

**Charlie Smith**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 8:46 AM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032  
**Attachments:** Docket#20240032-SU ; Docket #20240032-Su; Re: Docket No. 20240032-SU  
Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by  
Environmental Utilities, LLC.; Objection to Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-  
SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE:  
Docket # 20240032-SU (PLEASE SEND CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT); Docket #  
20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Environmental Utilities Request Wastewater  
Sewage Installation RE Docket #20240032-SU

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

Thank you!

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Barbara Dwyer <bdwyer31@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 5:10 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Cc:** mfriedman@deanmead.com; Barb Dwyer  
**Subject:** Docket#20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Barbara Dwyer. I am a full time resident of Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condos (HBBC) on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI). I am asking that you **deny** the application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County(CC) by Environmental Utilities,LLC (EU).

I did not receive the notice of the application for this certificate in the mail. Of the people I have spoken with here at HBBC, 3/4 of the people have not received the notification including our property management company (Grande Properties) & our Board of Directors. I get my LGI Water Bills on a regular basis. I find it disturbing that this legal notice went 'missing'.

HBBC does not need sewers. We have a DEP permitted septic plant in good working order. NES - the service provider we use to insure the proper working of our plant has a Class A wastewater license.

I have concerns about the cost of this project. There is no differentiation in prices listed between single family homes and condos. Prices quoted by EU total \$13,511.00. The prices estimated in the CC Sewer Master Plan (SMP) are significantly higher and listed **in 2017 dollars**. Costs at LGI would be \$22,540.00 based on occupied lots. Costs at Don Pedro Island would be \$30,773.95 based on occupied lots. Costs at Knight Island would be \$16,138.52 based on occupied lots. These figures assume the transmission lines that EU is responsible for installing according to the CC Bulk Sewer Agreement are included in each area calculations. If, EU was able to secure the permitting to put the sewer line through Don Pedro State Park and the mangrove islands between the mainland & the barrier islands, only one transmission line would be necessary. In that case, the average cost based on 964 ERC's would be \$20,722.12. Again these numbers are based on 2017 dollars. Construction costs have increased between 19 - 37 % since 2020. That would more than double EU's stated costs based on the CC SMP figures. I don't find these costs for sewers to be fair & equitable.

In addition, there are the hidden costs that are not addressed in this submission. They include: Electrician & electrical upgrades; barge fees for pump trucks & fill material; pump outs; the landscaping costs; back up generators; interest costs on loans. Another hidden cost will be the decommissioning of the HBBC septic plant. NES indicated to properly decommission our plant the costs could run upwards of \$500,000. This could be an additional \$3787.88. This approx cost would be shared by only the 132 residents that currently use the plant. I don't find these costs for sewers to be fair & equitable. Because EU is a for profit company, the island residents are also not able to defray the costs of the sewers using grants, bonds or MSBU's. The cost of a loan becomes a personal expense that cannot be transferred with the property if sold.

I am a single, retired resident on a fixed income. My quarterly bill for sewer would average \$495.00. My current cost for septic services at HBBC is \$151.36 per quarter. I don't find these costs for sewers to be fair & equitable.

There is a lack of faith in EU to run a sewer project and to do the job properly based on his history with LGI water. A lot of these concerns were brought to the PSC attention previously. Some of the issues were shoddy work; repairs made with duct tape, pipes not buried to the proper depth; unavailability of LGWU employees during water pipe breaks; lack of timely boil water notices, water pipes crossing through property lines without permission. The owners don't have any current experience or licensing for waste water. A water spill is not good, but it won't hurt anything. A sewage spill in the island environment could be catastrophic.

One of the letters submitted with EU's application in favor of sewers was from a resident that moved off the island in 2022 (Berdine Miller). Just another reason not to trust EU.

To sum up:

Is there a need for service - NO.

Are the rates fair & equitable - NO.

Does EU have the technical expertise to run this project - NO.

Please **deny** this application by EU.

