

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:17 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20200226
Attachments: RE Docket#20200226-SU; RE docket 20200226; RE docket 20200226-SU; RE Request to deny the application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the proposed sewer system Docket 20200226; RE docket # 20200226-SU (LGI sewer); RE Docket # 20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket No. 20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE {BULK} Sewers on PI; RE 20200226 SU; RE {BULK} I support Environmental utilities efforts; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket # 20200226-SU Proposed sewer project for Little Gasperilla island; RE Docket #20200226-SU Formal Objection to EU's Application for Wastewater Service; RE Docket # 20200226-SU; RE {BULK} Docket # 20200226 Environmental Utilities and Support.)
To whom it may concern, My name is Brian Callahan and I am a full-time resident on Little Gasparilla Island and I support the Sewer project. I don't believe there is much actual ; RE Docket # 20200226 Environmental Utilities Support; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE docket # 20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU opposition; RE Docket # 20200226-SU; RE DOCKET #20200226; RE DOCKET #20200226; RE regarding docket 20200226; RE DOCKET 20200226; RE Docket #20200226-SU

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20200226.

Thank you!

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:29 AM
To: 'Harry Bourke'
Subject: RE: Docket#20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Bourke:

Thank you for your email, dated February 7, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

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

From: Harry Bourke <mrharrybourke@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 9:15 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Fwd: Docket#20200226-SU

>

>

>> Good morning,

>>

>> I am vehemently against a proposed central sewer system by a private individual. Who will be in charge of the oversight, how can I have a say, will there be capped costs, will there be deadlines with penalties for past due dates, liability for damage etc etc? Charlotte County should do it, IF it needs to be done, for the following reasons:

>> 1) I am already a taxpayer and registered voter

>> 2) they have the resources and experience

>> 3) the costs can be spread over the entire county tax base and

>> therefore lessen the impact to the residents here on the island

>> 4) there will be accountability at every step including billing

>> 5) the service will not be sold in the future to another party And

>> most importantly

>> 6) they have resources and responsibility for LONG term maintenance

>>

>> If the current county offices on Murdock Circle are anything to go by we can look forward to continued timely, professional and courteous service.

>> Regards,

>> Harry Bourke

>> 9520 Jolly Roger Trail LGI

> Email : mrharrybourke @gmail.com

>>

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:27 AM
To: 'Marie McCaughan'
Subject: RE: docket 20200226

Dear Ms. McCaughan:

Thank you for your email, dated February 7, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Marie McCaughan <riemac10@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: docket 20200226

I am writing this email in opposition to EU 's proposal for sewer on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) I do not feel that there is a proven need for this system to be installed on the island. The current houses on the island all have septic tank and drainfields. As they fail/if they fail?when they fail and need replacement the the county health has very stringent policy's and procedures that have to be met. Most people/ owners/ on the island take care of there systems so that they do not fail. A septic system, like any other part of a home needs maintenance to keep it in working order. My particular property is inspected and maintained on an annual basis.

I have never requested the installation of a central sewer system. I have always preferred septic systems to central sewer systems in my homes. This system will shut down when the power goes out or we will be plagued with the cost and noise of generators. If it shuts down in the storm what did it accomplish? The cost of the system is huge. We all pay big time property taxes already. We pay a large fee just to have water available. I have a 2 bedroom home and the monthly fee is \$74.00 per month before I use one drop of water. I use a minimal amount of water about \$5.00 a month worth

so the availability fee is not proportional. If this is for water can you imagine the fee for sewer?

I do not believe that EU has the technical expertise to run this type of sewer system. When the water lines were run the lines were not installed in the proper easements. So where are the sewer lines going to be installed. When I questioned Mr. Boyer (sic) about he said "well this is where the previous owner said to put the line" that is not a correct answer. The utility lines should have been put in the utility easement.

I have installed many energy efficient items on my house since I purchased it , including solar panels and battery back up. This allows me to ride out the power outages with no loss of food, etc. the sewer system will not run

on my poser so if there is a power outage I would be forced to vacate my home due to the toilets/etc not working.

Please I/We do not want this

Marie McCaughan, P.E.

8166 Little Gasparilla Island

Placida, FL

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:27 AM
To: 'riemac10@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: docket 20200226-SU

Dear Ms. McCaughan:

Thank you for your email, dated February 7, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Marie McCaughan <riemac10@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 8:58 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: docket 20200226-SU

I am writing this email in opposition to EU 's proposal for sewer on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) I do not feel that there is a proven need for this system to be installed on the island. The current houses on the island all have septic tank and drainfields. As they fail/if they fail?when they fail and need replacement the the county health has very stringent policy's and procedures that have to be met. Most people/ owners/ on the island take care of there systems so that they do not fail. A septic system, like any other part of a home needs maintenance to keep it in working order. My particular property is inspected and maintained on an annual basis.

I have never requested the installation of a central sewer system. I have always preferred septic systems to central sewer systems in my homes. This system will shut down when the power goes out or we will be plagued with the cost and noise of generators. If it shuts down in the storm what did it accomplish? The cost of the system is huge. We all pay big time property taxes already. We pay a large fee just to have water available. I have a 2 bedroom home and the monthly fee is \$74.00 per month before I use one drop of water. I use a minimal amount of water about \$5.00 a month worth so the availability fee is not proportional. If this is for water can you imagine the fee for sewer? I do not believe that EU has the technical expertise to run this type of sewer system. When the water lines were run the lines were not installed in the proper easements. So where are the sewer lines going to be installed. When I questioned Mr. Boyer (sic) about he said "well this is where the previous owner said to put the line" that is not a correct answer. The utility lines should have been put in the utility easement.

I have installed many energy efficient items on my house since I purchased it , including solar panels and battery back up. This allows me to ride out the power outages with no loss of food, etc. the sewer system will not run on my power so if there is a power outage I would be forced to vacate my home due to the toilets/etc not working.

Please I/We do not want this

Marie McCaughan, P.E.

8166 Little Gasparilla Island

Placida, FL

Mailing address

1948 Mississippi Avenue

Englewood, FL 34224

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:19 AM
To: 'julie.imig@imig-llc.com'
Subject: RE: Request to deny the application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the pr0posed sewer system Docket 20200226

Dear Ms. Imig:

Thank you for your email, dated February 6, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Julie Imig <julie.imig@imig-llc.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2022 6:43 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Request to deny the application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the pr0posed sewer system Docket 20200226

Dear Clerk and Commissioners,

My husband, George Shopp and I own the property at 9866 Little Gasparilla Island. We are writing to request that you deny Environmental Utilities' application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the proposed sewer system (Docket 20200226).

After reading expert testimony, it is not clear to me that degree of pollution from septic systems warrants installation of a sewer system.

I wonder if the potential environmental benefits of the proposed sewer system would be worth the disruption to the island. Numerous turtles, birds and other animals nest where the power lines run through our property (which I assume is where EU proposes accessing our property). We looked into

burying power lines 5 years ago and one thing FPL told us that the turtle nest would need to be relocated at a cost of \$3000 per nest.

Is it known whether certain septic systems are causing problems and others aren't? Perhaps it would make more sense to assess the status of septic systems on the Island to ensure they are compliant. If it turns out we do need a sewer system, I would not entrust the planning and installation of a sewer system to a private company. What is the reasoning behind using a private company with no experience? Can the county take on this responsibility?

I have not seen any plan for the type of system or its installation. This will be a unique job and require expertise. It is my understanding that EU has no experience with sewer systems.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Imig and George Shopp.

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:30 AM
To: 'Greg Rauth'
Subject: RE: docket # 20200226-SU (LGI sewer)

Dear Mr. Rauth:

Thank you for your email, dated February 7, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Greg Rauth <greg.rauth@maxamtirena.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 10:09 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: docket # 20200226-SU (LGI sewer)

Dear Commissioner Passidomo,
Please vote NO on docket# 20200226-SU re: the mandatory expensive private sewer proposal on LGI

Thank you
Greg

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:31 AM
To: 'Peter Baur'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Baur:

Thank you for your email, dated February 7, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Peter Baur <panbaur@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Docket # 20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners,

I am the owner of the property 31 Bayshore Cir. on Palm Island, Placida, FL 33946.

This letter is to express my sincere concern about Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) being approved to install a sewer system on Palm Island.

There are several reasons which cause my concern:

- The EU presented connection fees which are not based on detailed calculations but seem rather to be of rough estimation. Once installed, the sewer connection fees could be raised significantly, well beyond any reasonable amount. Then, there is the monthly usage cost which is said to be \$178.78. Adding the cost for water which is \$100 a month, one has to pay about \$280 a month for water and sewer. That is about **three times** the amount our neighbors in Rotonda are paying.
- There was no scientific research demonstrating the need for service based on environmental impact.

