 7:39 PM
То:	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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To Whom It May Concern:

I'm urgently encouraging you all to deny EU's application for wastewater service to Don Pedro Island, Palm Island/Knight Island, Thornton Key, and Little Gasparilla Island. I'm sure you've heard all the reasons why this is a terrible idea. I know of no one who owns property or even who visits there, who feels this is a good idea. There has been no request that I'm aware of from property owners or residents for this service. Financially, the initial cost to owners will be exorbitant, and if it becomes a reality, we will incur ongoing routine expenses significantly over what our current costs are, which is understandable since this is a private, for profit company requesting to provide this unwanted "service". And this is not even an experienced, proven company, which we would all be required to use. If a major storm hits with electrical outages, most everyone will be in a sewage mess till that can be resolved. Environmentally, it could well be a disaster. The service set up will destroy habitat on the islands and pose possible major contamination of the intercostal waterway in the event of a pipe leak or break.

If it were proven, without question, that the current system is a danger environmentally, and that the new system would pose fewer problems, it would be worth looking at, but to me it looks as though we'd be trading to a worse and much more expensive, unneeded and unwanted system.

These are extraordinary islands and there aren't many like them anymore. We need to do everything in our power to maintain them in the least obtrusive way we can.

I thank you for reading my ramblings and hope you consider the opinions of the actual property owners and residents of these amazing islands.

Sally N Kimbrell William L Kimbrell 301 S Gulf Blvd Colony Don Pedro, unit 27 Don Pedro Island 813-758-8873 dgniver@aol.com sallynkimbrell@gmail.com

From:	Julie Watts <watts7@earthlink.net></watts7@earthlink.net>
Sent:	Saturday, April 27, 2024 1:04 PM
То:	Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of
	Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject:	20240032-SU docket #

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Hello

I am opposed the the proposed application for sewer for HideawayBay on Little Gasparilla Island. We have a great sewer system and if changes are made we will have an empurmous expense and be paying outrageeous fees. May will have to go into foreclosure- We aren not a wealthy community. Please Please Please do not allow!! S

Sincerely Julie and Bob Watts Jay Keller K4

From:	Candyce Cohen <candycecohen@gmail.com></candycecohen@gmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 11:42 PM
То:	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:	Request to DENY Docket #20240032-SU
Attachments:	CC Docket20240032-SU.pdf

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Hello Commissioners,

My name is Candyce Cohen and I am a full-time, year-round resident of Don Pedro Island in the proposed service area having first purchased a home here in 1990. My primary and only residence is on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to request that you **DENY** this latest EU application for Service. I have provided my reasoning, documentation and concerns in the attached PDF

Thank you very much for your service and consideration of my position.

Respectfully submitted,

Candyce Cohen 8 Pointe Way Don Pedro Island candycecohen@gmail.com

EMAIL TO:

Clerk of the Commission clerk@psc.state.fl.us

COPY TO:

Commissioner LaRosa: <u>Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us</u> Commissioner Clark: <u>Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us</u> Commissioner Passidomo: <u>Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us</u> Commissioner Graham: <u>Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us</u> Commissioner Fay: <u>Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us</u>

SUBJECT: DENY Request for Docket #20240032-SU April 26, 2024

Hello Commissioners,

My name is Candyce Cohen and I am a full-time, year-round resident of Don Pedro Island in the proposed service area having first purchased a home here in 1990. My primary and only residence is on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to request that you **DENY** this latest EU application for Service.

NOT A DEVELOPER

I am writing to this commission, once again, to ask that you DENY Environmental Utilities LLC's (EU) application to provide wastewater service to this area. I wrote you once before and spoke to you at a local hearing just two short years ago. I reviewed the application to see what if anything has changed and not a lot has. I do not the application has the support of several developers including one who submitted 21 separate letters requesting service and another who sent in 3 along with a handful of Little Gasparilla Island owners. Reviewing the docket to date, I see more multiple submissions from another 4 developers – one with 7 letters, another with 4 letters, then 3 letters. Reviewing the supporters, I see only a half dozen individual homeowners requesting service and one is the daughter of EU's principal, Jack Boyer. One EU supporter blamed 17 deaths on raw sewage from septic overflow on Little Gasparilla Island following Hurricane Ian. I know the hurricane was devastating, but I somehow missed this headline.

My husband and I are NOT developers, we're just islanders who have worked hard to build our dream home here. We support the Bocilla Islands Conservancy, pick up litter on the beach and try to help neighbors in need and keep our septic tank inspected and maintained.

SEWAGE FLOWS VIA PUMP EXCEPT WHEN POWER IS OUT - THEN IT OVERFLOWS

Hurricane lan's devastating landfall on the barrier islands has taken a significant toll, costing islanders a lot of time, money and emotion in rebuilding. Many have not been able to complete due to challenges with insurance carriers. The power and water outages for over a week following landfall were difficult, but I remain thankful that we were not on the central sewer solution such as the one proposed by EU which requires each property owner to have electricity to pump waste out of what is essentially a small holding tank. Loss of power for any extended period would lead to an environmental disaster as these much smaller tanks are all connected.

Evaluation of Standards for Low Pressure Sewer Systems Sarasota County – ESBC Utilities Section 6 - Survey of Florida Communities Using Low Pressure Grinder Pumps Systems

Their units do not have an emergency power receptacle. In the event of a power outage, if they need to perform an emergency pump down, they would hardwire the system.

During the last three hurricane seasons, there were instances where the power was out for up to three days. For the commercial properties, it was the property owner's responsibility to pump down their own system. For the single family homeowners, it was the County's responsibility to pump down the systems. However, the County advised the residents to pop the top on the clean out and let the sewage flow in the yard so that it would not back up into the house. The county did not go out to pump down the units with a generator.

The pumps had some maintenance issues as well. After about 6-8 years, the pumps began to have problems. They found that the ABS Piranha 09 model had fewer problems than the E-one. The E-one pumps had some manufacturer defects that the manufacturer replaced. The source of the problem was a defect that allowed water to enter the section of the station lid where the electrical components were housed, resulting in electrical failures.

With the landfall of Hurricane Ian, sewage spills have not made the top headlines, but the state PNP (Pollution Notice Reporting) publishes sewer and wastewater spills. Since 2019 Charlotte County had more than 120 spills with nearly 6.6m gallons of wastewater lost to the environment. In the past 2 years, there have been an additional 40k gallons of wastewater across 5 spills from lift stations and pumps failing. Of this, a mere 300 gallons was recovered. The rest went into our land and waterways. In the past 30 days, there have additional incidents registered in Charlotte County.



