

Charlie Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Fay
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 1:16 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032-SU
Attachments: RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; In Support of Docket No. 20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket No: 20240032-SU; DOCKET 20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; Request For Wastewater Service : Docket #20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; New Docket #20240032-SU ; RE. Docket # 20240032-SU

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032

Thanks

Charlie Smith

From: Gary Galloway <garudy54@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 4:30 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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We, homeowners on Don Pedro Island, are writing to ask the PSC to **deny** Environmental Utilities LLC application for wastewater service for the following reasons:

1. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewers. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.
2. We have not requested sewer service on the Island.
3. We are concerned that EU is a private, for-profit utility company and therefore is not accountable to anyone. If problems arise, residents have no direct recourse for addressing issues.
4. EU has no experience owning a wastewater utility and that is very concerning. We do NOT want to be their guinea pig project.
5. We are concerned with the costs involved in doing this project. Since EU has no experience doing a project like this, they have no history of information on which to base the costs involved. They are only guessing what the costs will be for homeowners.
6. EU has **not** included in the cost projection the following:
 - *The burden to homeowners of having a licensed electrician install an electrical panel to handle the system pump.
 - * The grinder pump has a limited capacity (60 gal) and in the event of a power outage will be unable to function for long. Homeowners will need a generator to keep the system running to avoid sewage back-up.
 - * Landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area will need to be cleared at the expense of the homeowner to gain access to crush & fill the septic tank.

The PSC ruled on this proposal in 2022 and nothing has changed since that ruling. The Islands residents don't want a private entity sewer system and Mr. Boyer and EU are not experienced in this type of utility. **Please deny this application once again.**

Gary and Judy Galloway

180 S. Gulf Blvd.

Don Pedro Island

garudy54@hotmail.com

Charlie Smith

From: Robin Turner <robinturner63@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 11:42 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Good day Commissioners and State officials:

This email is in reference to docket #20240032-SU. As a homeowner/property owner on Little Gasparilla Island at 9506 Don Jose Court, we formally OBJECT to the EU's Application for certification of wastewater services. We are asking the PSC to DENY the application.

As there are many many reason to DENY this application, I personally feel the expenses which would occur such as:

- The hook-up cost alone would be such a financial strain that it would force us to sell and move from LGI or cause much financial hardship in our older years.
- The electrical would a separate electric panel, installed by a licensed electrician at the expense of the homeowner. If I was maxed out on my main electric grid with pool equipment or other large-draw items, the panel would need an expensive upgrade.
- Landscaping cost – removal of trees and other landscaping would be an owner expense
- Expense of the crushing and filling of my existing septic tank and installation of new one.
- Disruption of our island life – increase traffic with construction vehicles

A question for the commissioners:

1. Has there been water quality testing done which would prove the need for a sewer system?
2. What is the plan for right-of-way or easements? What rights are we give up?
3. Is there a need of this service? What evidence has been provided to support the need for service?

As stated above, please DENY the EU's application. LGI does not need sewer management from outside.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Charlie Smith

From: Allison Smith <allisoncluen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 11:10 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
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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

To whom it may concern,

As homeowners on Don Pedro Island, Florida we, Blake and Allison Smith (Smith Beef Co., LLC) **Strongly OPPOSE** the proposed central sewer.

We are formally requesting that the PSC **DENY** EU's application for wastewater service.

We do not want this service, we do not need this service nor do we unnecessarily want to financially burden ourselves or physically disrupt this very quaint and special island.

What makes Don Pedro Island so special is that it is quiet, private, easy to get to and relatively untouched. Installing a central sewer on the island will completely disrupt the island life we sought out when purchasing this home. It will adversely affect our ability to rent our home when we are not using it, the ferry to and from the island will have long waits and there is not extra space on the island to use as staging for major equipment and supplies.

If it's not broken don't fix it! PLEASE, PLEASE deny EUs application for wastewater service.

