

Antonia Hover

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:43 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket 20240032
Attachments: RE: RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-Su; Objection to Environmental Utilities, LLC's (EU) Plan for Installation of Central Sewer on Little Gasparilla Island

Good Afternoon:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Art Graham
Florida Public Service Commission
bleland@psc.state.fl.us
(850) 413-6024

From: [Amanda Small](#)
To: [Records Clerk](#)
Cc: [Office of Chairman La Rosa](#); [Office of Commissioner Clark](#); [Office of Commissioner Passidomo](#); [Office of Commissioner Graham](#); [Office of Commissioner Fay](#); [Edward Small](#)
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 1:12:26 PM

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Additionally, can be added to the docket as an Interested Person?

Sincerely,
Amanda Small
Red Rocks Technology Partners, LLC
303-952-4655
www.RedRocksTech.com

From: Amanda Small
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:44 PM
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us
Cc: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us; Edward Small <ed.small@redrockstech.com>
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Dear Clerk of the Commission,

We are writing to request the **DENIAL** of Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island. Quite simply: We love the island the way it is. We do not want to see a private entity “run” this utility for a profit. The out of pocket costs to us to implement and ongoing monthly fees and maintenance expenses would be burdensome now and especially so in a future fixed-income retirement.

To be more elaborate:

- 1) We don’t believe EU or any other entity has ever “proven a need” for a central sewer service. The septic systems that have been in place for YEARS have never been shown to cause any issues to us as homeowners or to the surrounding environment.
- 2) For the reasons stated above in #1 and more, we have not and would not request a sewer service to be established on the island.
- 3) There is great concern to us that EU is a private and for-profit utility. Utilities should never be run as for-profit organizations. Especially, one deceiving folks on the surface with an “Environmental” name. How is there transparency in a private company to its stakeholders?
- 4) EU’s lack of experience in owning a wastewater utility is of great concern. How can one man claim to suddenly know how to run a wastewater utility with no experience? It is my understanding his running of previous and current water utilities has been less than stellar

and honest.

- 5) The estimated out of pocket costs to us that would be mandatory up-front to establish service and then the outrageous monthly fees plus ongoing maintenance costs are egregious for anyone. They will be a burden to all current homeowners. They will deter future buyers here. They will devalue our properties and limit our pool of potential buyers as ongoing costs will have to be factored into total cost of ownership. Those wanting to live the final years of their lives here will be forced to look somewhere other than the island. With a private for-profit utility any initial monthly rates are going to rise every chance they can and for the maximum amount. This is not affordable to most folks here now or in the future FOR SEWER BILL ALONE.
- 6) Since Hurricane Ian struck our island hard, it has oftentimes felt like living in a war zone with all of the machinery and service folks doing repairs and rebuilding. We can't imagine what it will be like and for how long with heavy machinery tearing up our sandy roads and yards.
- 7) After Hurricane Ian, the island was without power for several days. How will we be able to flush our toilets or use water with the suggested sewer system during the next hurricane/extended power loss? And if there's flooding that takes out the generators needed to run the systems in a power outage?
- 8) As we live on an island only accessible by private ferry or personal boat, accessing and living on our island while any sewer systems are implemented would make this place unlivable for an extended period of time.
- 9) We have abundant wildlife on the island including gopher tortoises and bobcats and very fragile plant life. The destruction of this precious environment cannot be allowed.
- 10) We are fortunate enough to also own a vacant lot on the island that could provide us with a larger home to better match our needs. However, we (and any other future land owners wanting to build) would be crazy to start building now and pay several thousands of dollars and be approved to install a currently valid septic system. Then, find out that EU's application had been approved and we have to shell out many more thousands of dollars remove that new no longer valid septic system and connect to sewers. While this drawn out application continues, any wise landowner would self-impose a moratorium on building until the final decision is made. But, then is it REALLY final if denied a SECOND TIME, and Jack Boyer applies a THIRD TIME? When does this end?

We feel in love with this special island years ago and were fortunate enough to buy a small affordable house here before the housing market went out of control. This is the affordable house that we plan to retire in, but it won't be that with the costs of implementation, monthly bills, and ongoing maintenance or replacement of a sewer system. If we wanted sewers, density, and high rise condos with zero character, there are many other overbuilt islands and cities in Florida. We chose this place as it was and there is almost nothing that is needed to improve life here. That certainly isn't an overpriced privately run for-profit sewer! Please DENY Environmental Utilities request to install a central sewer on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island.

Sincerely,
Edward and Amanda Small
Amanda@redrockstech.com

Ed.Small@redrockstech.com

720-235-9289

Owners and full-time residents of 30 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida, FL 33946

Owners of an undeveloped lot at 12 Pointe Way, Placida, FL 33946

Palm Island/Don Pedro Island

Mailing Address: PO Box 652, Placida, FL 33946

From: tericummiskey.firetechequipment.com
To: [Records Clerk](#)
Cc: [Office of Chairman La Rosa](#); commissioner.clarke@psc.state.fl.us; [Office of Commissioner Passidomo](#); [Office of Commissioner Graham](#); [Office of Commissioner Fay](#)
Subject: Docket #20240032-Su
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 1:20:07 PM

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

Gentlemen

I am writing to you regarding the application for Certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

We are property owners at 8144 Little Gasparilla Island on Little Gasparilla island.

Most people are not familiar with Little Gasparilla Island. Our little island is remote and accessible only by boat, We have no roads, no streetlights, no commercial activity its basically an island of houses.