Incident Name	SWO Incide-T	Incident Report	Gallon	Recove	Report Date
	*	Incident Description: LPS pump failed, which caused the tank to fill and overflow New pump was installed with new float sensors. 300 gallons spilled, with 150			
18091 Avonsdale Cir 4-16-24	202403290 F	gallons collected with Vacuum truck. 23-30 gallons entered the storm drain at Incident Description: We received a high-level alarm at our Lift Station # 210 at the store of the state of the store of	300	150	04/17/2024 03
Liftstation # 210 overflow	20238502	about 20:30 on 10/12/2023. Heavy rain had created high flows and high pressures in our collections system. When another lift station pumped to this Incident Description: Car accident damaged customers irrigation system that is	10000	0	10/13/2023 12
2022-1117 Reclaim spill Edgev	v 20229531	fed by reclaim water. Wastewater Type: Reuse Incident Description: Contractor broke off the air release valve(ARV), while	10500	0	11/18/2022 12
2022-0609 Reclaim ARV Break	20224230	removing old pipe on the job site. A thrust block fell off old pipe onto the ARV, breaking the pipe below the ARV. The valve feeding the ARV was located and Incident Description: Reclaim break in 2" line. Shut valve at main. Break will be	3500	0	06/09/2022 07
2022-0604 Reclaim Break	20224008	repaired on 6/6/2022. Approximately 15,000 gallons of reclaimed water spilled. No waterways affected.	15000	0	06/04/2022 02

The devastation from these bulk sewage spills has proven far-reaching impacts to our water quality, many multiples of the impact from low density septic tank usage.

> 120 Charlotte County Sewage Spills (since 2019) of nearly 6.6m gallons of Wastewater



WATER QUALITY AND NITROGEN LEVELS

No local water studies have shown that septic tanks are damaging island waters– but CCU's own Sewer Master Plan shows groundwater and watershed flows. Higher nitrogen levels are found in both fertilizer and reclaimed wastewater used to irrigate the several golf courses that flow directly into Lemon Bay. This nitrogen-rich runoff also exacerbates any red tide issues.

If the county is focused on local water quality, Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) would follow the lead of neighboring Sarasota, Manatee and Lee counties and prioritize work with Charlotte Harbor's National Estuary Program (CHNEP) to upgrade wastewater treatment to Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) standards reducing excess nutrient in reclaimed wastewater – again which all flow into Lemon Bay. In the wake of Hurricane Ian, several wastewater treatment plants around the state dumped raw sewage into Florida Waterways. From the October 2, 2022 Bloomberg article highlighting the service area, note the sewage is flowing through the passes into the gulf and NOT from the individual island septic tanks.



A view shows sediment discharging to sea after Hurricane Ian hits Don Pedro Island, in Florida, U.S. September 30, 2022. Courtesy of 2022 Maxar Technologies/Handout via REUTERS.

Hurricane Ian Dumped Raw Sewage Into Florida Waterways

Bloomberg Total Views: 6384 🌢 October 2, 2022 In these articles, Professor LaPointe makes his position clear – that billions will need to be spent on sewer infrastructure for many of these urban areas. Urban does not describe our barrier island community.

Charlotte County has a third of the population density of the counties to our north and south. Our islands do not support high-rise, multifamily nor commercial developments. Our delicate island environment is at much greater risk of pollution from centralized sewage spills than any low-density septic tank issues.

The counties north and south acknowledge sewage spills happen and have focused on protecting sensitive estuaries by implementing Advanced Wastewater Treatment to reduce excess nitrogen and nutrients in reclaimed water.

Charlotte County Utilities should prioritize upgrading to AWT standards removing redtide fueling nutrient from wastewater before dismantling functioning low-density tanks (OSTDS).

The cost of these upgrades can be offset in full or in part with Clean Water / Clean Waterways funding and grants. EU as a private, "for-profit"

BNN Bloomberg	NEWS	LIVE	VIDEO	SHOWS	MORE 👻
"I'd say this is goin interview. "We are in the wake of Hu	anticipating s				
One model the sta Keys. Monroe Co upgrade that inclu out and an advan nitrogen, preventi is then injected m The area reported he added.	unty spent ab ided new, tigh ced wastewat ng algal bloor ore than 3,00	out \$1 b itly seale er treatr ns that c 0 feet ur	illion on a ed pipes to nent syste lamage co nderground	septic-to-se keep storn m to remov oral reefs. T d, LaPointe	ewer nwater re he water said.
"This is really whe	ere I think Flor	ida is qo	oina to be	heading in t	the

"This is really where I think Florida is going to be heading in the future," LaPointe said. "We are going to have to spend billions of dollars in many of these urban areas."

limited liability "utility" has no standing to garner Clean Water / Clean Waterways funds. The nature of a Limited Liability Corporation providing this service provides no recourse to the public or the county for any costly mistakes and does not meet criteria for Clean Water grants or other financing alternatives. The limited liability nature of the LLC limits public and private funding opportunities.

Central sewer provided by an inexperienced, private, for-profit entity and NOT by a qualified, municipal utility is NOT REASONABLE environmentally or economically.

THE NEED IS GREED

We have yet to see evidence and testing documenting the NEED for a septic to sewer migration. Where is reporting that our local water quality issues result from individual septic tanks versus the millions of gallons of fertilizer-enriched, reclaimed wastewater runoff from a half dozen local golf courses and green lawns on the mainland into Lemon Bay? None of this is addressed in EU'a application rather continuing to reference East Coast/Urban waterways. And "urban" does not come close to describing our barrier island community - at least so long as the developers who have been writing in support are not successful convincing the County to change



zoning in our community. This is just one concern of seeing so many developers pushing

endorsing the EU service ... is their end game to develop properties as platted or to change zoning on the islands to increase density and commercial activities? If I wanted to live on Ft. Myers Beach or Siesta Key, I would have moved there and I don't want to see our county leaders swayed by wealthy developers to change zoning and forever change our community and love of the natural environment we have here.

For the record, it is rare than an islander considers uses sod as most embrace Florida Native landscaping options. In fact, the islands under encouragement of Bocilla Islands Conservancy Inc, the island is now a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat. We are very proud of our care of the environment and can't imagine the devastation to and disruption of our wildlife habitat proposed by EU.



CONCLUSION:

I want to be able to continue living in my island home, but I already pay amongst the highest water rates in the state to a private utility. Even considering another private utility much less a Limited Liability Corporate for sewer service with no ability to make use of Clean Water grants and funding options is an incomprehensible proposition our county is promoting.

Before considering disruption to our carefully protected environment, we would need to see evidence of the need for service from our LOCAL waters – not some urban, East Coast studies – and evidence that water quality issues are attributable to low density septic tanks – and not the millions of gallons of nitrogen-enriched runoff from commercial activities surrounding Lemon Bay, If these were our actual conditions, the our county should not shirk responsibility and subject our residents to another private, for-profit company with scant experience. Counties to the north and south have undertaken improvements to reduce nitrogen levels in their treated water thereby reducing the nitrogen-load of reclaimed water runoff into Lemon Bay.

We just went through this process less than 2 years ago and we still have yet to see EVIDENCE of the need for this project from our LOCAL, LOW DENSITY Waters. In that time, we endured Hurricane Ian, rebuild to whatever extent possible our homes and our lives and here we are again facing another round with EU

- still a private for-private LLC
- still with scant to no experience
- still with no access to funding/grants for municipalities who undertaking these projects
- still with no guarantee other than it is a for-profit company that will always take the highest rate increases available.

EU offers neither a SAFE, REASONABLE nor RELIABLE solution for our community. For all the reasons I have stated, I respectfully ask that the commission **DENY** EU's request for service.

