

Charlie Smith

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 9:39 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: Docket#20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket # 20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; For Centralized Sewer; Docket No: 20240032-SU

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning,

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032. Thank you!

Hannah E. Branum
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
[2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.](#)
[Tallahassee, FL 32399](#)
(850) 413-6004



Charlie Smith

From: Sally B Johnson <sbjohnson3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 7:52 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl
Subject: Docket#20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Sally Johnson. My husband and I have been residents of Knight Island (aka Palm Island), since 2004. We live at 120 N Gulf Blvd. Knight Island. We live on the only paved road on the Island. The rest of the roads are narrow sand roads. We live within the service district for the central sewer system being proposed by Environmental Utilities. ***I request that you deny EU's application.***

We have a home septic and we maintain it well. Our neighbors on either side of us and across the street do the same.

Our Island residents do not have lawns, We have natural vegetation and do not use fertilizer so we are not like golf courses and other areas in FL. contributing to the nitrogen levels.

Cost? There is no indication of the cost of this proposal.

Need? Where is the proof of our Island's contamination of the waters?

SEWAGE SYSTEMS FAIL:

EU is not the answer. I feel the only reason this is AGAIN coming up for a decision is for financial reasons.

Incompetence. I do not believe EU has the knowledge, skill, ability or competence to handle this HUGE responsibility.

If a central sewer HAS to be created then Charlotte County should be in charge, not EU.

Thank you for your time.

Sally Johnson

--comm

Sally B Johnson sbjohnson3@gmail.com

Charlie Smith

From: Sharon_saad <sharon_saad@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 4:16 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Cc: Records Clerk
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 17, 2024, at 10:45 AM, Sharon_saad <sharon_saad@yahoo.com> wrote:

Stewart & Sharon Saad
29 N Gulf Blvd
561 N Gulf Blvd
571 N Gulf Blvd

We have personally and professionally known Jack, Diane, and all the Boyer children in our 20+ years on Palm Island, we support treated wastewater and commend their continued efforts to improve the island like they always have.

Environmental Considerations

In our opinion, there is nothing more disgustingly irresponsible than to continually flush millions of gallons of human sewer waste into poorly maintained, uncertified, and decades old septic drain fields. Simply put, there is nothing more environmentally destructive island residents, renters, and owners can do to the water quality of our bays, canals, and subsoils of our lots and beaches.

Increasing Volumes

Time is of the essence for island sewer, the number of full-time residents and visitors to our island(s) has greatly increased over the last 5+ years, probably doubled; meaning the human waste volumes have doubled over historic levels. The environmental impacts of the dramatic increase in sewer volumes should be addressed, the impacts of raw sewer being dumped into islands groundwater system should not be ignored any longer.

Sent from my iPhone

Charlie Smith

From: Meighan Kerr <meighank@coloradomaterialsinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:19 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Mike Riley
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Importance: High

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Dear Government Representatives,

I am writing in regard to the above-mentioned docket number regarding the installation of centralized sewer to Knight and Don Pedro Islands, also referred to as Palm Island.

I am a property owner on Knight Island – I own a home at 18 Bayshore Circle as well as two empty lots at 16 and 36 Bayshore Circle. I am adamantly opposed to this request by EU to provide wastewater services to our islands and ask that you deny the request.

I have owned this property since 2017 and the septic systems we currently have in place are more than adequate for the needs of our islands. In 2022, I replaced my septic drain field at a personal cost of \$17,440. If this request is granted, I will now be responsible for an additional initial investment of approximately \$13,500, not including the required expensive electrical panel upgrades, and my \$17,440 investment becomes worthless. These costs are in addition to the high costs most of us islanders are currently dealing with because of major damage caused by Hurricane Ian. I am using every bit of extra cash and available credit that I have access to to make these repairs and do not have the ability to come up with the additional unnecessary funds. I will also then be responsible for monthly estimated costs of \$250 for a service that isn't needed nor wanted by the islanders. This is a seasonal home for me and I am already on the verge of having to sell it and walk away due to the current costs without considering these additional unnecessary costs.

