

**Yvette Gillespie**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 4:37 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032  
**Attachments:** legal notice from Environmental Utilities for Sewer on Palm Island

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

Thank you!

## Yvette Gillespie

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**From:** Mike Beukema <Mike@westraconst.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 4:35 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us ; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** legal notice from Environmental Utilities for Sewer on Palm Island

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon Commissioners. My name is Michael Beukema. I have a home at 480 Bocilla Dr on Palm Island. I am writing you today to request that you DENY the request from Environmental Utilities, LLC. For the installation of Central sewer on Palm Island. I strongly object to this project for many reasons. I am the owner / President of a local Underground Utility / General Construction company. My company has been in business here in West Florida since 1977. I strongly believe when it comes to critical infrastructure and roadways that it be built / run and maintained by our local Governments.

Since 1977 my company has converted many failed or sold private utility owners sewer lift stations and water facilities over to Manatee and Sarasota County and upgrade those systems to meet the County standards. Transportation, power, and water/ wastewater facilities are public goods that are needed to ensure that a nation runs smoothly and that citizens' basic needs are met. Charlotte County already has the Wastewater Treatment facilities to treat the sewer from Palm Island if and when it is has been deemed that sewer services is needed. There is no need to reinvent the wheel here. I personally have not seen a water quality report that would deem it necessary. If there is such a study done that suggests the need for sewer, then I would highly recommend that Chalotte County own and operate it. I question EU's experience in owning and operating a sewer facility and its infrastructure.

From a contractor who has built 10 -20 million gallon Wastewater Treatment Facilities, I can tell you that it is no easy task to run and maintain. I am also concerned that EU as a private for profit company lacking any competitive pricing, where as if the county would own and operate it there is an economy of scale with there existing facilities to minimize the costs.

That being said I am opposed to the project without a proven need for the service. There has been no evidence that supports a need for the service. The last time this subject cam up, Expert witnesses at the Administrative hearing refuted EU's arguments. Again no water quality testing has been done to suggest the need for the service.

I bought on the island over 10 years ago and have been visiting the island for over 25 years. What make Palm Island a special place is it uniqueness. The sandy roads, the slowed pace of life, the beautiful habitat and animals. Please consider the repercussions of high density development and the impact of the sewer. Our barrier islands are in the Rural Service Area. The Comp Plan mandates on-site septic systems for the Rural Service Area. So why would a privately owned utility be acceptable?

- Has there been an water quality / environmental study done on the impact of the current septic systems?
- EU's lack of experience in owning and running a sewer system should be a major concern.
- The impact to the island during construction would be tremendous. My company has installed over 1.1 million liner feet of utility pipe in West Central Florida. Installing the sewer system on Palm Island would be very unique / tedious and a major impact to the Island, its residents and the right of way and more so the traffic not to mention the impact to the Island itself.
- The impact to the environment from the proposed construction would be a large concern. The destructive nature of construction will highly likely have a negative impact on the gopher tortoise population.
- My company has installed gravity sewer/ Vacuum Sewer and Low pressure force mains throughout Manatee, Sarasota and Englewood water district. There would be an immense price tag for such a system to be installed on a barrier island with ingress/egress by means of a barge.
- COST, COST, COST!

Please consider the impact to our Island community and DENY EU's request for sewer.

Respectfully,

Michael Beukema

**Mike Beukema**  
Westra Construction Corp.  
President

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