

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:54 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20200226
Attachments: RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket # 20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU Proposed Wastewater System on Little Gasparilla Island; RE Docket 20200226 - Request for Certification of Wastewater Utility - recommend Denial; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE RE. Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket 20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE RE. Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Sewer not needed!; RE RE. Docket #20200226-SU; RE Comment on Docket Number 20200226-SU; RE Docket # 20200226; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket # 20200226-SU ; RE Docket #20200226; RE DOCKET #20200226; RE DOCKET #20200226

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20200226.

Thank you!

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:48 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Bashore'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bashore:

Thank you for your email, dated March 15, 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: Jeffrey Bashore <jeffreybashore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 10:02 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Records Clerk <CLERK@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>
Cc: Mel <melbashore@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Public Service Commissioners,

Thank you all for providing an opportunity for island residents to share their input about this incredibly impactful proposed project that would have a profound impact on the environment and our homes. Commissioner Clark - I personally appreciate that you took the time to acknowledge our family's written response.

You have a difficult decision on your hands. We fully recognize the desire and public interest in connecting the barrier islands to an effective sewer system. We are strong advocates for clean water and leaving a thriving ecosystem behind for our children.

I plead with you to recognize that the current application is so deeply flawed that it will only cause significantly greater environmental damage while also financially devastating island residents and ripping up our unspoiled ecological dreamland.

The proposed low pressure sewer system will only greatly exacerbate the problems that exist today with private septic systems. With multiple points of failure in the system at every home we are merely one storm and an

extended power outage away from seeing massive water pollution after millions of dollars of taxpayer dollars are completely wasted.

As any island resident will tell you, the elements on the barrier islands are severe. They take a rapid, hard toll on everything, particularly electrical components. The concept of leaving solid waste behind in tanks and depending on hundreds to thousands of properly operating electric pumps to siphon off liquid waste is so broken at it's core that it is hard imagine that a knowledgeable, rational person could even propose it as a viable solution.

The many deeply flawed elements of the proposed system design are terrible enough that they should never see the time of day in a hearing in front of you. That is before you begin to consider that the applicant, Mr. Boyer, has the exact same amount of experience as me and most other island residents when it comes to installing and maintaining a large scale sewer system - absolutely zero. He not only lacks the experience but he also lacks the answers to critical questions about the planning, costs and logistics related to the massive infrastructure project.

The water utility that Mr. Boyer operates charges some of the highest rates in the state, has frequent outages, fails to properly distribute boil water notices and is considered unreliable by those in his service area. He lacks the experience and capital to make this project a success. It is a foregone conclusion that if he is granted the sewer permit that it will be a devastating outcome.

In closing, we personally appeal to you as a parents and environmental enthusiasts. Like our neighbors, we have a deep love for preserving some of our most pristine, unspoiled environmental treasures in Florida. We want to do our best to leave our barrier islands in better condition than we found them for future generations. The proposed project would permanently impact our islands and leave the future for our homes and neighbors in great uncertainty. That is a huge price to pay for a solution that would not have a chance of solving the stated problem even under the best of circumstances and outcomes.

Regards,
Jeff and Melissa Bashore
8738 Marsh Street
Placida, FL 33946

(484) 769-4870

On Mar 15, 2022, at 1:47 PM, Office of Commissioner Clark
<Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us> wrote:

Dear Mr. and Ms. Bashore,

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

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

From: Jeff Bashore <jeffreybashore@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:11 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: Mel <melbashore@gmail.com>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Jeffrey & Melissa Bashore
8738 Marsh Street
Placida, FL 33946
Jeffreybashore@gmail.com

January 21, 2022

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

I am a property owner at 8738 Marsh Street on Little Gasparilla Island, which is a property within the service area of the proposed central sewer system, Docket #20200226-SU.

I formally object and request that PSC deny Environment Utilities (EU) application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

While I feel strongly that the barrier islands and low lying inland areas of the state should be swiftly migrated to a sewer system to protect our fragile ecosystem, I am concerned that the current proposal is deeply flawed.

Turning a project of this magnitude over to an LLC that has zero experience with installing or operating a sewer system is unacceptable. Environment Utilities lacks both the experience as well as the capital to take responsibility for the proposed massive undertaking that will impact some of the most delicate, unspoiled areas of the SW Florida coast. The proposed solution

leaves many critical questions unanswered about right-of-way access and how the many points of failure involved with a 'low pressure' sewer system would be effectively managed in the harsh climate presented on the barrier islands.

Charlotte County should be held responsible to implement and manage the project directly. It is clear that they are trying to find any bidder to insulate them from the obligations of managing this important work. Turning this over to an inexperienced, under-capitalized, for-profit LLC with the county maintaining no accountability for the outcome is not the right move for the environment, property owners in the affected areas or the citizens and visitors of Florida at large.

Regards,
Jeff and Melissa Bashore

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:48 AM
To: 'Diane Cordell'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Ms. Cordell:

Thank you for your email, dated March 15, 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: Diane Cordell <diane.cordell.yyz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:43 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: Re: Docket #20200226-SU

I am a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island within the proposed service area of Environmental Utilities, EU, Docket #20200226-SU.

I formally request that the PSC denies EU's application for wastewater service. I oppose the EU's proposed central sewer system.

I have the following concerns:

Financially, I am concerned about the uncertain hook-up costs, the proposed monthly service fees which are much higher than mainland wastewater fees, the added costs that homeowners will have to incur such as electrical panel installation costs, the cost of a generator which will be required by all homeowners to keep the system running during power outages, the cost of the pump and possible tree removal and landscaping costs.

Technically, the STEP effluent system being proposed by EU just replaces my current septic tank with a similar fiberglass tank and instead of having a drain field, now I will have a pump connected to a low-pressure line that requires more responsibility for me to manage and maintain. Also, the proposed system requires solids to be removed every 5 years. In other words, again, there's no benefit compared to the existing septic system with the same solids removal requirements.