- The applicant (EU) does not have the financial resources necessary to install such an elaborate sewer system.
- The applicant (EU) does not possess the technical expertise to design and oversee/lead/conduct the installation of such an involved sewer system (no ability to use of gravity and the need to cross the ICW). EU never designed or installed a sewer system.

As a resident, I have yet to meet even one supporter on this island who supports EU's interest in developing this project, only consternation and concern.

Based on the foregoing, I request that the PSC denies the application of EU for wastewater service.

Sincerely

Peter Baur

Peter Baur

31 Bayshore Cir.

Placida, FL 33946

201 960 6525

panbaur@icloud.com

Jacob Veauhn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:32 AM
To: 'Zach Bawel'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Bawel:

Thank you for your email, dated February 7, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Zach Bawel <Zach.Bawel@jasperholdingsinc.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 11:59 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Docket #20200226-SU

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information or may otherwise be protected by law. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message and any attachment thereto.

Jacob Veauhn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:34 AM
To: 'doug young'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Young:

Thank you for your email, dated February 7, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

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

From: doug young <portaweldinc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 2:42 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners,

We wish to go on record as being whole heartedly against the plan to allow EU to go forward with their plan to put an UNneeded and UNwanted sewer system on our pristine island.

We don't believe EU is acting in good faith. If they were they would have already have done the following; •Proven the necessity with documentation •Provided a civil engineering plan

•Shown the ability to provide a 25-30 million dollar performance bond (doubtful)

•Provide their list of subcontractors for vetting

•Have their costs figured out

Not to mention I can't believe that a project of this magnitude would be awarded to such a company and without any competing bids. I'm sure that there are many more qualified contractors that , given the opportunity, would be happy to provide a proposal IF it were determined (by an independent agency) that a sewer system was absolutely necessary.

Thanks for listening

Sincerely,

Doug & Joyce Young
221 N Gulf Blvd

Doug Young
Porta-Weld Inc
18267 Casey Rd
Grayslake, IL 60030

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:35 AM
To: 'Heather L Robertson'
Subject: RE: Docket No. 20200226-SU

Dear Ms. Stout:

Thank you for your email, dated February 7, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Heather L Robertson <webdeziner1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 9:44 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket No. 20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners,

We moved to this island in 2014. Through hard work and budgeting our dream became a reality.

I am asking that you deny Environmental Utilities the certification for sewer based upon the following reasons:

1 Since Environmental Utilities does not have a true and accurate representation of actual costs, and no payment plan options I am very concerned about my family's budget.

We will have to have our electric panel upgraded. We will have to purchase a generator since we are a full time family of three and have experienced many many power interruptions out here on the island. A generator will be a must for us and the environment. We are owners and we will be made to burden the cost of a generator because a back-up could be devastating to our home and the environment. Environmental Utilities owner Jack Boyer told me on record at our Homeowners Association Board of Directors meeting when I asked if he will be perpetually raising

rates as our current *private water provider does?* He answered, "He will take every raise afforded to him. In 10 years with the allowable rate increases we will easily be in the \$300 range. For a family that adheres to a budget to live in an environmental and family oasis these charges will not be tenable for us and many island friends. These are not fair and equitable rates and charges. In fact we haven't even been supplied with a true number so that our family can plan accordingly. Please deny Environmental Utilities on this point.

I would also like to address the need for service.

A need would imply that our septic systems are harming our waterways.

An individual, an organization, a county government or even state agency would have to have tests to show that our island is impacting the waterways. There are none. I have spent the last year studying, calling and emailing all of the agencies that would be involved with making this determination. There simply are no tests documented or posted from our local government or state agencies. Charlotte Harbor National Estuaries Program has very limited posted results for our area and those limited results clearly show that testing does not support this far fetched notion that our septic systems are polluting our local waterways.

We do know the state has a problem but putting the undue burden on individual homeowners while still allowing agriculture, big sugar, golf courses and phosphorous mines to pollute our waterways is a backward way of implementing environmental safeguards. Also I would like to point out that our local government is still actively approving septic systems here on the island. The same septic systems that EU and Jack Boyer claim are impairing our waterways.

Furthermore I would like to point out that Charlotte County has had 690+ wastewater incidents or malfunction from 2013 to date per the State of FL Oculus report. The latest was January of 2022. A massive spill mainland close to our island on Placida Rd. This is the proposed agency to receive our wastewater??

Our local island residents are very active in our pursuit of environmental excellence. We have been LAB testing our island waterways for years. We have tested in July, the height of tourist season and when the waters are the warmest. We have selected this time as the prime environment to identify any problems. Our testing results as far back as 2012 clearly support the evidence based results that island septic tanks are not harming our local waters. Also please note that our island homeowners association regularly promotes batch septic pump-outs to island residents. We connect island residents that are looking to have their septic systems pumped and inspected so they can save on the necessary ferry fees associated with a pump out. We do this so that we can actively promote responsible and environmentally sound septic practices. Please deny Environmental Utilities claim of need for sewer. They clearly haven't shown this to be true.

Lastly I would like to close with some wisdom my parents have passed on to me over the years.

1) *Don't go in to business with someone you don't trust regardless of the promises they make.*

Approving Environmental Utilities is tantamount to saying I have to go into business with Jack Boyer. His financial track-record, past legal issues and disregard for the will of the island will not make a good business partner for me or my family.

2) *Make a budget and stick to that budget.*

As a homeowner I have not been presented with a factual dollar amount to be able to budget and plan for. And of course no pay over time option. How is this fair and equitable?

Thank You for your time,

Heather L Stout

webdeziner1@yahoo.com

Full Time Island Resident at 400 Bocilla Dr.

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:38 AM
To: 'Thomas McFarland'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. and Mrs. McFarland:

Thank you for your email, dated February 8, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Thomas McFarland <tomandvivan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 1:42 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: FW: Docket #20200226-SU

Sorry, your email address was improperly entered.

From: Thomas McFarland [<mailto:tomandvivan@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:37 AM
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us;
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

My name is Thomas E. McFarland. My wife Vivian and I have owned a house on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) for over 20 years. Our mailing address is: PO Box 573, Placida, FL 33946-0573. Our physical address is 9580 Little Gasparilla Island and our email address is tomandvivan@gmail.com We are requesting that you deny EU's application for wastewater service.

We do not believe there is a need for this service. Our septic system has been maintained and is functioning properly. Other than a periodic inspection there is no cost for our septic service.

We are not requesting sewer service from a company like EU. Based on our experience with Mr. Boyer with his water system we believe his lack of technical expertise is a major concern. There was a perfectly good water plant on LGI and Mr. Boyer obtained approval for water service to be supplied from the mainland resulting in our water bill being more than quadrupled. The projected costs for sewer service are over the moon and very questionable. We are retired and on fixed incomes. Again, please deny the proposed project.

Sincerely,
Thomas & Vivian McFarland

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:41 AM
To: 'eu777offices@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: {BULK} Sewers on PI

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Saad:

Thank you for your email, dated February 8, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: eu777offices@gmail.com <eu777offices@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:09 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Commission Clerk <CommissionClerk@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: {BULK} Sewers on PI
Importance: Low

My husband & I, Stewart & Sharon Saad, own 3 lots on Palm Island. One lot is developed and the other 2 lots will be developed in the near future.

We support Environmental Utilities efforts to convert septic to sewer.

Septic is very toxic and horrible for the environment.

Thank you,

Stewart & Sharon Saad

Sent from my iPhone

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:43 AM
To: 'William Woodworth'
Subject: RE: 20200226 SU

Dear Terri Woodworth:

Thank you for your email, dated February 8, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

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

From: William Woodworth <mom2amy@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:28 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: 20200226 SU

Dear commissioner, we are residents in the resort. Yes, we have a sewer system. Yes, it needs repair. We have lived through red tides and fish kills. Many lots have recently sold. That mens more houses, more septic fields, more nutrients leeching into the ground water Please vote for the sewer!

Terri Woodworth
941-780-2546
Sent from my iPad

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:46 AM
To: 'eu777offices@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: {BULK} I support Environmental utilities efforts

Dear Ms. Durrance:

Thank you for your email, dated February 9, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: eu777offices@gmail.com <eu777offices@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:30 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Commission Clerk <CommissionClerk@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: {BULK} I support Environmental utilities efforts
Importance: Low

I Leslie Durrance support the environmental utilities efforts to convert septic to sewer.

Sent from my Iphone!

Jacob Veughn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:47 AM
To: 'Candyce Cohen'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Ms. Cohen:

Thank you for your email, dated February 9, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Candyce Cohen <candycecohen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 11:57 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Jennifer Crawford <jcrawfor@psc.state.fl.us>; Ryan Sandy <RSandy@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners Clark, Passidomo and LaRosa and Esquires Crawford, Helton and Sandy,

I wanted to thank all of you once again for traveling to our corner of the state to conduct hearings and to listen to affected residents. As I was first up to the podium last night, I did not see the protocol for this so I asked after the meeting. I wanted to share the reference materials for my comments on Docket #20200226-SU. As a nervous speaker, I typed out my comments as my husband warned I've never said something in 3 minutes if I could take 20. My reference data is attached as well as a copy of my comments as I hate to see anyone transcribing what I can just provide. (Apologies as one of the FL DEP charts was also included in my letter submitted to the docket.)

