

Lisa Smith

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: RE docket #20200266-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket # 20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket 20200226-su; RE Docket # 20200226-SU; RE Docket # 20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU - Knight - Don Pedro Island EU Application for Original Certificate of Authorization; RE Docket # 20200226-SU, 390 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida FL owner Joe Savoldi

Good afternoon,

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20200226.

Hannah E. Branum
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6004

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:41 AM
To: 'Diane Reed'
Subject: RE: docket #20200266-SU

Dear Ms. Reed,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Diane Reed <kkldreed@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:02 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: docket #20200266-SU

Commissioner,

I am a property owner on Palm Island 301 S Gulf Blvd Unit 420 under my company name K and L Property Management, LLC

I would like to that PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

The cost for the hook up is very uncertain along with the average residential bill and and the cost to close my current septic tank This is huge financial obligation.

The expense of the additional electric panel, electric bill associated with the pump needed and potential a generator in the event of power outages. Is also very uncertain.

My current septic is well maintained and should have the option to be grandfathered in.

Our island serviced by the ferry will have huge traffic disruptions, damaging our roads, yards, landscaping.

Please DENY this application.

Thank you,

Diane Reed
856-297-3013
owner and member of K and L Property Management, LLC

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:40 AM
To: 'Kevin Reed'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Reed,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Kevin Reed <kevinreed1308@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 12:54 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: 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 a property owner on Palm Island 360 S Gulf Blvd Unit A under my company name K and L Property Management, LLC

I would like to that PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

The cost for the hook up is very uncertain along with the average residential bill. This is huge financial obligation, which is not necessary to me as a homeowner with a very functioning and maintained septic system. and the cost to close my current septic tank.

The expense of the additional electric panel, electric bill associated with the pump needed and potential a generator in the event of power outages. Is also very uncertain.

Our island serviced by the ferry will have huge traffic disruptions, damaging our roads, yards, landscaping.

Please DENY this application.

Thank you,

Kevin Reed

Affordable Tire, LLC
Celebrating 30 years 1987-2020
4 Locations

K and L Property Management, LLC
Commercial Leasing: Office, Warehouse, and Manufacturing

K and L Real Estate, LLC
Real-estate Development

856-297-3011 cell/text
856-825-5748 office
1-888-295-9869 fax

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:40 AM
To: 'Andy & Julie Nichols'
Subject: RE: Docket # 20200226-SU

Dear Mr. and Ms. Nichols,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Andy & Julie Nichols <clweagle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 11:46 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU

Andrew & Julie Nichols
2 Adele Way,
Don Pedro Island

We are formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

We have been homeowners on Don Pedro Island for 20 years, having built our house on Adele Way in 2002. We and all our fellow islanders live on this pristine island oasis. Our home is on the Gulf of Mexico and meandering behind our house is the water inlet into Bocilla Lagoon from the Intercoastal Island. You can see

to the bottom where schools of fish and crabs abound and one of the favorite past times of islanders and visitors is fishing off one of the two bridges connecting Knight and Don Pedro islands.

Our community of homeowners take the environment very seriously and there has been a Bocilla Islands Conservancy since 2003. Incidentally, in 2003 a developer wanted to come and build higher elevation condos and promoted a sewer. The homeowners successfully got the County Commission to agree to our position and kept our island the low-rise density it still is.

All islanders take their septic tanks very seriously, making sure they are inspected and pumped on a regular basis.

Many of us on the island have had experience with the Boyers through a myriad of their businesses and many were unsuccessful relationships. Their plan would cost homeowners thousands of dollars not just in hooking up to their system but the additional demands of generators, expensive additions to electrical panels and destruction to existing lawns and irrigation systems that would have to be replaced.

As I mentioned generators, we just investigated the addition of a generator and was told it would have to be elevated, five feet from any window and the propane tank buried fifteen feet away from the house. And if you are a beachfront owner you must go to the State DEP for approval, an expensive and very timely process. We have been waiting eleven months to get a new survey of our property.

