

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 8:50 AM
To: 'Richard Collett'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Good Morning, Richard J. Collett.

We will be placing the comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200226, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

Toni Hover

*Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
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From: Richard Collett <rhapsodyballroom@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

From Richard J. Collett, property owner on Don Pedro Island (Colony Don Pedro unit #8; also 50 S. Gulf Blvd)

I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service, based on the arguments in opposition to the proposed central sewer system as listed below.

I have been an owner on this beautiful island for over thirty years. My love for this special place is based on the unforgettable memories of wildlife, ocean and the fellowship of friends that we have met over the years. I can't count the many times this fantastic getaway has helped released the stress of life's burdens.

I just cannot even think of the unimaginable upheaval and disruption that the incredible noise of heavy equipment, the endless digging, and dramatic traffic disruption that full time residence and vacation renters will have to endure for months or, yes, even years. But I personally believe that the most damage will be done to the other residents of this island, the wildlife. The biggest thing that makes this island so very special is seeing things like a gopher tortoise snacking on vegetation or as simple as rabbits with their offspring enjoying a morning adventure. Not to mention the numerous species of birds that have called this island home for so many years. It will not take much to disrupt this delicate balance of nature. Past history tells us that once it has been disrupted by, yet again, man's desire to change something that does not need changing, it will never be the same.

The thirty plus years I have been coming to this island I have yet to hear of problems with the septic systems that is in place. I did have to address the septic system on my property once, and that was due to the drain field being clogged by roots. Which brings up the point that I now have a new drain field and septic tank at a cost of approximately \$17,000. If this proposal is approved what am I to do with a perfectly good septic system? Will EU reimburse me for a 1 year old system, or will they just dig it up and haul it away, in the name of "progress?"

The cost that has been mentioned in this proposal would most likely force many long term owners to abandon their dream. The cost of living for property owners on the island is extreme as it is. The upfront costs as well as future expenses proposed would place an extreme financial burden to each family. All of this to replace a system that has worked perfectly, just as it was intended to, because a company that really has no track record in safety or in financial stability, wants to do it. Once they completely disrupt what is now a beautiful and peaceful island, they will move on and leave the residents with the full responsibility of physically and financially maintaining their "new and improved system". As anyone can tell you, these last few years have been taxing on everyones pocketbook. This company is telling us that

we must come up with large sums of money up front and who knows how much in "special assessments" for unexpected maintenance due to corrosion and mechanical and electrical breakdowns for years to come. They are also taking away part of our property to make room for the laying of the sewer pipes. My question is simple. Why go through this horrendous change when it really is not needed? Again, I state, that I have been a property owner for over thirty years. I have two properties on the island and I have never heard of anyone, from other owners, renters or property managers having problems with our current sewer system.

Therefore, based on the arguments above, I hereby formally request that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater service. The overall impact on our livelihood both emotionally and financially, the devastation of the wildlife and overall uniqueness of our island makes this, I believe, a very easy decision to make.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Collett

Rhapsodyballroom@aol.com