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:49 AM
To: 'Randy Simmons'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU Proposed sewer project for Little Gasperilla island

Dear Mr. Simmons:

Thank you for your email, dated February 11, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Randy Simmons <simmonsrandy77@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 11:22 PM
To: Randy Simmons <simmonsrandy77@gmail.com>
Cc: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Re: Docket #20200226-SU Proposed sewer project for Little Gasperilla island

As a follow up to this e-mail with concerns stated in regards to the proposed sewer system I would like to reiterate the fact that Jack Boyer and EU has not secured any easements necessary for crossing my property at 8230 Little Gasparilla Island, this was stated on the hearing February 8th 51 minutes into the hearing and it is absolutely FALSE he has not compensated property owners for the necessary access to allow him to put in the proposed sewer system. I will be contacting my attorney to follow up on recourse and for being compensated if the proposed system is approved. I felt that the Public service commission and the county commissioner should be aware of this falsehood

Any questions or concerns concerning this matter you can call me at 813-310-5125 thank you very much
Randy Simmons

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 19, 2022, at 2:31 PM, Randy Simmons <simmonsrandy77@gmail.com> wrote:

Commissioners and Clerk of the public service commission,

My name is Randy Simmons, I am a current owner of 8230 little Gasperilla Island, I am sending you this email in opposition to the proposed sewer project and Formally requesting that the PSC deny EUs request for waste water service. There are many reasons for this request .below are just a few. Not a comprehensive list

1. EU has not Secured/ Purchases the necessary right of way for the project as a portion of my property would be necessary to complete the project EU DOES NOT HAVE RIGHT OF WAY to install infrastructure needed for this project.

2.I currently my property has a well functioning septic system that is a very low to NO impact to the environment and don't feel that this project is justified, additionally if it were to go through I feel I should be grandfathered in and not required to hook up to the system at the proposed exorbitant cost.

3. It has not been determined that EU has the financial ability to handle such a project and I feel that this project should be performed by Charlotte County to ensure system is up to standards if we are forced to go on a sewer system.

4 it is in question rather EU has the technical expertise to perform the construction and oversight of a project such as this SINCE THEY HAVE ZERO experience and have not Installed a system anywhere else comparatively. Additionally I don't feel that EU can provide a system that is affordable to the owners of property on Little Gasparilla island.

Thank you for you consideration in these matters as I request that the proposal be denied

Randy Simmons

E-mail simmonsrandy77@gmail.com

Cell 812-310-4125

Sent from my iPhone

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:52 AM
To: 'Jennifer Aulsebrook'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU: Formal Objection to EU's Application for Wastewater Service

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Aulsebrook:

Thank you for your email, dated February 13, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Jennifer Aulsebrook <jennifersue_12@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 1:45 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU: Formal Objection to EU's Application for Wastewater Service

Good Afternoon Commissioners LaRosa, Clark, Passidomo and Clerk of the Commission,

We (John and Jennifer Aulsebrook) are writing to you as the property owners within the proposed service area (Don Pedro/Knight Islands) contained in the application from Environmental Utilities, LLC [EU] for central sewer for Docket No. 20200226-SU. We hereby firmly object to the EU's application for certificate to provide wastewater service in our service area. Our rationale for this objection is as follows:

- **Ethical Practices:**

- On January 5, 2021, the PSC made a decision to deny the EU's motion to bifurcate for temporary waiver of Rule 25-30.033(1)(p) and (q). While we are grateful for this decision, we find this initial filing incredibly disturbing as it would have allowed the EU to move forward without fully informing the homeowners of the impact this project. This unintegral business strategy, conducted at the beginning of this application, gives us great concern about the EU's ability to complete this project ethically and fairly. Furthermore, with this initial behavior, this leads us to believe the continued maintenance and service will also be conducted in this manner.

- **Financial Burden, impacting Health:**

- As stakeholders in the proposed service area, it is important to have all the relevant information regarding the proposed central sewer including the connection fees. In January 2022, we have been provided a Rate Case Overview, which indicates the sewer lateral installation and main extension charges will be \$13,221. This rate sheet does not disclose the additional fees for: Electric (the system pump requires a separate electric panel), Generator (homeowners will need a generator to keep the system running during an outage to avoid sewage back-up),

Landscaping / Hardscaping around the septic area, and Septic Removal. These additional expenses (all at the homeowners expense) can and will add up, incurring a great burden for us. Additionally, there is concern for other, unexpected fees not listed here; therefore, we still do not feel we have been informed on the **full** financial impact of this project.

- o The residential service bill for 4,000 gallons of usage will be \$256.66/month. This is almost triple the amount a homeowner would have to pay on the mainland. We have also been informed that the EU will incorporate increases at a maximum and where possible. We have never paid this much for sewer service in our life and this will have detrimental impact to our finances. We find it absolutely abhorrent that these fees are even being considered, further outlining the EUs ability to conduct themselves in an ethical manner.

- o For this section, I will convey our situation in 1st person: While I do not typically share financial and/or health situations outwardly, I feel it's best to provide this information in this sensitive situation. My husband suffered a heart attack as a result of extreme stress. He and I both suffer from osteoarthritis in our spines, as well as, other health issues. We made the conscious decision to sell our home in Colorado and move to the island, strictly for our health and well-being. This island is a healing place for us, quite literally. Unfortunately, my husband is no longer able to work; therefore, we have only one income that is fixed and no wiggle room for exorbitant budget items such as a sewer system. Quite simply, we absolutely cannot afford the expense of the initial start-up, nor can we afford the atypically high monthly service bill. We are also not able to get a loan (it's absolutely not an option). For us, the approval of this sewer system would financially devastate us. This is utter honesty and without exaggeration. We would have to consider moving away from the island, which would, in fact, impact our overall health. The alternative to moving away from the island would be for me to obtain a second job, which would also impact overall health. The ramifications of this decision are vast and I am sharing this to give you a sense of who we are as people and what this could mean for our future. There are often assumptions made about the islanders...that we are wealthy and can frivolously afford things like this without a problem. I'm writing this to inform you that is absolutely **not** the case with us...and that is not the case for many of us (as I have been made aware). In complete vulnerability, we are two humans, trying to care for our health and well-being, counting our pennies along the way so we may have the necessary blessings that this healing island provides. For us, this island carries incredible meaning and importance to our livelihood.

- **Purpose:**

- o We have a perfectly working septic system that follows the Charlotte County requirements for maintenance. It is in excellent condition and we (like all islanders) are required to follow our Operating Permit and Maintenance Agreement required by state law and provisioned through the Florida Health Department. We fully adhere to the operating permit/required maintenance, including but not limited to, conducting bi-annual inspections, septic pumping as required within the specified timeframes, ensuring a fully functional aerator with alarms, mitigating root growth, ensuring the drain field has proper vegetation, blower and air filter cleaning, etc. There is absolutely no consideration for homeowners that have a well-maintained, functional, environmentally-safe septic system to be grandfathered. Additionally, we have not heard adequate rationale for the need to replace our existing septic system with a sewer line.

- **Environmental Concerns:**

- o We have conducted thorough research on both septic and sewer systems. We have serious concerns with the environmental impact of the installation, operating, and maintenance of a sewer system. As we understand it, in terms of the environment, our controlled and highly maintained septic system does not have the impact on the environment that a sewer system does. We are incredibly concerned about the wastewater that could potentially enter our ocean (as has been seen time and time again with many sewer systems). Additionally, this could have a high impact on our ecological system, including but not limited to, our protected Sea Turtles, Gopher Tortoises and Birds.

In summary, any potential project with regard to sewer installation would impact us immensely and would be devastating to our finances, our overall health, and the environment; therefore, we are formally and respectfully requesting that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater service.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John and Jennifer Aulsebrook

aulsebrook@comcast.net

jennifersue_12@yahoo.com

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:54 AM
To: 'Dale Novak'
Subject: RE: Docket # 20200226-SU

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Novak:

Thank you for your email, dated February 16, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Dale Novak <dnovak@novakcreative.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 1:41 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners:

On April 21, 2022 the PSC staff is scheduled to make their recommendation with regards to Docket # 20200226-SU.

I wanted to write you to express our position on this matter including factual analysis of the proposal by Environmental Utilities (EU).

We are currently in the process of building a home on Don Pedro Island. It will be located at 611 Bocilla Drive, 33946, which is in the EU service area.