Sincerely,

Blake and Allison Smith
Smith Beef Company, LLC
35 Palm drive (Don Pedro Island, FL)

Charlie Smith

From: Sandy MacKinnon <smackinnonadm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 10:42 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Palm Estates; Robin Madden; Beach To Bay Larry And Lucy Herman
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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From: Sandy MacKinnon <smackinnonadm@gmail.com>
Date: April 17, 2024 at 4:23:00 PM EDT
To: "A.D MacKinnon." <smackinnonadm@gmail.com>
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Good Day to all

My name is Alex D Mackinnon and I own two properties covered under the above Docket number both located on Don Pedro Island with corresponding address of 400 S gulf Blvd and unit 28 South gulf blvd having owned correspondingly for 27 Years and 35 years. Both of these properties are second homes which I own and are used as such for our family , obviously part time. I might add that the majority or units or homes on the island are used as second homes and therefore DO NOT have the normal flow of waste water into the septic systems. In addition perhaps a year ago I saw a county vehicle at the end of my one driveway and he was walking the septic system. Nice guy, I inquired as to the “Why” and he explained he was checking for leaching and that he checked all systems periodically for that. I further asked if there are problems on the island with leaching , and he said “no”. That in its self should be a testimony and reason for the PSC to check with the EPA or whoever as to their findings and search further into the minds of those who are suggesting what is being suggested.

In short, I do not feel a need for a central sewer system. When one examines the proposal, the provider and their credentials, the costs and the benefits, there are NO winners except an inexperienced contractor . The extremely critical element, should this contractor fail the county, the state or the PCS as I understand it does not backup and become the safety net of the island and run the system. I have had septic systems and lift stations my entire life and the most reliable are those with no moving parts is by far the best septic system. The engineering “nightmare” that is purposed for each condo or house is a mechanical, high maintenance, non reliable system that becomes the owner’s responsibility. Usually this type of system is used in more remote areas or where gravity of flow is not available . Definitely not practical for every house ,condo factory or office building.

Having said the above the following is my simple response to the proposal:

1. There is not a proven need for the proposed system
2. I know of no others who have requested such.

3. I am very concerned as are others that EU is a private company for profit, with little or no experience or a track record in what they are proposing, or any track record on waste disposal . Has the PSC or anyone checked the credit records of the company and experience that you can share with the homeowners on the subject provider??
4. Who is responsible for rate setting and over all government guidelines to make sure the users are being looked after and not being taken advantage of?
5. Does the provider propose a sewage treatment on the island and if so where? Nasty stuff usually not in residential neighborhoods or tourists destination.

In summary, this is a very pristine set of islands who pay much of our own way in there is no bridge to access the islands. We have participated with the county on internal bridges to cross island canals, fire and EMS we help to absorb county costs and even shell roads, paying for trips on a private barge \$50. Round trip and in most cases pay non homestead taxes because of a good majority of the properties are second homes. We definitely pay a lot of our own way.

I would plead with you being a avid boater ,fisherman water front property owner and an Absolute love of clean waters and waterways to put all your efforts into protecting the water we all love from the cities who periodically have wastewater accidents or when heavy rains over load the sewer systems , or the phosphate pits in manatee county brake thru the dykes and overflow into our bays and streams and spend monies or efforts on the huge red tide fish kills that line our shores and drive owners or tourists away and kill thousands of fish that all of the sport fisherman love and Commercial fisherman starve when the red tide comes to our waterways . Lets fix a few of those before fixing something that is not broken—PLEASE

I respectfully submit this as a property owner and a business owner who has delt with all of the above and feels strongly about our enviornment. This project in the writers opinion is not worthy of any further consideration and I would plead with you and your colleagues to reconsider that fact we on those little islands do not need what is being proposed .

Respectfully submitted,

Mr Sandy Mackinnon

PS

I did not intentionally leave Commissioner Pssidomo or Graham off the list but was unable to find the proper email for them. If you could please forward to them it would be appreciated

A.D. “Sandy” MacKinnon
CEO ADM Family LTD
Property Management / Consulting
334 Blanca Avenue
Tampa FL 33606
Cell: [\(813\) 629-6266](tel:8136296266)
Smackinnonadm@gmail.com

Charlie Smith

From: Cathy Derr <cathy@gwamarillo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 9:45 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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My name is Cathy Derr and I am the property owner at 530 N. Gulf Blvd. on Don Pedro Island/Palm Island.

I would like it recorded that I strongly oppose the proposed central sewer.