I am also concerned about how the system will be maintained in emergencies and power outages.

The bottom line is that this proposed system places too much cost and too much responsibility on me, the homeowner. I am opposed to EU's proposal.

Diane Cordell
diane.cordell.yyz@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:47 AM
To: 'Karl Cheuvront'
Subject: RE: Docket # 20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Cheuvront:

Thank you for your email, dated March 15, 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: Karl Cheuvront <krclou@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Fwd: Docket # 20200226-SU

Commissioner Passidomo: I urge you to vote no on the Docket # 20200226-SU

Thank you
Karl R Cheuvront Jr.
14 Palm Drive
Placida FL
KrcLou@icloud.com

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Karl Cheuvront <krclou@icloud.com>
Date: March 15, 2022 at 12:27:21 PM EDT
To: Clerk@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU

Clerk of the PSC:

I'm writing you today as a 12-year property owner on "Palm Island" and in regard to my strong opposition to the EU's application for a waste water service on our island.

I'm sure that you and our Commissioners are having some of the many questions regarding this project that property owners are having... in fact, more questions than answers... which is generally not a good way to proceed on an expensive, invasive public project that the vast majority of property owners are in NOT in favor of...

Questions such as, who brought the "proposed" project to your attention and maybe more importantly... why? What is the genesis of the application??? Every neighbor I have talked to is opposed. We've worked hard, purchased on properties, pay our taxes and maintain the infrastructure of our home & lots.... Is it a problem for the only business on the island? Are they maintaining their infrastructure? Should we pay for their lack of maintenance? Or, am I going down the wrong path here? We just have not been told why this is necessary? Have you?

The current system is working for individual home owners. Our current system is environmentally friendly and is working.

Who has made the application... on who's behalf? What is the background of the people behind the EU? What is their professional expertise and professional abilities on projects such as these? I've heard very Little. WHAT is their "financial incentive/arrangement for this EU? Why is it a "No Bid" "Public Project?" What data have they presented to the Commission.... They have not presented any To the property owners? Who does the project benefit financially and otherwise?

Financials: of the company proposing to do this job... how solid are they?
What are the financial implications on the homeowners? On the Palm Island resort?
How are rates determined for both? Square footage, numbers of toilets & kitchens? Size of homes, size of property? Cost to remove systems, maintaining new system plus a generator and keeping a septic? What are the Payment options?

I'm a pretty Simple guy and was always taught, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!"
Our systems work just fine... I'm not sure who wants this and why? If its only a problem of the Resort... perhaps like individual property owners, they need to fix their own problem... There are way too many questions and way too many good reasons to keep our current septic system in proper running order!

I would, via this e-mail, appreciate your fair review of this very important proposal and I officially request that the PSC DENY the EU's application for waster water service.

Thank you.
Karl R Cheuvront Jr
14 Palm Drive
Placida, FL. 33946. (Palm Island)
502-396-3875
Krelou@icloud.com

Sent from my iPad

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:46 AM
To: 'Bruce Kelsey'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU Proposed Wastewater System on Little Gasparilla Island

Dear Mr. Kelsey:

Thank you for your email, dated March 15, 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: Bruce Kelsey <bruceckelsey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 12:16 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 Proposed Wastewater System on Little Gasparilla Island

March 15, 2022
From: Bruce C Kelsey
9798 Little Gasparilla Island
PO Box 3462 Placida, FL 33946
bruceckelsey@yahoo.com

To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo

Please deny the proposed wastewater system on Little Gasparilla Island.

In my opinion the proposed system is a greater risk to the environment than the individually owned septic tanks and drain fields. I also do not trust EU to have the experience to maintain the system.

As a retired professional engineer in Florida and having owned a home and property on Little Gasparilla Island for over 50 years, I urge you to consider my observations and opinions. Note my comments primarily refer to Little Gasparilla Island as follows:

1) This barrier island is only accessible by boat and has very few full time residents. The vast majority of properties consist of vacation homes, week end homes and rental con units. All of these non full time properties have a very low occupancy rate.

2) Have the consultants and engineers considered the occupancy rate of the homes and units on the island. I have used the county maintained online aerial photos at Charlotte County GIS to estimate the number homes and condo units compared to the boats moored at the docks. The number of boats at the docks imply an occupancy rate of less than 10% when the photograph was taken. A similar study of a Google Maps aerial photograph taken in 2022 implies an occupancy rate of 25%. Surely the occupancy rate is higher at other times but the overall average is probably far less than 50%.

Charlotte County GIS

3) Have the consultants and engineers estimated the amount of effluent based on the gallons of domestic water used on the island? The owner of EU also owns Little Gasparilla Island Water Company that supplies all of the water on the island and could provide the total gallons billed each month. This could be used to estimate the yearly gallons of effluent and the impact on the environment. I suspect due to the low occupancy rate, the effluent per acre on the island is far less than other water front communities on the mainland.

4) The proposed low pressure system requires each resident to have an electric pump to transfer fluids from a holding tank to the main sewer pipe line. Surely the main line will require numerous lift stations to pump the effluent to a central treatment plant. The system would require considerable maintenance and subject to power outages and/or flooding during a storm or unusual high tide. Accumulating all the sewer effluent into one treatment plant on the island would have the risk of a major spill into the bay due to damage or malfunction. Damage to the main sewer line and lift stations could also result in a massive spill. I also own property in a low area in Polk County that relies on several lift stations to pump the effluent. The pumping stations require continuous maintenance and are frequently jammed due to items flushed down resident's toilets. Surely the risk due to an electrical and mechanically operated central system on the island is much greater than the risk due to the individually owned septic tanks and drain fields that have no moving parts.

