

Yvette Gillespie

From: Office of Commissioner Fay
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032
Attachments: Fwd: Docket #20240032; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Denial of Docket #20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; EU's application for Waste Water service

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032

Thanks

Yvette Gillespie

From: Kathysickles <kathysickles@optonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:11 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Fwd: Docket #20240032

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathysickles <kathysickles@optonline.net>
Date: April 9, 2024 at 9:57:51 AM EDT
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us
Cc: commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us, commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us, commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Docket #20240032

Sent from my iPad

Kathleen Sickles
130 Kettle Harbor Drive
Placida FL 33946
Don Pedro Island
Kathysickles@optonline.net

I am writing to object to Environmental Utilities LLC and their certification for a central sewer system. I strongly appose the need for sewers on our islands. I have been on Don Pedro island for twenty years in two different homes and have never had any problems with the septic systems. I am retired and on a budget that would not be able to handle the added expenses involved in this project. There has not been any environmental problems caused by having septic systems, but I fear the altering of our properties and streets needed to complete this project would have a devastating effect on our environment. We are a quiet community extremely interested in preserving its natural beauty and do not need a disruption for something totally unnecessary.

Yvette Gillespie

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

Yvette Gillespie

From: Brian Fredley <bfredley@bpfdesign.com>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 2:52 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Alexis Martin Yoga; pie@palmislandstates.org
Subject: Denial of Docket #20240032-SU

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Attention: Clerk of the Commission

Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Property Owner: Brian P Fredley – Alexis Martin - Spirit Quest Family Revocable Trust

Property Address: 311 Bocilla Drive, Placida, FL 33946

Barrier Island: Don Pedro Island / Bocilla Island

Owner Email: bfredley@bpfdesign.com

Memo: We are vigilantly opposed to the denial of the Docket #20240032-SU

There is no evidence that this proposed service is needed for the island or property owners. The current septic systems that are on each owner's fee simple property are all permitted under the statutes of Florida and the Florida Building Code. All the properties on the island require the review and permitting from the Department of Environmental Protection to develop these septic systems to insure they are compliant with regards to perk rates, elevation, proximity to bodies of water and total make up. As a result, there is tremendous investment by each landowner to install and maintain their system. There is no advantage of abandoning this permitted, well working and non-problematic system that is in place.

The cost recovery of this sewer system would be passed on to the residents that would be forced to connect. The cost is estimated to be approx. \$ 13-14,000 per property and most do not have the resources to pay for this, not to mention the estimated \$ 265 monthly cost for the utility. Moreover, there would be additional costs to pumping out the existing septic systems or removal, cost of electrical for lift stations, if needed. Lastly, with the potential hurricanes, we currently can maintain our own systems with power outages since these are all gravity systems. With the potential for power outages during storm events; lift station sewer systems would have devastating backups unless generators could be employed, yet another cost to owners.

The environmental impact of bringing a sewer service on to the island would be devastating to the habitat and the individual properties, to say the least. There is an endangered species of animals on this island that should not be disturbed including Gopher Tortoise. We see and experience this wildlife on a daily basis on these properties. In addition, it would require each property owner to give up private property rights with easements. These easements would be where the heavy construction would occur and there would be substantial loss of trees, vegetation, widening roads and habitat. Finally, heavy equipment, traffic congestion and chaos would be occurring to try to do this project on our sand roads.

This island is not a high-density development zoning. Providing sewer encourages rezoning and lobbying to attempt to achieve higher density developments on this pristine barrier island. We are sincerely asking PSC to deny the EU's application for wastewater service. Moreover, this request is unjustified and unwarranted. There is no logical reason to

impact the island and all the properties with a private system that everyone is opposed to and destroy this natural Florida habitat. We are pleading with you to help protect our properties and this barrier island from this development and the domino of future development. There is a hidden agenda for this request, and we urge you to understand what this is.

There are very few natural barrier islands remaining in Florida; that are remarkably untouched, as this one is. This happens to be one of them.

We encourage you to visit our island before making any sort of decision and see for yourself the type of habitat and community we have. I will personally give you a tour of the island to show you these points made above and many more if given the opportunity,

Please call me on my cell to schedule or discuss, 386/212-9206

Thank you, Brian

Brian P. Fredley, President



207 Fairview Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Ph: 386/257-0502 Fx: 386/257-1050 E-mail: Bfredley@bpfdesign.com

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Yvette Gillespie

From: Carol Spyerer <carolcms@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 12:11 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU

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

This letter is to confirm that I did not request sewer service to 9274 Little Gasparilla Island or in any way approve of this private, for profit sewer service. I am asking that you deny EU's application for waste water service due to the timing, expense and easement issues.

At this present time my electrical lines have been on the ground since Hurricane Ian. Our road has been destroyed by heavy equipment by contractors which repair relies on the homeowner. Repairs to my damaged uninhabitable home is still in progress along with fighting insurance company. Many of my neighbors are still uninhabitable, awaiting repairs or a rebuild, even docks. Out of pocket expenses for repairs are triple the mainland prices causing more out of pocket expenses. Sewer prices are unrealistic too. The added expense of the sewer service and keeping it maintained preventing sewer back up (which is more damage) is daunting. Hard to keep anything electrical running at LGI. Workers have to be personally brought back and forth to LGI for repairs. Debris removal is expensive and we do not get help from the county for trash removal or have available containers near. Water service to date is unpredictable, causing pink film in toilet water and has a dirty color. So how can a sewer system be maintained privately? Drinking water is brought from the mainland which is an added expense. Right now there is a wait list to even get your septic pumped, and price includes barge and added expenses. Triple mainland prices. The septic company said that for future pumps the easement would have to be cleared from the over growth of trees that property owners have planted into the road easement that no one governs. Easements that are platted should not be the expense of all homeowners to clear.

Please do not allow this docket to pass. Especially as a private – for profit endeavor until further environmental testing and infrastructure is in place at the expense of the private owner requesting this septic to sewer application.

Maybe the commissioners can take a field trip to the island to understand my concerns before voting on this Docket #20240032-SU.

Please hear our concerns and issues,

Carol Speyerer
9274 LGI
carolcms@verizon.net

Yvette Gillespie

From: Dale L. Price <dcp3912@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: EU's application for Waste Water service

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docket # 20240032-SU,

Please deny EU's application for Waste Water service. There is no need for the service, environmentally or otherwise. We have concerns about probable high- density developments, the costs involved, and probable traffic congestion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dale and Carol Price
8428 and 8430 Little Gasparilla Island
dcp3912@gmail.com
3912 16th Ave. W.
Bradenton, FL 34205