

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 3:39 PM
To: 'Ember Harker'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good Afternoon, Ember Harker.

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

Toni Hover

*Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: (850) 413-6467*

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From: Ember Harker <ember@launchsnap.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:15 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman 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>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk of the Commission,

I'm writing to you today to formally request that you deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for a proposed central sewer system, Docket #20240032-SU.

My name is Ember Harker and I am a full time resident on Don Pedro Island. My family has been coming to this island for decades. The unique charm of this island simply cannot be imagined. From the car ferry that takes you onto the island, to the sand roads and golf carts, to the hawks, dolphins, manatees and gopher tortoises, to houses floating on stilts in the air, and the pristine white sand and blue water beaches...palm island is without question, magical.

We built our forever home on this island in 2022 which included a brand new, state of the art septic system. Which brings me to the proposed sewer service. I oppose this proposal for several reasons:

1. There's no consideration for the age of the septic system. Instead everyone would be forced to transition to the sewer regardless of the age of the system or need to be replaced. It makes no sense to rip out a brand new system.
2. We simply cannot afford it. We've put everything into this house and having to come up with such a huge chunk of money for a service we don't want and did not request after having just put in a brand new septic would be an incredible burden.
3. There is a complete lack of transparency around the financial implications of the proposed sewer. I don't feel that adequate due diligence has been performed and do not feel any sense of confidence about the cost of this endeavor short term or long term.
4. There's no proven need for sewer. We are strong advocates for greener living and plan to have a chemical free property. We've read the research and do not see any credible need for sewer nor proof that the septic systems on the island are causing harm.
5. I do not feel that the applicant has the technical experience appropriate to take on such a project. I'm not sure why someone who has never done a project like this would even apply or ever be granted a permit.
6. Part of the magic of this island is the lack of high-rises and low population density. Adding a public sewer puts us one step closer to destroying what makes this island so special. I highly recommend you take a trip here to see for yourself.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Ember Harker
ember@launchsnap.com