I do not wish to have a central sewer. I prefer to keep my septic

I am formally requesting that the PSC **deny** EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you!
CBD Investments LLC
Cathy Derr
530 N. Gulf Blvd
33946

Charlie Smith

From: Sharon_saad <sharon_saad@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 4:18 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Cc: Records Clerk
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 17, 2024, at 10:35 AM, Sharon_saad <sharon_saad@yahoo.com> wrote:

Stewart & Sharon Saad
29 N Gulf Blvd - Palm Island
561 N Gulf Blvd - PI
571 N Gulf Blvd - PI

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: Sharon_saad <sharon_saad@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 4:18 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Cc: Records Clerk
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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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: mjgillan@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:31 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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

Commissioner Fay,

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: bgillan@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioner Fay,

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: 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: Don Reynolds <apexmortgagebrokers@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 6:14 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: In Support of Docket No. 20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioner,

I wanted to express my support of a new wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island and Don Pedro and Knight Island.

I own lot:

I have several reasons for converting from Septic Tanks to a Wastewater system for handling raw sewage.

- **Hurricane Ian caused flooding bringing raw sewage from septic tanks to the standing water on the island** (The path was dead center between Little Gasparilla Island and Gasparilla Island (Boca Grande)).
-

With flooding on the island many septic tanks were releasing raw sewage onto the land creating a health issue for anyone walking on the island in standing water.

Additionally, I

Don Reynolds

President, Sr Mortgage Broker

NMLS 1217170 | FL License LO-5331 | CO License 100055541

📞 Cell Phone & Text: (303) 356-5789

✉ Don@ApexMortgageBrokers.com



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☎ (941) 999-2624 ● Central Florida Branch ● NMLS ID 2541409

771 Kirkman Road, Orlando FL 32811

☎ (972) 942-0084 ● Dallas-Fort Worth Branch ● NMLS ID 2561567

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

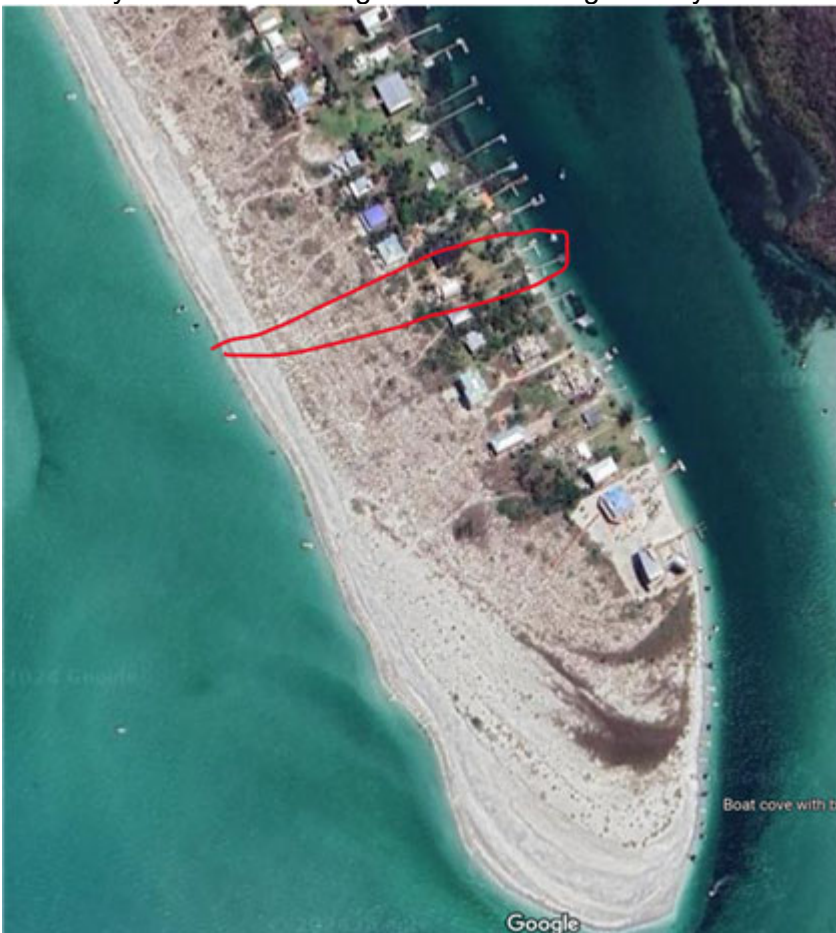
Commissioners:

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: 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 its core that it is hard to 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 parent 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. Environmental 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

Charlie Smith

From: laurie gaines <gaines555@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:59 AM
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.