Environmental Utilities LLC is currently our water supplier. The installation of the water lines around the island is completely unprofessional and sub par. (See attached picture for reference looking toward neighbors at time of installation of water line) The water line that comes down to our home isn't even completely buried , maybe down 1 ft and is above ground at various places. I have seen that with others as well. Utility boxes that are half installed in the ground. The concern is if this is they way they ran water lines how are they going to run sewer lines? I highly suggest the commissioners send at team to the island to see all the challenges before considering this application. The island deals with flooding issues due to weather events (Hurricanes and Tropical Storms) and even some heavy rains can cause major flooding on our island.

Also I have see the plans for the Waste water system which is not a true sewer system. It seems it includes utilizing the property's existing septic systems and only pumping off the residual water. This does not solve the waste water problem on the island and the septic systems would still need to be pumped out and maintained as well as the high cost that Environmental Utilities LLC would be charging each homeowner for their system. At present the homeowners on the island are maintaining their systems and do not see a need for service. The water in our bays is thriving with aquatic life. The majority of homes can not afford a huge upfront cost \$12,000 and this would be a huge burden to the owners on the island who are still recovering from the wrath of Hurricane Ian. We have previously owned property in Big Coppitt Key just outside of Key West, when the sewer system was installed the homeowners were given the option to pay upfront or have the cost rolled into their real estate taxes to lesson the burden. As a home owner we do not have the luxuries that properties on the main land. We pay large amounts of real estate taxes while receiving no services, trash, lights, roads etc from the County.

I would highly suggest that a better job be done to ensure that IF a sewer project is done is done right the first time. Our eco system on LGI deserves the best protections available to allow the island to thrive as one of the last undisturbed by commercial development pieces

of Florida.

Respectfully

Teresa Cummiskey
8144 Little Gasparilla Island
941-268-1022

Antonia Hover

From: tericummiskey firetechequipment.com <tericummiskey@firetechequipment.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 1:19 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; commissioner.clarke@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-Su
Attachments: IMG_6416.jpg

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Respectfully

Teresa Cummiskey
8144 Little Gasparilla Island
941-268-1022



Antonia Hover

From: Barber, Carley <carley.barber@ifco.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:27 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Lisa Simmons; Steve Egan; simmonsrandy77@gmail.com
Subject: Objection to Environmental Utilities, LLC's (EU) Plan for Installation of Central Sewer on Little Gasparilla Island

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Good Afternoon Public Service Commission Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Carley Barber, and my family has deep roots on Little Gasparilla Island. My mother and father separately own two homes on the island (8230 Little Gasparilla, Placida, FL 33946 & 8270 Little Gasparilla, Placida, FL 33946). They both worked extremely hard and made other sacrifices in their lives so that their children and grandchildren could experience the unique place that is Little Gasparilla Island.

It is unfortunate that I am writing to you yet again to express my strong opposition to Environmental Utilities LLC's (EU) proposed application for wastewater service on our beloved island.

Little Gasparilla Island holds a special place in my heart and in the hearts of many others. Its unique charm, devoid of roads and cars, allows it to retain its pristine natural beauty. I have been coming to the island for over 30 years and I have witnessed the island's tranquil allure and the importance of preserving its unspoiled environment.

In my original letter, I outlined several concerns regarding EU's proposal, including the financial burden it would impose on homeowners and the potential damage to our fragile ecosystem. However, we now have the additional concern that further emphasizes the unsuitability of this project: the effect on the nesting pair of American bald eagles on the north end of the island.

As stewards of our environment, it is our responsibility to protect and respect the habitats of native species, which include the eagles, burrowing owls and many gopher tortoises. The installation and operation of wastewater equipment and services would undoubtedly disrupt the birds' nesting sites, as well as the gopher tortoises' burrows, jeopardizing their safety and survival. Such disruption is not only ethically unacceptable but also legally reprehensible under various environmental protection laws.

Furthermore, the adverse effects of this project extend beyond ecological concerns. The narrow paths and delicate vegetation of our island are ill-suited for the heavy machinery and service trucks required for wastewater installation. The potential destruction of these natural assets would not only diminish the island's aesthetic appeal but also infringe upon the property rights of homeowners. Under EU's plan, the homeowners would not be compensated for this use of their land or any of the landscaping and property destruction that would inevitably be caused by the equipment needed for wastewater installations. They are barely financially and emotionally recovering from the effects of last year's hurricanes on their island homes and under the proposed plan would be responsible for forking over an exorbitant amount for a service they don't want or feel is necessary.

I know that my family would face significant financial hardship due to the proposed wastewater installation. The initial costs and ongoing expenses imposed by EU, which are substantially higher than any other area in Florida, would force them to sell their properties, a devastating and unfair outcome for many people.

We believe that as county commissioners, it is your elected duty to represent your constituents. It is worth noting that aside from those who would personally financially benefit from EU's plan, there are few, if any, residents that have

expressed a need or want for this service on the island. This point reenforces the lack of genuine community support for the proposed wastewater service.

This wastewater service project does not make sense for Little Gasparilla Island. There have been no tests and no incidents to suggest that there are any quality issues with the water supply on or around the island. The community on the island has a small town feel and when one person is having a septic truck barged over to have their tank pumped, several others will plan together to have theirs done on the same day. Homeowners on the island talk to each other, help each other and take care of their homes and current septic systems appropriately. Approval of EU's application is going to force so many good, hard-working people off the island and cause an influx of big business, rental companies and new owners who do not appreciate what we have now.

In light of these considerations, I implore you to reject EU's application for wastewater service. The consequences of such a decision would be dire, not only for the residents of Little Gasparilla Island but also for the delicate ecosystem.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will make the right decision for the well-being of our island and its inhabitants.

Carley Barber

Manager, Customer Data Solutions



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