Power outages on the island are common, and when the power goes out it can take a significant amount of time to get it running again since the ferry often cannot run when the weather is severe enough to cause outages. The pump associated with this new wastewater system would not work for extended power outages while the current septic system works as long as necessary regardless of power.

Due to Hurricane Ian in 2022, we are already seeing drastically increased ferry wait times due to the construction crews needed to perform repairs. It is currently not uncommon to wait an hour or more to get on the ferry due to this increased traffic. As repairs are still being done, this is expected to continue for quite a while. Adding a whole additional group of construction vehicles would make this even worse and cause ferry wait issues for years to come while this unnecessary construction is completed.

From an environmental perspective, there has been no testing done to prove there is actual need for the new system. Equipment would be sensitive to the salt air and could require replacement as often as every 5 years, again at extensive cost to the islanders. And if there is a failure, a sewage spill into the Intracoastal would cause major and long-term environmental issues to the entire area. The current septic system is not broken and has no current environmental downside.

Again, I am asking you to reject the request of EU to provide wastewater services to the Don Pedro and Knight Islands community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Meighan Kerr, CPA
Controller
CFO
Colorado Materials, Inc

Charlie Smith

From: bgillan@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:56 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioner Clark,

My name is Bill Gillan, and I am a property owner on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to object to the proposal by EU to install a central sewer system on Don Pedro Island, and to formally request that the Public Service Commission deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

I am objecting to EU's proposal for several reasons:

1. The project is poorly planned and the finances necessary for a project of this magnitude cause me grave concern. EU has not addressed how the system would be serviced in the event of failure, for instance during a storm or other event. There is no performance bond required and no single point of general oversight and recourse for the project in the event of cost overruns or project failure. This lack of planning could prove to be catastrophic for our island.
2. The cost to each homeowner is unreasonable and burdensome. The current estimated cost of hook-up for each homeowner is over \$13,000 and the average cost per month is over \$207.00 per month. This amount does not include the landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area that would need to be cleared at our expense, and an electric panel for the system pump will have to be installed by a licensed electrician which will also be at our expense. We would also be responsible for replacing equipment when needed which could be often since salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. These are expenses we were not planning on or made aware of when we purchased our house on Don Pedro Island. This creates an unnecessary financial hardship on me and other homeowners on the island, especially since EU's proposal does not include a pay-over-time option. We would be unfairly forced to take loans to cover the costs for a project that the residents do not want.
3. There is no proven need for a central sewer system to be installed on the island and no water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This unnecessary project would result in the destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species that make our island a unique and beautiful place to live. Additionally, the risk is a high for a central sewer leak affecting the Intracoastal waterway.
4. Lastly, our barrier islands are located in the Rural Service Area. The Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan mandates on-site septic systems for the Rural Service Area. Now they are insisting that the Comp Plan prohibits the County from installing central sewer, but not a privately owned utility. A project of this magnitude should be completed by county resources and oversight if it is deemed necessary.

Currently the county is restricted from installing a central sewer system as a rural service area. A private company without adequate financing and wherewithal to complete a massive undertaking could cause all island residents undo harm and cause catastrophic damage to the environment.

There are numerous other reasons for EU's proposal to be denied, but the fact is that the risks of going forward with this project far outweigh the benefits. I hope you will consider the impacts on the homeowners of Don Pedro Island who will be greatly affected by this needless and poorly planned project, as well as the detrimental impacts to our unique island environment, and deny EU's application for wastewater service that the residents of Don Pedro do not want.

Thank you,

Bill Gillan

bgillan@comcast.net

Charlie Smith

From: mjgillan@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:29 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioner Clark,

My name is Mary Gillan, and I am a property owner on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to object to the proposal by EU to install a central sewer system on Don Pedro Island, and to formally request that the Public Service Commission deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

I am objecting to EU's proposal for several reasons:

