

**Charlie Smith**

**From:** Hannah Barker  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 9:44 AM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket Correspondence  
**Attachments:** 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; Docket #20240032-SU; Fwd: Environment Utilities, LLC Wastewater Application, Docket No. 20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Re: OBJECTION TO DOCKET NO. 20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; OBJECTION TO DOCKET NO. 20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU Urgent Request to Deny Environmental Utilities, LLC Application for Wastewater Service; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Environment Utilities, LLC Wastewater Application, Docket No. 20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #: 20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Re: New Docket#20340032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Environmental Utilities Request Wastewater Sewage Installation RE Docket #20240032-SU; 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; 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.; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU ; RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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

Good morning,

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

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



## 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

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

**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](mailto: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

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

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:** 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:** Alex Freeze <alexfreezephoto@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 8:56 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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

Hello Florida representatives,

I am writing as a concerned homeowner (9862 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida, Florida 33946) on Little Gasparilla Island. My grandparents, father, and uncles built our house on the island in the 1970s and it has been the heart of our family for generations.

Homeowners on the island by a vast majority do not want to hook up to mainland sewer utility for a myriad of valid reason. I will share the primary ones below.

Please take into consideration specifically the proposed impacts to local habitats, endangered wildlife like the gopher tortoise, and the astronomical, non-negotiable cost to homeowners.

The following are a list of opposition points:

Need for 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 refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service. And the Final Order released by the PSC 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." It's up to us to provide this opposition.

Environmental. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.

Providing utilities is the way local government promotes high-density development. The Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan categorizes land into two groups: the Urban Service Area and the Rural Service Area. In order to direct development to places that are desirable for large populations, the Urban Service Area provides infrastructure and utilities to attract developers. In the same way, if government wishes to direct development away from an area, it puts it into the Rural Service Area. Our barrier islands are in the Rural Service Area. The Comp 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.

We would be forced to give up our private property rights for free. According to County regulations, hook-up to central sewer is mandatory within one year of the utility being installed and available to their property. EU's application for certification of the service area includes a copy of the contract that homeowners would have to sign. Here's a segment:

Remember, this is not just a utility easement on your side boundary. With a low-pressure sewer system, the tank and equipment will be located close to your home. You will be forced to give up easement rights across your property without compensation.

Traffic Congestion. 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 Costs. The costs of central sewer are quite considerable at a very bad time for Islanders. Many are still engaged with fighting their insurance companies for settlements from Hurricane Ian and have had to lay out large sums for their re-builds while they wait for compensation. Some owners have just paid deep-pocket sums to install new septic systems at their newly built or re-built homes. Many property owners simply do not have the resources available to convert from septic to sewer. Here is an outline of what we anticipate:

### BASIC COSTS

EU's application shows it would cost \$12,000.00 for the initial hook up plus \$1097 for the sewer lateral installation fee (the charge to run the pipe from the road to the location of the equipment near your home). There is also an initial deposit required of \$414, which is identified as 2x the estimated monthly bill. PIE believes that this figure does not include additional expenses that the homeowner may be obliged to pay (see below).

### MONTHLY COSTS

EU estimates average household usage at 2,500 gallons/month. Based on this, the monthly billing would be \$207.00/month. However, the PSC estimates average household usage at 4,000 gallons/month. Using this figure the monthly billing would be \$263.57/month for wastewater service alone. This is exclusive of your water bill.

### RELATED COSTS

These are some items that might be an additional expense for individual homeowners (listed here but not limited to):

\$\$ Cost of pump-out and maintenance of new system tank

\$\$ Cost of ALL permitting ie, removal, installation, rehoming wildlife etc.

\$\$ Cost of electric installation for system

\$\$ Cost of additional electric service if needed (potential of new or added panel)

\$\$ 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 out, you may need to have a generator to prevent sewage backup on your property.

Thank you for your time and listening to your constituents.

All the best,

Alex (Morrison) Freeze



## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** KBL Stevenson <stevensonkorrie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 11:13 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.

April 18, 2024

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

Re: Docket #20240032-SU

Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

I am a property owner at 9700 Little Gasparilla Island which is a property within the service area of the proposed wastewater service, Docket #20240032-SU.

