

Nickalus Holmes

From: Office of Commissioner Fay
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 2:54 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032

Place the email below in Docket No. 20240032

-----Original Message-----

From: Roy & Wendy Petteway <oranges@embarqmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 10:29 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith <Commissioner.Passidomo.Smith@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Re: Objection to Environmental Utilities, LLC

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This letter is to strenuously object to the approval of the wastewater project for Little Gasparilla Island (LGI), Knight Island, Don Pedro Island and Palm Island by Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU).

As a homeowner on LGI, I was disheartened and devastated to read that the committee recommended this be approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC). If the Charlotte County Commission is indeed in favor of this utility, why then hasn't Charlotte County proceeded to do so on its own? Why was I just given a permit for a environmentally friendly septic system for my house I'm rebuilding after losing it during Hurricane Ian? Why isn't the county installing a wastewater system, and a payment plan made available, as had been done in Grove City years ago? The financial cost to homeowners on the barrier islands is tremendous, with some homeowners unable to bear the cost, and they would have to sell their homes, rather than pay the outrageous fees required of homeowners to comply with the installation of the wastewater system Please read the hundreds of letters sent during the qualifying period, detailing the cost involved, and the detriment to the islands this would be.

I am begging you to reconsider the recommendation to allow EU to have the license to install a wastewater system on LGI and the entire island strand. The island has such a precious ecosystem, with native flora and fauna, and with wild animals and humans living together. We have pairs of Bald Eagles nesting on the island, bobcats roam, endangered Gopher Tortoises, armadillos, osprey, rabbits, etc., who live in harmony on the island, and those animals would have their habitat irreparably destroyed with the installation of the wastewater system.

Mr. Boyer also will have an uphill battle obtaining the easements required to install the system, despite his claims that it would be no problem to do so. He has made false statements concerning easements, and has led people to believe it would be easier than actually so, and must more costly. Most of the "roads" on the island are actually private property and would necessitate easements from the owners to run the underground pipes required. It would run into the millions of dollars for him to just obtain the easements he would need.

If you remember, there were many, many letters of opposition to the project, as well as a very large amount of people who were able to come speak at the public meeting held by the PSC. Those sentiments have not changed. We overwhelmingly feel that the wastewater project proposed by Mr. Boyer would have such a detrimental effect on the island, as to change it forever, with no chance of ever being the piece of paradise it is now. The potential for a sewage

spill is great, as Mr. Boyer has demonstrated with the breaks in our water supply that happen at an alarming rate. The delicate ecosystem of the Lemon Bay Estuary and the island itself would suffer catastrophic damage from such a spill.

The island property owners do not want this utility to proceed, there has been no demonstrated need for it, other than Mr. Boyer wants to do so to make money. The few people who have written or spoken to the PSC desiring the project to move forward are people with a financial stake in doing so, or are Mr. Boyer's family.

I am praying you reconsider the recommendation and deny the application of Environmental Utilities, LLC to install a wastewater system of Little Gasparilla Island, Knight Island, Don Pedro Island and Palm Island.

Wendy Petteway

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Placida, Florida