1. The cost to each homeowner is unreasonable and burdensome. The estimated cost of hook-up for each homeowner is over \$13,000 and the average cost per month is over \$178.00 per month. Also, landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area will need to be cleared at our expense, and an electric panel for the system pump will have to be installed by a licensed electrician which will also be at our expense. We would also be responsible for replacing equipment when needed which could be often since salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. These are expenses we were not planning on or made aware of when we purchased our house on Don Pedro Island. This creates an unnecessary financial hardship on me and other homeowners on the island, especially since EU's proposal does not include a pay-over-time option. We would be unfairly forced to take loans to cover these costs.
2. There is no proven need for a central sewer system to be installed on the island. This unnecessary project would result in the destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species that make our island a unique and beautiful place to live. Additionally, the risk is high for a central sewer leak affecting the Intracoastal.
3. The project is poorly planned. EU has not addressed how the system would be serviced in the event of failure, for instance during a storm or other event. There is no performance bond required and no single point of general oversight and recourse for the project in the event of cost overruns or project failure. This lack of planning could prove to be catastrophic for our island.

There are numerous other reasons for EU's proposal to be denied, but the fact is that the risks of going forward with this project far outweigh the benefits. I hope you will consider the impacts on the homeowners of Don Pedro Island who will be greatly affected by this needless and poorly planned project, as well as the detrimental impacts to our unique island environment, and deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you,

Mary Gillan
mjgillan@comcast.net

Charlie Smith

From: Julie Imig <julie.imig@imig-llc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 12:59 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Records Clerk; george@shopnnonclin.com
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

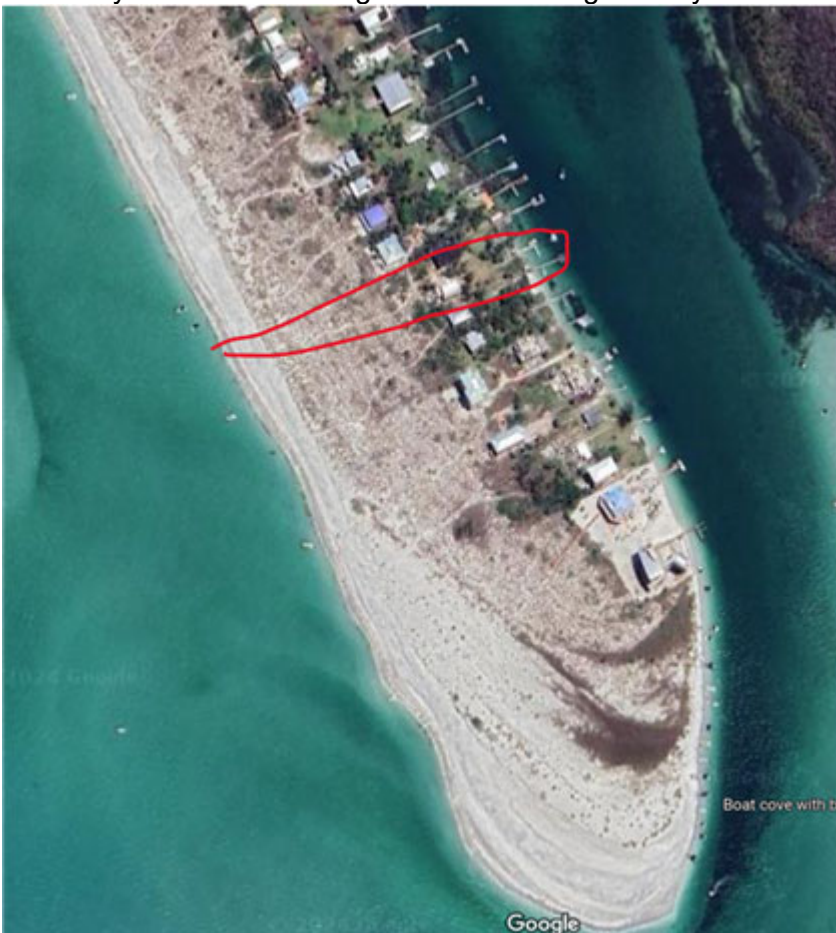
Commissioners:

My name is Julie Imig and I am a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island (9866 Little Gasparilla Island).