I formally object and request that PSC **deny** Environment Utilities (EU) application for wastewater service.

The homes, on average, do not have heavy usage. Half of them are empty at any given time and all very easily managed with a properly maintained septic. A sewer system is a terrible 'solution' to a misdiagnosed problem.

Additionally, there is no plausible reason to understand how this is even permitted to be brought to the table yet again after it was previously denied for the incredible amount of reasons from outrageous costs initially and ongoing to environmental hazards to the extreme maintenance and electricity it must have. It is simply and truly reprehensible.

This is about ONE family that wants to make a massive amount of income off of our land and our residents. It is that simple. The amount of financial and area devastation for so many with their homes on the island after Hurricane Ian is reason alone to point out the obvious.

In good conscience, there is no possible way for this to be approved by the PSC and is yet again a waste of everyone's time and resources.

Thank you,

Korrie Stevenson  
9700 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida FL 33946

[stevensonkorrie@gmail.com](mailto:stevensonkorrie@gmail.com)

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Peter Schaffer <schaffer.peterw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 1:23 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.

Dear Commissioners,

First and foremost, I formally request that the PSC **deny Environmental Utilities LLC's application for an Original Certificate of Authorization** to provide wastewater service and direct your attention to the following factual data points:

To date, no evidence supports a requirement to abandon existing privately owned and well-maintained individual wastewater systems in the proposed service area. In fact, expert witnesses testifying at prior Administrative Hearings refuted all arguments that **Environmental Utilities LLC** put forward in attempting to support the need for service.

Going further, the Final Order from the PSC, denying **Environmental Utilities LLC's** previous application, indicated that the PSC fully understood and supported the community's countless factual data points refuting baseless claims for the necessity of a private, profit-centered utility that would charge egregious usury rates far in excess of what a county-provided system, with lifecycle amortized development, depreciation, and substantially lower non-profit rate structure, would cost taxpayers.

In addition, the PSC fully understood that, along with the associated level of community opposition to neophyte Environmental Utilities LLC's lack of any demonstrable wastewater development / operating history, customers would not voluntarily accept the economic hardship and countless development and operating risks associated with their proposed system.

Additional factors requiring significant consideration:

### **Environmental**

There is no water quality testing data that supports a proposal to abandon existing well-maintained wastewater systems or the devastating development impact of construction, which will unnecessarily expose, compromise, and irreparably interfere with sensitive habitats supporting wildlife, including endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.

#### Urban and Rural Service Areas

The Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan categorizes land in two groups: the Urban Service Area and the Rural Service Area.

**The Urban Service Area** is intended to direct development to places that are desirable for large populations and provide infrastructure and utilities to attract developers.

**The Rural Service Area** designation is intended to minimize / direct development away from an area.

As our barrier islands are within the **Rural Service Area**, the associated Comprehensive Plan mandates that only on-site septic systems are allowed. Nonetheless, for some unexplained reason Charlotte County is attempting to overlook the mandate of on-site septic systems by suggesting that while the County is prevented from installing a central sewer system, they are somehow allowed to abdicate responsibility to provide services by transferring said responsibility to a profit-centered private utility which will somehow circumvent the mandate, thereby exposing the tax paying citizens to both environmental damage and unconscionable economic burden.

Under any circumstances, if a neophyte, private, profit-centered utility with no operational experience or history, and a proposed rate structure far in excess of what the county would provide, is able to circumvent the mandate and develop a central wastewater system, I believe that a thorough and transparent investigation is necessary to confirm exactly why Charlotte County is not able to provide the same service, with a rate structure that is consistent with the Charlotte County Community wastewater services at large.

## Easements

Another consequence of Charlotte County abdicating its responsibility is that each property owner would be forced to grant easements and suffer through development-associated private property repairs without any compensation or benefit. i.e., The private developer can recoup its investment and will also receive an ongoing annuity comprised of excessively high rates while the county leaves the tax-paying citizens to deal with the inflated expenses. This is no different than the egregious \$60 minimum monthly rates the Barrier Island residents pay Bocilla Utilities for reselling Englewood Water District water, whether or not they consume a drop of water.