Barbara Dwyer  
HBBC - G8  
(585)698-9828  
bdwyer31@yahoo.com

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Glen Taylor <Glen.Taylor@centriclearning.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 11:32 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Graham@psc.state.fl.us; commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Heather Taylor; Glen Taylor  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-Su

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Glen and Heather Taylor  
9586 Almirate ct.  
Placida Fl. 33946  
4/21/24  
[Glen@centriclearning.net](mailto:Glen@centriclearning.net)  
[Heatherjgrigg@gmail.com](mailto:Heatherjgrigg@gmail.com)  
Docket #20240032-Su

Dear Commissioner,

We are full time residents of Little Gasparilla Island. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed sewer plan outlined in the Sewer Master Plan commissioned by Charlotte County (CC) and the subsequent application by Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) for a certificate to install central sewer in our area, inclusive of Knight Island, Don Pedro Island, and Little Gasparilla Island. We object to and request the PSC deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system

While we understand the need for compliance with state priorities regarding septic system conversion, we have several concerns about the proposed plan that we believe warrant reconsideration:

1 Lack of Water Quality Testing: The plan's high priority score for conversion in our area was based on general summary data without any water quality testing in proximity to the Islands. This omission raises doubts about the necessity and efficacy of the proposed sewer system.

2 Financial Burden on Homeowners: The proposed connection fees, monthly charges, and additional costs associated with the low-pressure sewer system pose a significant financial burden on homeowners, with estimates likely to exceed the initial projections provided by EU.

we, like most homeowners on the island, are still recovering from the extreme financial burden of Hurricane Ian. Our septic is in great running order and does not need to be replaced.

3 Lack of Oversight and Accountability: The absence of comprehensive oversight and accountability mechanisms for the project raises concerns about the potential for mismanagement, insolvency, and environmental risks associated with the installation and maintenance of the sewer system.

4 Environmental Concerns: The project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species, as well as the risk of sewer spills in sensitive areas such as the Intracoastal.

5 Disruption of Island Life: The mandatory hook-up requirement, disruptions, and encumbrance of property with new utility easements threaten to disrupt the unique lifestyle and character of our island communities.

Given these concerns, we urge the Charlotte County Commission to reconsider the proposed sewer plan and explore alternative solutions that prioritize environmental sustainability, affordability for homeowners, and preservation of our island way of life.

Thank you for considering our concerns. I hope that together, we can find a solution that meets the needs of our community while safeguarding our environment and quality of life.

Sincerely,



## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Bernitt, Beth <Elisabeth.Bernitt@aecom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 9:12 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** wbernitt@tampabay.rr.com; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Re: Docket No. 20240032-SU Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

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

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

To Whom it may Concern,

The residents of 262 South Gulf Boulevard oppose the installation of centralized sewers by Environmental Utilities, LLC for the following reasons:

- We have a perfectly functional septic system that is in good condition. This system is maintained by us and is in good working order.
- Environmental Utilities, LLC has no proven experience installing or running a Utilities company, so we have no information regarding the performance of this firm.
- No rates have been publicly released, we have no information about the costs that will be imposed on us for services supplied by Environmental Utilities, LLC. We understand this utility company will be a private, for-profit company.

Regards,

Elisabeth and Wayne Bernitt

262 South Gulf Boulevard

Placita, Florida 33946

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Robert Hoerr <bobhoerr@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 5:41 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:** Objection to Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** LG Water Utility Boil Water Notice 10\_6\_22.pdf; LG Water Utility Precautionary Boil Water Notice 11\_7\_22.pdf; LG Water Utility Precautionary Boil Water Notice 09-2023.pdf

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

### Objection to Docket #20240032-SU

I am a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island, at 8676 King Street. I am writing to object to the proposed sewer service outlined in Docket #20240032-SU and to ask you to deny EU's application for wastewater service. My reasons are as follows:

1. **Unanticipated and grossly excessive cost burden during vulnerable, post-hurricane recovery.** My home at 8676 King Street on Little Gasparilla Island was extensively damaged in Hurricane Ian, had to be completely gutted, and only now is being repaired. I have not been able to use my home since Hurricane Ian and anticipate that this will continue at least through the remainder of the year. My insurance claims resulted in a settlement covering only part of the over \$300K cost of repairing my home. I am paying for the remainder of hurricane damage costs out of my retirement savings. **I am outraged that a private entity with no prior experience in sewage management can now use a public process, facilitated by elected but silent public office holders, who are not representing and did not solicit our views, to inflict an additional and perpetual cost, during this vulnerable rebuilding period.**
2. **No demonstrated need for service.** Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service. Our home is occupied less than 3 cumulative months per year (prior to Hurricane damage). We have a very functional septic system with a large mound drain field. Our location on the island occupies high ground. Our septic tank has not flooded in 25 years, including during the recent hurricane, which it survived without damage. I objected to the last proposal by EU, which was unsuccessful and I am grateful that the Commission saw fit to reject it as unnecessary and unwanted by residents. The present proposal is even more objectionable. **Charlotte County has not seen the need for a public sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island and has invested none of our property taxes to provide county infrastructure on the island. Why is this private for-profit utility allowed to assert a need that is inconsistent with County's plan, will disrupt the land for months with a messy installation, and impose considerable and perpetual costs on potential and unwilling customers?**
3. **No request for sewer service.** For the stated reasons in the prior paragraph, we are very satisfied with our present septic system, which was installed in the 1990s according to modern code, setbacks and permitting requirements. **We do not need a 12-month, private sewer**