First and foremost, I find it incredibly disconnected, and rather impossible to believe that a “start up, for profit” utility service with absolutely no experience in designing, building, implementing and servicing a sewer utility is even being considered. How is this possible? Imagine if you can, boarding a 747 and being told over the PA system that the pilot that will be operating the aircraft today has never flown anything in his life, has zero experience in aviation and has absolutely no idea how to fly a 747. Would you sit quietly in your seat and just say “oh well, I hope this goes okay?” Or, jump out of your seat and head for the exit?

That is precisely what is happening here. We are all preparing to board our sewer flight with a start-up company with zero experience other than operating a poorly operated insignificant water system on Little Gasparilla Island.

So what drives them (the EU) to want to do this? Profit, plain and simple. At the total and unfettered expense of the property owners in the proposed service area. Not their expense. Ours. They are burdening all of the expenses on the property owners. Further, Charlotte County is mandating that we hook up to the system. I truly feel that this story line is impossible to believe. Yet, here we are.

I also find it unconstitutional to “mandate” that a private property owner shall be required (mandated) to participate in a system operated by a private for profit company. But, that’s something we can let the Attorneys debate.

Based on the handout provide by the EU, the “proposed” cost of implementing the service comes to \$13,280.85 per property owner. That’s just to get our home connected to the service. But, why stop there? The proposed monthly cost is \$256.66 per month based on 4,000 gallons of use. It ratchets up to \$472.48 if you go over the 4,000 gallons. Compared to the current sewer rates provided by Charlotte County (and posted on their website) for the same 4,000 gallon use it would be \$67.22, or over 380% more for the EU’s proposed costs. Granted, the service will be on a barrier island which would likely cost more, but nearly 400% more? Does that sound reasonable to the PSC?

Plus, for every homeowner to be “forced” to pay the EU an additional \$13,280.85 just to initiate service is outrageous. It’s not realistic. This is an egregious assault on our property rights and freedom to choose if we want to use the service or not.

Our home will be built soon. We will likely pay anywhere from \$25,000 to \$50,000 to install our entirely up to code septic system. Charlotte County will permit and inspect the system. We will have to meet certain requirements to accomplish this in an environmentally sound way. The system will need to be inspected as well. That is part of our island life and we accept it. We don’t want to add nutrients to the water any more than any other island residents. But, to “require us” to then dig up and remove this brand new system a year from now leaves us speechless. Is the EU going to compensate us for the cost of not only removing our system, but the cost to install it? Keep in mind, we are doing everything by the book. This same scenario would be playing out island wide and the costs could be in the millions to decommission and remove septic systems. More costs, and more money, to burden the property owners.

No part of the EU’s proposal addresses the costs to the property owners. Every homeowner on the island could be “mandated” to spend \$25,000-\$35,000 just to comply with this proposal. I expect there to be court battles with regards to this if it is approved. It’s inevitable.

To continue with my objections, what happens if there is a failure of the system? Does the EU have enough cash reserves to handle an environmental catastrophe? Do they have the crews and equipment to address a failure caused by a storm, pipe break, or failure of the system due to negligence or the improper installation of the system? Or, is it their plan to simply pass on ALL of the costs to the property owners — in a similar fashion as their current proposal? The PSC needs to address these real concerns.

I think I speak for many islanders that we all want to protect our water quality. But all the issues currently present in our waterways are NOT due to septic systems, but rather the releases from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee river. It’s been documented and proven and a known issue by the State of Florida, Environmentalists and the Federal Government, including the Army Corp of Engineers. There is no crises being caused by the properties on the chain of island in the EU’s proposed service area. None. Zero. In fact, many of

the homes are only occupied seasonally or sporadically throughout the year. The EU wants to create a crises where none exists.

The bottom line is that the EU's proposal is all about generating a profit for the stakeholders in the company. Nothing else — all at the expense of the property owners who choose to live on this very special chain of barrier islands. As a Florida resident, and native of the great State of Florida, I respectfully plead with the PSC to deny this application.

Regards,

Dale & Julie Novak
611 Bocilla Drive
Placida, FL 33946
dnovak@novakcreative.net
920.664.1088

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:55 AM
To: 'Brian Callahan'
Subject: RE: {BULK} Docket # 20200226 Environmental Utilities and Support. :) To whom it may concern, My name is Brian Callahan and I am a full-time resident on Little Gasparilla Island and I support the Sewer project. I don't believe there is much actual

Dear Mr. Callahan:

Thank you for your email, dated February 16, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Brian Callahan <mrbricallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 3:06 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: {BULK} Docket # 20200226 Environmental Utilities and Support. :) To whom it may concern, My name is Brian Callahan and I am a full-time resident on Little Gasparilla Island and I support the Sewer project. I don't believe there is much actual o...
Importance: Low

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:57 AM
To: 'W. Kelly Boyer'
Subject: RE: Docket # 20200226 Environmental Utilities Support

Dear Mr. Boyer:

Thank you for your email, dated February 17, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: W. Kelly Boyer <wk_boyer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:59 AM
To: Commission Clerk <CommissionClerk@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Chairman Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket # 20200226 Environmental Utilities Support

Hello Commissioners,
I am a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island at 9390 LGI.

I am in **full support** of the septic to sewer conversion.

Thank You,
William Boyer

Jacob Veaughn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:59 AM
To: 'JAYNE KEBE'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Ms. Kebe:

Thank you for your email, dated February 23, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: JAYNE KEBE <kebefam@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner Passidomo:

My name is Jayne Kebe and I am a property owner at 18 Palm Drive on Knight Island. We have owned the property since 2012 and I have lived here as a full-time resident since 2016.

With this email, I am formally **objecting to the proposal by Environmental Utilities for a central sewer line for Don Pedro and Knight Islands. I am formally asking the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization** for this proposed central sewer system.

I worked professionally as an environmental engineer for approximately 25 years specializing in wastewater treatment and hazardous waste. . In my graduate studies, I took semester classes on biological wastewater treatment and unit operations. I have reviewed the professional experience of Environmental Utilities and I can attest that this company and its owner do not have the education, experience and technical expertise to be constructing and maintaining such a complex design system. I am aware of **the criteria that the PSC will use to grant Certification** including the need for service (environmental impacts, development concerns), financial ability of the applicant, technical expertise of the applicant and fair and equitable rates and charges. I do not understand how this lack of experience complies with the technical expertise criteria listed above.

In addition, I have been a grants writer for the non-profit organization, Bocilla Islands Conservancy Inc. on Knight and Don Pedro Islands. We have been obtaining grants and working with the endangered gopher tortoise preservation for over seven years. I do not see anything in EU's plans addressing this issue of the disruption of the tortoises habitats per the installation of this sewer system. Please take this into consideration during your evaluation of this project.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my email.

Sincerely,

Jayne Kebe

18 Palm Drive, Knight Island, Placida, FL

kebefam@sbcglobal.net

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:00 PM
To: 'Marie McCaughan'
Subject: RE: docket # 20200226-SU

Dear Ms. McCaughan:

Thank you for your email, dated February 24, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Marie McCaughan <riemac10@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 11:59 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: docket # 20200226-SU

To Whom It May Concern:

I am concerned with the forced sewer on Little Gasparilla Island. 8166 Little Gasparilla Island. I use my island house in the summer to spend time with family and friends. There are many issues to consider here. First please be aware that the residents and homeowners of property on Little Gasparilla Island contribute significantly to the County tax base and receive very few services. We do not have/get road maintenance or trash/garbage pick-up. We are prohibited from putting our household waste in the dumpsters located at the county ramp. These are just a few of the amenities that the other residents of Charlotte county enjoy that we do not have.

1. One of the concerns is the monthly cost. I currently own a residence in Englewood in the Grove City area. The cost of water and sewer is in line with the other areas that I have lived in before. The cost of water on Little Gasparilla Island is 4 times the cost of other areas. The proposed monthly sewer cost is going to be 3 times the cost of water. This is not fair. If you look at the cost of water and sewer and garbage that the mainland residents pay and compare it to what the projected cost to LGI residents is, you can easily see the disparity.

2. The lack of technical expertise of the EU is a concern. When they installed the water mains they were not even placed in the easements. That is where the utilities were/are supposed to be located. So where are they going to place the sewer lines? I could easily hit and damage the water main by just digging a hole to plant a tree. Not planting it is the easement but on my private property. Again what happens with the sewer. water is one thing to have running all over but sewage would be an environmental nightmare.

3. I do not feel that there is a proven need for a central sewer. If the islands floods during a storm, yes the septic systems are flooded, but if there is a central sewer those lines will be flooded also. there will still be pollution. I understand that many of the septic systems are old and poorly maintained but when they fail they have to be replaced and the Health Department has strict guidelines that are to be followed.

