

William McCallie
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Macon, GA 31220

To:
Commission Clerk
Office of the Commission Clerk, Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 23299-0850

RECEIVED-FPSC
2024 MAY -7 AM 9:12
COMMISSION
CLERK

Subject: Objection to Original Wastewater Certificate Application in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC

Dear Sirs:

It has come to our attention that Environmental Utilities, LLC has applied for an Original Wastewater Certificate in Charlotte County to include the barrier islands of Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Island and Knight Island. As a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island, we object to this application for the following reasons:

1. Property owners on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) currently pay an annual tax assessment which includes sewer services. Although no such services exist on Little Gasparilla Island, to pay taxes for such services and then pay an additional cost for a private company to provide these services is excessive. Additionally, the applicant is planning on exacting a \$15,000 connection fee for these services. These actions place an additional and unnecessary financial burden on the LGI homeowners.
2. There is no need to install sewer systems on LGI because the current septic systems are adequate, fully functional and pose no environmental risk. Most current septic systems on the island are aerobic systems that collect solid waste and treat the liquid through aeration which is then returned to the ground as "gray water" which presents no hazard of contamination. These systems are also raised above the normal ground level providing additional protection from flooding. Recent ground water tests have been deemed acceptable and show these systems pose no threat to the ground water quality. There are very few traditional septic systems left on the island utilizing leach fields. As these legacy septic systems are replaced, code requires replacement with one of these more environmentally friendly systems.
3. Many of these homes, ours included, are vacation homes and are minimally occupied throughout the year. On average, less than 50% of the homes on the island are occupied at any given time. Therefore, the minimal ecological impact of these homes is at least half, if not less of the perception. Installation and utilization of sewer services serves no measurable benefit.
4. Environmental Utilities, LLC is owned by the same owner of Little Gasparilla Water Utility (LGWU), which serves Little Gasparilla Island. Currently, surrounding Charlotte County has the 5th highest base facility and water usage charge in the state of Florida. LGWU base and water usage charge is more than TWICE that of Charlotte County. Arguably the highest in the state. There is little doubt that if sewer services were installed, the charges would increase

proportionally. Allowing Environmental Utilities, LLC to install, and compel the homeowners to utilize their services only furthers their extortion.

5. We do not trust the owner of LGWU and Environmental Utilities, LLC to act in a fair nor ethical manner. LGWU's behavior at times has been circuitous at best and arguably corrupt at others. Such behavior includes reporting decades old building code violations on homeowners who are their most vocal opponents. Our own well water line was cut twice under suspicious circumstances when LGWU was initially pushing their services on the island. If sewer services must be provided on Little Gasparilla Island and adjacent barrier islands, it should be done by either the county or by a more reputable, ethical company.

Thank You.

Sincerely,
William McCallie

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. McCallie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.