

**Charlie Smith**

**From:** Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 10:02 AM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** FW: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Good Morning:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to  
Commissioner Art Graham  
Florida Public Service Commission  
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**From:** Ben Stout <captben2001@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 10:02 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Clerk and Commissioners:

My name is Ben Stout and I live at 400 Bocilla Dr, Placida FL on Palm Island. I am again writing to you, as I did 2 years ago, to convey my Vote NO request for the EU Private Central Sewer Proposal. I am asking you and your fellow commissioner's to DENY EU's application for wastewater service. I have zero confidence in the abilities of EU to adequately provide quality service on a daily basis or during any sort of disaster or emergency type situation. The many unreasonable and unfair cost-related requirements feels like EU just wants to profit off my beautiful island and will add hardship to our daily lives that WE DO NOT NEED on Palm Island.

My family vacationed on Palm Island years ago before gathering our nickels and dimes together to purchase our "forever" home. We feel blessed and grateful to be able to enjoy clean sandy roads, beautiful beaches and street light-less dark starry nights. We experience great fishing

and the minimal vehicle movements as most residents use golf carts as primary transportation, as well as safe bike riding for me, my wife and our 13-year old son. It also means that our Gopher Tortoise, fox, and bobcat populations can freely move about the island.

The financial hardship that EU's requirements will place on me and my family are outrageous. Our ferry service is already challenged at times to keep up with the normal level of traffic that comes on and off the island. EU's requirements would place significant burden as I see it, increased traffic in the form of construction related vehicles, ferry wear & tear etc. on that ferry system. It would then only be natural that the ferry service would pass operational, repair and equipment replacement costs onto my family and the other island residents in the form of increased ferry fees. Again, a financial hardship created by EU and their Private Sewer Proposal that WE DO NOT NEED on Palm Island.

System conversion means that I will have to pay for the disposal of my septic system by a septic service provider. I will have to pay the ferry fees that the ferry service charges for large trucks and trailers to make multiple trips on and off the island. The increased traffic riding over to the island means that the removal/installation process will be totally dependent on the efficiency of the very good Ferry Captains to move the vehicles back and forth. Realistically, the start/stop work hours will hinge on this ferry schedule which will add days and trips across to the project. Let's also not forget the high winds and weather that will impact ferry operations will also create delays which will add days to the installation part of this proposal but also impact normal and emergency operations. Which means more money out of my pocket and financial hardship created by EU and their Private Sewer Proposal that WE DO NOT NEED on Palm Island.

The requirement of a generator and electrical service upgrade requirements as well as Access to my property and uncompensated easement allocation just makes no sense. EU expects me to buy a generator so that I and my fellow island residents won't experience a sewage back up. EU's proposal creates a PUBLIC HEALTH HARDSHIP if their proposed system fails and sewage backs up into my and my fellow island residents homes. That doesn't seem like a very good plan. Then the suggested equipment, which will be in a salt air environment has a suggested LIFESPAN of 5 years! Now I will have the costs of replacing the Private Sewer equipment by a sewer vendor as well as the accompanying ferry fees. Which means more money out of my pocket and financial hardship that was created by EU and their Private Sewer Proposal that WE DO NOT NEED on Palm Island.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please vote NO and DENY the EU Private Sewer Proposal, Thank you.

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