system service with hook-up and ongoing service fees that are exorbitant, compared with public system costs elsewhere in Florida, for a home that generates effluent easily handled by a modern septic system.

4. **Environmental Utilities is a for-profit entity. This utility has no experience operating a sewer system.** Their experience is limited to operating a small-scale potable water facility. As mentioned above, **EU's installed water system has experienced periodic and recurring line breaks and urgent notices to customers that they need to boil water** (see attached email notices from the Utility). Periodic and recurring line breaks in a sewer system owned by the same private utility could be an environmental and public health disaster. We pay considerable property taxes to Charlotte County with little to no infrastructure assistance. **In the event of a failure of EU's proposed sewer, will Charlotte County commit to back up EU with taxpayer-funded infrastructure repair resources? EU has unproven emergency response funding or capabilities.**
5. **Environmental damage, creating new risks for sewage contamination.**
  - - **No septic-generated water contamination issue to address.** I am unaware of any water quality testing in the bay or gulf waters adjacent to LGI that has demonstrated the presence of coliform bacteria from residential septic system contamination. **If this is an ongoing problem, show me the data.**
  - - **In contrast, the EU-provided water service has had to issue boil water notices on several occasions due to line breaks. What is to prevent sewer overflow during the frequent power outages we experience on the island?** Sewer system line breaks would be just as likely, or even more likely to result in contamination. Furthermore, given that there is an electrically powered pump element in each residential hook-up, there is no electrical generator back-up system for individual customers proposed in EU's sewer application. As I understand the system's design, this would be the only way to ensure that the household hook-up powered elements would not overflow. **Island power outages will result in sewer overflow, while this does not occur with existing septic systems.**
  - - **Disruption of landscaping and habitat of our property's protected gopher tortoise.** The need for tunneling and digging to install the proposed sewer hook-up to my home will destroy the habitat of the endangered gopher tortoise that resides in my yard, which is completely landscaped with native shrubs and grasses.
6. **High, ongoing monthly cost burden to Island residents.** This latest attempt by Environmental Utilities to provide an unwanted, unneeded service, if successful, will **more than double my monthly utility costs.**
  - - **Private utility charges far exceed public utility charges.** I already pay a premium for the Utility's private water service, with high minimum monthly charges that exceed my water usage, for no additional benefit. The proposed monthly fees will more than double my monthly expenses and these expenses will continue even during the months



when I do not reside in my house and would not be using water or generating sewage effluent.

- - **Non-disclosed fees and expenses.** EU has not guaranteed that they will not pass on costs, above the hook-up fees, for additional electrical work or plumbing that they will claim is “unanticipated.”

**This unwanted, unneeded service will represent a burdensome new tax that we will have no recourse but to pay.** For the reasons I have outlined, and other compelling reasons that you will read in my neighbors’ comments, I urge you to respect our rights as citizens and taxpayers and reject the application by Environmental Utilities to provide wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island.

Sincerely,  
Robert A. Hoerr  
bobhoerr@comcast.net

## Boil Water Notice 10/6/22

To Little Gasparilla Water Utility <lgwuoffice@gmail.com> • ashton boyer <ashtondboyer@gmail.com> • Jack Boyer <lwjd777@yahoo.com> Blind copy bobhoerr@comcast.net

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### **BOIL WATER NOTICE** **10/6/2022**

**A Boil Water Notice is in effect until Charlotte County Utilities gives the all clear and our water samples on the island come back clear. Also, LGWU will be disinfecting the water lines over the next few days so please expect an increase in Chlorine smell.**

**For precautionary measures a lot of homes are shut off at the meter, so please check there first and call/text Ashton if there is an issue.**

