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ORIGINAL

September 12, 2002

Director, Division of Records & Reporting  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Island Environmental Utility  
8/16/2002 Notice of Application for Wastewater Certificate -- Docket #020745-SU

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to submit by objection to the wastewater utility and the sewage treatment facility proposed by Island Environmental Utility, Inc.

It is my understanding that all of the newer septic systems currently in place are designed and installed in the most environmentally correct way that is available at this time. There is no evidence of pollutants contaminating the islands, and there is little risk to the water supply.

This indicates a lack of need for a community wastewater utility, unless the objective is to increase the volume and speed of development on the islands. This result only benefits the commercial interests of the island, and has the greatest negative impact on both the current island residents and the sensitive barrier island ecology.

I object to this application on the basis of:

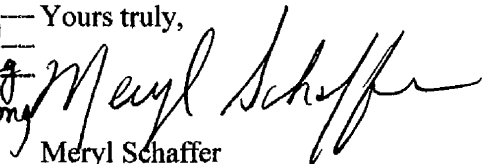
- 1- wastewater management is an unnecessary utility at this time, and serves only to promote swifter development of the islands.
- 2- Additional development is NOT to be encouraged at this time, due to a lack of infrastructure to accommodate rapid development of the islands.
- 3- It is unthinkable to have a sewage treatment plant located on the island. The stench would potentially make whole portions of the island and the island beaches unpleasant. And the site would create the danger of an environmental disaster in the future if there are faulty controls, installation problems, poor management or sloppy maintenance.
- 4- It is my understanding that, once a wastewater utility is in place, if the new plant is disabled for any reason the County is empowered to condemn all properties for lack of sewage treatment.
- 5- The additional expense to both hook up to the new utility and properly disable the septic systems is an unfair burden to the property owners on the island, particularly those who have new construction and only recently installed state-of-the-art septic systems.

In sum, I most strongly object to this application and would recommend that the Commission reject the proposal.

Yours truly,

Meryl Schaffer

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