Our position is if you force this on us, the project **MUST** go out to bid as you would be required to do with any major project. You cannot take the easy way out with something of this magnitude. That is what the Commission did with our water system, allowing a middleman to make his buck rather than the County hook us up to the Englewood Water District.

If I was one of these new homeowners that just put in a very expensive septic system, I would be incensed at the actions you want to take where there is obviously not the need. If the Commission thinks we are ready for sewer it's the County's job to properly bid it out, not take the easy way out with the Boyers.

We invite each and everyone of you to visit our islands and see the water quality where nature abounds.

Andrew & Julie Nichols

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:39 AM
To: 'Roy & Wendy Petteway'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear customer Mr. Petteway,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Roy & Wendy Petteway <oranges@embarqmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 11:06 AM
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: Docket #20200226-SU

To whom it may concern,

My name is Roy Petteway and I have been a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County, Florida, since 1983. Little Gasparilla Island is a bridge-less barrier island with no access other than by boat. There are few designated "roads", which are sand paths, and do not connect north and south completely. Where the north/south paths end, they meander through private property, some with the owners' knowledge, and some without. Golf carts are the main mode of transportation, or bike.

I am stating that I am in opposition to the central sewer system proposed by Environmental Utilities (EU) and I am respectfully requesting that the Public Service Commission deny EU's application for wastewater services on Little Gasparilla Island, Palm Island, Knight Island, etc.

The reasons I am opposed are as follows:

1. I do not feel there is a need for service, as the island has working septic tanks at this time, many of which are inspected regularly. There are also many new septic tanks that have been installed in the past few years.
2. The cost of this service will add a financial hardship to my family, as well as other residents on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI). We were forced to hook up to Mr. Boyer's water system, with exorbitant rates. I would add we are paying some of the highest water rates in the state, over \$75 per month before the first drop of water is used. From what I can determine, there are uncertain hookup charges for the sewer system. When this was first proposed to our Property Owners Association, the installation fee was in the \$20,000 range. Now I understand that amount has changed per the PSC filing to \$13,221. Also, the average residential bill for service will be \$178 per month, which is roughly twice the amount that is paid on the mainland by homeowners for both water and sewer combined. If you add the proposed sewer bill to the already high water bills, there will be homeowners who can no longer afford a home on the island.

Another thing, there is no "pay over time" for the installation, homeowners will have to obtain a 2nd mortgage on their homes to cover this high cost of connection and other costs that have not yet been identified. Charlotte County regulations will require all homes on the island to be connected to the sewer system within 1 year of installation. There will be no grandfathering of any existing septic tanks on the island, no matter if they were installed recently or not.

3. The sewer system proposed requires a separate electric panel to be installed at the owners expense to operate the grinder pump. The grinder pump has limited capacity, with only a 60 gallon tank. And in the event of a power outage, which happens frequently, it will not be able to function. Electric power on the islands are very undependable, we have frequent power outages that can last for hours. Just last week a tree fell over a power line and much of the island was out for 8 hours or more. I have seen power off at the island for over 24 hours. Because of this, the homeowner will be required to install an expensive generator to operate the grinder pump when the power is out. This places an undue financial hardship on homeowners to purchase the generator, as well as the hardship of hauling fuel for the generator over to the island in a boat.

4. We have a pristine, natural landscape on LGI. We have endangered species such as bald eagles and gopher tortoises, as well as osprey nests on the island, which need to be protected. To put in the sewer system that is being proposed, much of the island's landscape will be irrevocably destroyed. Also, landscaping around the existing septic tanks will have to be destroyed to give the ability to crush and fill the existing septic tanks, which will again be at the homeowners expense.

5. Many of the properties on LGI are of various sizes, and some lots are set up in a way to not have adequate easements between them or around them to be able to run the sewer lines without having to be run through private property to access them. Not to mention, most utility easements are placed in the road right of way. EU has claimed ownership of utility easements that he has not purchased, or been granted. The proposal is that homeowners will be forced to "give" easements for utilities. This is un-American. Utility easements are granted by the owner, or purchased, they are not just taken. I would also mention that staging areas for excavation equipment and supplies will have to be placed on private property, as all property on the island is private. There is no "public" land on LGI.