I am writing to request that the PSC deny EUs application for wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island, as well as other related barrier islands

My objections to this project are as follows:

- 1) There is no demonstrated need for a sewer system on our island that I am aware of.
- 2) This project was recently rejected by the State Commissioners, and I am unaware of any changes to circumstances considered at that time which would lead to a different conclusion.
- 3) Our property is on the south end of Little Gapsaprilla Island, and extends from the bay on the east side to the beach on the west with no road or access, even by golf cart. There are a number of properties on this end of the island which have no road access whatsoever. The disruption to our park-like property, which is home to native plant and animal species, required to install and maintain a sewer system is concerning. I don't wish to grant any easements for this project



- 4) Our power supply is frequently interrupted on the island due to weather. It is unrealistic to think this would not have an impact on the proposed sewer system.
- 5) As I understand it, we would still need to have a tank similar to our current septic tank which would need to be pumped (at whose expense?). I believe this system only eliminates need for a leach field
- 6) EU has no experience jinstalling or maintaining a sewer system of any kind, let alone a system which needs to be designed to minimize disturbance to a pristine barrier island, and to overcome any challenges operating a system exposed to the elements.
- 7) All equipment subjected to the salt, wind and sun found on a barrier island would be subject to rapid corrossions/failure, including the pipe underneath the intercoastal waterway
- 8) The cost of installation, hook-up is high and without a pay over time plan, (\$13.5k upfront costs)
- 9) The proposed monthly service fee of \$115 is more than double that of [Charlotte County run services](#) of \$40.41 base charge. Cost per 1000 gallons for proposed project is \$39.64 compared to Charlotte County's 5.63/1000 gallon charge.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I invite you to come to the island to get a better understanding of the unique needs of our bridgeless barrier island as you consider this re-application.

Sincerely,

Julie Imig
9866 Little Gasparilla Island
PO box 64
Placida, FL 33946

Charlie Smith

From: Piatkowski Shannon <Shannon.Piatkowski@hcahealthcare.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 12:59 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: spiatkow02@gmail.com
Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU

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Hello,

I'm a homeowner on Don Pedro Island, at 19 Palm Dr., I recently received a notice of application by Environmental Utilities, LLC to bring wastewater services to our island. I kindly request that you please deny this application for wastewater services. I'll be totally transparent in telling you that probably unlike many other property owners on the island, I mostly disapprove of this application because I simply cannot afford the costs associated with sewer connection, and then deconstruction of our existing septic. My husband and I are working class citizens who work in healthcare. For 30 years my husband I dreamed of owning on Palm Island. We literally saved every penny we had and made it a life goal to afford to purchase there some day. After spending our entire savings we were finally able to purchase a home, then hurricane Ian hit, we are self-insured and spend every spare dime to maintain and reconstruct our tiny slice of paradise. I'm beyond frustrated that someone can simply put in an application to bring a service that I don't need or want, and I could be forced to pay thousands I don't have simply so that they can profit of myself and others.

If for some reason you choose to approve, for reasons I would likely not understand, I would instead ask that you allow those of us with existing septic tanks to be grandfathered and not forced or mandated to connect to the sewer.

Shannon Piatkowski
813-376-2383
19 Plam Dr.
Placida, FL

Charlie Smith

From: joe.noto@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 12:33 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
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk of Commission and Commissioners LaRosa, Clark, Passidomo, Graham, and Fay,

My name is Joe Noto and I live at 181 N. Gulf Blvd. #10, Placida, Florida 33946 on Palm Island. I apologize for the length of this email, but this central sewer / wastewater service project is unnecessary and wrong for so many reasons. And the PUC, having heard all the arguments a couple years ago, did not grant approval of the application. But now we have to go through this costly process again. This is simply not right or fair.

The central sewer system proposed by Environmental Utilities will have a significant negative impact on me, the environment, and our community. As a homeowner in the proposed service area. **I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service, and they be prohibited from applying again if it is denied.** We went through this lengthy and costly process once before, and there was ample support and evidence for not approving the EU application. I'm not sure anything has changed; so it's very troublesome that we now have to go through it again. Seems to imply this will never end, and that's simply not right or fair.

Please read my concerns below so that you understand why **I strongly oppose the central sewer system proposed by Environmental Utilities (EU).**

1. I am opposed to the installation of a central sewer by a privately owned, for-profit utility. Charlotte County is abdicating its responsibility to a private operator who has never owned a wastewater utility company before.
2. There has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. I have not requested, nor do I need this unnecessary system.
3. Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service.