Thank you very much for your patience reading this and I am happy to support or clarify any of these arguments,

Respectfully submitted,

Candyce Cohen 8 Pointe Way Don Pedro Island, FL candycecohen@gmail.com

From:	dave ferri <kdisland@gmail.com></kdisland@gmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 7:39 PM
То:	Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc:	Joel D Piktel
Subject:	Sewer LGI
Attachments:	swwer lgi.pages

We are property owners on Little Gasparilla Island, specifically at 8594 Marsh Ave, Placidia , Fl. 33946. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed central sewer project on Little Gasparilla Island. We are formally requesting that the Public Service Commission deny the application for wastewater service proposed by Environmental Utilities, LLC. It appears this request is not driven by the needs of the island, but only to benefit a business that has no experience installing sewers. The proposed project has major implications and costs to the environment and island residents. Our major concerns include:

1. As homeowners, we have major concerns about mandatory hookup requirements. We are not willing or able to pay extraordinary costs to convert to a new system when there is nothing wrong with our current septic that we maintain. We are not willing or able to pay the cost of additional electric service if and the potential cost of installing a new or added panel. We see this as an unwarranted and expensive complication of what has been a simple, affordable, and reliable septic system that we have used for decades without any problems.

2. The proposed monthly residential cost for service is reported to be extremely high and not acceptable. The rates being discussed are above and beyond current rates on the mainland and would be a totally new monthly expense for Little Gasparilla Island homeowners.

3. The proposed system's reliability and maintenance is unproven. Environmental Utilities, LLC has not demonstrated any technical expertise with this type of project, nor do they have a proven record that they can safely and reliably service the proposed system. If a central sewer system is proven to be an urgent need for the barrier islands, it should be installed and maintained as a municipal project with county and state officials responsible and accountable for the project's oversite and success.

4. The installation of sewer lines, tanks, and pumps at each property presents a large and immediate impact to the nature and landscape of the island. This disruption has the potential to harm our local wildlife, such as our cherished gopher tortoise population, which is included in the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List. The installation project activities would also endanger and damage the island's vegetation that we have carefully and thoughtfully maintained for decades. The ongoing risk to the environment due to future potential system failures in the event of storms is much greater and more severe than the current private property septic system. One storm can cause much more environmental harm in the event of damage to a central sewer system than to a residential septic tank.

5. The need for electric pumps at each property presents a new burden on Little Gasparilla Island's electricity supply. We have concerns that this burden on the existing electrical infrastructure could lead to a risk of fires. A proliferation of propane generators being used to prevent sewer back up in case of power outages also presents an increased risk of fires on Little Gasparilla Island.

Thank you,

Kathy and Dave Ferri

From:	Rick Jenkins <rick.jenkins@quality-roofing.com></rick.jenkins@quality-roofing.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 5:29 PM
То:	Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject:	FW: LGI Serer System

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Richard C. Jenkins | CEO | Quality Roofing, Inc. 1905 N 40th Street | Tampa, FL 33605 (813) 620-4797 Office | (813) 626-1756 Fax | Rick.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com

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From: Rick Jenkins Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 5:28 PM To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.u; Chris Brooks <Chris.Brooks@Quality-Roofing.com>; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us Subject: LGI Serer System

My wife Susan Jenkins and I are homeowners of several properties on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) which is in the proposed service area in Environmental Utilities (EU) central sewer proposal.

We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for original certification of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

We strongly object to EUs proposal and application for certification. We request an administrative hearing be held before a ruling on the application. We also request status as a Party of Record so that we can participate in legal proceedings.

We as homeowners do not need this service or request this service.

We have many concerns regarding this proposal and have been homeowners of LGI for more than 20 years.

-First and foremost we invested in our current septic system which has served us very well throughout the years. This new proposed system is not needed and very expensive and adds additional burden for us as homeowners. Our original septic system that we were forced to install in 2006 is the aerator system that requires yearly service and fees to the Heath department of Charlotte County. We have used this system all this time and were forced to spend \$23,000.00 in 2006 when a normal septic system cost \$12,000.00 After all this time of spending extra money on a septic system, we are not willing to spend another exorbitant amount of money on a different system that does not meet our needs. We are in our 60's and close to retirement and can't afford this new system.

-It is our understanding that the connection charge of this system is estimated between \$13,000 to \$20,000 per homeowner and additional cost quarterly estimated at nearly \$200. An electric panel separate from our home will also be needed with additional cost.

-We as the homeowner will also need to invest in a generator to avoid sewage back up in the event of power outages. This is very concerning as power outages occur frequently on our island. Also, Hurricane Ian in 2022 was devastating for our island. We are still recovering from this major hurricane with our home still in repair.

-Another concern is that we have current dealings with this owner through Little Gasparilla Water and there are constant issues and unnecessary costs with monthly base fees of over \$200 per household plus usage.

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and urge you to deny EU's application.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Jenkins | CEO | Quality Roofing, Inc. 1905 N 40th Street | Tampa, FL 33605 (813) 620-4797 Office | (813) 626-1756 Fax | <u>Rick.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com</u>

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From:	Gary Richardson <traderrichardson@gmail.com> Friday, April 26, 2024 5:13 PM</traderrichardson@gmail.com>
Sent:	
To:	Records Clerk
Cc:	Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject:	Docket #20240032-SU

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My wife (Robyn) and I oppose the approval of Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) application to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the installation of central sewer on Don Pedro Island.

Our biggest concern is the applicant: Environmental Utilities LLC. On paper, EU simply does not have the experience on similar projects to be successful. Off paper, the EU principals have a bad reputation in the area for previous failed ventures.

- Need for Service. There has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service.
- Environmental. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.
- The Costs. The costs of central sewer are quite considerable at a very bad time for Islanders. Many are still engaged with fighting their insurance companies for settlements from Hurricane Ian and have had to lay out large sums for their re-builds while they wait for compensation. Some owners have just paid deep-pocket sums to install new septic systems at their newly built or re-built homes. Many property owners simply do not have the resources available to convert from septic to sewer.

Please do not approve the application.

Gary & Robyn Richardson 301 S Gulf Blvd #22 Placida FL 33946

From:	Susan Jenkins <susan.jenkins@quality-roofing.com></susan.jenkins@quality-roofing.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 5:05 PM
То:	Records Clerk
Cc:	Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject:	FW: Docket# 20240032-SU

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My husband Rick Jenkins and I are homeowners of several properties on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) which is in the proposed service area in Environmental Utilities (EU) central sewer proposal.

We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for original certification of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

We strongly object to EUs proposal and application for certification. We request an administrative hearing be held before a ruling on the application. We also request status as a Party of Record so that we can participate in legal proceedings.

We as homeowners do not need this service or request this service.

We have many concerns regarding this proposal and have been homeowners of LGI for more than 20 years.

-First and foremost we invested in our current septic system which has served us very well throughout the years. This new proposed system is not needed and very expensive and adds additional burden for us as homeowners. Our original septic system that we were forced to install in 2006 is the aerator system that requires yearly service and fees to the Heath department of Charlotte County. We have used this system all this time and were forced to spend \$23,000.00 in 2006 when a normal septic system cost \$12,000.00 After all this time of spending extra money on a septic system, we are not willing to spend another exorbitant amount of money on a different system that does not meet our needs. We are in our 60's and close to retirement and can't afford this new system.

-It is our understanding that the connection charge of this system is estimated between \$13,000 to \$20,000 per homeowner and additional cost quarterly estimated at nearly \$200. An electric panel separate from our home will also be needed with additional cost.

-We as the homeowner will also need to invest in a generator to avoid sewage back up in the event of power outages. This is very concerning as power outages occur frequently on our island. Also, Hurricane Ian in 2022 was devastating for our island. We are still recovering from this major hurricane with our home still in repair.