If there is truly an environmental risk due to septic tanks on the island, why doesn't the county provide a conventional system with a connection to a safe central treatment plant on the main land rather than accept the risk of a system on a barrier island maintained by an inexperienced private company? Resident's would be more confident in the reliability and true cost of a county installed and maintained system. The county could start at the more densely populated islands north of Little Gasparilla Island and extend south in the future as needed.

Property taxes on the island are much higher than the main land in Charlotte County but few services are provided. If the implied sewer rates are implemented, my family will need to sell our property that we have enjoyed for 50 years. Property taxes, water rates and rates for an unnecessary sewer system will force out the old timers like myself and make the island only affordable to the ultra rich.

Thank you,
Bruce C Kelsey

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:46 AM
To: 'David Adair'
Subject: RE: Docket 20200226 - Request for Certification of Wastewater Utility - recommend Denial

Dear Mr. Adair:

Thank you for your email, dated March 15, 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: David Adair <adairdl@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Fwd: Docket 20200226 - Request for Certification of Wastewater Utility - recommend Denial

Commissioner

Forwarding this email due to incorrect email address. My apologies for the error.

Please see below and attached.

David Adair
adairdl@verizon.net

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

From: David Adair <adairdl@verizon.net>
To: mlarosa@psc.state.fl.us <mlarosa@psc.state.fl.us>; agraham@psc.state.fl.us <agraham@psc.state.fl.us>; afay@psc.state.fl.us <afay@psc.state.fl.us>; gclark@psc.state.fl.us <gclark@psc.state.fl.us>; gpassid@psc.state.fl.us <gpassid@psc.state.fl.us>; clerk@psc.state.fl.us <clerk@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: sbruce@psc.state.fl.us <sbruce@psc.state.fl.us>; wthurmon@psc.state.fl.us <wthurmon@psc.state.fl.us>; jcrawfor@psc.state.fl.us <jcrawfor@psc.state.fl.us>; dphillip@psc.state.fl.us <dphillip@psc.state.fl.us>; pirrello.anastacia@leg.state.fl.us <pirrello.anastacia@leg.state.fl.us>
Sent: Tue, Mar 15, 2022 11:46 am
Subject: Docket 20200226 - Request for Certification of Wastewater Utility - recommend Denial

Dear PSC Commissioners, Staff and other interested parties.

I am writing to voice my opposition to the application of Environmental Utilities, LLC to provide wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island (reference Public Service Commission Docket

20200226). My name is David L. Adair of Tampa, Florida and I am a very close friend of multiple families that own properties on the Island. My wife and I are frequent visitors to the Island for more than twenty-five years (dating back to 1996), primarily spending time with the Stead family and their neighbors on Gulf Street. As such we follow the activities on the Island closely and are deeply interested in what is best for the Island residents and the environment.

Please see the attached document for the reasons that we believe the application should be denied. In summary, we do not feel that the application, or subsequent information submitted, clearly establishes the demonstrated need for service, nor the technical and financial capabilities of EU to provide the proposed services. Additionally, the rates proposed are extraordinarily high and would pose unreasonable burden to the customers of the proposed utility.

We ask that you please consider this carefully and deny this application.

Thank you for your consideration.
Best Regards,

David L. Adair
adairdl@verizon.net

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:45 AM
To: 'Steve Egan'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Egan:

Thank you for your email, dated March 15, 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: Steve Egan <steveimprint1@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 10:41 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

Commissioners,

Good Morning. We have a vacation property at 8720 Little Gasparilla Island. I personally was not able to attend the hearings for wastewater service, which would include LGI, but I know many of the property owners that did attend. After watching the proceedings on line, I am now even more opposed to the installation of sewer lines on the island as I ever was.

Our place is a weekend home. We do not rent to outsiders, and maybe are down on the island once a month. Many other homes are similar to us - very low usage. To shoulder us with this great individual expense is just not right, especially when the whole concept is being driven by a for-profit entity, with no previous input from islanders. We did not ask for this. If there is a sewage problem with individual septic systems, use the rules already in place for enforcement. Don't assume there is a problem with the entire proposed service area.

Island residents are well aware of Mr. Boyer's lack of technical expertise. Many question his financial ability to cover such a large project. What happens to us if he fails? Who will bail us out, Charlotte County? The cost of the hookup and associated out-of-pocket expenses will drive us off the island. Our house has been in the family since 1995. We cannot replace that.

Please deny EU's Application for Original Certificate of Authorization.

Respectfully,

Steve Egan
Imprintables International, LLC
1306 orangewalk Dr.
Brandon, FL 33511
813-453-LOGO
iPrintTampa.com

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:45 AM
To: 'Gary Galloway'
Subject: RE: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Galloway:

Thank you for your email, dated March 15, 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: Gary Galloway <garudy54@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 7:50 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: 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>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

My name is Gary Galloway and my wife and I live at 180 South Gulf Blvd, Don Pedro Island. My wife Judy and I are asking the PSC to **DENY** Environmental Utilities, LLC application for service to our barrier island. We were unable to attend the PSC meeting in February due to a medical emergency, so when I received a copy of the rate case overview, I was astounded at the answers put forth by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

Judy and I did **NOT** request this sewer service and to my knowledge, we still have not seen any proven need for service. So, I ask, where is this coming from? After several conversations I've had with some of those who have spoken with Mr. Boyer, I believe he has no intention of building a sewer system as he has stated: "at his age". Those who have talked to Mr. Boyer believe his intention is to make money by selling the original certificate.

Furthermore, where is the data for the NEED of this service? The actual biological and scientific data has yet to be provided by Environmental Utilities.

In conjunction with this application, where is the data that Environmental Utilities has the financial ability to provide this service? Where is the data that Environmental Utilities has the expertise to

install this system? Have they installed and operated sewer systems before? To my knowledge, a resounding **NO** is the answer.

I ask the commissioners would they hire someone to build a bridge, or freeway without any experience or financial wherewithal? That's what is being asked of us as island residents in regards to Environmental Utilities.

