

April 9, 2024

TO: Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission

RE: Docket No. 20240032-SU Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

I am a current resident of Palm Island and I highly object to allowing Environmental Utilities to be granted permission or approval to provide wastewater services to the barrier islands of Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Island, and Knight Island all located in Charlotte County.

First, myself and other residents object to changing our current waste water systems to a sewer system that would be developed by a private-for-profit company. We are currently content with the Rural Service area. We are not looking to increase population or density to our small islands. The comp plan prohibits the county from installing a central sewer system but now you are open to the idea of a privately held company developing a central sewer system? No evidence has been provided that we need this service. Environmental's prospective customers are not interested and are highly opposed to a wastewater service provided by Environmental Utilities.

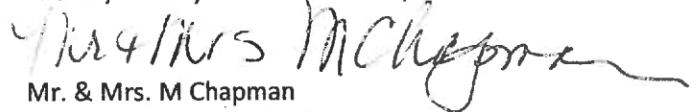
I do not wish to give up my rights, easements, and pay for these improvements, permits and any other cost associated with this development. The traffic and construction on our island would be horrific! I do not want a tank alongside my home or to give away an easement to provide access without any compensation. Nor do I want to pay for additional electrical that may be needed, cost of replacing my landscaping, removing the current septic tank or any other unforeseen costs associated with the huge undertaking. I am still suffering the effects of Hurricane Ian and the expense to rebuild my home after this horrific storm. I do not have the resources to pay for another expense. I am content with our island continuing to be a Rural Service area.

Also, Environmental Utilities does not have experience in developing or building a waste water system of this magnitude or running a wastewater utility company. They have provided a vague idea of what cost is associated with this project and are planning on charging the current residents to cover the cost! If the county is interested in attracting developers and increasing density, the county can pay to install a central sewer system.

Environmental Utilities was denied an application last year, so why is the county accepting another application from this company?

I request that you consider the taxpayer and residents of the barrier island opinions before you allow this private company to do whatever they choose and at any cost they see acceptable to charge the residents. Allowing this to take place would ruin the rural climate and wildlife home of so many animals that live on the barrier islands of Charlotte County.

Thank you for your consideration,



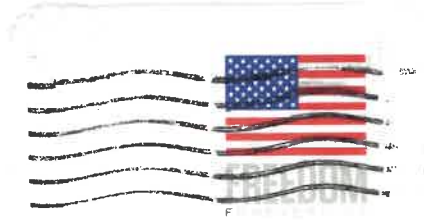
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