TO: Commissioner Fay

FROM: Laurie and Buddy Gaines
8814 Grand Avenue
Little Gasparilla Island, (Placida) FL. 33946
815-440-0001

SUBJECT: DOCKET #20240032-SU

It has been brought to our attention that once again, a small local company is attempting to force LGI residents to connect to a proposed sewer system on our remote barrier island.

We have several objections to this proposal and would request that you deny the application.

First and foremost, we do not need central sewer and have never asked that this service be provided. We have been successfully using septic systems for the over 40 years that we have owned on the island. We maintain the system dutifully, have had it pumped when necessary and have never experienced any leakage or overflow. In addition, the island now has access to “city” water (also forced upon us recently at significant expense) so there is little to no concern about septic contamination of ground water for drinking, since we no longer have shallow wells to provide drinking water.

Secondly, being forced to hook up to this utility will cause undue financial hardship for many island residents. Most of us are still recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Ian and still fighting with insurance companies in order to complete needed repairs. Adding the financial burden of a forced hookup to septic services when many of us have paid thousands and thousands of dollars already — and in some cases hundreds of thousands — in unreimbursed hurricane repairs puts an unnecessary strain on the finances of most of our island neighbors. Many of us are senior citizens/retirees on fixed incomes and simply cannot afford the hookup fee (rumored to be in excess of \$20,000.) Many of our neighbors have also just replaced their aging septic systems with brand new, extremely expensive systems. This is simply an unfair expense for them.

Third, however — and perhaps most important — is the fact that many of us are not actually opposed to sewer service as long as it is affordable (monthly payments or property tax assessments possibly) and well-managed by a reputable entity. However, we **prefer that the services be provided by Charlotte County** which at least has a regulatory structure in place and offers financial stability. **Environmental Utilities is an unknown company with absolutely NO EXPERIENCE WHATSOEVER in managing a wastewater utility.** We believe something as critical as wastewater treatment needs to be handled by a professional entity, not a local individual merely looking to profit. I am not privy to all details, but whether the option is to pump waste off the island under Placida Bay OR treat it on the island, handling of this waste is of paramount importance to

maintain the quality of the water in the Bay and to maintain the quality of life on the island. We do not believe that Environmental Utilities has the knowledge or experience to properly deal with any unforeseen circumstances, much less effectively manage it on an ongoing basis.

We respectfully request that you deny this application.

PS: I originally sent this email on April 8 but did not receive confirmation that it was received. So I am sending it again. Can you acknowledge receipt of this communication?

Respectfully,
Laurie and Buddy Gaines

Charlie Smith

From: Randy Blalock <randyrblalock@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:53 AM
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: Paul Blalock; Randy Blalock
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Public Service Commission

RE: Docket #20240032-SU

To: Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to you today to ask the Public Service Commission (PSC) to please deny the recent Application for certificate to provide wastewater services in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC. (Docket # 20240032-SU). My husband and I purchased our home on Don Pedro Island last June because we loved the old Florida lifestyle that this island offers. When looking at homes on the island we were pleased to know that it had a septic tank vs sewer system. To be proactive, we chose to have our septic system replaced so we would not question the condition of an existing tank, knowing we will properly maintain our new septic tank. Having lived in Florida for our entire lives, we have seen how sewer system pollution has become a problem throughout the state, especially in coastal areas where flooding occurs after major rains, storms, and hurricanes. We are opposed to the new proposal for a central sewer system. Our concerns for our island are the following:

- 1-We have not heard of or had a conversation with any of our neighbors on the island that requested the change from septic to sewer. Who is requesting this change? Is there a large group of property owners that are in favor of the change?
- 2-We have not been given or found any factual evidence that a central sewer system is more environmentally friendly, has more advantages, or is better than a septic system.
- 3-What experience does Environmental Utilities have in wastewater systems? Do they have the financial backing to support emergency situations and constantly maintain their systems over the years to prevent leakage and harm to our beautiful island and surrounding waterways?

