

Lisa Smith

From: Cristina Slaton
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 11:43 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence - 2020226
Attachments: Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU First hand conversations with Jack Boyer NOT opinion; Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning,

Please place the attached emails in CORRESPONDENCE-Consumers & Representatives in docket 20200226.

Thank you!

Lisa Smith

From: Jon Goranson <goranson@springsips.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 11:09 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners,

My name is Jon Goranson and I live at 2 Pointe Way on Don Pedro Island. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service.

1. There has not been a proven need for sewer on Don Pedro/Knight Island. Water testing has not been performed to substantiate the claims that the existing septic systems are a problem. Property owners on Don Pedro/Knight Island have constructed new and repaired existing septic systems as required, permitted and inspected by the state to the current strict standards. The condition of the septic systems on Don Pedro/Knight Island are completely different than the systems on Little Gasparilla Island which are only accessible by boat, not ferry service and therefore cannot be repaired or replaced as easily as those on Don Pedro/Knight Island.
2. The financial history and financial capability EU has not been proven. There is no information presented in the application that EU could finance the engineering, procurement and construction of the project including a payment and performance bond for the estimated cost in excess of 20 million dollars. Also, per the application there does not seem to be an adequate cash flow to operate the system after construction which could result in even higher residential bills.
3. Environmental Utilities has no expertise or history in the operation of a wastewater system. EU is not a contractor who bid and built a sewer system. The operation and maintenance of the system with regards to equipment and emergencies has also not been addressed in the event of a failure during a storm or any other adverse condition that may occur. In addition, there is no single point of recourse in the event of costs overruns, project failure and project nonperformance.
4. The costs to the homeowner for the new system have been estimated but not been firmly established. The hook-up cost, the electric cost with new panels and generators to operate the grinder pump, the removal of an existing functioning septic system are significant and are an open cost to the homeowner. Also, due to the harsh salt environment on the island, electrical and mechanical equipment have a shorter life span and require replacing on shorter intervals, all at the expense of the homeowner. Finally, the proposed average residential rate of \$178.78 is double what the Rotonda homeowner pays for water and sewer.

Based on the above, I am formally requesting the PSC deny Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service.

Regards,

Jon Goranson
goranson@springsips.com
970-846-3703

Lisa Smith

From: Barber, Carley <carley.barber@ifco.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU
Importance: High

Good Morning Public Service Commission Members,

My name is Carley Barber and my family owns two homes on Little Gasparilla Island. I am writing you to formally request that the Public Service Commission deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Little Gasparilla Island is a unique place, unlike any other community in Florida that I have ever been. The absence of an access bridge, roads and cars allow it to remain largely untouched by the commercialization of the mainland. I have been coming to the island with my family for over 30 years. My parents met on the island in the 70s and my children have been coming to the island since they were born.

In the whole time that my family has owned homes on LGI, we have never ever had any significant issues with the septic systems at either house. The proposed initial cost and monthly cost by EU would force both members of my family to sell their properties. My mother has saved and saved and made sacrifices in other areas of her life to keep her small home on the island. There is no way that she would be able to afford what EU is proposing, especially with no pay-over-time option, and selling this home would be devastating to our family.

Aside from sentimental reasons for opposing EU's plan for wastewater service, there are so many other detrimental side affects that you should consider. The island has one barge access point, on private property and controlled by the property owner. The island paths are narrow, sometimes wet, and lined with the island's beautiful vegetation. These paths are not meant for service trucks and equipment would destroy these paths and homeowners' property. We have so many protected species that make their home on the island, such as burrowing owls and gopher tortoises. A project of this scale would no doubt displace and threaten them.

This wastewater service project does not make sense for Little Gasparilla Island. There have been no tests and no incidents to suggest that there are any quality issues with the water supply on or around the island. The community on the island has a small town feel and when one person is having a septic truck barged over to have their tank pumped, several others will plan together to have theirs done on the same day. Homeowners on the island talk to each other, help each other and take care of their homes and current septic systems appropriately. Approval of EU's application is going to force so many good, hard-working people off the island and cause an influx of big business, rental companies and new owners who do not appreciate what we have now.

I urge you to think about the serious consequences of approving EU's application. We do not need this and our environment does not need this!

Thank you,

Carley Barber
813-323-4815
carley.barber@ifco.com

Lisa Smith

From: Lynn Provost <lynn@thedockdoctors.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:41 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: pirrello.anastacia@leg.state.fl.us
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU First hand conversations with Jack Boyer NOT opinion
Attachments: Provost Letter Re #20200226-SU.pdf; Letter from Jack Boyer to Island Residents.pdf

We are residents of Don Pedro Island and we are writing to formally request PSC to deny the application put in by Environmental Utilities, Jack Boyer. Please review the attached letter that I have put together summarizing discussions that I have personally had with Mr. Boyer on the subject along with the letter that Jack wrote to Island Residents. Please feel free to reach out to me for further discussions and/or comment on this subject. Thank you.

Best Regards,

Jeff & Lynn Provost

121 Bocilla Dr.

Palm Island (Don Pedro Island)

Jeff cell 802-349-9679

jeff@thedockdoctors.com

Lisa Smith

From: workman patricia <nurseoc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:55 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

January 19, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Patricia Workman and I have been a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island for 20 years.

I have seen many changes on the Island over those years and am not opposed to change when well planned, and consideration given to the preservation of the Island environment, feasibility of the cost to homeowners and reliability and expertise of the applicant.

- Our Island does not have a traditional road system – burying present utility and water lines causes issues with access and disturbing other utilities – sewer pipes would be overwhelming.

- The cost to homeowners is unreasonably high. Every time we hire a contractor for anything we pay at least double what it would cost on the mainland. This system as proposed would be an ongoing and increasing cost, unaffordable to most owners, some who need to share their homes with guests at least part time just to pay taxes and insurance.