As for the cost, we will be required to pay for installation and then the monthly service fee. I was shocked with the cost information provided by Environmental Utilities, LLC if they are granted this certificate and IF they proceed with this installation. As a retired veteran and teacher, we live on a fixed income and these chargers are terrible and outrageous and do not compare to other sewer systems nearby. When we moved here 6 years ago, we thought it was the perfect place for us. But now our island paradise is threatened with unneeded disruption, damage to our property, and the natural habitat of gopher tortoises and other island creatures.

Again, Judy and I strongly urge the PSC to **deny this application** from Environmental Utilities, LLC.

Gary and Judy Galloway

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:44 AM
To: 'Laurie Gaines'
Subject: RE: Docket 20200226-SU

Dear Ms. Gaines:

Thank you for your email, dated March 15, 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: Laurie Gaines <laurie@littlegasparilla.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:32 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket 20200226-SU

My name is Laurie Gaines and I am a resident at 8814 Grand Avenue, Little Gasparilla Island. My husband and I have concerns about the proposed sewer system application by EU and would like to formally request that the application be denied. We feel that more thought needs to go into the type of system to be proposed. The current proposed system seems to require electricity to work (unlike a high pressure system) and we lose power frequently on the island. It will tear up our yards and landscaping and wreak havoc on our quiet little island. And apparently the system will still need pumping every five years or so! (Due to our boat-only access, currently pumping costs about \$1500....and you can be on a waiting list for up to 6 months to get septic systems pumped. THAT should be more of a cause for concern by the County and I wish they would address that issue rather than just create a mandate that we need to install a system that is going to require even more frequent service.)

Our main concern stems from several aspects of the proposal:

1. the damage that will be caused to the ambiance of our island by the implementation of infrastructure at each and every home. Even more concerning is the potential for a major leak or spill when removing sewage from the island. The potential for a major leak, spilling thousands of gallons of raw sewage into Placida Bay, seems to be much more likely than the impact of a few leaking septic systems. (I have lived on the island for over 35 years and can count on one had the time I have actually witnessed a septic tank overflow or leak.) Most are well maintained by residents and many are brand new systems installed within the last 5-6 years.

2. I also think it is unfair to ask homeowners to foot the bill for such a system without any option for financing. If the county feels it is necessary, Charlotte County should provide the service and pay for it with increased taxes over time....to hit each homeowner on the island with an enormous bill for a system they don't

want or need is simply unfair. Many older residents may lose their homes. In addition, we are already paying EU an unusually high rate for our water....now we are going to be charged another unfairly high rate for sewer service we neither need nor want.

3. Our island lifestyle is unique and rare. We do not want the type of infrastructure that will encourage high-rises and more condo developments to come in and change our way of life forever. We like the island just the way it is.

4. The company proposing the system has not provided detailed costs and has not provided any sort of bid for a system. To just award a contract to an unproven contractor who "thinks" he can provide wastewater treatment seems reckless. I would feel more confident with a firm that has done something like this in the past rather than an unknown entity who cannot even provide financial details.

All in all, it seems that this request for a permit is premature, there is much more information that needs to be provided, both about how the system is going to be maintained, what will be done in the event of a major storm, how are major sewage spills going to be prevented, what is the company's experience in this area and what are the actual costs going to be?

Thank you in advance for considering my request.

Laurie Gaines
gaines555@earthlink.net

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:43 AM
To: 'Midge O'Hara'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. and Mrs. O'Hara:

Thank you for your email, dated March 14, 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: Midge O'Hara <littlegasparilla@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 10:19 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioner Passidomo,

EU has no experience in installing or maintaining a sewer system.

We have no need for EU's suggested, in my words, installation of "another septic holding tank with a pump" and all at our expense. The Island loses electricity easily; the pump will not work.

A VACUUM system would be best with no homeowner, if any, maintenance costs.

Charlotte County is shirking its responsibility to us taxpayers and should be the one getting professional bids and installing a proper system.

Little Gasparilla is NOT a "rich" island like Boca Grande, and the financial hardship of not having the ability to spread the cost on our tax bill over 20 years is impossible for many longtime homeowners.

Islander's came together 10 years ago to map out our vision for our island and that Plan was accepted by Charlotte County. Of utmost importance was our zoning "down sizing" to BBI and single family homes only. This must NOT be changed, yet a County Commissioner has voiced his opinion that "it could be changed". Sewers bring population growth with them.

Take a look at the facts and vote against giving EU the Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

Marjorie and Charles O'Hara
9762 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL 33946
PO Box 22
littlegasparilla@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:42 AM
To: 'Tri Dang'
Subject: RE: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Dang:

Thank you for your email, dated March 14, 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: Tri Dang <trindang@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 9:29 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner Passidomo:

My name is Tri Dang. my wife (Jennifer) and I own a lot on Palm Island in Placida, Florida, where we plan to build our retirement home within the next few years. For the past sixteen months, homeowners including us on the Island are very concerned about issues with the proposed centralized waste collection services put forth by Mr. Jack Boyer, owner of the Environmental Utilities (EU) LLC. While we could not be there in person to support the Palm Island Estates (PIE) community, I was able to keep up-to-date with the ongoing issues. I am formally requesting that you and other commissioners **DENY** EU's application for wastewater services for the following reasons:

1) **Unreasonable high costs:** After several revisions, EU proposed cost to connect each unit on the Island to the "centralized collection service," which is estimated to be \$13,221, plus monthly charges of \$178.78. These cost estimates are way too high for individual households and will mostly likely be higher depending on the number of occupancies. In addition to these costs, homeowners are responsible for installing and maintaining other services such as pumps.