There are other issues to consider but I will not go into them all. I never asked for a sewer, I do not think it is needed. T

Sincerely

Marie McCaughan, Professional Engineer

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:01 PM
To: 'Mike Riley'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU opposition

Dear Mr. Riley:

Thank you for your email, dated February 24, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Mike Riley <mikenriley@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 3:08 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: FW: Docket #20200226-SU opposition

February 23, 2022

Reference docket # 20200226 – Environmental Utilities

Commissioners,

This email is a follow up to my earlier email from below.

I would like to supplement my January 18th email below and my verbal testimony from February 9, 2022.

In cross examination from Mr. Friedman, he read a line from my original email and asked me to confirm if that was true and my opinion – i.e. “public sewers vs private sewers”. In reading from my original email, Mr. Freidman read the below sentence (highlighted in red). I agreed that it was my testimony – HOWEVER, that was out of context to my email because the sentence before makes the assumption that Charlotte County will force our conversion from septic systems to a sewer system in their long range plan and if that happens, THEN, I am in favor of a public sewer and not a private sewer system.

My basic opinion is still that septic systems are the best solution for our Island at this time and a sewer system is NOT NECESSARY. Neither Charlotte County nor EU has done any water or soil testing to prove there

is a need for sewers at this time or even to prioritize our island for a 3-5 year plan. Charlotte County's long range plan is flawed in this respect. Several individuals on island, including myself, have done water testing without producing a negative result on our water quality or proving a need to force abandonment of our current septic systems. Our waters are clear and our residents are responsible in maintaining their septic systems and drain fields, despite Charlotte County's failure in managing a State required system of monitoring and testing of septic systems.

As for water quality and pollution (the most basic principle in proving a need for a sewer system), I tested my well water 3 years ago and again last year. I started using my well shortly after the PSC approved a significant water rate increase for Bocilla Utilities. My well is located within 100 feet of 1. my septic system to the east, 2. my neighbors septic system to the north, and 3. my neighbors septic system to the south. It is also within 150 feet from my neighbors septic system across the street to the west. My well had not been used for over 10 years. It is considered an open pit well – it is 5 feet in diameter (concrete block walls) and 5 feet deep, with a screened structure around it to avoid mosquito or bug nesting and hatching. It was installed in the 1970's when the house was built. I did not send my water samples to a lab, but took them to Home Depot who did the water quality test. I was told both times that my water was 'within the states standards of drinking water'. Based on those results, I converted all my outside spigots to well water, with my inside house usage through Bocilla Utilities. Being environmentally conscious, I use between 1700 and 2200 gallons of water a month from Bocilla Utilities, keeping my water bill at around \$90 per month or 4.5 cents per gallon, still excessive in my opinion. If EU were forced to do water and soil tests, I am confident that they would not find a problem and the need for a sewer system would be negated.

Next, regarding my testimony, is my continued discussion of the design concepts and EU's 'quiet' partnering with Knight Island Utilities. The EU sewer system design as shown on their application has a 6 inch line starting at the Resort gate on Gulf Blvd then dumping into an 8 inch line down Gulf Blvd and eventually off island. As I testified on February 9th, this is not consistent with the rest of the design because it is a 'beginning point' for EU's service area – all other beginning points start with a 3 inch, to a 4 inch, to the 8 inch main, then off island. Please review the system design map included in their application. I do not know what the cost of these larger lines are but the total cost is being placed on the existing EU service area customers, i.e. Knight and Don Pedro Island residents not in the Resort (Down islanders) and LGI residential users. EU's application shows no "general service" customers, only residential, so EU has no need or purpose for a larger line conveniently beginning at the Resort gate, unless EU plans on hooking up the Resort (Knight Island Utilities). Mr. Boyer has held and continues to hold meetings (one scheduled for next week) on the Resort (which is currently serviced by Knight Island Utilities – under the jurisdiction of the PSC) to discuss the sewer system. Knight Island Utilities is not a part of EU and are not included in EU's service territory, so there is no need to consult with the Resort or Knight Island Utilities, unless there is a silent, non-discussed side agreement between them, i.e. partnering to help only the Resort, and placing the total cost burden on the remaining non-Resort down island residents and LGI residents.

Discussions on the Resort with Mr. Jack Boyer have been centered around the fact that Knight Island Utilities has a problem with their holding tank and cannot have it filled over half full or there may be an environmental spill (as I testified on Feb 9th). Knight Island Utilities 'trucks' their sewage off island. The Resort (Knight Island Utilities) wants to connect to EU's main line and have their waste moved off island via EU's transmission lines under the Intracoastal Waterway. The Resort is arguing that they will not pay an individual hook up fee or monthly rates for each resort residence, as all other residents in EU's territory have to pay, and that the Resort only wants to pay a transmission fee through EU's system to get their sewage off island. Knight Island Utilities already has a bulk agreement with Charlotte County, so they simply meter their sewage at the entrance to EU's transmission lines and pay some nominal "transmission fee" to get it to the mainland. **THIS IS UNFAIR**

AND UNREASONABLE to the Down Island residents and LGI residents who are paying for the entire system without any compensation for use of it by the Resort or Knight Island Utilities. This has not been included in EU's application and has not been considered by Staff in the rate making procedure. Basically, the hookup fees and rates proposed by EU and diligently studied by the Staff are faulted and inaccurate by the fact of the Resort wanting to "join in", after the fact, without a cost – and the EU sewer system being purposely engineered from day 1 to handle the Resort sewage volume. Again, the total cost being paid by the Down Island and LGI residents, not the Resort.

Let me go one step further. Lemon Bay Lane and Yacht Basin Drive are currently being serviced by Knight Island Utilities, but are included in the EU service area per the application. Mr. Boyer testified under oath that each of the residences/properties in this area will need to pay the individual hookup fees and the scheduled rates to EU even though they have already paid these fees to Knight Island Utilities. A definite double cost for those residents. However, EU and Knight Island Utilities (Resort) are trying to do just the opposite with the Resort residents – no hookup fee and limited charges – all at the expense of EU's service area customers – not the Resort. If Knight Island Utilities is servicing this area, how come EU suddenly gets priority to serve it above Knight Island Utilities? A question only the staff and Commissioners can answer. Again, a fault with the application and rate justification studies.

This type of politics on our island is long standing with the Down Islanders paying for the Resort residents, whether in barge fees (owned by the Resort), golf cart repair, water usage, or now, the attempted Sewer application. Enough is Enough.

Please hear the voices of the Down Islander residents and the LGI residents, **DENY THIS APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE** and let the majority of the island residents (non-resort) handle their sewage through their existing safe, properly maintained septic systems, until a TRUE NEED is proven. Knight Island Utilities and the Resort need to handle their sewage problem themselves. If they want to become a part of EU, they need to abandon their Utility designation and become part of the EU service territory with all the individual residence hookup fees and rates equal to everyone else serviced by EU. **BE FAIR AND EQUITABLE.**

I guess it gets down to the idea that **EU has done inadequate engineering studies to properly estimate the true costs**, and Mr. Boyer complains about the cost of doing so BEFORE receiving the certificate, **BUT, has done adequate design and engineering studies to enable him to hook up the Resort and handle their sewage without mention in their application or statements or rate justification.** This application is for one reason only – **personal profit for Mr. Boyer.**

EU needs to prove the need for sewers, then do complete and adequate engineering studies to know the actual cost, then design the system for his territory only (and not the Resort or Knight Island Utilities), and then ask for the certificate. Don't put the cart before the horse. **Deny this application** and force future applicants to do all the leg work before asking for a financially valuable waste water/sewer certificate.

Lastly is the Easement issue that I testified about on February 9. EU is asking for an easement on each residences private property – WITHOUT COMPENSATION. He is asking to be given private property rights not allowed without a condemnation action or an imminent domain proceeding. He wants to put the blame on the Commission because, if approved, they (the Commissioners) said he could do it. Also, cleverly avoided in the technical hearing, EU's application is requesting other costs, like permit fees, electrical service modifications, crushing of the old tank, backup power to avoid an environmental spill, etc. be 'PAID BY THE HOMEOWNER'. Mr. Boyer's testimony states that these items are supposedly included in one of the lump items, but his application and basic customer agreement are more specific and put the cost burden on the

homeowner. Mr. Boyer stated that he needed to do more studies and wasn't sure exactly what all was in the lump numbers.

Bottom line, this application has not proven need, has inadequate engineering studies to do fair and equitable rate making, has been tainted by a quiet, non-discussed partnering with the Resort and Knight Island Utilities to hook the Resort up placing all the costs on the EU service area residential customers (down island residents and LGI residents).

I suggest that the Commission or staff send a representative to the Mr. Boyer meetings on Palm Island Resort next week and get the real answers. These meetings are informal, but it would let the Commissioners and Staff know what side agreements Mr. Boyer, EU, Knight Island Utilities, and the Resort are making and the real reasons for the inconsistencies in the sewer system design and lack of any general service or wholesale customers in his application, causing the rate justification to be flawed and inaccurate.

