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**Via Electronic Filing**

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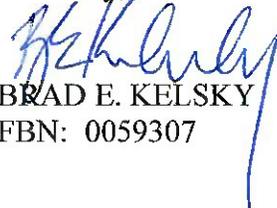
**Re: Docket No. 20200226-SU, Environmental Utilities, LLC  
Pre-Filed Direct Examination of Meryl Schaffer**

Dear Clerk:

Enclosed please find Palm Island Estates Association, Inc.'s Pre-Filed Direct Examination of Meryl Schaffer. A copy of the testimony has been served, this date, upon all parties of record.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
BRAD E. KELSKY  
FBN: 0059307

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN RE: Application for certificate to provide  
wastewater service in Charlotte County by  
Environmental Utilities, LLC

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Docket No.: 20200226-SU

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

MERYL SCHAFFER

on behalf of

Palm Island Estates Association, Inc.

1 **Q. Please state your name, position and address.**

2 A. My name is Meryl Schaffer. I am the current president of Palm Island Estates  
3 Association, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation. My physical address is  
4 141 Kettle Harbor Drive, Don Pedro Island. My mailing address is P.O. Box  
5 804, Placida, FL 33946.

6 **Q. State briefly your relationship to Palm Island Estates Association, Inc.**

7 A. I have lived on Don Pedro Island since 2000 and have been active in the  
8 community as a member of Palm Island Estates Association, Inc. for the past  
9 20 years. I have also served on the Board of Directors for several terms as  
10 Director, Corresponding Secretary, Vice President and now President.

11 **Q. What is Palm Island Estates Association, Inc.?**

12 A. Palm Island Estates Association, Inc., is a Florida not-for-profit corporation,  
13 made up of property owners from Don Pedro Island, Knight Island and  
14 Thornton Key (bridgeless barrier islands) in Charlotte County for the purpose  
15 of promoting the collective interests of the homeowners who reside and own  
16 property on the islands. Its current membership is 240 households comprising  
17 416 individuals. The organization, in part, monitors local governmental affairs  
18 to determine how prospective action/inaction might impact the property owners  
19 who are members of Palm Island Estates Association, Inc. This includes the  
20 prospect of Environmental Utilities, LLC seeking to obtain approval from the  
21 Public Service Commission to obtain a Certificate of Authorization to provide  
22 sewer service to the membership of Palm Island Estates Association, Inc.

23 When the information became public that Environmental Utilities, LLC, would  
24 be seeking the certificate, Palm Island Estates Association, Inc., consistent with  
25 its bylaws and at the behest of its membership, formed an action committee to

1 challenge the certificate application which included the retention of counsel and  
2 experts to rebut the claimed need for sewers as well as the financial wherewithal  
3 of Environmental Utilities, LLC to operate and develop the sewage utility.

4 **Q. Are you providing testimony on behalf of Palm Island Estates Association,**  
5 **Inc.?**

6 A. Yes.

7 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?**

8 A. The purpose of my direct testimony is to discuss that, in addition to describing  
9 what Palm Island Estates Association, Inc. does as an organization, to the best  
10 of my knowledge no participant in the organization has requested sewers and  
11 nobody by or on behalf of Charlotte County has conducted water quality testing  
12 on Don Pedro Island, Knight Island or Thornton Key that has found elevated  
13 nitrates or other noxious chemicals associated with sewage.

14 **Q. Does that conclude your direct testimony?**

15 A. Yes, it does.