2) **Lack of experiences in operating a project of this scope:** I reviewed Mr. Boyer's biography and I appreciate his services to the country; however, if you compare his wastewater experience on a submarine and

that of running a wastewater collection business providing services on a barrier island - something must have overlooked. If anything goes awry on a submarine, you will always have the backing of the Department of the Navy, Department of Defense, and lastly that of the US Government to address issues. If anything goes awry with wastewater on Palm Island, will EU be that single point of contact to address and remediate all issues? It does not appear that way based on Mr. Boyer's deposition. I am afraid that it will be the people on Palm Island who will bear the cost to address those issues. In my opinion, this proposal does not have the support of potential customers – more specifically the homeowners on the Island.

3) **Ability to participate or opt-out:** According to Mr. Boyer, one of the benefits that EU provides is to create and maintain an environmental-friendly system, where sewage water is collected, transferred, and treated off-island. This approach will prevent wastewater spillage on the barrier island that contaminate and cause damage to sea life. EU's proposed to replace existing concrete tanks with new tanks that made of composite material. These nouveau ideas are unproven as composite materials are not known to withstand the harsh conditions of salt water. According to concrete experts, the best material for sea water is concrete with reinforced steel though even these materials require periodic inspections to address performance degradation. EU's proposal requires full participation with one- or two-year phased in. This is the United States of America and thus, I believe that we have the right to not be forced to accept a high cost, unknown quality of service solution. We, the people on the Island, can address the issue through enforcement and due diligence maintenance of our septic tanks according to the County Health Department guidelines.

Again, I respectfully request that you and other commissioners **DENY** EU's application for wastewater services to Palm Island. It is absolutely the wrong proposal, the wrong team, and the wrong approach.

Please submit your comments to the docket.

Sincerely yours,

Tri Dang

Email: trindang@yahoo.com

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:41 AM
To: 'jbluscombe@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Luscombe:

Thank you for your email, dated March 14, 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: jbluscombe@gmail.com <jbluscombe@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 8:30 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: Docket #20200226-SU

Thank you for allowing us to comment on this EU.

I am a full time resident on Don Pedro Island (420 Bocilla Drive) and strongly oppose the EU's application for wastewater services.

Beyond the obvious (the applicant has NO EXPERIENCE in WASTE WATER and his background includes a number of legal infractions) , my personal moment of AWWWWW, is when I review the data presented on Need for service. The science is flawed at basic levels. The data is not from the immediate area surrounding our island. We as a community have 10 years of bacteriological data from annual sampling that does not show a "NEED".

The other AWWWWW moment is Fair and Equitable Rates and Charges. The applicant has not provided the residents with any level of detail as to the costs we will be forced to incur. Uncertain hook up charges, added expense for infrastructure, generators, landscaping and an additions \$200 to \$300 monthly added to our already high utility bills!

This entire process is an insult to all of us. No research, no engineering, no competitive bids. Our island is also a very fragile environment for which there have been no impact studies done.

I personally am not opposed to a sewage system. I am opposed to this applicant and the absolute lack of research and engineering .

The stakes are huge and the odds of success are slim if this path is chosen.

Please make the right choice , which is not the easy choice.

Respectfully

Jim Luscombe

Jim Luscombe

Email: Jim@palmislandstays.com

Cell: 727-515-0274

www.palmislandstays.com

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:41 AM
To: 'John Day'
Subject: RE: Sewer not needed!

Dear Mr. Day:

Thank you for your email, dated March 14, 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: John Day <johnday1000@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Sewer not needed!

Sent from my iPhone

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:40 AM
To: 'Chuck Soderquist'
Subject: RE: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Soderquist:

Thank you for your email, dated March 14, 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: Chuck Soderquist <sodo1@live.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 8:03 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioner Passidomo,

Please approve the proposal to provide central sewers to these Barrier Islands. Doing so will provide a great positive environmental impact to these Islands for decades to come.

Thank You

Chuck Soderquist

Phone # 941-270-7992
E-mail Sodo1@live.com
PO Box 958
Englewood, Fl. 34295

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:39 AM
To: 'jenny_n_dang@yahoo.com'
Subject: RE: Comment on Docket Number 20200226-SU

Dear Ms. Dang:

Thank you for your email, dated March 14, 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: Jenny Dang <jenny_n_dang@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 7:28 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Comment on Docket Number 20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner Passidomo:

My name is Jennifer Dang, and my husband (Tri) and I are property owners on Palm Island in Placida, Florida. Tri will submit his comment separately from his perspective.

I respectfully request that you **DENY EU's application for wastewater service** due to the following reasons, which in my humble opinion, are purely common sense.

1) I honestly don't believe that there is a proven need for EU's proposed wastewater service on the Island. Currently, we live in rural Virginia, and our house has not only a well but also a septic system. My parents' house in Georgia also uses a septic system for decades. **If enforced and maintained appropriately, septic systems are very efficient and safe to the environment.** I am an engineer, and I do like to tinker with things. However, there are times when I have to remind myself of the old saying **"If it's not broken, don't fix it."** **This situation that the EU, you and other commissioners are dealing with now is just as that - especially when folks on the Island are opposing to the EU proposal.**

2) The majority of owners on our island do not request this proposed service from the EU.

3) Given the information (or lack of) provided by the EU, I don't believe that there are technical expertise and sufficient finances to support this project. In the end, the issues and costs overrun will be astronomical and passed on to the homeowners on the Island.

4) Since the County is not responsible for this project (so to speak), the homeowners on the Island will have no control over unknown rates after installation as well as future rate increases over the years.

5) Finally and most importantly, the proposed system and service are, in my opinion, no better than what homeowners have currently. At least, the costs of maintaining existing septic systems are manageable and known to homeowners.