-Another concern is that we have current dealings with this owner through Little Gasparilla Water and there are constant issues and unnecessary costs with monthly base fees of over \$200 per household plus usage.

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and urge you to deny EU's application.

Sincerely,

Susan Jenkins | Marketing Director | Quality Roofing, Inc. 1905 N 40th Street | Tampa, FL 33605 (813) 620-4797 Office | (813) 626-1756 Fax | Susan.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com

This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not distribute or copy this e-mail.

WARNING! WIRE FRAUD ADVISORY: Wire fraud and email hacking/phishing attacks are on the increase industry wide! If you have a monetary transaction with us, and you receive an email containing Wire Transfer Instructions. <u>DO NOT RESPOND TO THE EMAIL</u>! Instead, call Quality Roofing, Inc. immediately, using previously known contact information and NOT information provided in the email, to verify the information prior to sending funds.

From:	Robert Volpe <rvolpe@holtzmanvogel.com></rvolpe@holtzmanvogel.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 4:54 PM
То:	Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc:	Kayla Kentnor; Louise Volpe
Subject:	Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service

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Good afternoon,

This is a request to be added as an interested person in docket # 20240032-SU on behalf of Louise Volpe. Please send all relevant docket entries and notices to:

rvolpe@holtzmanvogel.com and

Kkentnor@holtzmanvogel.com

Thank you,



PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

This communication and any accompanying documents are confidential and privileged. They are intended for the sole use of the addressee. If you receive this transmission in error, you are advised that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance upon this communication is strictly prohibited. Moreover, any such disclosure shall not compromise or waive the attorney-client, accountant-client, or other privileges as to this communication or otherwise. If you have received this communication in error, please contact me at the above email address. Thank you.

DISCLAIMER

Any accounting, business or tax advice contained in this communication, including attachments and enclosures, is not intended as a thorough, in-depth analysis of specific issues, nor a substitute for a formal opinion, nor is it sufficient to avoid tax-related penalties. If desired, Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky & Josefiak PLLC would be pleased to perform the requisite research and provide you with a detailed written analysis. Such an engagement may be the subject of a separate engagement letter that would define the scope and limits of the desired consultation services.

From: Louise Volpe <loubreez570@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 4:18 PM
To: Robert Volpe <rvolpe@holtzmanvogel.com>
Subject: Fwd: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service

------ Forwarded message ------From: Records Clerk <<u>CLERK@psc.state.fl.us</u>> Date: Thu, Apr 25, 2024 at 3:53 PM Subject: RE: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service To: Louise Volpe <<u>loubreez570@gmail.com</u>> Cc: Consumer Contact <<u>Contact@psc.state.fl.us</u>>

Good afternoon Louise Volpe,

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

Best regards,

Charlie Smith II

Office of Commission Clerk

Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

850-413-6770

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

From: Louise Volpe <<u>loubreez570@gmail.com</u>>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Records Clerk <<u>CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US</u>>; Office of Chairman La Rosa <<u>Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us</u>>;
Office of Commissioner Clark <<u>Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us</u>>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
<<u>Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us</u>>; Office of Commissioner Fay <<u>Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us</u>>; Office of Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>;

Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service

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Dear Commissioners:

I, Louise Volpe, am the owner of property on Little Gasparilla Island within the proposed service area for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) application to provide wastewater service. My properties are located at 9842 Little Gasparilla Island and 9848 Little Gasparilla Island.

I am writing to object and oppose this APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION AND INITIAL RATES AND CHARGES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE (the Application). I request that you DENY the Application. The Application does not demonstrate sufficient need for service, and the application and service are not in the public interest.

My family has owned property on Little Gasparilla Island since 1963. Like me, many of the homeowners have held property on LGI for decades. I have installed a private septic system at significant personal expense, and maintain this system in good operation. Eliminating the raised drain field will not provide an environmental benefit. And the risk of environmental hazard from the low-pressure system outweighs any potential benefit from the system.

The Application has not provided sufficient demonstration of need for the proposed service. The applicant has not received any approvals from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The Application relies on general statements about removal of septic systems on barrier islands as the basis for need for service. It references service needs for failing systems and septic to sewer conversions as a basis for need. However, this is irrelevant because the proposed low-pressure system does not remove septic systems. If systems are in failure, the low pressure system will not cure those defects. Further, in the event of power loss (which occurs often on LGI) the low pressure system could fail causing back-ups and septic failures and resulting in increased environmental risk. In short, the justification for the application need is unrelated to the proposed system and irrelevant. The Application does not demonstrate need.

The proposed low pressure sewer system would be overly burdensome on the homeowners of Little Gasparilla Island. The proposed connection fees (over \$13,000) and proposed rates of over \$250/month are extremely high and a financial burden to many of the owners. These onerous rates would be among the highest in the state and cause an extreme hardship on many of the owners.

I stand with many of my neighbors in opposing this Application. It would not provide the intended benefit and the costs surely outweigh any anticipated benefit. The only one that stands to benefit is the utility owner. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We respectfully request that you DENY the Application.

Sincerely,

Louise Volpe

Loubreez570@gmail.com

From:	floridabuckeye 362 <floridabuckeye362@gmail.com></floridabuckeye362@gmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 3:52 PM
То:	Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of
	Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject:	Sewer Docket 20240032-SU

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Commissioners:

My wife and I are Rodney and Alice Henderson. We have owned our home on Little Gasparilla Island for 24 years and are writing to strongly and formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service We can not believe that Jack Boyer is once again pushing his sewer system.

The reasons against his plans still exist. I can list a few.

The electric system on the island is under severe strain. We lose power several times a year. What will happen then?

This is a harsh environment, with salt mist in the air and salt water incursion from high tides. Our yard was flooded twice in the last 8 months by over a foot of sea water. Any equipment suffers with more maintenance requirements and a much shorter lifespan. Especially electrical equipment.

Movement of service vehicles is severely restricted due to our narrow sandy trails and dense vegetation. Many of the trails would have to be widened and would destroy the look of the island. This is a special place and I know of no other like it.

As I stated when he last applied, Jack Boyer has no experience installing or operating a sewage system !! This is not the place for him to be learning. A mistake here could cause severe impact with limited resources to deal with the situation.

Just yesterday, I rode past a water meter that is close to the trail. It had been run over by equipment, the water line coming from it was broken and had flooded the trail. What if it was sewage?

There is no consideration for septic tanks in good working condition. In 24 years we have not had a problem with ours.

We are retired on fixed incomes. I'm 74 & my wife is 79. After our recovery from hurricane IAN & flooding from Idalia we are at our limit financially and emotionally. The greed of this man "Jack Boyer" will force us to leave our home on Little Gasparilla Island.

In his newsletter April 2024 Chairman La Rosa mentions reliability and reasonable rates are areas where the PSC can help. I think these should be a consideration and once again ask that you DENY EU's application. We can't afford this and don't need it.

Your consideration is appreciated,

Rodney & Alice Henderson 8848 Bay St. Little Gasparilla Island floridabuckeye362@gmail.com

Virus-free.<u>www.avg.com</u>

From:	robert.der.der@gmail.com
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 3:26 PM
То:	Records Clerk
Cc:	Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay;
	comissioner.graham@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner
	Passidomo
Subject:	Re: Objection to the Proposal to and Request the PSC to deny the Application for
	Original Certificate of Authorization for the Proposed Central Sewer System

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Updated for two incorrect email addresses.