- a. Previously, the Final Order released by the PSC on this very matter stated: "noting the level of opposition to EU's proposal by its prospective customers, we find that customers are highly unlikely to voluntarily connect to EU's system."
 - b. As a public official, I would like to think you do things in the best interests of your constituents. This project is certainly not in the best interests of your constituents.
4. I cherish our environment, and you should too.
- a. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove the need for a central sewer system.
 - b. This project could very easily have a negative impact on, and interfere with, the habitat of endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.
 - c. The risk of a central sewer leak into the intercoastal waterway seems greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.
5. I am concerned about the ability of Environmental Utilities to financially handle this project, and adequately maintain such a system. I have not been provided any information about the financial history, stability or viability of Environmental Utilities and their management team.
6. I am also concerned as to whether Environmental Utilities has the technical expertise and capability to handle such a project.
- a. To the best of my knowledge, EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer systems.
 - b. It is my understanding that Environmental Utilities has not provided adequate information on how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions.
 - c. What experience do they have with other wastewater systems?
7. I am concerned about the costs of this **unnecessary and unwanted project**. My current system costs about \$20 per month (about \$700 to have my tank pumped every three years) Given what I've seen, it appears the EU system will cost me at least \$350 per month (amortize the \$12,000 initial hook up cost over 10 years, plus monthly service, plus the same periodic pumping) plus unknowns (c, d, e, and f below). Without the unknowns this is a 1,750% (one thousand seven hundred fifty percent) increase. That's ludicrous and irresponsible.
- a. Initial hook up cost. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.
 - b. Monthly service costs. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
 - c. Cost for a separate electrical panel. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

- d. Cost for a generator to ensure there is no sewage back up during a power outage (which we experience frequently). The system's grinder pump will probably not function long without power. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
 - e. I am concerned about the life of the equipment installed by Environmental Utilities and their ability to maintain it. This could result in future charges to homeowners because of the needed repair costs. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
 - f. Cost to replace existing (more than "basic") landscaping that will be destroyed digging out my existing septic tank, putting in an EU septic tank, and running sewage lines. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
 - g. Cost to have the EU tank pumped out periodically as I currently do. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$. If my existing system is replaced by EU tank, they should be required to pay to have it pumped out. It would be their system.
 - h. In summary, this unnecessary and unwanted project will be very costly to me and a lot of other homeowners who live on a fixed income. It will only further burden us, coming at a time when we're dealing with high inflation and soaring costs on top of Hurricane Ian repairs.
8. Also, it is my understanding that EU wants a utility easement, at no cost to them, that will go through my property from the tank that would be located near my house to the connection to the sewer line near the main road. This is my property, and I should not be forced to grant a free easement for this **unnecessary and unwanted project**.
9. It is my understanding that our island is in the Rural Service Area which supposedly is not designed for commercial / high-density development. It appears this project is designed to encourage and attract commercial / high-density development which is certainly not in the best interest of residents.
10. There is, and will continue to be, a lot ferry traffic for the existing level of residents, renters and tourists, along with the construction traffic related to re-building from the hurricane, and new construction. This has made wait lines / times for the ferry unpredictable and ridiculously long. The heavy equipment and materials needed on the island for this project would make this situation even worse for a very long time.

The **central sewer system proposed by Environmental Utilities will have a significant negative impact on me, the environment, and our community**. As a homeowner in the proposed service area. **I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service, and they be prohibited from applying again if it is denied.**

Sincerely,

Joe Noto

574-904-7224

joe.noto@comcast.net

Charlie Smith

From: Trudy Lombard <trudy414@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 12:05 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: For Centralized Sewer

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> Dear Commissioner,

>

> I am very not usually one to take the time to send out emails to government officials, however, this matter has me completely baffled and quite upset. The health and safety of those living on Little Gasparilla Island is at a terrible risk. Seventeen people died after Hurricane Ian due to wastewater related issues. ONE person dying is too many, let alone SEVENTEEN. Environmental experts have been to the island and confirmed that the situation there is a health hazard, therefore it should be MANDATORY that septic is removed and centralized sewer is put in. Why should homes located on our most fragile environment NOT have centralized wastewater when the rest of the county does? Why is it a choice? It makes zero sense. As a taxpaying citizen of Charlotte County and a frequent boater and beach-goer, I am asking that you correct this matter of urgency before the seventeen lives lost turns into eighteen. I certainly couldn't live with that on my conscience, can you?