**Our office is not usable at this time and our phone lines are down, but we are trying to proceed as normal. We will also try to respond to any calls, texts, or emails as soon as we possibly can.**

**Please watch for our notices via email, this website and Facebook. For any emergencies you can call or text Ashton at 941-626-8295 or Jack at 941-626-8294.**

--  
*Joyce*  
*Little Gasparilla Water Utility*  
*941-681-2778*  
<http://www.littlegasparillawater.com>

Little Gasparilla Water Utility <lgwuoffice@gmail.com>

11/7/2022 12:16 PM

## Precautionary Boil Water Notice 11/7/22

To Little Gasparilla Water Utility <lgwuoffice@gmail.com> • Jack Boyer <lwjd777@yahoo.com> • ashton boyer <ashtondboyer@gmail.com> Blind copy bobhoerr@comcast.net

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Little Gasparilla Water had a feed line break due to an uprooted tree. We had to shut the water down beginning at the Placida Condos and going South. Water is back on now, but we are under a Precautionary Boil Water Notice until samples are clear.

This email is being sent out to those with email addresses on file. Please spread the word to those in the mentioned area.

Thank you

--

*Joyce Luke*

*Little Gasparilla Water Utility*

*941-681-2778*

<http://www.littlegasparillawater.com>

## Precautionary Boil Water Notice

To Little Gasparilla Water Utility <lgwuoffice@gmail.com> Blind copy bobhoerr@comcast.net

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**A Precautionary Boil Water Notice is in effect for the homes along the North Canal and all homes to the South (addresses between 9694 & 9912) due to an incident with equipment hitting a fire hydrant. We will update you as soon as our lab results come back clear, which should be Monday or Tuesday.**

**Please spread the word to those in the mentioned area that may not go to our website or have their email on file.**

**Please watch for our notices via email, this website and Facebook. For any emergencies you can call or text Ashton at 941-626-8295.**

**To receive timely notifications, please send your email information to [lgwuoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lgwuoffice@gmail.com) if you haven't done so already.**

**Thank you**

--

*Joyce Luke*

*Little Gasparilla Water Utility*

*941-681-2778*

<http://www.littlegasparillawater.com>

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Penelope Jahna <penelope.jahna@warner.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 5:23 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Records Clerk  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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

Dear Commissioner

This is a plea from a five generation Florida family lucky enough to discover a slice of old Florida called Little Gasparilla Island. My name is Penelope Jahna and we have owned property on Little Gasparilla Island since 2009, but we have been enjoying this little piece of grace poking out of the Gulf for over 40 years. Our plea is that you reject the proposed central sewer system.

If you have never been to this island you may not understand the unique environment and lifestyle of its residents. There is no bridge to get here and we like it that way. You can only access the island by boat. My husband likes to say "it's an island-island." That attribute creates its own issues with construction of any kind, both financially and logistically. But that characteristic helps to preserve the island as it is. There are no paved roads, only a few dirt paths, and some properties have no utility easements. The challenges of the island keep it from becoming overcrowded. While there are a few full time island families, most homes are vacant as much as they are occupied, which means volume of waste is not an issue. Even after Irma, Idalia and Ian, which were devastating to this location, there was no evidence for an environmental need for a sewer.

We are currently in the process of building our second Sanctuary on the island after our first was damaged beyond repair. The septic we are required to install is estimated to cost in excess of \$50,000, but it is made

to protect the environment. Should this proposal pass, I and every other resident who has installed a septic recently may well have flushed that cash right down the toilet as there is no plan for grandfathering of septic systems. According to EU estimates the installation fees of the proposed EU system are in excess of \$20,000 per household plus anticipated monthly charge of over \$250. This will certainly create a hardship on many families who have owned on this island for generations as well as new owners who just want to experience what it was like to live in the great state of Florida back before everything became automatic.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject the application for the sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island. My husband and I are formally requesting that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater service.

--



**Penelope Jahna**

Warner University

Mathematics Instructor

O: 863.638.7518 |

E: [penelope.jahna@warner.edu](mailto:penelope.jahna@warner.edu) | [warner.edu](http://warner.edu)



**Security & Confidentiality:**

Warner University has sent this E-mail in the understanding that Internet messaging is not a 100% secure communications medium. We advise that you also observe this lack of security when E-mailing us. This email and its attachments are intended for the person to whom the E-mail is addressed and may be confidential. If you are not the intended recipient you must take no action based on it, nor must you copy or distribute the information. Thank you.