Thanks and best regards,

Bob Der

```
Mobile telephone numbers:
USA: +1-630-373-7886
China: +86-136-6196-0494
Email: robert.der.der@gmail.com
or derro@yahoo.com
```

On Apr 26, 2024, at 3:18 PM, robert.der.der@gmail.com wrote:

RE. Docket #20240032-SU

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Robert Der, Trustee and Owner of the Trust for the property located on <u>171 South</u> <u>Gulf Boulevard</u> (on Don Pedro Island) <u>Placida, FL 33946</u>. The property is within the service area contained in the application from Environmental Utilities, LLC [EU] for a proposed central sewer system.

I am writing specifically to object to the proposal to and specifically request the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the Proposed Central Sewer System by EU.

I want to reiterate that a complicated major infrastructure project with possible significant environmental impact and financially significant to the homeowners on a barrier island is not an ideal for a novice company without demonstrated significant financial support and engineering expertise such as EU. Especially when there is not a demonstrated need for such service. The water testing that is done periodically on Palm Island has not demonstrated any need for the sewer system. Plus, the project could inflict major damage on the local habitat and environment. Yours truly,

Robert Der Trustee for property at: <u>171 South Gulf Blvd</u> on don Pedro Island Placida, FL 33946

.

ł

Mail address: <u>PO Box 3294</u> <u>Placida, Fl 33946</u>-3294

Mobile telephone numbers: USA: <u>+1-630-373-7886</u> Email: robert.der.der@gmail.com

From:	Dona Cabela <cdjean20@gmail.com> Friday, April 26, 2024 2:27 PM</cdjean20@gmail.com>
Sent: To:	Friday, April 26, 2024 3:27 PM Records Clerk
Cc:	Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner
Subject:	Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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Hello Commissioners:

I am sending this letter regarding Environmental Utilities and the installation of a central sewer on the Islands.

I want to start with a firm request to "deny" E.U's application for wastewater service to our barrier islands. Not only do we (the majority) not want this, we do not need it.

I do not have anything negative to say about the family that owns E.U, my reservation is for the following reasons.

1st: We will still have a sewer system and a pump. Currently, if we lose power we are still able to flush our toilets as long as we have water. With this new system unless you have a generator you will be unable to flush your towel. That will be a nightmare.

2nd: This is a for-profit company without any experience owning or running a wastewater utility company.

3rd: The expense is going to be placed on the homeowner. For us this is going to run us more than the average; we face the loss of a previously installed underground propane tank (1.000 gallons). We were informed a couple of years ago this line would run directly in front of our house. This is exactly where our propane tank is buried. Along with our house generator which is located on the north side of our house; we will stand to lose. This cost us over \$55,000 for that project; which we only had installed 4 years ago. During permitting we were told this was the only place we could bury the propane tank. If this goes through we will lose our house generator, and have the added expense to have this all removed. Not to mention we had our entire house transferred to gas. This is a huge hardship. This can all be avoided. Please deny E.U the permit to install this central sewer system.

4th: I believe the environmental impact of so many unforeseen issues that will arise from this could be devastating. If something should go sideways; the commissioners that voted for this will be held responsible. (not legally, but in the eyes of your constituents).

5th: I am sure you are all aware of the delicate dance we have of getting off and on this island we already face; with all this heavy equipment and the length of time this will take will have a far more negative impact. Homeowners; rental companies, workers that already come here etc.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and realize that we not only don't want this system but we don't need it. This is only a person/company out to make money and cause undue stress and hardship to so many people. He has already been denied before. Please do the right thing and continue to not support this.

Have a good day

Respectfully Dona Cabela (homeowner) 110 N. Gulf Blvd Placida, FL 33946 Knights Island

cdjean20@gmail.com

From: Sent:	Tony December <tonydecember727@gmail.com> Friday, April 26, 2024 3:16 PM</tonydecember727@gmail.com>
То:	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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To our Commissioners:

We have once again received notice from Environmental Utilities, LLC that they are applying to provide wastewater services to our islands.

We vehemently oppose the installation of sewer systems. We've owned a home on Don Pedro Island for 22 yrs and have enjoyed the peace and natural beauty of the area.

We just replaced our septic in 2018, it works fine. We see no point in changing something that works - a sewer installation that's going to tear up our roads and property, disturb our fragile estuaries and wildlife, create havoc in traveling around the island during an installation.

I understand the estimated startup cost per property is appr \$13,000. and we will have an additional monthly bill to add to our water, electric and cable bills, not to mention incidental costs associated with the electrical panels or service to run everything. NO Thank you.

Please consider the homeowners that will bear the costs and the land that will be forever changed and probably not for the better.

Tracy and Tony December 290 South Gulf Blvd #31 Don Pedro

From:	Joann Giglio-Guagliardo <jguag@verizon.net></jguag@verizon.net>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 3:14 PM
То:	Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of
	Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject:	Message from Frank Guagliardo regarding Docket# 20240032-SU

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>

> Good afternoon,

>

> I, Frank Guagliardo, and my wife Joann are homeowners of several properties on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) which is in the proposed service area in Environmental Utilities (EU) central sewer proposal.

>

> We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for original certification of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

>

> We strongly object to EUs proposal and application for certification. We request an administrative hearing be held before a ruling on the application. We also request status as a Party of Record so that we can participate in legal proceedings.

>

> We as homeowners do not need this service or request this service.

>

> We have many concerns regarding this proposal. We are retired seniors who have been homeowners of LGI for more than 20 years.

>

 > -First and foremost we invested in our current septic system which has served us very well throughout the years. This new proposed system is not needed and very expensive and adds additional burden for us as homeowners.

> -It is our understanding that the connection charge of this system is estimated between \$13,000 to \$20,000 per homeowner and monthly cost estimated at nearly \$200. An electric panel separate from our home will also be needed with additional cost.

>

> -We as the homeowner will also need to invest in a generator to avoid sewage back up in the event of power outages. This is very concerning as power outages occur frequently on our island. Also, Hurricane Ian in 2022 was devastating for our island. We are still recovering from this major hurricane with our home still in repair.

>

> -Another concern is that we have current dealings with this owner through Little Gasparilla Water and there are constant issues and unnecessary costs with extremely high base fees as well as usage fees.

>

> We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and urge you to deny EU's application.

>

> Sincerely,

> Frank Guagliardo

From:	Kathleen Waltz <kwaltzjim@icloud.com></kwaltzjim@icloud.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 2:52 PM
То:	Records Clerk
Cc:	Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject:	Docket 20240032-SU

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I am a resident owner of 25 years on Little Gasparilla Island. I have a home at Hideaway Bay Beach Club. My career of over 25 years was in industrial water treatment for Nalco Chemical. I had many wastewater treatment plant accounts.

HBBC maintains our own wastewater plant with a Florida licensed treatment plant operation company.

In addition to not needing the plant it would be a significant cost to HBBC residents at a time when we are struggling with ongoing hurricane lan repairs/expenses. My business experience included work on "decommissioning" waste plants. The related costs can run into millions of dollars. There will also be "tie-in" fees.

I'm totally against the proposed wastewater treatment plant. Please register my objection. Please confirm receipt of my objection.