Now from a personal perspective, I would like to make a few statements. My husband and I are in the process of planning for the construction of our retirement (forever) home on the lot that we purchased on the Island in 2013. We'll be living full time on the Island in a few years and cannot wait when that time comes. We both grew up in a communist regime when we were little. We have been living in the States for over 40 years now. Freedom means more to us than probably most folks because we know what it was like not to have it. Although we don't currently live on the Island, we have been following this proposal from the beginning as the outcome of this proposal will affect our daily lives when we become full time residence in a few years. **My whole issue with this proposal is that when the majority of homeowners oppose to this proposal from the EU, why force it down our throat?** While I understand that you and other commissioners have to follow the notice and comment process and do your due diligence, you have to take into consideration the needs and wants of the people on the Island. We cannot be forced to do something that we strongly oppose just because someone believes that their proposal is better and good for the environment. You have to consider the long-term financial impact to the homeowners not to mention the potential issues with the proposed systems. **Please ask yourself this question, if you were the homeowner, what would you do and do you think that it's appropriate to allow someone (like the EU) continually forcing something on people that will have significant negative, long-lasting effects on people's lives? To me, this is Un-American. Personally, this is something that people only see in third-world countries or what my husband and I used to experience in a communist regime -- where we didn't have a say into our daily lives.**

To close, while the aforementioned statements might be considered too harsh, I hope that it is time we bring an end to this agony and again respectfully request that you and other commissioners settle this matter once for all ---- that FREEDOM to choose from the homeowners on the Island prevail. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Jennifer Dang

Email: jenny_n_dang@yahoo.com

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:37 AM
To: 'Kathy Stokes'
Subject: RE: Docket # 20200226

Dear Mr. Stokes:

Thank you for your email, dated March 14, 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, March 14, 2022 12:32 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@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 Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: Kathy Stokes <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>
Subject: Docket # 20200226

Dear Commissioners, I am requesting that you deny Environmental Utility's application for a wastewater certificate to our BRIDGELESS BARRIER ISLAND. (Knights, Palm Island, Don Pedro and Little Gasparilla -once separate, now connected by beach only due to Mother Nature's forces).

We have a unique locale, many geographical, environmental and COMMON SENSE complications. We are barge only access, (a ferry for Palm Island and wooden 40-50 ft barge pushed by boat with outboard motor for LGI) as far as large equipment coming to the island. It is Very expensive, last quote to us, \$600 a trip to Little Gasparilla, the part where we live. EU never specifically addresses the barge fees in what we've read. LGI has only sandy lanes, no paved roads and we have frequent power outages, even without storms, which can last from hours to days. Repair crews from FPL have to come by boat of course.

We have NO confidence in the Boyers of Environmental Utilities to have the technical and financial ability, nor confidence of the island homeowners to take on this massive project! PLUS, there is no performance bond! The costs, difficulties, and probability of failure are very alarming in our opinions. Charlotte County should be undertaking this project if testing specific to our bridgeless barrier island ever was done and truly show the need, which has not been shown as of this time. Charlotte County Sewer Master Plan addresses affordability saying costs should be at or below \$113 a month for sewer and \$204 for sewer AND water. EU's estimate is \$256 for sewer alone, much over twice the rate they consider affordable. LGI's water company is

owned by the same utility owners as EU., and our average monthly rate is \$118, yielding a combined rate of \$374 a month! Outrageous! Almost twice the affordable rate cited by the county in their Sewer Master Plan!

In addition, we don't understand how Charlotte County gave EU a contract without any bids, to apply for this certificate. They require other private companies to demonstrate project experience, references of 3 similar projects of scope and size! (EL Jobean project an example) It would seem that the PSC and Charlotte County should require the same criteria for Environmental Utilities which is a start up company with NO experience of this needed magnitude! To manage construction and contracting for a project this huge requires experience and skills that the Boyers of EU have not shown.

For all of the above reasons and others quoted in letters to the PSC, and statements by homeowners made at the Service Hearing for this docket, I am requesting you DENY the application to Environmental Utilities. Thank you.

Roy Stokes
8892 Gulf Street
Little Gasparilla Island

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:35 AM
To: 'Joan Der'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Ms. Der:

Thank you for your email, dated March 14, 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: Joan Der <joan.der7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 9:10 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: Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners,

From Joan Der, wife of Robert Der at 171 s. Gulf Blvd. On Don Pedro. Please deny the permit to EU.

As more details are uncovered, I need to emphasize the issue of why we must deny EU their request. Our island has not been a source of leakage in Florida. This sewer installation could provide maybe an inconsequential impact of a clean water solution for a gigantic cost, grief, and inconvenience to individual owners. There isn't much land to install a new tank in a spot apart from the septic tank while transitioning. Will we be without sewage disposal for a spell? Replacing a perfectly fine tank and drainage with grinders and pipes run by electricity prone to outages is not an improvement. Our individual septics are much safer than new lines to carry the waste water from curvy shell roads (which are finally graded by the County) across two lagoons and the inter coastal waterway. The intercoastal waterway is used continuously by the car access ferry a minimum of 16 hours a day, subject to boat traffic and strong tides. Isn't a drainage septic system servicing this unique bridgeless barrier island a wiser solution?

We already pay the highest rates for water in Florida through a private business seeking every rate hike possible. Must we also be subjected to the excessive rates threatened by EU for negligible improvement of waste waters? I don't want EU to reap a premium rate for what has historically been their problematic and subpar service. There is no incentive for efficiency in installation. If sewer must be installed, I want normal fees as any other Charlotte County taxpayers. I want a reputable provider. Deny EU. Thanks for reading.

On Mon, Jan 24, 2022 at 10:50 AM Joan Der <joan.der7@gmail.com> wrote:

I am Joan Der and I live with my husband at 171 S. gulf Blvd. on DPI. I am formally requesting that the **PSC DENY EU's** application for wastewater service.

I wish to have Charlotte County provide the municipal wastewater service accorded other taxpayers, not abdicate to a novice, financially unstable private company like EU.