6. I will remind you again, LGI is a bridge-less, barrier island and access is only by boat. Equipment may be brought to the island by barge from the mainland at Eldred's Marina, which is neither punctual nor dependable. The barge operates solely at the discretion of the owner, and may not run for days at a time. For the scope of this project to depend on this barge service is not only not feasible, it would totally shut down any resident's need for the barge as it would be tied up with this project. Homeowners and contractors use the barge service to deliver all necessary items that cannot be brought over in a personal boat, such as a golf cart, or a load of shell, or building supplies, etc. Because of this, in the event of an emergency spill or regular maintenance, EU has not stated how they would be able to address any emergency that would require equipment that was not already on the island.

7. In such a hostile salt environment as this coast, it is my experience that equipment needs replacing on a regular basis, and this will be another homeowner expense, not to mention the additional electric expense that will be borne by the homeowner to operate this equipment.

8. To my knowledge, no water quality testing has been done on LGI to even show the need for a sewer. I feel the risk of a sewer spill in the bay from a sewer pipe crossing the Inter-Coastal is far greater than the unproven risk of septic tank use.

9. Lastly, EU has no experience with sewer installation, as this is the first wastewater project they have been involved with. A company with no track record in this area should not be allowed to begin a project with this scope and magnitude on a bridge-less barrier island.

I would offer an invitation to any commissioner to come to our island and let me show you the pristine environment of LGI and see for yourself what will be irreparably destroyed to install this sewer system.

For the reasons above, I respectfully request that you deny the application by Environmental Utilities to install a sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Petteway

oranges@embarqmail.com

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:38 AM
To: 'Lisa Simmons'
Subject: RE: Docket 20200226-su

Dear Ms. Simmons,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Lisa Simmons <lisabsimmons@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket 20200226-su

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing this email to formally request that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island. I have owned a vacation home on the island since 1996. My children and family have enjoyed the tranquility of this island for many years. It is my intention to leave this little piece of paradise to my children when I die. After reviewing the expected costs to put in a wastewater system on the island, I realize that I will not be able to maintain the home I love so much. The costs are prohibitive for me as I am sure it will force many others to sell their places too. The proposed costs far exceed any other wastewater service in the state and I find that totally unacceptable and unfair. The costs are not equitable to what other people are paying for the same services across the county and state. In addition, the need for a generator as a backup and installation of an additional electrical panel are ridiculous and I am appalled that as a commissioner you would even think about voting yes for this project. Please, I ask you to put yourself in my place and make the right

decision for the residents of Palm Island and Little Gasparilla Island. It is truly heartbreaking for me to think about being forced to sell my place because of the exorbitant and unrealistic expense that would be imposed on me. Please vote no!!!

Lisa Simmons

lisabsimmons@gmail.com

8270 Little Gasparilla Island

Placida, Fl. 33946

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:37 AM
To: 'Diane Reed'
Subject: RE: Docket # 20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Reed,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Diane Reed <kkldreed@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:48 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU

Commissioner Clark

I am a property owner on Palm Island 342 S Gulf Blvd since 1998.

I would like to that PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

The cost for the hook up is very uncertain along with the average residential bill. This is huge financial obligation, which is not necessary to me as a homeowner with a very functioning and maintained septic system. and the cost to close my current septic tank.

The expense of the additional electric panel, electric bill associated with the pump needed and potential a generator in the event of power outages. Is also very uncertain.

Our island serviced by the ferry will have huge traffic disruptions, damaging our roads, yards, landscaping.

Please DENY this application.