Charlie Smith

From: Jeffrey Bashore <jeffreybashore@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 11:58 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Mel; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket No: 20240032-SU

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Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Public Service Commissioners,

Thank you for once again providing an opportunity for public input from residents who would be directly impacted by the proposed wastewater plan included in Docket #20240032-SU.

Mr. Boyer and Environment Utilities are back again with the same deeply flawed plan that was rightfully denied by the Commission just two years ago. Only two things have changed from my perspective.

1) Mr. Boyer made a point to obtain the formal support of Charlotte County, where he maintains cozy relationships. If there is a true need for a sewer system for barrier islands the county should take responsibility to install a proper high pressure system that does not leave solids on site at each home. Charlotte County does not want take on the financial or administrative burden for managing the installation. They appear to be all too happy for anyone else to step forward to do their job for them, even if that is done for profit on the back of the community or with an improper system for the stated purpose.

2) Our community has very recently been devastated by Hurricane Ian, a horrific category five storm in late 2022. Every resident continues to struggle with the aftermath in some manner to this day; the economic and emotional impact has been life altering for many homeowners. There couldn't be a worse time to lay a massive financial burden on the community, particularly where it would not achieve a proven environmental benefit.

We plead for your consideration in once again rightfully DENYING the application from Environmental Utilities. Our four primary points of objection are included below:

A) There is no proven need for the proposed sewer system
- There are no proven need for the installation of sewer. No studies have been conducted/published to demonstrate that water pollution is occurring as a result of residential septic systems.

B) Even if there was a proven need this is the WRONG system
- The proposed system is deeply flawed. It contains multiple points of failure and would be even more susceptible to failure during extreme weather than properly managed residential septic systems.

- The proposed low pressure system continues to hold solids on site. It does not solve for current challenges with pump outs on bridgeless barrier islands.

C) Environmental Utilities lacks the experience, capital or community trust to take on this endeavor

- The utility has zero experience with installing or maintaining a wastewater system.
- They currently struggle to maintain consistent, safe freshwater service without frequent outages, water contamination and poorly communicate boil water notices. In their ~20 years of operation they have failed to earn the public trust.
- Environmental utilities currently imposes some of the highest, if not the highest, water rates in the state. They recently increased rates again to the maximum amount possible without holding administrative hearings. It is estimated that they currently mark up the cost of water provided by over 100%.

D) There is no environmental benefit that justifies the crippling economic impact

- The initial installation and hook up estimates of \$13K per home (which are likely grossly underestimated) would be a financial death blow to residents who have recently endured recovering and rebuilding from one of the worst hurricanes in Florida's recent history.
- Many homeowners would be forced to sell. It would adversely impact the most financially vulnerable residents and reshape our community likely leading to more high intensity rentals and overdevelopment.
- The installation of the system would further exacerbate the destruction of delicate natural ecosystems in some of the final vestiges of wild Florida. In particular, the protected gopher tortoise population was highly impacted by the sudden coastal flooding caused by Hurricane Idalia in August, 2023.

In closing, I would reiterate that Environmental Utilities continues to fail to meet their obligation of demonstrating a need for the service, providing an appropriate proposed system that would actually solve for risks and challenges associated with residential septic systems and finally this is not an organization that has the experience, proper capital or community trust to get this right. We compel you to do the right thing once again and DENY this deeply flawed application from Environmental Utilities.

For your reference our prior correspondence to the Committee is included below. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jeff and Melissa Bashore

8738 Marsh Street, Little Gasparilla Island

8728 Grande Avenue, Little Gasparilla Island (preserved/undeveloped lots)

From: Jeffrey Bashore <jeffreybashore@gmail.com>

Date: March 15, 2022 at 9:01:40 PM CDT

To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>, Records Clerk <CLERK@psc.state.fl.us>, Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us,

Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us

Cc: Mel <melbashore@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Public Service Commissioners,

Thank you all for providing an opportunity for island residents to share their input about this incredibly impactful proposed project that would have a profound impact on the environment and our homes. Commissioner Clark - I personally appreciate that you took the time to acknowledge our family's written response.