Kathleen Waltz (412) 262-0758 Sent from my iPhone

From:	Joan Der <joan.der7@gmail.com></joan.der7@gmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 2:50 PM
То:	Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner
	Passidomo; Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Fay; commissioner.graham@psc.state
Subject:	Docket # 20240032-SU

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Commissioners,

From Joan Der, wife of Robert Der at 171 s. Gulf Blvd. On Don Pedro Island. Please deny the application for original certificate of authorization

As more details are uncovered, I need to emphasize the issue of why we must deny EU their desire to be a provider. On record, our island has not been a source of leakage in Florida. This sewer installation could provide maybe an inconsequential impact of a clean water solution for a gigantic cost, grief, uncertainty and inconvenience to individual owners. There isn't much land to install a new tank in a spot apart from the septic tank while transitioning. Will we be without sewage disposal for a spell? Replacing a perfectly fine tank and drainage with grinders and pipes run by electricity prone to outages is not an improvement. Our individual septics are much safer than new lines to carry the waste water from curvy shell roads (which are finally graded by the County) across two lagoons and the inter coastal waterway. The intercoastal waterway is used continuously by the car access ferry a minimum of 16 hours a day, subject to boat traffic and strong tides. Isn't a drainage septic system servicing this unique bridgeless barrier island a wiser solution?

We already pay the highest rates for water in Florida through a private business seeking every rate hike possible. Must we also be subjected to the excessive rates threatened by EU, yet another private service provider, for negligible improvement of waste waters? I don't want EU to reap a premium rate for what has historically been their problematic and subpar installation processes and subsequent service. Why must we be made vulnerable to a contractor setting up a business that hints of intent to resell the service?

Why does our island get pawned off to a contractor of such disrepute? I don't wish the to service your home or mine. Deny sewer on our island. Deny EU for anything to do with our island. Thanks for seriously considering these issues of great concern.

Joan Der

Joan Der joan.der7@gmail.com Cell phone in U.S. 1 630 217-7886

From:	gasparillaville <gasparillaville@mindspring.com></gasparillaville@mindspring.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 2:20 PM
То:	Records Clerk
Cc:	Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner
	Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham;
	Mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject:	Docket# 20240032-SU
Attachments:	Letter to Public Service Commission.pdf

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Dear Commissioners:

Attached is our letter related to the proposal under Docket# 20240032-SU. We would appreciate your confirmation that this letter is being entered into the docket records.

Regards,

Dwayne and Gena Huebner 9400 Little Gasparilla Island, Unit C4
Dwayne & Gena Huebner PO Box 323 Placida, FL 33946

April 26, 2024

Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32801

RE: #20240032-SU

Dear Commission Members:

We have been residents of Little Gasparilla Island since 1995 when we purchased our condo unit at Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condo. Our association operates its own batch sewer plant and provides this service to a neighboring association, Placida Beach Club Condo. Together, our 103 units and Placida Beach Club's 30 unit constitutes a significant percentage of the island residents. We are guessing about 20% of Little Gasparilla Island.

Bringing up the sewer utility issue again comes at a time when many residents are still struggling to recover from Hurricane Ian. Our condo unit is still not habitable. Repairs ground to a halt when Citizens Property Insurance Company offered a ridiculously low settlement offer and we have been fighting them ever since. The excessive cost of appraiser and the umpire is not covered by insurance and we will be left to burden the expense on our own. That is on top of the high windstorm deductible on our policy. The possible legal fees that we may have to incur to recover insurance proceeds that we are entitled to could be the straw that breaks the camels back. Now we are faced with very significant costs that will come our way if you move forward with the private sewer utility. We feel that putting this on our backs now is completely uncalled for and insensitive.

We can't say that we are informed on this particular attempt to bring the sewer utility to Little Gasparilla Island. As we said, our home is not habitable and we don't get mail frequently since we have to make a special trip to retrieve our mail. As of two weeks ago, we received no official notification from anyone. As such, we have relied on social media for our information. That source is hardly reliable. Our community needs time to figure out just what is being proposed. We may need legal representation that we haven't put in place yet.

One of the things that we have heard through social media is that the proposed utility company intends to utilize the batch plant existing at Hideaway Bay Beach Club in their system. How can that be when no one has contacted the board that represents our association? Our contact information is filed with the State of Florida Bureau of Condominiums, so it's is easy to find us. How will that benefit us? It doesn't appear that our association will receive any services that we don't already provide for ourselves.

In summary, the timing of this proposal is poor at best. Please relieve us of the battle that would surely come with this proposition. This is not the first time we addressed this type of a project, so we know that it is contentious. Let us rebuild our home and our community and recover from the overwhelming economic consequences that come with the rebuilding process. Our board members are volunteers that have their hands full already without worrying on how to best represent our association in your proceedings. Don't put this back on the docket until the community has a chance to get the facts of the proposal without relying on social media. In blunt terms, please work for the best efforts of our community rather than the business interest of private enterprise. Now is not the time for this proposal!

Best Regards,

Awayne J. Auebrer Jena Suelens

Dwayne & Gena Huebner

CC:

Mfriedman@deanmead.com or Martin s. Friedman, Esquire Dean Mead 420 s. Orange Ave. Suite 700 Orlando, FL. 32801

From:	Kari Harju <karanne.harju@gmail.com></karanne.harju@gmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 1:41 PM
То:	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 No. 20240032-SU, Environmental Utilities

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To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding Docket No. 20240032-SU Certificate of Application For Wastewater Service In Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities

We are writing this email to strongly oppose Environmental Utilities (EU) providing waste water service to Little Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County, we are homeowners on the island at Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condos.

EU was denied a similar application two years ago, my question is what has changed? Other than the devastation incurred by hurricane Ian, which at Hideaway Bay Beach Club we have not started the rebuild process.

Another question would be what expertise does EU claim to have in building and maintaining a waste water service? Have the easements been established? To hook up to the sewer which would be required within 1 year at an estimated cost of \$13,000 per home seems excessive.

The sewer system would only remove waste water and not solids, which would need to be pumped out at the owner's expense. What other waste system in the state only does the waste water? And the proposed quarterly cost would be the highest in the state of Florida and a burden to all the owners.

As proposed, if the electric goes out there is only a 6 hour window to get the system back up and running, needing to have back-up generators at whose cost? and who will be on the island to monitor this?

Previously our association was considered its own utility since we have a working septic system, which is maintained by a class A company, NES. This time it is proposed that our septic be converted to a lifting station which would result in having to decommission the current septic system for a price tag of around \$1 million dollars. It is just not fair to expect 102 owners to pay this bill. It would be extremely devastating to both our community and island.

For the above reasons and many others that were previously stated 2 years ago, we do not feel it would benefit our small island and would be unjust and not equitable for owners to pay for a system that is simply not needed.

Respectfully submitted, Steven and KarAnne Harju 9400 Little Gasparilla Island, Unit C1 Placida< FL 33046 612-240-2177

From:	Joann Giglio-Guagliardo <jguag@verizon.net></jguag@verizon.net>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 1:38 PM
То:	Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of
	Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject:	Fwd: Docket# 20240032-SU

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Good afternoon,

I, Joann Guagliardo, and my husband Frank are homeowners of several properties on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) which is in the proposed service area in Environmental Utilities (EU) central sewer proposal.