4-The costs associated with the new system (Hook-up, increased electric bills, generators, tree removal) will be a hardship on many and without proven evidence of the advantages. This change should be our choice and not one of someone who does not live on the island.

5-The infrastructure of our island will be disrupted with the placement of a new system that will affect property owners, wildlife (some endangered), property rights, and traffic.

6-Potential leaks in future if not maintained or damaged.

We personally would not choose to have a central sewer system installed on Don Pedro Island and hope you will consider denying the recent application for certificate to provide wastewater services in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC. (Docket # 20240032-SU). We have stated our concerns and our desires as property owners at 391 Kettle Harbor Dr., Placida FL and strongly feel that it should be the island property owners that make this decision because we are the ones that live and care for our special island.

Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Randy Blalock

391 Kettle Harbor Dr

Placida FL 33946

(863) 698-0767

randyrblalock@gmail.com

paulblalock505@gmail.com

Charlie Smith

From: G.S. Buhler <gsbuhler@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:15 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Request For Wastewater Service : Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioners:

I have been a property owner on the island for over 20 years and I am 100 percent in favor of adding a central sewer system. The local PIE group has been sending out many emails and posts that are focused on the cost of this project - this group is very uneducated on the environmental impacts. It would be very beneficial to send someone to the island to host an educational meeting. Whether we add wastewater service today or not - it will happen sometime in the next few years - every year the cost will increase.

As commissioners, you are tasked with making the good decision for the people, county, and environment. It is our responsibility to protect our environment - and sometimes it will cost. Electric cars cost more than gas, but that is our future. There have been many case studies on septic tanks and the communities around them - they all agree they are very bad for the environment. They are all leaking into our waters. There has never been one single example that was not negative on septic tanks.

One more point - lets keep in mind that this program has been in place for several years on the North end of Palm Island - specifically in the resort and the street to the South. All run by a private company. I lived in this section for several years and it was great!!

Thank you,
Gary Buhler
gsbuhler@aol.com
53 Bayshore Circle

Charlie Smith

From: David Cohen <david.paul.cohen@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 7:57 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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To: Clerk of the Commission, Commissioner LaRosa, Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Passidomo, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Fay

My name is David Cohen and I live, full time, at 8 Pointe Way, Don Pedro Island. This location is within the area proposed for service by this application. My phone number is 201-600-1450 and I would be happy to have a polite conversation about this matter if you so desire. My email address is davidpaulcohen@gmail.com if you wish to contact me that way. I have had a residence on the island since 1990.

I am writing to respectfully ask that you deny EU's application for wastewater service.

I am further asking that EU be prohibited from ever applying for providing wastewater service in the future.

Only a few things have changed since I last wrote the commission with the same request.

What changed?

- The county has now changed their mind about sewer on the islands attempting a legal workaround to their own Comprehensive plan.
- The claim is that while the Comprehensive Plan prohibits the County from installing central sewer, but not a privately owned utility. This so obviously defeats the purpose of the existing comprehensive plan designation

and is an example of politics at its worst, encouraging development in increasingly shrinking protected areas with a nod and a wink.

- If the county truly wants sewers on these barrier islands, they must attempt to change the land use designation and do the work themselves, not hide behind an obvious backdoor move.
- Surprise! There are now developers who desire the sewer system to be installed. What could possibly be the reason behind this? By convincing the county to skirt the comprehensive land use plan allowing for increased AND ALREADY PLANNED higher density development. This privately owned, for-profit limited liability company will maximize their profits on the backs of island residents (as they have previously declared they will apply for the maximum rates and increase legally allowed).

What has not changed:

- There is no need for this service.
 - There has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing held by the county commission refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service
 - There is zero scientifically proven need for this service. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove any water quality impact coming from the barrier islands.
 - The community at large does not desire such a service.
- Highly dangerous environmental impact.
 - During the implementation of this project:
 - There would be immense environmental disruption of the many endangered species that inhabit these islands as well as migratory species.
 - After implementation of this project:
 - Based on the specific type of implementation being considered, an event that causes a lack of electricity, fuel and prevents or severely restricts island access such as another hurricane Ian would spell an environmental disaster for the entire group of islands. Please note that the large existing gravity operated tanks currently in use would be replaced by very small tanks (yes, there would still be holding tanks with the

new service) that rely on continuous access to end-user supplied power to operate. IMAGINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER OF THE ENTIRE ISLAND COMPLEX WITH ZERO SEPTIC MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME SUCH AS THE PERIOD FOLLOWING HURRICANE IAN.

