

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 8:06 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032
Attachments: Don Pedro Island Sewer Request - docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

Thank you!

Antonia Hover

From: G.S. Buhler <gsbuhler@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 8:36 PM
To: Commissioner.Grahm@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith
Subject: Don Pedro Island Sewer Request - docket #20240032-SU

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I am writing to request that this commission vote in favor of removing the old septic systems and replace with a sewage system. I have been a Floridian my entire life and have always been close or on the water. Over the years, I have read many studies on the environmental impact of septic tanks on our very fragile ecosystem. I have never found one survey that is positive on septic tanks. There are many home owners on the island that understand the need for this system - most are working weekend residents that can not go to meetings and put up signs. The organization on Don Pedro called PIE is brain washing their members on negatives. Their number one issue is cost. You can not put a price tag on clean water. There are no negatives - there is only one solution which is protect our environment. I have been on the island for 25 years and spend most of time on the island around the water or sometimes working in my yard. My lot is 5 ft above sea level - if I dig a hole I hit water in about 2-3 feet- this is the same water directly behind my home in the canal. This would be true about most homes on the island. Many homes on the island have owners come in for a month a year while the house sits empty the rest of the year. There are owners who maintain their tanks, but just as many that do not. Drive around and look at the deferred maintenance - do you really think they are spending money on their septic tank. With this mind regarding all of these septic tanks and drain fields this close to the water line - let me describe our shoreline. Most shorelines are mangroves - mangroves consist of tall tree like sections above the water and a root system below the surface. During late spring, these roots are the home to most of fish species - the roots are where they lay their eggs. If you look down in May when the water is clear and it is low tides - you will see hundreds of thousands of fish eggs attached to these roots. There will reach a point where the leakage into the canals will kill these eggs. This area is called the Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve- a nature preserve. We can not allow sewage to seep into our nature preserve.

Please do the right thing here and bring a modern sewage system to our island to preserve these waters for my kids.

Thank you
Gary Buhler
55 Bayshore Circle

Here are the three commissioners involved w Environmental Utilities case....

Commissioner.Grahm@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us

Antonia Hover

From: Jessica Mack <jsmack6091@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 6:47 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith
Subject: Docket #20240032

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Jessica Mack. I am an owner on LGI at 9400 Little Gasparilla Island Unit G9 which is part of the Hideaway Bay Beach Club condos. (HBBC) and at 9480 Alborado Road. I am writing this letter to ask you to **deny** the application by Environmental Utilities for a certificate to install sewers on our island.

EU made the change to the location of the waste water transmission line from Don Pedro State Park to the HBBC property. Even though we were excluded from the scope of this application on May 13, 2024 (Doc # 03001-2024) by EU's attorney, this change directly affects every one of the owners at HBBC. We were not notified of this substantial change to the application. This is a direct violation of one of the tenets by which the PSC should base their decision - proper notification of all involved parties. This change to the application without notification denies the owners at HBBC of our due process to be able to fight this change.

The letter from the HBBC lawyer, Nick Porter dated February 28, 2025 (Doc #01210-2025) also states HBBC's position in this matter. I was extremely disappointed the PSC staff did not take into account this oversight in notification in their recommendation.

132 Families are being denied their due process because of the change made by EU without notification.

If EU plans to use the model as indicated in the 2017 CC SMP, the pump house for the sewer will be built on the HBBC Septic Plant drain field. Building anything on our drain field will result in the community being shut down completely while the construction is underway. It will also force us to hook up to the EU sewer despite being excluded from the scope of this project. How can this be done without any kind of notification? Again, 132 families are being denied our due process.

Because we were excluded from the scope of this application, there have been no estimates of the hook up costs for the condos. If this scenario plays out, HBBC would have to be the first people forced to hook up to the sewer system. We wouldn't have any recourse to this questionable action by EU, we wouldn't have any indication of the costs associated with this action, we wouldn't be able to use our homes resulting in additional living expenses until the initial sewer construction was completed and we would have to assume the costs of decommissioning our septic plant. Is this fair & reasonable for the 132 families that are excluded from the scope of this application.

132 families that are directly affected have not been notified. 132 families currently using a DEP permitted septic plant do not need a sewer line brought to our property. 132 families have no idea what the financial burden will be if this transmission line is brought to our property.

Please do the right thing and deny this application.

Jessica Mack

HBBC Unit G9