PLEASE REMEMBER, Knight Island Utilities is also under PSC jurisdiction in service area, rates, etc. and as far as I am aware, it has made no application to tie into the lines of another Utilities (EU) or transfer a portion of their service area to another Utility, or enter into a bulk agreement with another Utility.

PLEASE DENY THIS APPLICATION

Thank You

Michael Riley
303-570-7710

From: Mike Riley [<mailto:mikenriley@comcast.net>]

Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:23 PM

To: 'clerk@psc.state.fl.us' <clerk@psc.state.fl.us>; 'commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us' <commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; 'commissioner.clark@psc.state.fl.us' <commissioner.clark@psc.state.fl.us>; 'commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us' <commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>

Subject: Docket #20200226-SU opposition

January 18, 2022

Reference: Docket #20200226 – Environmental Utilities, Inc. (EU)

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Michael Riley and I own and live on Don Pedro Island at 220 Kettle Harbor Dr. which is a property within the service area of the proposed central sewer system, Docket #20200226-SU

I am in opposition to this application and REQUEST THAT THE PSC DENY Environmental Utilities application for an Original Certificate of Authorization.

My arguments against this application go to the 4 criteria used to grant the application:

1. **NEED FOR SERVICE:**

Don Pedro island has no necessary or urgent need for the proposed central sewer system. No documentation has been given that there is a problem or pollution in our waterways or canals. To my knowledge, No water or

ground testing has been done by the applicant. All waste water is currently handled with Septic systems, that must be approved and permitted by Charlotte County prior to installation. In addition, all individual septic systems must be pumped out and tested on a regular basis to insure proper, safe, and adequate operation per Charlotte County code. There have been no pollution or spills, small or disastrous, that I am aware of, in the 12+ years I have lived on the island. Several independent companies are used to pump and test these systems, all approved by Charlotte County.

Understanding that the Charlotte County long range plan calls for removal of septic systems, a private sewer system is not the answer. It would be in everyone's best interest to have a public entity handle any sewer system so there is transparency, guaranteed cost control, unquestionable financial ability to build and operate, and avoid the need for stakeholders to 'pay a profit' to a private individual for a "utility".

Bocilla Islands Conservancy, Inc. (a 501(c)(3) public charity on island) owns and maintains conservation land and easements as well as providing awareness of potential environmental issues (pertaining to flora, fauna, protection of endangered species, removal of invasive plants, and water pollution) on our islands. In 2020, they sold and/or donated 81 mini reefs as part of the '1,000 reef challenge' participated in by numerous cities and communities on or near the barrier islands in south west Florida. They plan on doing another campaign to try to get an additional 100 reefs in place on our island in the near future. These mini reefs help keep our waterways clean and create a habitat for growing smaller fish and sea life.

The Charlotte County Director of Utilities supported EU's application with a written letter to the PSC, but I am not sure that the Charlotte County Administration does. This Director of Utilities recently and suddenly resigned his position (around the time depositions for EU were held)...and according to emails between him and Jack Boyer he was a close ally and friend of Jack Boyer. This alone lends itself to the applicants fitness.

2. **FINANCIAL ABILITY:**

The applicants ability to adequately and safely build and finance the proposed central sewer system is questionable, at best. EU as a company does not have the financial capability to fund a project of this magnitude without a "contribution for aid in construction". Whether this contribution is from a bank or financial institution (loan) or another unidentified entity (potential partner or owner) is not known. The latest statement (in depositions) is that the owner of EU, Mr. Jack Boyer will finance the entire project personally, but his personal financial statements or financial capability are only available to the PSC staff. I am a former CPA with utility rate making experience and I am unable to get copies to evaluate. There are too many unknowns and financial information is strategically being withheld by attorney Martin Freidman.

The applicant has not done adequate engineering studies to be able to justify the estimated costs of this project. EU is attempting to get the certificate first, then spend the money to do the engineering studies – in other words 'the cart before the horse', as the certificate has enough value in itself to allow EU to move forward in trying to get 'contributions in aid of construction' Aid . The actual cost of installation of the system is unknown and the estimated initial cost to hook up to this system has varied from \$20,000 to 11,000 to 13,221 since the application was filed – definitely an inadequate study and an estimate that could vary significantly, generally higher. EU needs to do additional and complete engineering studies to enable them to know the actual cost – before applying for certification.

3. **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE:**

Jack Boyer (owner of EU) has experience with operating a small water utility on Little Gasparilla Island for many years, but **NO EXPERIENCE WITH WASTE WATER**. Mr. Boyer hired Martin Friedman, a well-connected utility attorney, to handle his application, so he can probably hire competent advisors, constructors, etc. to build and operate a central sewer system. Unfortunately, it is the stakeholders, the residents of the Islands, that must bear the cost of these highly paid consultants and advisors.

Mr. Boyer's experience as a water small utility operator supposedly includes tapping into the Don Pedro State Park water system and selling their (the State parks water supply) water to his customers (the residents of Little Gasparilla Island) and hooking up new water customer residents on Little Gasparilla Island without adequate licensing and delaying payment for the Charlotte County hookup fees per Charlotte County's agreement. Obviously he has experience in how to make money for himself whether ethical or not.

The system EU is proposing is supposedly the lowest cost to build but the highest cost to maintain. Looking at other island communities including the Florida Keys, as well as personal experience operating a pumping station in multiply businesses I owned, a vacuum system seems to be the best and preferred type. EU is proposing a system requiring a pumping station at each residence to push the waste. This type system includes a small tank and a grinder pump at each residence. Being located on a barrier island, we have a lot of corrosion from the salt air causing the pumps to be replaced, possibly on 5 year interval's.

Being on a bridgeless barrier island we are subject to many things the mainland is not. We have a ferry to contend with that operates from 6:30 am to 10:00 pm (slightly later on weekends) and does not operate if winds exceed 45 mph. We are also subject to more electrical outages than the mainland. EU has not addressed how the sewer system will be serviced in the event of a major storm failure or adverse conditions. If our electrical service is out for an extended period of time, the small storage tank at each residential pump, could overflow creating a localized spill or leak, which could become catastrophic in a major storm. A generator would be required (at the homeowners expense) to keep the sewage moving, where we do not have this issue with our current approved septic systems. There is also the increased risk of a central sewer system leak into the intra-coastal waterway with a potential leak at the subaqueous crossing – pollution at its best. Look back at the hurricane that hit Ft Myers Beach community which was devastated by waste water and closed for over 10 days after the hurricane because there was not a backup generator in place to move the waste off island.

4. FAIR AND EQUITABLE RATES & CHARGES:

This is a total unknown. EU has done inadequate engineering studies to properly evaluate 'actual' costs, only supplying estimates, which have changed dramatically over the period of application. The hookup fees have varied from \$20,000 per residence to \$13,221 and this does not include the cost of a customer installed separate electric panel and landscape/hardscape modifications or changes to install a grinder pump and to crush and fill the septic tank area.

Even using his estimates, which should be considered the lower end of the cost structure, the proposed rates are \$178.45 per month for sewer service only. This is roughly two times the rate Rotonda pays – and that rate includes **both water and sewer**.

I currently pay \$78 to \$90 per month for water only and that is with me personally and strictly controlling my volume, which runs between 1,800 and 2,200 gallons per month (well below the 3,000 average customer water consumption). I consider our water rates to be excessive [even though these rates were approved by the PSC] and as proposed, our water/sewer combined rates would be in the neighborhood of \$275 to 300 per month – very excessive.

Other items that I feel are important in my opposition to this application:

Without proof of need, discussed above in item 1, there is an inherent cost to each resident because we will be required to hook up to the central sewer within 1 year. Many residents have recently built and installed new septic systems and many have repaired or replaced the drain fields to ensure safe adequate operation. This proposal allows for no "grandfathering" of newer septic system or recently repaired systems.

If approved, there is no single point of contact for general oversight of this private sewer system. The PSC only approves certification and then only regulates rates and charges. Multiple other agencies including Charlotte County, DEP, Army Corps, etc. oversee or regulate their specific areas so we have no one point of contact.

If the county builds and operates the sewer system, they are the one point of contact for all issues....again, a private entity is not in the best interest of the residents and stakeholders.

The Palm Island Transit ferry is a significant problem not only in construction but also maintenance. The ferry is just about at capacity during season, and this would cause further delays (of over an hour), just in access to and from the island by increasing the construction traffic, probably for several years.

The individual residence pump and holding tank is planned to be on the homeowners/stakeholders property and EU is trying to claim an easement from the sewer pump and holding tank to the road connection without compensation.

Many of us on the island do not have the excess cash funds to pay for hookup. EU's application does not allow for a deferred payment plan, only a cash up front program.