We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for original certification of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

We strongly object to EUs proposal and application for certification. We request an administrative hearing be held before a ruling on the application. We also request status as a Party of Record so that we can participate in legal proceedings.

We as homeowners do not need this service or request this service.

We have many concerns regarding this proposal. We are retired seniors who have been homeowners of LGI for more than 20 years.

-First and foremost we invested in our current septic system which has served us very well throughout the years. This new proposed system is not needed and very expensive and adds additional burden for us as homeowners.

-It is our understanding that the connection charge of this system is estimated between \$13,000 to \$20,000 per homeowner and monthly cost estimated at nearly \$200. An electric panel separate from our home will also be needed with additional cost.

-We as the homeowner will also need to invest in a generator to avoid sewage back up in the event of power outages. This is very concerning as power outages occur frequently on our island. Also, Hurricane Ian in 2022 was devastating for our island. We are still recovering from this major hurricane with our home still in repair.

-Another concern is that we have current dealings with this owner through Little Gasparilla Water and there are constant issues and unnecessary costs with extremely high base fees as well as usage fees.

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and urge you to deny EU's application.

Sincerely, Joann Guagliardo

From:	Eric Buffkin <eric@buffkin.net></eric@buffkin.net>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 1:13 PM
То:	Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner
	Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc:	Records Clerk
Subject:	Application for Original Wastewater Certificate in Charlotte County by Environmental
	Utilities LLC, Docket 20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

As a lifelong Florida resident and property owner at Hideaway Bay Beach Club on Little Gasparilla Island who would be significantly affected by the requested Certificate, I encourage you to reject this application for the following reasons:

- the need for the public system has not been established

there has been no demonstration that the current wastewater treatment has materially contributed to any pollution
the applicant has not demonstrated it possesses the financial, technical, or operational experience or expertise to realize, operate, or maintain such a system

- there is no clear understanding of the timing or the cost affected property owners will incur if such a system is installed.

Further, our island is yet to fully recover from Hurricane Ian. It is hardly an understatement to say it was the most destructive event to affect the island in most of our lifetimes. It is useful to note that even with the widespread damage, there was no significant pollution released.

I appreciate the Commission's dedication to serving the citizens of our State.

Sincerely, Eric

Eric Buffkin Hideaway Bay Beach Club Unit A-6 9400 Little Gasparilla Island Placida, FL 33946

From:	Mary anne Sanderson <maryannesanderson@yahoo.ca></maryannesanderson@yahoo.ca>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 12:55 PM
То:	Office of Commissioner Clark
Cc:	Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Commissioner.Fav@psc.state.fl.us
Subject:	Fwd: Docket 20240032-SU

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mary anne Sanderson <maryannesanderson@yahoo.ca> Date: April 26, 2024 at 12:46:08 PM EDT To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us Cc: mfriedman@deanmead.com Subject: Docket 20240032-SU

I am a property owner unit k8 hideaway bay beach club little Gasparilla island Please register my objection to this proposal and confirm receipt of this objection MASanderson Sent from my iPhone

Stacey Noor <stacey@peoplecenteredmarketing.org></stacey@peoplecenteredmarketing.org>
Friday, April 26, 2024 12:53 PM
Office of Commissioner Passidomo
20240032-SU

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To all whom may concern,

I am an owner at Hideaway Beach Club on Little Gasperilla Island- Troy and Stacey Noor E4. My condo is condemned. Our insurance company-Citizens a non-profit owned by the State of Florida for Florida Citzens has demanded we get an adjuster, an appraiser and now finally an umpire. Our umpire found 18.1 million of damage, the 3rd party umpire agreed that Citzens needs to pay us 15.9 million dollars. Shame on politics and the State of Florida. Citizens is now not paying and our buildings are missing siding and windows as we head into our 2nd hurricane season!!! We have to sue to get our insurance funds back while we keep paying our premium. The last wind premium was \$505,000 to renew.

Jack Bower is using this stressful time on our island to again and push forward for his gain and only his gain.

1. Bower is suggesting we pay \$1 million to dismantle our pristine septic system that services 132 condos on LGI. We have been paying association dues of the tune of \$3,400 per quarter to keep up our septic system. It is checked daily and and has been kept up on servicing.

2. Bower is proposing to confiscate our land that our system sits on. Adding a lift station where our private property sits.

3. Bower is suggesting that by increasing our servicing from \$151 for water to almost \$500 for water and sewer monthly that this would somehow benefit us??!! This is a huge increase for a system that is gray water at best, and increases the occurrence of Red Tide(which is detrimental to our marine life and the State of Florida's tourism.)

4. The system Bower is proposing has no improvements added for the environment, just a financial gain for himself.

5. The financial strain he is suggesting when we are already heading into another hurricane season with broken windows and exposed buildings is 100 percent congruent with his character. No Government would entertain this deal.

6. Then he suggests we will all have to pay an additional \$13,000 each to hook up to his system....WHAT, for what gain?

7. We have heard it is Florida State Statute that he has to inform all owners of his plan. We have confirmed at least 75% of us have not been informed.

8. I also want you to know I have no plumbing at my unit and I pay \$280 per quarter just to be hooked up even though I get no water. Please stop this continued nonsense and financial abuse.

Our condo complex was exempt in 2018 when he tried these shenanigans then.

During this trying time where most of us are floating our properties and association dues we are paying about 30-40 k per year for condemned buildings that our State of Florida insurance company won't fix and now the State of Florida again is having us hire more legal counsel as they suggest we dismantle our current septic system that is a better system than the one proposed. We are not in the position to sue two State agencies that are causing extreme HARDSHIP.

I urge you to consider our already financial despair caused by Citizens of the State of Florida. I urge you to valiantly step in our behalf and again in our behalf defend us from this poor proposal being brought forth while we are all busy with condemned properties. We have kept up our system. We share it with others. We care about our environment and the Bower proposal has been looked at by our cival engineer owners at our complex. It is a couple steps down not a step up. Please do not let this proposal go through. None of us want it.

Please help us! Please address Citizens and this greedy business owner who is trying to create another monopoly.

Stacey Noor

--

Stacey Noor peoplecenteredmarketing.org/952-393-7350 marketing.events.partnerships.community outreach "You can have everything in life you want, if you will just help enough other people get what they want. - Zig Ziglar

From:	agorgei73@yahoo.com
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 11:50 AM
То:	Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject:	Proposed EU sewer application for the islands of LGI, Knights Island, Palm Island and Don Pedro Island

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Dear Commissioners- I am an owner on Little Gasparilla Island and 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 all islands named in the subject line. I am not against sewer being brought to the island, however do not believe that it should be at the financial gain of a single individual or company. As a tax paying citizen of Charlotte County, I demand to be treated as any other citizen and feel it is my and all other tax paying citizens of these islands to not be gouged for basic services, as we currently are being with our water supply and will be with the proposed sewer system being owned by EU!

To provide you with some insight on the unfair treatment of these islands, let me share with you some facts about the current water system that is single handedly making the owners of LGIWU rich...simply by supplying these islands with water! Since Hurricane Ian, we have been unable to use or access our home for nearly 2 years. Therefore have used ZERO water, however for the last two years I have received a bill from Little Gasparilla Water Utility for approximately \$250 on a quarterly basis!!! That's \$83 a month for NOTHING, or as Jack Boyer states 'to cover his administrative fees'. Can I ask you what a mainland tax payer pays in administration fees for there water? I'm sure it's nowhere near \$83 a month!