1. **NEED FOR SERVICE** (environmental impacts, development concerns) I take care of my septic system and other must do the same, given the frequency of septic cleanout trucks I see on the ferry. Palm Island Resort has it's own waste treatment system so they should not be allowed to drag us into a contract. Don Pedro and Knight Islands are low-density residences. There aren't any buildings with owners living above each other. There is no commercial activity other than the Resort with its own sewer. We are a gentle, peaceful island already focused on conservancy. Lake Okeechobee releases are more problematic for water than our tiny island. A leak of wastewater under the inter coastal is riskier than perhaps a few residential leaks. **DENY EU.**
2. **FINANCIAL ABILITY** of the applicant. I met a former DPI resident at the ferry and I updated him on the upcoming sewer decision. When he found out Jack Boyer was behind the effort, he recounted troubles. When working for Jack, he resorted to receiving cash-only payment. The financial attachment to the PSC application is a blank tax return. No financial info is shown. Can EU be trusted with millions? Jack's conversations with other islanders indicate EU wants to maximize any charges possible. Can EU finance a project to completion? Do we deserve exorbitant charges to line EU pockets? **DENY EU.**
3. **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE** of the applicant My friend lived through the treated water distribution to Little Gasparilla Island. She had green bathtub water. The installation flooded her septic tank. She had to move out for a month. She repeatedly called Boyer and NEVER got a response. She has despises Boyer to this day. If treated water is handled in this reckless manner, what mishandling will happen with wastewater? Do contractors understand the difficulties of bringing equipment and workers over on a ferry? Will they observe the weight limits on our one-lane bridge? Who will choose these specialized contractors since EU has few employees? Does EU have the expertise to pick better contractors than they did for treated water for Little Gasparilla? They don't have my trust. **HURRY and DENY EU**
4. **Fair and reasonable rates** EU has already tried to apply as a private utility without providing rates. EU will charge the maximum. Why should I be charged an exorbitant premium for a complex project shrouded with doubtful design, installation and operation. We already fare unfavorably to other Charlotte County taxpayers in many respects for services.

I am concerned about the need to handle the waste processing at each house with the individual tank capacity at 60 gallons. Each house is projected to need 190 gallons per day in the application. It has been suggested that we will need an upgrade to our electric panel. But what worries me is need of a generator and propane to prepare for the frequent and/or unexpected electrical outages. This would make us riskier for fires. Can our Fire Department team on the island handle 2-3 fires that could occur during a short outage and when there are days of outage caused by severe wind?

I am not saying sewers are never a good idea. But there is not a need now. And if a sewer is in our future, please have Charlotte County provide the municipal service at a fair rate afforded other county residents. Not a novice, charging exorbitant fees for inferior or checkered services.

Would you trust your waste system to EU? Please Deny EU.

Joan Der. Joan.der7@gmail.com

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Joan Der
joan.der7@gmail.com
Cell phone in U.S. 1 630 217-7886

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Joan Der
joan.der7@gmail.com
Cell phone in U.S. 1 630 217-7886

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:34 AM
To: 'tandhburns@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Ms. Burns:

Thank you for your email, dated March 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: tandhburns@gmail.com <tandhburns@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 9:07 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

Dear Commissioners,

I am asking you to DENY a certificate of authorization to EU for wastewater service to Little Gasparilla Island.

While I am not against having sewer installed on the island, I am not in favor of it being done in this manner and under EU's supervision and control.

There is a significant amount of geographical, environmental and practical complications involved, including sand paths, lack of a north/south platted roadway, barge-only access to the island, and frequent power outages. I don't think that Mr. Boyer has the professional ability, business structure, or enough confidence from the community to spearhead this project.

The difficulties of setting up sewer and the proposed high cost to owners both for installation and ongoing fees are all reasons to wait until Charlotte County is willing to add the barrier islands to their master sewer plan and implement it themselves.

Properly maintained septic systems are a viable and still accepted manner of waste disposal and should be continued until the DEP and/or Charlotte County is willing to be actively involved.

Thank you for your attention and service,

Heather Burns
8960 Seagrape Lane
Placida, FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:31 AM
To: 'nina stokes'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226

Dear Mr. Stokes:

Thank you for your email, dated March 10, 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: nina stokes <ninadv3399@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:28 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: Kit Kat <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>
Subject: Docket #20200226

As family owners on Little Gasparilla Island at 8892 Gulf Street, we are asking that you please deny the wastewater certificate that Environmental Utilities has applied for. There has been no testing of our barrier island waters by Charlotte County, nor Mr. Boyer, that shows problems coming from our septic systems. Dr. Robert Weisberg, Distinguished Professor of Oceanography at USF completely debunked Mr. Boyer's generalized claims. In addition, our island is in the rural service area and not permitted by the Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan for central sewers. There has not been any solid evidence of EU having the means to pay the debt on this huge project. As a start up company, having never attempted a project like this, the Boyers who own Little Gasparilla Water Utility have been the subject of constant controversies (line breaks and no boil water notices). Mr. Boyer has also had ethics problems which makes it very hard to comprehend why Charlotte County is giving him the right to apply for a certificate due to past dishonesty. The outrageous rates are based on estimates that are 3 – 5 years old and "lower" than the low end on many things. Homeowners will be in for huge surprises as this could possibly have huge cost overruns. Finally of great concern is the fact that there is no performance bond and no single point of general oversight. I'm asking you to deny this wastewater certificate and to take into consideration all the many homeowners that have written to you. Thank you, sincerely, *Rodger Stokes*.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:31 AM
To: 'nina stokes'
Subject: RE: DOCKET #20200226

Dear Ms. Stokes:

Thank you for your email, dated March 10, 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: nina stokes <ninadv3399@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:14 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: Kit Kat <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>
Subject: DOCKET #20200226

As owners of 8892 Gulf Street on Little Gasparilla Island, we are asking that you deny Environmental Utilities application for a wastewater certificate. The financial ability of EU has been shown to be inadequate to pay the debt on this massive construction project. This is a start up company who has never attempted or completed a project of this magnitude. Contrary to Mr. Boyer's claims, there is no verified need for service. The outrageous rates he is proposing are debunked by many parties including the Office of Public Council. Rates of \$256 / month for sewer are ridiculous! The need for homeowners to replace equipment probably within 5 years at their own expense, the need for generators to stem sewer back ups and just handing over easements with no reimbursement by Mr. Boyer is unconscionable. Finally there is no contract and no single point of general oversight. But most importantly no performance bond. Homeowners could be left with overwhelming obligations. Please deny this start up company, the wastewater certificate for these reasons and more.