Thank you,

Kevin Reed

kkldreed@yahoo.com

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:36 AM
To: 'lane.baird@verizon.net'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Ms. Baird,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: lane.baird@verizon.net <lane.baird@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:27 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>; Commisioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Please find attached my letter regarding Docket #20200226-SU.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Elaine Baird
241 Kettle Harbor Dr.
Placida, FL 33946

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:36 AM
To: 'Conor Baird'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Baird,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Conor Baird <cbaird919@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:12 PM
To: 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>; Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:35 AM
To: 'John Baird'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU - Knight - Don Pedro Island / EU Application for Original Certificate of Authorization

Dear Mr. Baird,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: John Baird <jbaird@highlandag.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 7:50 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>
Cc: John Baird <jbaird@highlandag.com>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU - Knight - Don Pedro Island / EU Application for Original Certificate of Authorization

Dear Clerk and Public Service Commissioners,

I write to you today to formally request that the **PSC and County Commissioners deny the pending EU application** request for wastewater service (Docket 20200226-SU effecting Knight / Don Pedro Island).

Below, I am reiterating facts that have already been submitted to you by many other affected homeowners and homeowner associations. You will most certainly recognize many of the exact same

facts being described here. That is because these are **empirical facts**. Again, this is in an effort by the homeowners to implore the decision makers to arrive at the only logical conclusion which is EU does not meet minimum qualifications required.

A. No Validation of Need (Need for Service)

This is by far the most important fact in this case. There is only a fabricated “need” for this application for certification, being submitted by EU. There is no **empirical data** at all to support any of the hearsay and conjecture being used by them to “justify” this application /submission, if any at all was used.

The County adopted the 2017 Sewer Master Plan which includes these Islands for sewer executed by CCUD (Charlotte County Utilities Dept.). In fact, Knight and Don Pedro Islands have been identified as priority areas for the extension of central sewer by CCUD. Furthermore, there was no study of the source of the nitrites alleged to be spilling into inland and shore waters. Specifically, there was no study data to determine whether these were coming from leaky sewage tanks or from fertilizers. Therefore, the assumption that the alleged pollution is emanating from sewer tanks is not a substantiated fact based on any real, applicable testing and or data and therefore must be considered suspect.

B. Legal Ethics and Integrity

Little effort on a background search on Mr. Jack Boyer, reveals the facts appear that Mr. Boyer was charged with and indicted for larceny as it relates to a utility as well as criminal mischief for stealing water from Don Pedro Island State Park to serve his own water utility on Little Gasparilla Island (Copies of these reports have already been submitted to the PSC).

In short, Mr. Boyer waited until rangers were absent from the park over a weekend and installed a water main from the Don Pedro State Park fresh water supply pipe and trenched it to LGI and hooked it up to his water company's facility. He admitted to this and moreover refused to remove the pipe after which he was indicted. How, in any legal proceeding or application to any government agency, can a man with this history of blatant disregard and disdain for the law even remotely be considered as a viable applicant for anything, especially if it is in the same business / industry that he was convicted for crimes in?

The answer to this question from any ethically bound person or entity reviewing this application (having done any internet search or background check), would immediately be a No/Denied! How this application got past the initial screening process(es) raises serious questions regarding integrity and or negligence. There must be some ethical / moral scale used for evaluating anyone (person or business) applying for anything with the county to insure they meet a minimum threshold of integrity. If there is not, then there are even more serious issues at hand.

B. Financial Capacity of the Applicant (Financial Ability)

EU has no demonstrable experience and no guaranteed funding (including bond issues) that could even marginally show its solvency, ability to obtain funding, complete the project and/or provide ongoing maintenance. Specifically, none of the publicly facing filed documents guarantee any funding and state specifically that there is no commitment to lend. No projected costs are given. Certainly a proposed project of this size must have been cost-estimated; No CIAC was provided which would identify cash and property contributions; EU appears to have no experience

with projections, certainly not sufficient enough to project annual expenses; there is no comprehensive plan in the application that describes how this project will be financed.

EU is a start-up company, as such, the company and its principals are inextricably linked. A completed bond issue by a reputable financial institution should be a mandatory condition precedent for any approval. Again, a letter of interest from a local bank is meaningless. Since the reliability of the financial strength of the principals is paramount, their request to treat all of their financial information as confidential is improper and should be denied.