- New, county approved septic systems are being installed on the Island as needed – I had a new system installed by a licensed contractor 7 years ago – this would have to be dismantled and filled at my expense.

- Emergency access and repair is very difficult for any utility issues on the Island. Most homes are not occupied full-time. I have concerns about how this would be dealt with.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Patricia Workman

Patti Workman
nurseoc@yahoo.com
www.vrbo.com/67924
www.vrbo.com/124301

Lisa Smith

From: Kendall Reeves <krnow123@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 4:41 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Records Clerk
Cc: Krnow; robinmadden@islanderproperties.com; Palm Island Estates
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Good morning Commissioners and thank you for your service. My wife and I are property owners on Don Pedro Island and will lay out sound reasoning for opposition at this time to the proposed central sewer system on Docket #20200226-SU. **I am formally requesting the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.** I do not care to load up this communication with emotion, but I have not encountered such blatant disregard and thoughtlessness for such a major endeavor, as you will see.

First, there is a lot of common sense that goes in to this opposition. If someone starts out by presenting false information as the reasoning for their desire to monetize an idea, the evaluator should not just proceed with caution in review of that project, but avoid it altogether. Why? There is no confidence in whatever proceeds from that point forward. Are they presenting the truth or not? You simply don't know. As facts continue to come out on the true intent of EU with this project, fraud is the word that comes to mind. While EU may consist of friendly people, their intent is anything but what it looks. Yes, there is hard evidence to support this claim, which can gladly be presented if necessary to stop such entities from furthering this business endeavor.

EU has stated that our island is polluting and causing enhancement to red tide. Mere fabrication, for there is no such study by EU supporting their claim. An environmental specialist however was hired, not by EU, indicating the 'polluting' is actually coming from upstream golf courses grey water run off and other yard runoff. Yet EU presents this as their cause for their business pursuit, wrapped around their concern for supporting the environment for generations to come on our island. Simply a baseless and false premise that is consuming tax payers time and dollars for you to review and refute.

More common sense surfaces when EU's proposal is not just disturbing an environmentally sensitive area, but destroying a good bit as well. All exclusively in pursuit of profit. From their plan, it appears no thought has been given to dealing with necessary studies to the environmental impact and endangered species at each homeowners area. Each area is unique as to how it is incorporated into the island, and the EU simply wants to destroy vegetation, dig at will and then tell the homeowner to deal with the after effects. The County, DEP, Army Corps, etc would go ballistic, and rightfully so, if any homeowner were to proceed as the EU's plan proposes. Destruction of eco property with no permitting discussions leaving homeowners heavily fined. More support on this below. This waves a big flag of caution for blatant disregard to authority and slap in the face to all government entities involved. (There is a public track record of EU's disregard and subsequent fines, so they are at least consistent with that aspect) It's simply jaw dropping, how little EU truly understands the nature of this island.

From the information above, that alone should be sufficient to immediately halt any forward consideration. These are not mere words or speculation. Please don't take our word for it, check out each and every claim to see how egregious this proposal infringes on your common sense. This false information has highly upset a very high percent of homeowners on the island as previous letters reflect (submitted by the hundreds). But we are doing what our Republic asks, and write to you, not just to deny the application but pursue monetary damages to recover the costs associated with such flagrant endeavors with the PSC.

Then, there are other issues that would appear to fall under the category of fraud (intentional withholding of information in this case) and thoughtlessness. They range from deceit on intent and installation costs and ongoing expenses, to a fundamental flaw in operation. The island is subject to known power outages on an ongoing basis. (Example: the recent 19 hour power outage) The proposed system is a problem waiting for overflow and back flow problems. It was uncovered, by homeowners, that a generator would be mandatory for the system to fully operate (for some of us there simply is no physical space, yet the system requires such to operate during extended power outages) Also undisclosed was a potential upgraded electrical box to support the generator. (Again there may not be room for increased size of electrical box installation for some.) In addition to the physical constraints for generators and electrical challenges, the proposal has noise and exhaust complaints written all over it. Think back on what it sounds like when a hurricane causes power loss and every generator cranks up. Currently, our island is enticing to a great number of vacation rentals and tourism...but not if you are forced to listen to generators singing in unison with each power outage. This is just common sense that the proposal negatively impacts tourism on the island.

We invite you to ask an independent sewer expert for their input. When we did, wow, the hidden and withheld info surfaced and has problems written all over it. It would not be if, but when a major environmental catastrophe occurred when generators don't crank up and overflows and back flows occur. Absentee owners, and there are many, would pose serious economic and environmental impact with such a proposed system. You have now been made aware of such potential, so please do your due diligence as PSC's, as this proposal has serious detrimental repercussions.

There are two last components of major concern, especially with a project this size. First, we understand **EU is not sufficiently funded and thus fails to meet one of the four needed criteria for such development, and the ongoing business.** We are grateful for this PSC criteria, knowing EU must be vetted thoroughly before any awarding of service. Current and ongoing fund raising by EU for this project speaks directly to being underfunded. Second, the homeowner is left in a very poor and vulnerable position for recourse. The entities of County, Army Corps and DEP have very separate supervising areas, yet there is no performance bond or single point of recourse for cost overruns or project failures. Definitely not in the public's best interest.

There is more which could be presented regarding financial overcharging, unattainable easements and endangered species. However, with so much being blatantly wrong and egregious with this proposal causes one to ask 'is there another agenda' by EU? Sure enough, that agenda was recently uncovered. There is much that could come to light and can if necessary, but we will anticipate that not being the case with your denying of any EU's application for wastewater service.

Again, thank you for your time and your service to our communities!

Respectfully,

Kendall Reeves
krnow123@gmail.com