14.0 **RIGHT-OF-WAY OR EASEMENTS** - The Customer shall grant or cause to be granted to the Company, and without cost to the Company, all rights, easements, permits, and privileges which are necessary for the rendering of wastewater service.

## Current and Proposed Costs

The individual homeowner cost of central sewer is unnecessary and considerable.

It is also worth noting that due to damage incurred from Hurricane Ian, there are homeowners on the islands have expended enormous sums to install new or repair existing septic systems at their newly built or rebuilt homes. It is unconscionable that the State and County now force the unnecessary abandonment of those systems and allow a private utility to egregiously profit off the tax-paying citizens' backs.

## Current Homeowner Costs

Typically, individual homeowners have little to no operating costs other than periodic pumping every three to five years to remove typical solid waste accumulation from holding tanks.

## Proposed Environmental Utilities LLC's \$\$\$

**Environmental Utilities LLC's application** indicates that the **initial hook-up** would cost **\$12,000.00 plus \$1097** for the sewer lateral installation fee (*the charge to run the pipe from the road to the location of the equipment near your home*). In addition, **an initial deposit of \$414** is also required, which is 2x the estimated monthly bill. PIE believes that this figure does not include additional expenses that the homeowner may be obliged to pay (see below).

## Ongoing Monthly Costs

**Environmental Utilities LLC's application** estimates average household usage at 2,500 gallons/month. Based on this figure, the monthly billing would be **\$207.00/month**. However, the PSC estimates average household usage to be 4,000 gallons/month. Using this figure, the monthly billing would be **\$263.57** for wastewater service alone, exclusive of your separate water bill.

## Related Costs

Additional items that may be required based on individual homeowner requirements

- \$\$ Cost of pump-out and maintenance of new system tank
- \$\$ Cost of ALL permitting, i.e., removal, installation, rehoming wildlife, etc.
- \$\$ Cost of electric installation for system
- \$\$ Cost of additional electric service if needed (potential of new or added panel)
- \$\$ 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 out, you may need to have a generator to prevent sewage backup on your property.

In closing despite the lack of necessity to replace the current on-site functional septic systems, Charlotte County, without transparent justification, is attempting to abdicate its duty to provide services to its tax-paying citizens by transferring its responsibility to an inexperienced "profit-centered" utility with an exceptionally high passthrough rate structure that will continually escalate and that citizens will be required to pay in perpetuity.

With the above in mind, the citizens of Charlotte County look to the PSC, which clearly understands the significant environmental, economic, and developmental / operational risks associated with **Environmental Utilities LLC'** application, to protect the community and deny said application.

Thank you

Peter Schaffer  
schaffer.peterw@gmail.com

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** LEEANN SLOMKOWSKI <leeannslom@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 2:36 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; issioner.Passidoma@psc.state.fl.us; 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.

Dearn Clerk of Commission:

We are writing today to request the DENIAL of Environmental Utilities application for waste water service on Palm Island and Don Pedro Island. It seems that EU is trying to fix something that simply isn't broken for profit.

This is completely unnecessary and would be extremely costly to all residents. Many people are retired and don't have the means to pay for this system in their retirement years. Our current private septic systems are working very well and the county also makes sure we meet our pump out needs as determined with inspections at time of pump. Therefore, this would be unnecessary financial burden for all of us.

Many of the homes out here are seasonal and folks vacation homes and simply aren't generating that much waste. We bike around the island all the time and have never once come across one property with any septic odor whatsoever. The damage to tear up the island after it is just recovering from IAN would be awful as we are just getting back to normal. We also have a family of gopher turtles living on our property and any construction like this would disrupt their environment and nature. The costs and damage to the landscape of this would be tremendous.

We also believe it is unethical for a private entity to be able to run this for profit and from what I read, this person has limited experience in this business and shouldn't be considered.

We ask respectfully to DENY EU's request. It's our understanding that the mass majority of the island residents are against this moving forward now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Joel and LeeAnn Slomkowski  
411 Kettle Harbor Drive  
Placida, FL. 33946

Joel@raymondautobody.com  
leeannslom@msn.com

## 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

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

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

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

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:** Andy Ball <gab\_three@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 5:32 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.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to seek your support again in denying Environmental Utilities LLC application of an original certificate for providing wastewater service to the Islands Don Pedro, Little Gasparilla, and Knight.

