

**Yvette Gillespie**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 4:30 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

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**From:** Dale Novak <dnovak@novakcreative.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 3:46 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; ommissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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April 8th, 2024

Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU)  
Application to the Public Service Commission (PSC)  
Installation of central sewer on the Islands of Don Pedro, Knight and Palm Island.

Dear Commissioners:

Once again, here we are with another attempt by Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) to force-feed a central sewer system on the residents of the barrier islands of Don Pedro, Knight and Palm Island. As you know this was previously rejected by the Public Service Commission.

I find it to be highly agitating that I need to spend my time to once again address this outrageous proposal by the EU. There is absolutely no regard at any level for the residents of this island and their respective property rights. I find this entire process to be egregious and potentially unlawful.

The points made by the residents of these barrier islands still remain:

1. There is no environmental need for this system. Our water quality is not impacted by the “part-time” use of the septic systems on these islands. Any water quality issues are the product of nutrient releases coming from Lake Okeechobee.
2. The residents of the island will not voluntarily connect to the system and I can assure you that legal battles will be vigorously fought with as much publicity as we can forge.
3. Residents would be forced to give up the sovereign property rights without compensation. A potential “taking” under the laws of Florida. More legal challenges.
4. Residents would be forced to pay massive fees to hook up to the system with no regard to each islanders ability to pay these fees. The application shows \$12,000 for the initial hook up plus another \$1,097 for the connection to a home. This will cause financial hardships for many of our fellow islanders especially as we continue to be deeply effected by the damage caused by hurricane Ian.
5. The suggested monthly costs (\$263.57/month for wastewater service alone) are easily five times the average sewer bill in the State of Florida which stands at \$61.24 for 4,000 gallons of use. And, that state-wide figure INCLUDES the water bill. The EU’s cost would ONLY be for sewer.
6. The cost of decommissioning the current septic systems would also be placed on the residents. Adding another financial burden to the residents, especially considering that many of these septic systems have been updated and inspected and are operating within all county codes.

7. Cost of new electrical service for the system, again, to burden the homeowners with the costs and fees with no consideration of the excessive financial burdens placed on us.
8. Possible need for a costly generator to “assist” the EU’s sewer proposal in the event of a power outage (which is frequent) and storm issues so that raw sewage doesn’t back up into our homes. An issue that we do not have at this time. More burdens with no regards to our ability to pay or the disruption to our lives.
9. We are in a “rural service area” as defined by the Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan. The Plan mandates on-site septic systems for the Rural Service Area, not a privately owned for-profit central system. There is no need for this system.
10. The EU has no experience, at any level, with a project such as this one. This is a bold money grab. It’s extortion. The sewer system that will be poorly designed, poorly executed, embedded with failures and will deteriorate our quality of life. The likelihood that the company will fail is more likely than it succeeding – creating an entirely new issue for the residents.
11. The disruption to our roads and right of ways will create turmoil for many years. The project will be unsightly, cause natural water flow issues, and cause irreparable harm to many of the native species, especially the protected Gopher Tortoise.
12. Lastly, and I really need to only make this one final point. It’s all about money. It always is.

We vehemently oppose and object to this proposal by the EU and demand that the County Commissioners of Charlotte County support the voices of those who will be directly impacted by this ill-conceived proposal over that of a for-profit private company with only their financial interest in mind.

Regards,

Dale & Julie Novak  
611 Bocilla Drive  
Full time residents  
Don Pedro Island  
920-664-1088