Development always carries a toll on communities, whether time, delays, cost, noise pollution, air pollution, loss of life style, etc. Island residents enjoy a quiet environment with open space, but pay for it in time delay waiting to cross to the mainland by ferry. This project will for many years cause substantial trees and landscaping to be removed, increased dust pollution and traffic from construction, increased noise from heavy equipment, invasion of our own property in crushing our existing tanks and installing a new tank, pump, lines, and electrical, and an excessive cost increase for waste water removal. This does not even take into consideration each homeowners loss by a general easement grant to EU without compensation to the homeowner.

Once again, I formally request the PSC to deny EU's application for a private sewer system on Don Pedro Island.

Thank you

Michael Riley
mikenriley@comcast.net

Jacob Veaughn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:03 PM
To: 'kjell'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Plotkin:

Thank you for your email, dated February 25, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, *Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC*. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: kjell <kjellone@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 3:10 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner Passidomo,

The magnitude of the project proposed by Environmental Utilities *RE: Wastewater on Bridgeless Barrier Islands, will have a devastating impact on hundreds of animals which live on County land and Private property in the subject project area.*

Animals including bobcats, opossums, armadillos, snakes, owls, numerous birds and gopher tortoises are but a few animals that roost, nest, shelter, and forage on the land which will be disturbed.

Since 2008, I have worked with the Gopher Tortoise species on Thornton Key, Knight and Don Pedro Islands, holding a Gopher Tortoise Agent certification (GTA-10-00063) with FFWC, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, and from 2017 to present a Registered Agent (RAG-17-00047) with FFWC.

Closely working with Charlotte County's *Code Compliance; Natural Resources; Environmental Specialists; Community Development; Planning and Zoning*, I also

affiliate with The Department of Environmental Protection; West Coast Inland Navigation; FFWC State Marine Turtle Program; and, other Environmental groups.

Currently I serve on the board of Bocilla Islands Conservancy, Inc. and also serve as Team Lead for The BICI Gopher Tortoise Conservation Team.

LET'S EXAMINE the GOPHER TORTOISE ... as it pertains to project

The Gopher Tortoise is listed as a THREATENED species, as well as a PROTECTED KEYSTONE species. Its burrow is shared with as many as 350 other animals referred to as commensal species, meaning the species all benefit from the association, and obtain nutrients, shelter, support, or locomotion from the host species.

Gopher Tortoises use multiple burrows and *forage on nearly one hundred low growing foliage plants all of which are essential for the diet this animal.* (Pat Ashton 2008). The tortoise must travel freely among and thru multiple properties to forage in order to satisfy its diverse dietary needs.

The interruption of free roaming due to vegetation clearing, grading, construction, digging, heavy equipment, or staging areas for supplies as the project would entail, would be quite disruptive and dangerous to the health of this species. Stress is proven to be the major cause for reduced immunity subjecting the Gopher Tortoise to illness. (Katherine Gentry)

The hazards and risk of falling into or being trapped in holes, trenches, and the like place the vulnerable tortoise at great risk of injury or death.

FFWC Guidelines states if *"you cannot permanently avoid all tortoise burrows on the development site by 25 feet or more, and suitable habitat will remain on-site following site development"*, the burrow must be excavated. * Island lots are 80 feet wide.

In accordance with this guideline, there will be hundreds of Gopher Tortoise burrows excavated and hundreds will need to be relocated. * There are 1-15 burrows per lot.

WHAT IS THE COST TO EXCAVATE A BURROW & RELOCATE A TORTOISE?

Let's Use a Realistic Example of a "3 Burrow Property"

- Consult & Burrow survey. \$1300
- Excavation of burrow. \$1300-1500 *per burrow* x3 \$3900- \$4500
- FFWC permit in which the 25 ft rule exists. \$250

- A project of this size may impact whether Gopher Tortoises will remain in their home range, likely they will be relocated to a state approved reserve.

\$2500 per tortoise x3 \$7500 *some consultants are billing @\$6000 per tortoise

Note: As of February, 2022 there is a moratorium on relocating tortoises to all reserves, due to holding capacity. All are operating at maximum capacity. It is unknown when or if this situation will be remedied.

THE TOTAL COSTS FOR ABOVE SCENARIO: \$12,950 – 13,550.

WHO BEARS THOSE COSTS?

What if there are 5 burrows? (20,550)

or, 8 burrows? (31,000)

A few other Facts...

- From 2007-2009, ten island residents were extensively trained on *Gopher Tortoise Natural History; Habitat and Forage; Handling and Care; Data Gathering; as well as hands on Field Work*, by world renown Patricia and Ray Ashton, Ashton Biodiversity Research and Preservation Institute, Inc.
- The islands have served as an example for the State of Florida in demonstrating what stake holders can do in protecting a threatened species.
- Resident yards have been certified and registered by FFWC in the Gopher Tortoise Friendly Yard program.
- The Gopher Conservation Team was asked for input by FFWC in the development of the Friendly Yard program.
- Residents are enamored with Gopher Tortoises and to that end, have landscaped to attract tortoises and many of the commensals. That habitat will be destroyed.

Thank you for your time in reading my comments. Hoping you have a pleasant day.

Respectfully,

Kjell Plotkin

Kjell Plotkin
Resident, Don Pedro Island
941 456 5252

Jacob Veagh

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:04 PM
To: 'Tammy ORourke'
Subject: RE: DOCKET #20200226

Dear Ms. O'Rourke:

Thank you for your email, dated February 25, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

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

From: Tammy ORourke <dreamseed99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 3:58 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: DOCKET #20200226

Sent from my iPhone

Jacob Veaughn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:05 PM
To: 'Tammy ORourke'
Subject: RE: DOCKET #20200226

Dear Ms. O'Rourke:

Thank you for your email, dated February 25, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

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

From: Tammy ORourke <dreamseed99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 3:59 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: DOCKET #20200226

Sent from my iPhone

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:06 PM
To: 'Sunrise Bay at Little Gasparilla Island'
Subject: RE: regarding docket 20200226

Dear Korrie Stevenson:

Thank you for your email, dated February 28, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Sunrise Bay at Little Gasparilla Island <sunrisebaylgi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:59 AM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Fwd: regarding docket 20200226

Good Morning,

I had intended to send it to all Commissioners - please see full email below.

Thank you,

Korrie Stevenson
9700 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida, FL 33946
1790 Spruce Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sean and Korrie Stevenson <sunrisebaylgi@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: regarding docket 20200226
Date: February 28, 2022 at 9:50:01 AM EST
To: Records Clerk <clerk@psc.state.fl.us>

Good Morning,

I am submitting an enlightening response I received from Jack Boyer's daughter, Karress Boyer on social media. I do not know her.

Ms. Boyer finds it comical to laugh about her family company neglecting to provide residents information about the commission meeting.

Please continue to keep these types of behaviors at the forefront of your decision-making. Our island owners are essentially under a monopoly with the Boyer family.

We are pleading with you to stop their control over our island by rejecting their plans which serve only their family and their friends, monetarily.

9:42



Kathy's post



Can't read it all: very EYE OPENING!

5d Like Reply



View 1 reply...



Randy Simmons

So! This is a total inept system that does not even carry the product (solids) off of the island, It is not a waste water system it still has to be pumped so essentially only gray water is being removed? at a proposed Exorbitant cost

5d Like Reply



Heather Burns

How will salt air affect the pumps and the control panels?

5d Like Reply



Korrie Stevenson

Interestingly I got mail from them today about the Feb 8/9 meeting and to be able to write to the commissioners. Nice ethical way to tell people wayyyy after the fact.

5d Like Reply





5d Like Reply

3



Korrie Stevenson

Interestingly I got mail from them today about the Feb 8/9 meeting and to be able to write to the commissioners. Nice ethical way to tell people wayyyy after the fact.

5d Like Reply

3



Korrie Stevenson

Wow, a Boyer laughed on this comment about a legality issue.

Just now Like Reply

All 3

1

1

1



Charlotte Teisinger

4 mutual friends

Messa...



Karress Boyer

10 mutual friends

Add Friend



Alison Simmons

4 mutual friends

Add Friend

Thank you,

Korrie Stevenson
9700 Little Gasparilla Island

On Feb 23, 2022, at 11:59 AM, Sunrise Bay at Little Gasparilla Island
<sunrisebaylgi@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you very much.

Korrie Stevenson

On Feb 23, 2022, at 11:59 AM, Records Clerk
<CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US> wrote:

Good Morning, Korrie Stevenson

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket 20200226, and the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach will be notified.

Jacob Veughn
Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Jacob.Veughn@psc.state.fl.us
850.413.6656

From: Sunrise Bay at Little Gasparilla Island <sunrisebaylgi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 11:00 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: regarding docket 20200226

Good Morning,

Yesterday we received this extremely outdated letter from Environmental Utilities, LLC regarding submitting our comments and the now previous meetings on February 8/9.