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** MICHELLE ZAKRAJSHEK <rogerandmichelle7@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 5:03 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk & Commissioners:

My husband, Roger and myself, Michelle Zakrajshek own 430 Kettle Harbor Drive in Placida, Florida located on Don Pedro Island. We are writing in response to the Environmental Utility's application for wastewater service, which would include service to our property. We are not in favor of granting this application, and request that it be denied for the following reasons.

First, there is not a proven need for central wastewater service for the private residents on Don Pedro Island. We have a private septic system that services our property, which is currently operational and in compliance with current applicable laws. Our private septic system is pumped on a routine basis as needed.

Second, my husband and I did not request a centralized sewer service on island and to our knowledge, none of any of neighboring property owners next to us have either. Since our septic is fully functional and compliant, the switch to a centralized wastewater system is unnecessary and adds an additional cost. There does not appear to any mechanism to opt out of central sewer system nor a provision to grandfather in property owners who are currently compliant. A centralized system would result in additional cost for a service which is not necessary.

Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) is a private company for profit company, which does not appear to have experience owning a wastewater facility. The lack of a proven track record in operating wastewater utility is concerning. Equally concerning is that evidence has not been provided that there is a need for a wastewater utility on Don Pedro. The private sewer system, including ours, has no detrimental effect on the environment and is fully operational. It appears to be an attempt to require a unneeded service in order to profit from the fees being charged for installation, hookup and operation of the service.

For the reasons stated, we request that the EU's application for wastewater be denied.

Sincerely,

Roger and Michelle Zakrajshek  
430 Kettle Harbor Drive  
Placida FL 33946  
email: rogerandmichelle7@msn.com





## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Laurie Barclay <it000016@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 3:09 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:** Docket # 20240032-SU

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**From:** Richard Collett <rhapsodyballroom@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 10:48 PM  
**To:** eu777offices@gmail.com <eu777offices@gmail.com>; mfriedman@deanmead.com <mfriedman@deanmead.com>  
**Cc:** Richard Collett <rhapsodyballroom@aol.com>; Laurie Barclay <it000016@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** Docket # 20240032-SU

Being a property owner on Don Pedro Island for over 34 years (CDP #8 and 50 S Gulf Blvd), I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater services, based on the arguments in opposition to the proposed central sewer system as listed below.

There is no proven need for a central sewer system, nor did I request it. EU is a private, for-profit utility company with no experience in wastewater management. The proposed rates and expenses to homeowners are exorbitant and excessive.

This beautiful and peaceful island has been our family's place to unwind from the stress of daily living for, as I said, well over 30 years. We have come to love the wildlife that is part of our daily walks. There is something about seeing an endangered Gopher Tortoise walking ever so slowly, and stopping to feed on grasses, that adds to the tranquility of this island paradise. We are also fortunate to have other endangered species on this tiny island such as the Indigo snake. We have armadillos, iguanas, rabbits and a large variety of birds too numerous to mention. This small barrier island is home to more than just the people who take care for and respect these beautiful creatures.

The amount of heavy equipment, manpower and noise pollution, as well as the digging of trenches for who knows where and for how long, will no doubt cause stress to all wildlife, some of which may leave the island permanently.

Other concerns for owners on the island have to do with the disruption this will cause the vacation rental situation. The majority of owners depend very heavily on rental income to cover costs such as enormous insurance and property tax bills as well as general maintenance costs.

It has taken some of us well over a year and a half to recover from Hurricane Ian. Some are still in the process of recovery. If another hurricane hits the island, what will that do to a sewer system? Is this company financially able or qualified to handle such emergencies? This is a very fragile barrier island. Building homes on the island probably isn't what the good Lord had in mind when he created it for a

"barrier" to protect the mainland. Digging deep trenches and putting a sewer line throughout these sandy roads, I believe, would cause more harm than good.

All property owners maintain their individual septic systems on a regular basis. The additional financial burden to each of us that this project would bring would cause many to give up what have been their dream homes for many years. I believe that the owners of this venture are looking at the possibility of making a lot of money at others' expense. I have been unable to find out about the experience this company has in the wastewater business, or backing it has to be financially sound in case of extreme emergencies. Unless, of course, they plan to pass that on to someone else.

Therefore, based on the arguments above, I hereby formally request that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater services.