Thank you for taking the hundreds of homeowner's' pleas into consideration. Thank you very much.

Sincerely, Nina Stokes.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:30 AM
To: 'ninadv3399@hotmail.com'
Subject: RE: DOCKET #20200226

Dear Ms. Stokes:

Thank you for your email, dated March 10, 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: nina stokes <ninadv3399@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:02 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: Kit Kat <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>
Subject: DOCKET #20200226

Dear Commissioners,

Upon continuing reading of the afternoon session of the Service Hearing on Feb. 8 th, for EU 's application for a wastewater certificate, I have a few comments. It is a real eye opener for sure and I am asking you to DENY granting the certificate as there are SO many continuing unanswered questions regarding the need, finances, technical expertise, and the outrageous rates and charges.

It was shocking to see the EU 's witness, Ms Swain, say the schedules she worked on were based on the information provided by the utility. The OPC attorney questioned her about BARGING fees, (three different ones, \$12,000 a year, transit \$870 a year, and then \$19,000). She said these were "best estimates at the time". OPC asked if Mr. Boyer was planning a contract for barging at a flat monthly rate? Answer, " I heard that". OPC said is the contract signed? Answer" I'm not aware of that". When asked by OPC if she agreed there were two barge providers she answered , "I'm not aware of how many barges". OPC asked if she included costs for two different barges or just one? Answer" I only have \$1,000 a month for barging... and then \$300 a month for fuel. I only have one cost in there -for barging.

This is HUGE! Eldred's Marina. has a barge, approximately 40-50 ft long that runs from their Marina on Boca Grand Causeway to the island. It is pushed by a boat with an outboard motor and runs when the operator desires to run it. The last price I knew of was \$600 per trip. Builders and contractors wait weeks sometimes to have supplies delivered. How will Mr Boyer manage to get his materials delivered in a timely manner? What will be the TRUE cost? The second barge is the one at Palm Island which all their residents use and they are very concerned about it causing problems for their getting in and off the island if it is loaded with equipment for a sewer project. AND \$ 300 a month for fuel for two

barges? That is insane with the price of gas now!

Next the OPC asked about salaries being estimated at below the average range for those positions. Ms. Swain said "yes, we are at the low end". OPC attorney said "Below the low end, correct?" Answer, "I don't remember-I know we were at the low end at least."

OPC asked about bids for the project, were they 3-5 years old? Answer, yes, with 2% added. Really? Costs way up now so costs to homeowners skyrocketing!

More questions for Ms. Swain by Attorney Kelsky about financing for the project. She knew nothing about that. When asked if she had conducted an appraisal of the value of the company, she answered "No, as far as I know, there is really almost NO COMPANY currently until the certificate is granted". Doesn't that speak volumes? Please don't grant a certificate to this "NO COMPANY!"

When Ms Cotherman asked Ms. Swain who developed the numbers she was given to start with, she answered, "The operations and maintenance expenses and other information came directly from the utility - Mr. Boyer. Really?"

Then Ellen Hargrove, land planner testified, giving information about the Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan and explained that it demonstrated no need for wastewater service. It is contrary to the County's growth strategy. The area is a bridgeless barrier island, BBI, and the policy specifically discourages development because of the difficulty of providing fire and emergency management services. The area is a Velocity Zone, extreme difficulty for hurricane preparedness and evacuation from the BBI. The island is not included in any of the 12 areas in the Master plan, so no need!

When Attorney Wharton for EU questioned her she said the Charlotte County Utility director at the time, Craig Rudy, (who wasn't a Planner) dealt with Environmental Utilities and not the County Planning Dept. who is in charge of the Comprehensive Plan. She said the planning Dept. would be the one to make a consistency determination not a public works director.

Some comments about Dr. Robert Weisberg, Distinguished Professor of Physical Oceanography at the USF college of Marine Biology. He gave interesting and compelling testimony to discuss the lack of need for sewer service in the basis that there is no scientific support for the proposition by Mr. Boyer that on site septic tanks exacerbate red tide and algae outbreaks in the barrier island of concern. When Attorney Wharton for EU quoted a Branch Harbor study on septic tanks, Dr Weisberg answered it was conducted up north by a yacht club close to I-75, totally different substrata. Said you can't extrapolate that result to a bridgeless barrier island.

Next was the eye opening statement by Sheri Schultz, CPA, accredited valuation and certified in financial forensics. Her statement said she reviewed EU's financial statement, personal financial statements of the Boyer's, the pre-filed costs estimates of Jonathan Cole, and the pre-filed testimony of Deborah Swain as it relates to the cost of construction for the proposed utility. She concluded that neither EU LLC nor the Boyer's have the financial ability to undertake construction of a wastewater system in the proposed service area, as based on the data provided. Neither the company nor its principals could service the debt associated with the cost of construction.

These are some comments about the afternoon session of the hearing that I believe are very important to review. Then of course the other frightening facts of EU having no contract, no single point of general oversight and no performance bond. Residents will have no recourse in case of project failure or cost overruns which could very likely happen! Plus what about the equipment that homeowners will very likely have to replace in 5 years at great expense? And the need for generators in case of power outages? And easements? And potential sewer spills in the inland coastal waterway? Just too many questions to give a certificate to this start up company. Please deny the certificate and thank you for taking into consideration the thoughts, and ideas of the hundreds of homeowners expressing their concerns. There is a lot of expertise out there.

Sincerely, Kathleen Stokes
8892 Gulf Street
Little Gasparilla Island

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