As a full-time resident/owner on Don Pedro Island, I first want to first thank you for denying Environmental Utilities LLC (EU) application in 2022 for an original certificate for providing sewer to the island. I am a retired government employee living on a fixed income here on the island. To have to pay a for-profit company for a service that has not been requested nor is it, environmentally feasible would have been a difficult challenge to overcome. To me, it equates to extortion as I would have to pay an individual for a service, I did not request to continue to live on this slice of paradise that I've called home for the last 15 years. If the county government was doing it, I might see it differently as they are not in it to make a profit off the residents. I attended some of the hearings that you held during the last application process. I am grateful that you all made yourselves available to the residents, listened to, and heard our voice as reflected in your decision not to certify EU. Thank you. I am glad you were able to make it out to the island to see, and recognize the unique circumstance we have. I invite you to come out again to revisit, and refresh your memories of our unique situation.

Unfortunately, here we are again as greed rears its ugly head. Nothing has changed that should change your positions as stated during the vote as seen on the video of the last proceedings. I won't go over all of the reasons why this is a bad idea. I'm sure all of the information has already been presented to you during the last application. If not, it will be presented to you again. Instead, I will summarize some points important to me.

### **No Request for Service or Demonstrated Need**

There has been no request for service nor has a need been demonstrated. If there was a need, the County would not be issuing permits for new houses that include septic systems. Houses are continually being built and rebuilt before and after Hurricane Ian with septic systems.

We are in a Rural Service area mandated by the County to have septic systems. This is done to direct development away from the area. Installing sewer, will do the opposite. In order to direct development to places that are desirable for large populations, the Urban Service Area provides infrastructure and utilities to attract developers.

### **Unique Situation**

As you have seen and recognized, we have a unique situation on this bridgeless island. For most of us, the environment is our way of life here. Maintaining the Rural Service area designation without Public or Private sewer will help protect the environment.

### **Sewer - Not the most Environmentally friendly solution for our situation**

While I accept that septic systems are not the optimal solution to sewage, it's the best option for the island. Pumping sewage through submerged pipes in the intercostal waterway presents a huge risk, more so than a few leaky septic tanks (not that any have been

identified that I'm aware of). A sewage spill in the Inland waterway and on our flats would be an environmental disaster that would have huge impacts on the residents, not to mention the local economy. Look how long it took the County to identify and repair the sewage leak in Port Charlotte not long ago. That would be environmentally devastating. One or two leaky septic tanks will be nothing compared to a sewage leak in the intercostal or, in our back waters. I am unaware of any testing that has been done that provides evidence of leaky septic tanks here resulting in contaminated water (increased nutrient load in water). Thus, I don't see how there is an environmental need for a sewer system unlike in other areas around Lake Okeechobee. During hurricane Idalia last year, we had a significant storm surge here on the island yet, no contaminated water was reported. While only anecdotal, there were no red tide outbreaks following that storm in our area. During a storm, unlike septic systems, there is a greater chance for sewage back up in the event of a power outage. Even with a generator, not everyone on the island will be operating one.

Construction of a sewage system on the island will be destructive to native fauna and floral including protected species. There will also be a significant increase in traffic during the construction thus the generation of more air and noise pollution to name a few. Getting on and off the island is already a challenge as result of tourist season and contractors. Construction is going to exacerbate the problem and cars, trucks, and machinery will be idling for over an hour as they wait for the barge. Then there is our delicate road system that will likely be heavily impacted by the construction. Add heavy rains and storms to the mix, there will likely be significant flooding displacing animals not to mention infrastructure and property damage as a result. As it stands now, our roadways on the island during and immediately after a heavy rain hold a lot of standing water and are messy and not the easiest to navigate.

Without a need, destroying and putting the environment at risk unnecessarily to make a buck, doesn't seem very environmentally minded.

### **Cost Prohibitive**

The hook up costs are high and were not anticipated in my retirement planning. It is not just the hook up cost to the sewer line but, all of the other hidden costs. A new electrical panel will need to be installed to accommodate the pump. There will be a need for tree removal and extensive landscaping costs. Then there are the costs associated with the decommissioning and removal of the septic system. Also, during a storm and power outage, a generator will be needed to run the sewage pump. During hurricane Ian, it was a challenge to get gas for the generator just keep the fridge on. Please remember, running down the street to the local gas station isn't an option for us here, especially during or after a storm.