There have been no studies or valid estimates of the cost of this project, both globally and as it applies to Knight Island-Don Pedro Island. The verbal estimate given by Jack Boyer to community groups of approximately \$20,000 per homeowner is not based on any actual cost estimates related to this project. Given the project location and necessary involvement of multiple state (and potentially federal) agencies, the number is likely to be much higher. This places an undue burden on the members of our community. No permits should be issued without disclosure and verification of all of the necessary costs, e.g. profits margins, ongoing operating costs, construction costs, construction slow-downs or complications; distribution and allocation of cost-recovery, and the ceasing of homeowners land by grant of a right of way to install the sewer.

No provision has been made to allow for payment over time should the project go forward. In addressing this question to residents, the applicant has stated that grants might be available without any factual basis for these statements and without any data in support relative to this project. Grants seem far-fetched at best since the State of Florida is facing a significant budget shortfall exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis. This application should be rejected until the applicant provides a firm cost per ERU along with appropriate financing options and payment vehicles for those affected owners along with the demonstrated financial ability to provide for payments over time.

EU has failed to address its ongoing operating costs. In an applicant with limited operating experience and financial resources, how will ongoing operating costs be addressed?

Mr. Jack Boyer has appeared to threaten community groups that if they fight him the costs will be passed on to the community. While cryptic, the intent seems clear and also indicates the tenuousness of EU's financial position going into this project. EU is a private, for-profit utility company. The owners' financial history and the financial health of the company is not known and not available.

C. Applicant's experience, knowledge and resource deficiencies (Technical Expertise)

The owner has little or no demonstrated experience with sewer systems and the owner's present water company has a long list of non-compliance and violations registered with the DEP. The Charlotte County Clerk's office website lists several foreclosures and lien actions involving Mr. Boyer. Should EU's stewardship of the project become untenable, another future utility will then have to compensate EU for the service area, resulting in further cost to the future ratepayers.

Again, here is more testimony to the lack of integrity and insolvency. Once again Mr. Boyer has shown a conscious disregard for the citizen stakeholders. None more so than its threats to pass on its legal fees to customers should they challenge its permit application.

Given the lack of demonstrated need, the absence of financial and operational data to support this project, and the absence of any discernible expertise, EU's application should be denied.

D. Gateway to commercial building

Additionally, the approval of this application and execution of this project to install a make-shift sewage system, will only pave the way for the approval of the building of commercial structures on Knight /Don Pedro Island (condos / high rises). Anyone with any knowledge of barrier island living and its fragile environment / eco system knows that this would wreck the natural and pristine state of the island forever. For this reason alone, this cannot be allowed to happen.

E. Real project impacts to homeowners (Fair and Equitable Rates & Charges)

Lastly, but most certainly not least, here is a list of what homeowners will be faced with should this project succeed. This list is not exhaustive. Again, if you understand anything about the landscape of the island and the size and orientation of the home lots you will know how unrealistic these requirements are. Meeting these requirements would wreck property lines and lots with easements not to mention enormous power requirements and costs placed on the homeowners.