Sincerely,  
Richard Collett  
Rhapsodyballroom@aol.com

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Laurie Barclay <it000016@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 2:56 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

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

From Laurie Barclay, MD, property owner on Don Pedro Island (Colony Don Pedro unit #8; 50 S Gulf Blvd.)

I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service, based on the arguments in opposition to the proposed central sewer as listed below.

As a property owner on Don Pedro Island for more than 30 years, I firmly believe that it is a unique treasure, reflecting unspoiled Florida at its finest. It is a pristine environment and beautiful, idyllic location bringing much needed peace and restoration to our hectic, troubled world.

In these 30 years, I have never had issues with my current septic system, nor has any water quality testing indicated a need for sewer. I have the current septic system maintained regularly. I did not request a sewer system, nor have any of my neighbors, to my knowledge.

The proposed central sewer would be extremely disruptive to our environment and way of life. The noise and disturbance of sand and soil by installing the proposed system would be devastating to wildlife, human residents and visitors, and the natural beauty of our beloved island. Installing and maintaining a sewer system may destroy the natural habitat and interfere with the gopher tortoise and other endangered native species.

Sewage spill in the Intracoastal could be devastating to fish and sea turtles, as well as to human life by encouraging red tide and potential infection from contact with coliform bacteria in the water: The risk of a central sewer leak with a subaqueous crossing exceeds the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.

I am also extremely concerned regarding the proposed high costs of wastewater service. I rent out my property when possible and enjoy it myself the rest of the time. As a retired senior, the costs of island living are substantial already, and the proposed system would inflict an unnecessary financial burden of upfront and ongoing costs.

The extent of this burden is uncertain, with estimated connection fees ranging from \$13K to \$20K; the requirement of installing an electrical panel at my expense; the need to buy and maintain a generator to avoid sewage back-up during power outages; removal of trees, landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area at my expense; and monthly fees in the range of \$200, or approximately twice the amount paid on the nearby mainland for water and wastewater combined, and far exceeding my current sewage-related expenses.

As the grinder pump has a limited capacity of 60 gallons, and will be unable to function for long if there is a power outage, each property would need a generator to keep the system running and avoid sewage back-up. Again, more unnecessary expense, inconvenience, noise, storage, and potential fire and environmental hazard of storing gas.

To gain access to crush and fill the septic tank, landscaping, trees and structures around the septic area would have to be cleared at my expense, which would disrupt the environment and wildlife, disfigure my property, and take away useable outdoor recreational and parking space.

In any event, these are additional expenses I cannot afford, at no benefit whatsoever to me, my renters, or my neighbors. In fact, the only beneficiary of the proposed sewer system is EU itself. Even worse, there is no pay-over-time plan, so that a loan (and associated interest and negative impact on credit rating) could be needed to cover connection cost.

The pandemic and Hurricane Ian have created enough economic and other disruption to our way of life, and imposing the expenses of a sewer system could put me over the edge of having to give up island living that I so dearly love. We are already at risk with an anticipated more active than usual hurricane season, and likely failure of the sewer system during a storm imposes unnecessary additional economic and other hardship.

No renters want to have their time away spoiled by sewer system installation, with the associated noise, inconvenience, and increased local and barge traffic, nor do I. Increased traffic, and delays waiting to get on the barge to access or leave the island could continue for years and would further detract from the joys and peace of island living. The proposed system would therefore negatively impact Florida tourism and hospitality industries on the island and nearby mainland.

In addition, I view the EU's proposal for a sewer system as offensive, as it is an infringement of my personal rights and my rights as a property owner. The septic system in current use works perfectly well, and I cannot understand why I should be forced to change it, as said change would be harmful to me for reasons expressed herein.

Unfortunately, however, should the sewer system proposal be approved, connection would be mandatory. Charlotte County regulations require all homes to connect to central water and wastewater within 1 year of availability, with no grandfathering of septic systems, regardless of age or condition.

As EU has claimed ownership of a utility easement going from the sewer equipment near the house to the connection in the road, without compensation to homeowners, their proposed system would lower property values at no benefit to us.

The proposed sewer system has no accountability, as EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install the sewer, and there is no "contract," no single point of general oversight, no performance bond required, and no single point of recourse for homeowners should there be cost overruns or project failure. EU is a private, for-profit company with no experience in wastewater utility management.

