

**Hiep Nguyen**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 2:03 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032  
**Attachments:** Docket #20240032-Su; RE: RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Fwd: Docket #20240032-SU

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

Thank you!

## Hiep Nguyen

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**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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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 a 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 lessen 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









## Hiep Nguyen

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**From:** Amanda Small <amanda.small@redrockstech.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 1:12 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; Edward Small  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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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](http://www.RedRocksTech.com)

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**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](mailto:Amanda@redrockstech.com)

[Ed.Small@redrockstech.com](mailto: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

## Hiep Nguyen

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**From:** Bobbi Ruoss <ruoss1998@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 12:18 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Fwd: Docket #20240032-SU

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Bobbi Ruoss <[ruoss1998@gmail.com](mailto:ruoss1998@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Apr 15, 2024 at 12:12 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Docket #20240032-SU  
**To:** <[clerk@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:clerk@psc.state.fl.us)>  
**Cc:** <[Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us)>, <[Commissioner.Clark@psc.state](mailto:Commissioner.Clark@psc.state)>, <[Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state](mailto:Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state)>, <[Commissioner.Graham@psc.state](mailto:Commissioner.Graham@psc.state)>, <[Commissioner.Fay@psc.state](mailto:Commissioner.Fay@psc.state)>, <[mfriedman@deanmead.com](mailto:mfriedman@deanmead.com)>

Good afternoon,

I am writing regarding my opposition to the sewer project referenced in the above docket.

We own a home on Little Gasparilla Island. We have not asked for, nor see the need for, sewer service to the island.

We are concerned that Environmental Utilities LLC is a private, for-profit company with no experience with a wastewater utility.

The charges for installation being quoted to us are beyond our means, especially as we are still trying to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Ian.

The monthly charges seem to be incredibly high considering that we will still have to pay to have the solid waste holding tank cleaned out regularly.

Thank you for your consideration of the negative impact this project will have on all Islanders.

Roberta & Douglas Ruoss  
8434 Little Gasparilla Island