- **Uncertain Hook-up Cost:** When EU first presented to PIE, the connection fee was estimated at approx. **\$20K per unit**. When the rates and tariffs were finally submitted by the applicant, the requested Service Availability Charge per ERC was reduced to total estimated **\$13,221**.
- **Average Residential Bill: \$178.78**, which is roughly twice the amount that a ratepayer on the mainland in Rotonda pays per month for ***water and wastewater combined***.
- **Electric:** the system pump requires a separate electric panel, installed by a licensed electrician at the expense of the owner.
- **More electric:** If the owner has maxed out their main electric grid with pool equipment or other large-draw items, the panel will need an expensive upgrade to accommodate the new panel.
- **Generator:** the grinder pump has a limited capacity (60 gal) and in the event of a power outage will be unable to function for long. Homeowners will need a generator to keep the system running to avoid sewage back-up. We have frequent power interruptions on the island with various storms so the generator will be a mandatory purchase.
- **Tree removal:** Landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area will need to be cleared at the expense of the homeowner to gain access to crush & fill the septic tank.
- **No pay-over-time plan:** Ratepayers may need to take loans to cover the cost of connection.
- **Mandatory Hook-up:** Charlotte County regulations require all homes to connect to central water and wastewater within 1 year of availability.
- **No grandfathering of septic systems:** regardless of age or condition.
- **No “contract” and no single point of general oversight:** EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer. The PSC approves certification solely based on the 4 criteria above and regulates rates and charges. Each of the other agencies (County, DEP, Army Corps, etc.) is responsible for supervising only their specific area where regulation and/or permitting is involved. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.
- **Access to homes:** Some properties have physical constraints that will complicate how the applicant gains access to the property without leaving the boundaries or damaging the grounds.
- **Disruption of traffic:** Vehicles have only one point of entry/egress -- the car ferry. With normal traffic, service and construction trucks, delays at the ferry line in season can be an hour or more. This project could result in years of traffic issues.
- **New easement giveaway:** Most utility easements are placed in the road right-of-way. EU has claimed ownership of a utility easement that will go from the sewer equipment, located near

the house to the connection in the road without compensating the homeowner for such easement.

- **System maintenance and emergencies:** The applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions.
- **Lifespan of the equipment:** Salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. Equipment will need replacing when it fails, possibly at 5-year intervals. This proposal places too much responsibility on the homeowner at too great a cost.
- **Environmental concerns:** No water quality testing have been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.
- **Potential of sewer spill in the Intracoastal:** The risk of a central sewer leak with a subaqueous crossing is greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks

I strongly urge any commissioner and or decision maker on this vote, who is not familiar with Knight / Don Pedro Island, to go and visit the island and speak with some of the homeowners before they make a decision that could permanently affect the future of this island and the families that live there.

In closing, please be aware that the decisions made by the commission in this vote, and its final outcome, will bear the utmost weight with all homeowners involved, on how we vote for county positions in the next election cycle.

Your constituents are now asking for your help to **deny** this application using the clear facts presented. Do not provide support of an unscrupulous business application / proposition that would wreck the environment and forever change the Knight / Don Pedro island landscape and its way of life!

Please accept this as my formal request for PSC to deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Kind Regards,

John A Baird

John A Baird
241 Kettle Harbor Dr
Placida, FL 33946
jbaird@highlandag.com

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:35 AM
To: 'idlovas@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU, 390 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida FL owner Joe Savoldi

Dear Mr. Salvodi,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: idlovas@gmail.com <idlovas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:22 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU, 390 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida FL owner Joe Savoldi

Commissioner Clark,

I am formally requesting that the PSC deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the proposed central sewer system by Environmental Utilities LLC (EU). As a property owner and permanent resident, it is clear to me that there are many issues with EU's proposal to take on this project.

I spent my career in the process control instrumentation industry primarily representing Emerson Process Management and have spent a considerable amount of time working on major municipal projects in the San Francisco Bay Area. In my opinion, this proposal is lacking in detailed true maintenance cost and poor estimated construction costs. EU's lacks the experience to undertake a sewer project of this magnitude. Where's the experience, financing, bonding, insurance? How about a qualified professional engineering firm providing plans and specifications for a public bidding process to include qualified, experienced and licensed contractors?

Environmental Utilities is using an outdated general study done for the county years ago. Have any recent water quality studies been performed that would substantiate water quality issues? Please show some proof that this project is necessary. As Islanders, we love and respect our environment. If our septic tanks are contributing to water quality issues impacting our local waters, we will be behind proper resolution. Including going on a properly constructed, maintained sewer collection system, properly financed, and maintained by a proven provider.

We are asking that the commission not permit a company that cannot demonstrate any experience in the construction and maintenance of a complex wastewater system be permitted to follow through on this application. Please do not allow this proposal to be considered.

Joe Savoldi
Retired EVP Caltrol, Inc.
WWW.caltrol.com