Furthermore, EU has not addressed how the sewer would be serviced if it fails during storms, which are frequent on tropical islands. Another concern of island living is the corrosive effect of salt air on mechanical and electrical equipment, resulting in the need for frequent replacement of sewer components, again at the expense of the homeowner.

Based on the arguments above, I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service. These arguments include, but are not limited to, negative impacts on the environment, island living, Florida tourism and hospitality industries, property rights, and homeowner expenses. Please do not destroy our beautiful island and the oasis of tranquility it provides.

Sincerely,

Laurie Barclay, MD

[lt000016@hotmail.com](mailto:lt000016@hotmail.com)

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Jennie Ann Freiman <jfreiman@usa.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 1:01 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; iterating  
**Subject:** RE: Docket # 20240032-SU (PLEASE SEND CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT)

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

4/20/24

RE: Docket # 20240032-SU

Dear Clerk Of The PS Commission and Commissioners,

We, property owners at 8942 Gulf Street on Little Gasparilla Island, submit this letter to voice our strongest opposition to the Environmental Utilities LLC proposal for a central sewer system.

We oppose the central sewer proposal for the following reasons (and more):

\*it's a "fix" for a problem that does not exist - the overwhelming majority of LGI owners are not utilizing their property full time, thus, there is no burden of excess sewage that warrants anything more than the septic systems currently in place.

\*its destructive environmental impact will harm the local flora and fauna. Owners will be forced to cut down mature trees to accommodate the installation and maintenance of the equipment. The habitat of already endangered species will be forever altered.

\*it violates the 5th Amendment to the US constitution, which protects private property rights. Owners would be forced, at their own expense, to grant "all rights, easements, permits and privileges" to EU for construction and maintenance of the system. In other words, we will be forced to pay for something we don't need and don't want and will cede legal rights, in perpetuity, through force.

Little Gasparilla Island property owners are already stretched to the limit economically...many are still dealing with the fall out of Hurricane Ian...the central sewer project offers benefit to one company at the ongoing expense of all owners. It's unjust, unfair, unneeded and economically burdensome.

Please stop this project, for once and for all. Please deny Environmental Utilities LLC application for wastewater service.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennie Freiman / Stuart Mendel  
8942 Gulf Street. (Little Gasparilla Island) Placida, FL 33946  
Email: iterating@pm.me

PS. I previously sent this letter on 4.10.24 from iterating@pm.me, but never received confirmation of receipt. I am re-sending the letter from a different email, in case my previous attempt ended up in your spam folder, Please send an email confirmation that you received this. Thank you!

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Sharon Roth <ressan4u@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 10:08 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  
**Attachments:** sewer letter2.pdf

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

Hi, my name is Sharon Roth and I own a home at 40 Gasparilla Way Placida Fl 33946 on Don Pedro Island. I have attached a letter that you deny the application for central sewer system by EU.

Thank You,  
Sharon Roth  
sroth61@verizon.net

04/20/2024

# FLORIDA PSC

Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Dear Commissioner,

My name is Sharon Roth and I own 40 Gasparilla Way on Don Pedro Island. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater server. I am concerned that the issue of the central sewer system is being reviewed again. I am against this as I was a couple of years ago for the same reasons. I will list some of the reasons for concern.

Our islands are in a rural service area which mandates on site septic systems to reduce development.

There is no quality water testing proving that it is needed, and the project would have the potential of destruction of natural habitat for endangered gopher turtles.

The islands are not easy to access during weather emergencies which with a central sewer system would cause environmental impacts that our current septic systems would not.

Our island has ferry access which is utilized about to it maximum, and it was after Ian and Little Gasparilla has no scheduled means of access for large equipment. This would be a major nightmare for several years for something that is not needed or necessary for a private company to make a fortune on the people of the barrier islands.

Most homes on the islands are part time residence or vacation rentals and do not have the sewer load that a full-time residence does on the mainland.



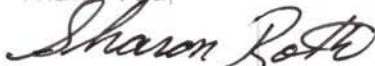
The rates that a proposed for service are excessive. I owed a home in the Florida Keys up to last year and my Quarterly water and sewer bills averaged \$400. Our base water on the island is over \$70.00 per month and the proposed sewer bill is estimated at \$200.00 per month. We don't need another private company charging us exorbitant rates.

The person involved in this is also the owner of the water company on Little Gasparilla and has difficulty operating it and has no experience in a central sewer system.