- Quality of life impact for residents.
 - The combination of post-storm rebuilds, new home construction, and tourist traffic during season has made wait lines at the ferry both unpredictable and outrageous. Now, consider the heavy equipment and materials transport needed to construct an island-wide central sewer system. And how long it will take to build.
 - The sand roads (not dirt roads) do not lend themselves to manholes as the paved roads on the mainland do. The impact to the sand roads, both public and private, have not been explored or mitigated.
- The cost to homeowners. Do standard mainland sewers incur such cost? No.
 - Enormously more expensive, initially and on an on-going basis, than sewer systems on the mainland to the citizens impacted.
 - Grossly underestimated monthly costs based on erroneous average estimated household water usage.
 - No access to gray water systems to offset landscaping water usage.
 - Based on my personal water usage, the total for water and sewer service would often exceed \$500 / month.
 - There is a whole host of related costs unique to this application that place an undue burden on island residents including by not limited to:
 - Cost of pump-out and maintenance of the new system tank. Isn't the purpose of a sewer system to prevent tanks filling up and needing pump outs?
 - Cost of removal of existing materials involving very high barge fees.
 - Cost of rehoming protected wildlife.
 - Cost of electric installation for the system, potentially requiring new or added panels.

- Cost of replacing anything more than the “basic landscaping” that the hook-up agreement states will be replaced.
 - In the event of another bad storm or lengthy power outage, residents will need to have a generator continually running to prevent sewage backup on their property.
- EU’s existing troubled track record as a company as well as a lack of experience owning a wastewater utility is a significant red flag. Any claim by EU to the contrary should be investigated thoroughly. Combined with the lack of county or state oversight of initial installation, ongoing operations as well as the potential for a true environmental disaster with no plan for mitigation being submitted and agreed upon should disqualify this application. This would not be a public service, it would be a public disaster.
 - There are unexplored alternatives to a sewer system on the barrier island, including but not limited to:
 - Different types of septic systems that act as treatment plants.
 - County required inspections and maintenance of existing systems along with associated fees for non-compliance.
 - There is also the ‘elephant in the room’ requirement for the Palm Island Resort to fix issues with their own privately operated sewage system. While the resort would not directly use the septic systems being contemplated, the costs of hooking up their system to the county via this private central line would be completely passed on to the citizens targeted on Don Pedro Island.

There are many more reasons, but I am confident that my fellow islanders will write in and, if needed, speak before the commission as they did the last time EU made essentially the identical application.

Once again, I ask that you deny the EU's application for wastewater service.

I am further asking that EU be prohibited from ever applying for providing wastewater service in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cohen
201-600-1450

Charlie Smith

From: Holly Parrish <hollyparrish@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 9:39 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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

My name is Holly Parrish, my Husband Steve Parrish and I are property owners at 540 N. Gulf Blvd. on Don Pedro Island/Palm Island.

We would like it recorded that I strongly oppose the proposed central sewer.

We do not wish to have a central sewer. I prefer to keep my septic

I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you!
Steve and Holly Parrish
540 N. Gulf Blvd
33946

Charlie Smith

From: shannon ridings <sridings10@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 6:00 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: New Docket #20240032-SU

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

Dear Clerk/Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you AGAIN deny the request by Environmental Utilities to provide wastewater services to Little Gasparilla Island. There has been no demand for this type of service, nor any indication such service is warranted. There have been no health concerns identified, nor any water quality issues. If this were an issue, then why does the County still issue permits for new septic systems on the island? So it makes me wonder what has changed since the first denial?

