

Yvette Gillespie

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 2:10 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032
Attachments: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

Thank you!

Yvette Gillespie

From: S Crymes <s_crymes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 2:07 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: commissioner.larosa@psc.state.fl.us; commissioner.clark@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; commissioner.graham@psc.state.fl.us; commissioner.fay@psc.state.fl.us; Rhonda Freeman
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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We object to the proposal and ask the PSC to deny EU's application for wastewater service.

1. FINANCIAL ABILITY of the applicant

We have had a reasonably good service experience with the applicant related to the water service. However, we have seen no evidence that convinces us that the applicant has the financial ability to build, maintain and service this type of sewage system. Also, the applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or conditions.

There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

This project is too important to sub out to an unqualified applicant

2. TECHNICAL EXPERTISE of the applicant

We have had a reasonably good service experience with the applicant related to the water service. However, we have seen no evidence that convinces us that the applicant has the technical expertise to build, maintain and service this type of sewage system.

Also, a failure will concentrate sewage into the failure point, potentially resulting in significant impacts to the environment and all the creatures living near a concentrated spill. Manatees are already dying at high rates due to loss of seagrass due in part to red tide. If there was a failure that dumped a concentrated and high amount into the bay where the manatees feed, for example, they could be even more negatively impacted than they are today.

I'm also concerned about how the project will impact the gopher tortoise and other species that are native to Little Gasparilla Island.

3. FAIR & EQUITABLE RATES & CHARGES

We are extremely concerned that the mandatory costs of sewage in addition to the mandatory water hook up is going to drive our retired neighbors that are full time islanders off island. Many live on fixed incomes. Also, increased costs will make ownership out of reach for many more in the future. We do not want to island to become financially accessible only to the most wealthy. Already, the market prices are pushing us in this direction and this project has the potential to drive off existing full time and retired neighbors. Historically, LGI has had some economic diversity given to its lower cost basis to own a home. Our concern is related to one time fees as well as the ongoing cost including:

- Average monthly cost. Our water bill is already extremely high. Total cost for water, sewage and trash removal should be higher than the mainland due to cost of providing service, but not many multiples of

what it costs on the mainland. Common sense would suggest that while providing this service is more difficult, the multiplier should be within a reasonable range. **Our water bill is already much too high in our opinion and some of the most expensive in the State of Florida**

- Uncertain Hook-up Cost: We have no realistic idea of what it will cost to connect
- Electric: the system pump requires a separate electric panel, installed by a licensed electrician at the expense of the owner. We don't have specifications to get bids and estimate what this will cost
- No grandfathering of septic systems: regardless of age or **condition**. We installed a new septic at 8394 Little Gasparilla Island before we sold the house to our neighbors recently. The cost of this new system was included in the price set to sell the house. The new buyers just paid for this system recently and are retired. As long as the system is serviced and operating per requirements, don't see a need to replace immediately unless mandated by Federal, State or County law or regulation. We do not see evidence that this is the case.

Our names are Sarah Crymes and Rhonda Freeman. We own a home on Little Gasparilla Island at 8342 Grand Ave., Placida, FL 33946. We also own land on Little Gasparilla Island at 8336, 8338, 8346, 8400 Grand Ave and 8392, 8396 Little Gasparilla Island.

Our mailing address is 1255 Jackson St. N, St. Petersburg, FL 33705. Our emails are s_crymes@hotmail.com and rfreeman123@yahoo.com

Thank you

Sincerely,

Sarah and Rhonda