You have a difficult decision on your hands. We fully recognize the desire and public interest in connecting the barrier islands to an effective sewer system. We are strong advocates for clean water and leaving a thriving ecosystem behind for our children.

I plead with you to recognize that the current application is so deeply flawed that it will only cause significantly greater environmental damage while also financially devastating island residents and ripping up our unspoiled ecological dreamland.

The proposed low pressure sewer system will only greatly exacerbate the problems that exist today with private septic systems. With multiple points of failure in the system at every home we are merely one storm and an extended power outage away from seeing massive water pollution after millions of dollars of taxpayer dollars are completely wasted.

As any island resident will tell you, the elements on the barrier islands are severe. They take a rapid, hard toll on everything, particularly electrical components. The concept of leaving solid waste behind in tanks and depending on hundreds to thousands of properly operating electric pumps to siphon off liquid waste is so broken at it's core that it is hard imagine that a knowledgeable, rational person could even propose it as a viable solution.

The many deeply flawed elements of the proposed system design are terrible enough that they should never see the time of day in a hearing in front of you. That is before you begin to consider that the applicant, Mr. Boyer, has the exact same amount of experience as me and most other island residents when it comes to installing and maintaining a large scale sewer system - absolutely zero. He not only lacks the experience but he also lacks the answers to critical questions about the planning, costs and logistics related to the massive infrastructure project.

The water utility that Mr. Boyer operates charges some of the highest rates in the state, has frequent outages, fails to properly distribute boil water notices and is considered unreliable by those in his service area. He lacks the experience and capital to make this project a success. It is a foregone conclusion that if he is granted the sewer permit that it will be a devastating outcome.

In closing, we personally appeal to you as a parents and environmental enthusiasts. Like our neighbors, we have a deep love for preserving some of our most pristine, unspoiled environmental treasures in Florida. We want to do our best to leave our barrier islands in better condition than we found them for future generations. The proposed project would permanently impact our islands and leave the future for our homes and neighbors in great uncertainty. That is a huge price to pay for a solution that would not have a chance of solving the stated problem even under the best of circumstances and outcomes.

Regards,
Jeff and Melissa Bashore
8738 Marsh Street
Placida, FL 33946

(484) 769-4870

On Mar 15, 2022, at 1:47 PM, Office of Commissioner Clark
<Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us> wrote:

Dear Mr. and Ms. Bashore,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC- Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to [FloridaPSC.com](https://www.floridapsc.com), where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Bashore <jeffreybashore@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:11 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: Mel <melbashore@gmail.com>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Jeffrey & Melissa Bashore
8738 Marsh Street
Placida, FL 33946
Jeffreybashore@gmail.com

January 21, 2022

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

I am a property owner at 8738 Marsh Street on Little Gasparilla Island, which is a property within the service area of the proposed central sewer system, Docket #20200226-SU.

I formally object and request that PSC deny Environment Utilities (EU) application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

While I feel strongly that the barrier islands and low lying inland areas of the state should be swiftly migrated to a sewer system to protect our fragile ecosystem, I am concerned that the current proposal is deeply flawed.

Turning a project of this magnitude over to an LLC that has zero experience with installing or operating a sewer system is unacceptable. Environment Utilities lacks both the experience as well as the capital to take responsibility for the proposed massive undertaking that will impact some of the most delicate, unspoiled areas of the SW Florida coast. The proposed solution leaves many critical questions unanswered about right-of-way access and how the many points of failure involved with a 'low pressure' sewer system would be effectively managed in the harsh climate presented on the barrier islands.

Charlotte County should be held responsible to implement and manage the project directly. It is clear that they are trying to find any bidder to insulate them from the obligations of managing this important work. Turning this over to an inexperienced, under-capitalized, for-profit LLC with the county maintaining no accountability for the outcome is not the right move for the environment, property owners in the affected areas or the citizens and visitors of Florida at large.

Regards,
Jeff and Melissa Bashore

Regards,
Jeff

(484) 769-4870
Sent from my iPhone