The cost of this to the residence of the island are excessive and most of the islander have not even recovered fully from the impact of hurricane Ian. If the system would be install there is numerous cost that aren't even address such as longevity of some of the system due to the exposed environment, the upgrades that may need to be made at the homes for the installs, what needs to be done for loss of electricity so there are no spills (doesn't happen with septic systems).

It is time for this to be tabled and put your energy into an area that a central sewer system is needed and would benefit the people and not a few that just want to make money.

Thank You,



Sharon Roth

Sroth61@verizon.net

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Thomas Roth <tsroth@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 10:00 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  
**Attachments:** sewer letter.pdf

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

Hi, My name is Thomas Roth an I am a property owner at 40 Gasparilla Way Placida FI 33946 which is on Don Pedro Island. I have attach a letter requesting the you deny the application for EU's central sewer system.

Thank You,  
Thomas Roth  
tsroth@verizon.net

04/20/2024

# FLORIDA PSC

Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Dear Commissioner,

My name is Thomas Roth and I own 40 Gasparilla Way on Don Pedro Island. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater server. I am concerned that the issue of the central sewer system is being reviewed again. I am against this as I was a couple of years ago for the same reasons. I will list some of the reasons for concern.

Our islands are in a rural service area which mandates on site septic systems to reduce development.

There is no quality water testing proving that it is needed, and the project would have the potential of destruction of natural habitat for endangered gopher turtles.

The islands are not easy to access during weather emergencies which with a central sewer system would cause environmental impacts that our current septic systems would not.

Our island has ferry access which is utilized about to it maximum, and it was after Ian and Little Gasparilla has no scheduled means of access for large equipment. This would be a major nightmare for several years for something that is not needed or necessary for a private company to make a fortune on the people of the barrier islands.

Most homes on the islands are part time residence or vacation rentals and do not have the sewer load that a full-time residence does on the mainland.


The rates that a proposed for service are excessive. I owed a home in the Florida Keys up to last year and my Quarterly water and sewer bills averaged \$400. Our base water on the island is over \$70.00 per month and the proposed sewer bill is estimated at \$200.00 per month. We don't need another private company charging us exorbitant rates.

The person involved in this is also the owner of the water company on Little Gasparilla and has difficulty operating it and has no experience in a central sewer system.

The cost of this to the residence of the island are excessive and most of the islander have not even recovered fully from the impact of hurricane Ian. If the system would be install there is numerous cost that aren't even address such as longevity of some of the system due to the exposed environment, the upgrades that may need to be made at the homes for the installs, what needs to be done for loss of electricity so there are no spills (doesn't happen with septic systems).

It is time for this to be tabled and put your energy into an area that a central sewer system is needed and would benefit the people and not a few that just want to make money.

Thank You,



Thomas Roth

tsroth@verizon.net

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** cheryl klaus <cherylbethklaus@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 10:09 PM  
**To:** Consumer Contact  
**Cc:** Bill.Truex@CharlotteCountyFL.gov; Joseph.Tiseo@CharlotteCountyFL.gov; StephenR.Deutsch@CharlotteCountyFL.gov; Ken.Doherty@CharlotteCountyFL.gov; Chris.Constance@charlottecountyfl.gov; LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Environmental Utilities Request Wastewater Sewage Installation RE Docket #20240032-SU

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

I am a full time Florida homesteaded resident - 540 South Gulf Blvd - Preserve Don Pedro - Don Pedro Island cherylbethklaus@hotmail.com

I am asking the PSC to deny EU's application for wastewater service for the following reasons:

1. A central waste water system has not been proven to be necessary.
2. Environmental Utilities has no experience with installing a waste water system. This is a barrier island and as such has a unique ecological environment and soil complexity.
3. Cost: EU is putting forth a \$13,511.00 hook up fee and an initial deposit of \$414.00 - all for a system that is not needed now nor in the foreseeable future. These are the basic costs - not including installation of an electrical panel by a licensed electrician - said cost to be born by home owner - again all for an unnecessary system. Further, in the event of power outage, the pump has a small capacity and then everyone gets sewage backup and/or overflow causing severe environmental damage.
4. In the event the County should determine that there at some point is a need for a central system, it is incumbent upon the County to install such system and not farm out its responsibility to a private company.
5. Does EU have the financial ability to carry out what they are proposing?
6. There are protected species on this barrier island. Installation of a system that is not needed by a private company with no experience is a road to disaster.