The above serves as and example as to why our islands should not be subject to any further unfair treatment of setting up a private monopoly to gouge it's residents, just to supply our island with the basic essentials!! If Charlotte county wants us to have sewer, they should provide it to us, just like any other resident and not outsource it to a private entity who will receive significant persona financial gains!!

Thank you! Angela & David Gorgei 9400 Little Gasparilla Island #D7 Placida, FL 33946 813-263-8210

From:	Caron Hoffman <choffman40@gmail.com></choffman40@gmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 11:23 AM
То:	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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I am writing to firmly request that you DENY the EU's application for wastewater service. We do not want a private for profit company without experience servicing our area. We do not want the associated expense and have NO problem with the system we use now. WE, the island owners, are NOT asking for sewers on our island that may disrupt our way of life. We do not want this change and do not want to be forced into something that we don't want that will cause us financial hardship. I own two properties on the island and the financial hardship would be devastating.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE deny their application. "If it 'aint broke, don't fix it"

Thank you for your consideration. Caron Hoffman 1829 Wildberry Drive, Unit H Glenview, IL 60025

From:	Keelan Armstrong <keearm@hotmail.com></keearm@hotmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 11:03 AM
То:	Records Clerk; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Cc:	Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner
	Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject:	Re: Docket #20240032-SU

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Could I get a proof of receipt that you received the above email letter? Thank you, Will and Keelan Armstrong

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Keelan Armstrong <keearm@hotmail.com> Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:01:35 AM To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us <clerk@psc.state.fl.us>; mfriedman@deanmead.com <mfriedman@deanmead.com> Cc: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us <Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Sommissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us

I am a homeowner at Hideaway Bay Beach Club, 9400 Little Gasparilla Island, Unit K1, Placida, FL 33946 on Little Gasparilla Island, Charlotte County, Florida. We currently have on onsite septic system for all of the 102 owners here at Hideaway Bay that we pay for with our quarterly assessments. We paid extra money out of our homeowners funds to repair/clean out the septic system after Hurricane Ian. Our system abides by any environmental codes and works well for us here at Hideaway Bay. We certainly don't need to pay any extra for a new low pressure system that may end up having or creating a whole new set of problems/fixes it may need. Please don't allow this new system to be put in place on our little island which seems to be functioning just fine as we are.

Thank you, Will and Keelan Armstrong (keearm@hotmail.com)

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From:	Keelan Armstrong <keearm@hotmail.com></keearm@hotmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 11:02 AM
То:	Records Clerk; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Cc:	Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner
	Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject:	Docket #20240032-SU

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I am a homeowner at Hideaway Bay Beach Club, 9400 Little Gasparilla Island, Unit K1, Placida, FL 33946 on Little Gasparilla Island, Charlotte County, Florida. We currently have on onsite septic system for all of the 102 owners here at Hideaway Bay that we pay for with our quarterly assessments. We paid extra money out of our homeowners funds to repair/clean out the septic system after Hurricane Ian. Our system abides by any environmental codes and works well for us here at Hideaway Bay. We certainly don't need to pay any extra for a new low pressure system that may end up having or creating a whole new set of problems/fixes it may need. Please don't allow this new system to be put in place on our little island which seems to be functioning just fine as we are.

Thank you, Will and Keelan Armstrong (keearm@hotmail.com)

Get Outlook for iOS

From:	Georgiana Sinnett <georgiana.sinnett@compass.com></georgiana.sinnett@compass.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 26, 2024 10:01 AM
То:	Records Clerk
Cc:	Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner
	Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject:	RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk and Commissioners,

My husband Scott and I are new homeowners on the island at 431 Bocilla. We have been a part of the island for 20+ years. We owned a home on island approximately 15 years ago. The island has drawn us back again. We have never had issues with the septic system in our previous island home. Our home in Illinois for 38 years, was on septic with never an issue. We are not new to the septic process and do not feel the new proposed sewer system is needed. The expense involved is unnecessary and the unmonitored installation of the systems, abandoning of my current system, the lack of control or oversight of a private FOR PROFIT entity is nothing that we would like to be involved in.

We are recently retired and this is an expense that we do not wish to entertain along with the fact that the actual costs and expenses are completely unknown for us as the homeowner.

With the overwhelming lack of support from the residents that actually live on the island, it is unimaginable that the same proposal is to be forced upon the residents again.

Along with being forced unnecessarily into an expensive legal battle that has never had support from the major population on the island.

There are too many unknown factors to blindly move forward with this proposal.

We emphatically are NOT in support of EU's proposal!!

We appreciate you hearing our concerns and supporting the community voice over the ONE.

Please confirm receipt.

Scott and Georgiana Sinnett

1 1 NOW LICENSED AND LIVING IN FLORIDA 1 1 North Shore-Barrington Humanitarian of the Year 2016 CHICAGO Magazine Top Agent 2023 Top 5% Broker Associate **COMPASS** 1575 Main Street

1

Sarasota, FL 34236

Cell 847-533-6912

As always.....I am never too busy for any of your referrals!

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Hankin Family <dhankin@msn.com></dhankin@msn.com>
Sent:	Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:27 PM
То:	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 Clerk and Commissioners**,

We are writing to you to let you know that we oppose the approval of the application by EU, LLC to install and manage the sewer project on the barrier island chain in southwest Florida which would encompass the islands of Palm Island, Don Pedro Island, and Little Gasparilla Island. For the record, we are owners on Little Gasparilla Island. Our opposition starts with the previously and often stated arguments of:

-Need for Service. There has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service.

-Environmental. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.

-Providing utilities is the way local government promotes high-density development. Our barrier islands are in a Rural Service Area. The Charlotte County Comp Plan mandates on-site septic systems for the Rural Service Area. Now they are insisting that the Comp Plan prohibits the County from installing central sewer, but not a privately owned utility.

-We would be forced to give up our private property rights for free. You will be forced to give up easement rights across your property without compensation.

-Traffic Congestion. The combination of post-storm rebuilds, new home construction, and tourist traffic during season has made wait lines at the ferry both unpredictable and outrageous. Now, consider the heavy equipment and materials transport needed to construct an island-wide central sewer system. And how long it will take to build.

-The Costs. The costs of central sewer are quite considerable at a very bad time for Islanders. Many are still engaged with fighting their insurance companies for settlements

from Hurricane Ian and have had to lay out large sums for their re-builds while they wait for compensation. Some owners have just paid deep-pocket sums to install new septic systems at their newly built or re-built homes. Many property owners simply do not have the resources available to convert from septic to sewer.

Additionally, there are other concerns:

Has this system, which is designed for single dwelling use and has one tank per lot, been successfully deployed on a much larger scale? What were the results?

The person behind EU, LLC, is also the person behind the Little Gasparilla Water Company. We have grave concerns of one individual having majority control/power over our utilities. The current water company is not very responsive to service requests and I fear the same will happen with the sewer company if owned and operated by same individual.

A bigger concern of ours is the current lack of routine testing of water quality in relation to septic tank waste and the absence of ongoing septic system inspections beyond the initial permitting and installation inspection.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely, David and Joellie Hankin Little Gasparilla Island homeowners