Concerns:

1. Our properly maintained septic system is still more appropriate than the proposed system, which requires EU to remove or abandon our septic tank to install their septic tank. How is that a better solution? Several homeowners have just put in new septic systems and others have spent thousands on improvements. In addition, EU's system needs to be connected to each homeowner's electrical service, on a separate electric panel at the cost of homeowners. The system will also require the installation of a pump at each homeowner's expense. During power outages, which occurs frequently, each homeowner would also need to have a backup generator installed in order to prevent a sewage backup. Again, this responsibility and expense would fall upon the homeowner, not Jack Boyer. Being on a "bridge-less" island it takes several hours and sometimes even days for the electricity to be restored to the island. Several of the homeowners do not live on the island full time to monitor this, therefore, this system is a horrible idea and would be a disaster. In addition, this type of system costs considerably more to maintain and operate. Not to mention the initial "estimated" cost to homeowners of \$12,000-\$15,000 is astronomical. Then there's a base facility charge, and a monthly charge, and a connection charge and so many unknown charges. A true cost has not been provided by EU, all is speculation. What recourse does the homeowners have in case of failure? These "estimated" fees don't even include the water bill that EU currently charges, which is radically much higher than the water costs on the mainland. Very apparent it's now all about making money.

2. Also of concern is the question of possible easements to our personal property for EU's proposed system. In Mr. Boyer's presentation he requests that our private property be given to him at "no cost". There has been no discussion of access, or how much property is required or negotiations with homeowners to obtain any reasonable compensation, or how future easements would be granted. The majority of the island is not occupied by full time residents or renters. There are no bridges to the island, nor any real roads. The island is transversed mainly by golf carts, or on foot via sand paths. Basically the entire island is land locked and not suitable for high density development.

3. EU is a private, "for profit" company with no financial history or technical expertise needed to operate a wastewater system on a barrier island, nor have they provided any documentation of any qualified professionals. EU should be required to provide a history of all sewer projects of this magnitude, especially since it involves environmentally sensitive areas, but they cannot. Isn't that a red flag? How will the system be

serviced in the event of a disaster or an emergency? If the County has changed its mind and now desires the barrier islands to implement a wastewater system then why doesn't the County do it themselves?

4. The environmental impact of this proposal is extremely high not only due to the septic issues that will surely arise due to electrical issues but to the environmental disruption of habitat and endangered species on the island itself.

This is my formal objection to the wastewater proposal by EU. I request that PSC again deny EU's certificate for wastewater services and also deny any future requests without us all being required to address this over and over.

Shannon Ridings
sridings10@gmail.com
LGI Dock 21

Charlie Smith

From: Wendy Carlton <wencarlton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo;
Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Chairman La Rosa
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU
Attachments: April 16 Letter to Commish.docx

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

April 16, 2024

RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Dear: Clerk of the Commission

I am writing to formally request that the PSC DENY Environmental Utilities (EU) application for wastewater service. As a homeowner on Don Pedro island, and I have many reasons to object:

- 1. I currently have a permitted Advance Treatment Unit (ATU) for my home that cost me an inordinate amount to install. It is designed to do the very things that the applicant claims. Having to attach to another system, pay the additional costs and ongoing fees is not possible.**
- 2. Our island has been subjected to having to fend off these permit requests with legal fees and time-consuming aggravation. There is precedence in denying this application AGAIN!**
- 3. The rates and charges proposed are laughable for an applicant that owns no other such facility servicing a barrier island.**
- 4. These facilities will cause higher density development to come to the island and further damage our environment that they are 'trying to protect'. It is a developer's gambit.**
- 5. All costs for permitting, pump out costs, electricity, maintenance, installation costs, the cost of landscaping and irrigation. I have already paid on my system and continue to pay. WHY WOULD I WANT TO START OVER AGAIN AND ENCUMBER THE COSTS WHEN I ALREADY OWN A COMPARABLE SYSTEM?**
- 6. The permit requests would grant an easement over my property to EU without compensation. It is not just a sewer line easement. It is an entire section of yard.**
- 7. As a ferry served barrier island, the added congestion, roadway demolition, and heavy equipment requirements will cause an undue burden for the residences. There are no alternative routes on single land roads that do not interconnect.**

Respectfully,

Wendy Carlton

340 Bocilla Dr. Placida, FL 33946 (residence), PO Box 3790, Placida, FL 33946 (mailing)

wencarlton@gmail.com 828-506-6418

April 16, 2024

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