This is outrageous that they did not send this out until now. How many of our neighbors never received this either? Please continue to keep things like this at the forefront of your minds.

Thank you,

Korrie Stevenson
9700 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL 33946

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:07 PM
To: 'Kathy Stokes'
Subject: RE: DOCKET 20200226

Dear Ms. Stokes:

Thank you for your email, dated February 28, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Kathy Stokes <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 7:10 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; commissioner.clerk@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: DOCKET 20200226

Dear
Commissioners,

It was very disappointing and frustrating to try to tune into the public hearings for #20200226, Environmental Utilities application for a wastewater certificate and to not be able to view it! Later in the day when audio was supposedly available it was so unclear and muffled, we gave up! Now we are finally able to read the official transcripts of the four sessions and what an eye-opener that is! I'd like to comment on what I have read so far. It appears that the president of this start up company with NO experience in wastewater projects of this magnitude is way over his head. As he said in one of his answers, "That's above my pay grade." This is so frightening for potential customers if the certificate is granted. I have read every entry on the docket about this application over the past year and a half, all 1168 entries as I write this, and I am very concerned with the possibility of EU acquiring this certificate. I am respectfully asking you to DENY this application as you are charged with monitoring that customers receive essential services in a safe, affordable and reliable manner. It certainly appears that EU cannot meet these criteria.

We built our home on Little Gasparilla Island in 1999 at 8892 Gulf Street, right on the Bay, We have treasured being there, enjoying the beautiful waters right off our dock. We have taken great care and pride in our property. We are frightened about the possibility of Mr. Boyer of EU bringing sewers to the island as we do not believe first of all that he has the technical expertise needed for such a gigantic project. Then there is the financial aspect. Over and over in the docket filings things regarding financing are deemed "confidential". We as possible consumers should have a right to know about the financial background of the person who may be granted this certificate.

In the transcript, the Office of Public Counsel testified in their investigation of the finances that the utility has failed to provide sufficient evidence to support the estimates, answered questions about costs inconsistently, and miscalculated certain elements of the case. In addition, Attorney Kelsky cites another witness, Shari Schultz's study that shows EU lacks the financial wherewithal to construct and operate the system because they won't be able to service the debt associated with the construction. Steven Suggs, a professional engineer, stated EU did not take into account significant costs. And then there is the fact that no one from Charlotte County government gave any testimony about the testing of the waters around the proposed certificated area, nor spoke of anything about this project.

Of note and rather disturbing was the part where Attorney Friedman asked Mr. Boyer, President of EU if he had a brief summary of his testimony? Mr. Boyer answered, "Yes Sir, I did that about 4 o'clock this morning when the dog woke me up". SERIOUSLY? It wasn't important enough for him to prepare before that? When asked about his ability to do this huge project, Mr. Boyer didn't cite any professional credentials about his education but rather said "I can take a motor apart and put it back together, I have been a hands on guy all my life, but it is to the point that I am hiring professionals to take care of STUFF. I'm not a lawyer, I'm not an engineer. And I won't be the project manager on this project, but it will be set up, bid out, and ready to go". Then when Attorney Kelsky asked Mr. Boyer if he had identified the proposed area as "compact growth, mixed use"? Mr. Boyer answered, "I didn't follow that. I apologize. Is that the term? I just located the geographic location. That's your words not mine. I'm not following you there. I located the island and the need". Then Attorney Kelsky asked are you familiar with the Barrier Island Overlay District? What is it? Mr. Boyer answered, "Not really"! This is the company president who is seeking the certificate for a BARRIER ISLAND? SERIOUSLY?

Then more troubling observations as Attorney Kelsky continued asking questions of Mr. Boyer. He asked if Mr. Boyer had made loans to the business? The answer was yes. He asked if there was an agreement about how EU is going to repay the loans on these to which Mr. Boyer replied "no sir, not presently. " SERIOUSLY? Attorney Kelsky continued, that Mr. Boyer may have to bring in an equity partner, correct? Mr. Boyer replied "Anything is possible. At this point in time. No sir". When asked if as part of the application process he had to determine whether an amendment to Charlotte County's Comprehensive Plan would be necessary, (in order to build a sewer system on a barrier island that is not in the urban service area) and Mr. Boyer said "No. I didn't have to determine that. The county entered into a bulk sewer agreement --- and I'm ASSUMING that their attorneys advised them." SERIOUSLY? When Mr. Boyer was asked about what policies in the Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan had changed since 2002 (when he applied for a wastewater certificate before) that gave him the opinion that no plan amendment was needed, his answer was "I can't say that, other than listening to the testimony of Craig Rudy, which I listened in on, and he said it all was CLEAN and ROSY and nothing needed to be changed."

When Ms. Cotherman had questions about property easements for the project, if EU would be compensating the customers for the easement and encumbering their property, Mr. Boyer answered "That's yet -- I don't know, - that that's-- I don't know the answer to that. SERIOUSLY?"

My last comment on this first transcript is about Commissioner La Rosa's question. The commissioner asked Mr. Boyer if he could clarify why he withdrew his previous application in 2002 that would affect the application today? Mr. Boyer answered "We were hoping the county would step in and buy us out at that time and when the county chose to not support us in that action, we knew it was a -- wouldn't work". In my opinion

I believe he is trying to get the certificate to sell back to the county or to some other third party and make a ton of money.

Please DENY THIS APPLICATION FOR ALL THE ABOVE REASONS. Thank you for taking all the hundreds of written comments by potential customers into consideration.

Sincerely, Kathleen Stokes

Jacob Veaghn

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:12 PM
To: 'Ben Stout'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Stout:

Thank you for your email, dated March 7, 2022, which Commissioner Passidomo has received and read. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket No. 20200226-SU, Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC. We appreciate you providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Angelena McCoy
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Ben Stout <captben2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 7:21 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioner Passidomo:

My name is Ben Stout and I live at 400 Bocilla Dr, Placida Fl on Palm Island. I am writing to you to convey my NO Vote for the EU Private Central Sewer Proposal. I am asking you and your fellow commissioner's to DENY EU's application for wastewater service. I have zero confidence in the abilities of EU to adequately provide quality service on a daily basis or during any sort of disaster or emergency type situation. The many unreasonable and unfair cost-related requirements feels like EU just wants to profit off my beautiful island and will add hardship to our daily lives that WE DO NOT NEED on Palm Island.

My family vacationed on Palm Island years ago before scrapping our nickels and dimes together to purchase our "forever" home. We feel blessed and grateful to be able to enjoy clean sandy roads, beautiful beaches and street light-less dark starry nights. We experience great fishing and the minimal vehicle movements as most residents use golf carts as primary transportation, as well as safe bike riding for me, my wife and our 11-year old son. It also means that our Gopher Tortoise, fox, and bobcat populations can freely move about the island.

The financial hardship that EU's requirements will place on me and my family are outrageous. Our ferry service is already challenged at times to keep up with the normal level of traffic that comes on and off the island. EU's requirements would place significant burden as I see it, increased traffic in the form of construction related vehicles, ferry wear & tear etc. on that ferry system. It would then only be natural that the ferry service would pass operational, repair and equipment replacement costs onto my family and the other

island residents in the form of increased ferry fees. Again, a financial hardship created by EU and their Private Sewer Proposal that WE DO NOT NEED on Palm Island.

System conversion means that I will have to pay for the disposal of my septic system by a septic service provider. I will have to pay the ferry fees that the ferry service charges for large trucks and trailers to make multiple trips on and off the island. The increased traffic riding over to the island means that the removal/installation process will be totally dependent on the efficiency of the very good Ferry Captains to move the vehicles back and forth. Realistically, the start/stop work hours will hinge on this ferry schedule which will add days and trips across to the project. Let's also not forget that high winds and weather that will impact ferry operations will also create delays which will add days to the installation part of this proposal but also impact normal and emergency operations. Which means more money out of my pocket and financial hardship created by EU and their Private Sewer Proposal that WE DO NOT NEED on Palm Island.

The requirement of a generator and electrical service upgrade requirements as well as Access to my property and uncompensated easement allocation just makes no sense. EU expects me to buy a generator so that I and my fellow island residents won't experience a sewage back up. EU's proposal creates a PUBLIC HEALTH HARDSHIP if their proposed system fails and sewage backs up into my and my fellow island residents homes. That doesn't seem like a very good plan. Then the suggested equipment, which will be in a salt air environment has a suggested LIFESPAN of 5 years! Now I will have the costs of replacing the Private Sewer equipment by a sewer vendor as well as the accompanying ferry fees. Which means more money out of my pocket and financial hardship that was created by EU and their Private Sewer Proposal that WE DO NOT NEED on Palm Island.

Commissioner Passidomo, Thank you for your time and attention. Please DENY the EU Private Sewer Proposal, Thank you.

Ben Stout
400 Bocilla Dr, Placida FL
352-484-8214