I will have to pay all of this even before the service bill is received. An estimated bill of around \$250 a month is crazy. Service and care of my septic system on an annual basis is nowhere near that. In addition to this, my electric bill will increase as a result of running the pump. And in the case of a power outage there is the cost of gas, assuming the sewer system will operate even with a generator. I have very low expectations that EU will know how to operate when there is an emergency. Nothing they have said or done boosts my confidence in their abilities.

### **Matter of Principle**

There is the issue of easement. I did not request the service and therefore, I do not want a private company that I would be forced to pay to have rights to my land that I paid for. This does not sit well with me at all. As a matter of principle, this is just wrong. Boca Utilities (water), Comcast, and FPL don't demand such an easement. This makes the feeling of being extorted even worse. Not only will they force me to pay to live here, they will have rights to part of my land. I know I'm over simplifying this however, its not a good feeling. I would be more understanding if it were the County government that is doing it, knowing they are not making a profit for me to live here. Aside from that, the county has experience in operating a sewage system.

Thank you for your consideration. I formally request that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service.  
Sincerely,

George A. Ball

Email: gab\_three@yahoo.com

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Soosie <soosie71@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 4:04 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:** Fwd: Environment Utilities, LLC Wastewater Application, Docket No. 20240032-SU

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

PLEASE NOTE THIS EMAIL WAS SENT YESTERDAY BUT WAS NOT POSTED SO I AM RE-SENDING. THANK YOU.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**Environment Utilities, LLC Wastewater Application, Docket No. 20240032-SU  
**Date:**Tue, 16 Apr 2024 12:09:19 -0400  
**From:**Soosie <[soosie71@gmail.com](mailto:soosie71@gmail.com)>  
**To:**[clerk@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:clerk@psc.state.fl.us)  
**CC:**[Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us), [Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us),  
[Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us), [Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us),  
[Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us)

To The Clerk of the PSC and Commissioners LaRosa, Clark, Passidomo, Graham and Fay:

I am writing to you, once again (two years hence), as a *property owner and resident of Don Pedro Island for 48 years. I strongly object to Environmental Utilities, LLC [EU]'s plan for wastewater service on our bridgeless barrier islands.*

Given the the fact that *I do not believe there is a proven need for sewer service*, the proposal to do so seems moot. But the primary reasons for requesting the denial of this particular proposal is the fact that it is a private for-profit utility and my concern regarding the applicant's financial strength and management experience. The costs (both hookup and rates) to the stakeholders involved with this project are exorbitant!!

Having personally known the applicant since his arrival on the island in 1986, I am highly concerned about the financial responsibility and business acumen of the applicant. As an individual, the applicant has been a good friend for all these years, but his ability and record of running businesses is questionable. Although the applicant has run the water plant on Little Gasparilla, he has no experience running a sewer service.

I am heartened that we, as islanders, have collectively (even as our numbers have grown) been diligent stewards of our islands. The uniqueness of our location has dictated that we be ever mindful of our environment and its preservation. In keeping with that concern, I do not believe there is a need for sewer on our islands and that it would be detrimental on many levels.

Therefore, *I am asking (with much background and personal knowledge) that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service!!*

Yours truly,

Susan Sirmons

190 Kettle Harbor Dr.

Don Pedro Island

[soosie71@gmail.com](mailto:soosie71@gmail.com)

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** joni.graysonmain.com <joni@graysonmain.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 12:50 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:** RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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

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 the 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,

Joni Cole,  
550 N. Gulf Blvd  
Don Pedro Island  
Placida Florida 33946  
615-428-3368

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Lisa Haney <l\_haneyr@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:02 PM  
**To:** 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: The PSC and Charlotte County Commissioners,

We are home owners within Palm Island Estates.

This message is to formally request that the PSC **deny EU's application for wastewater service.**

The balanced ecosystems of our community's flora and fauna does not need the devastation that would inevitably be caused by the installations of waste water services. We do not need the costs associated with hook up and potentially increased electrical service that would come along with this. There just is no need or desire for waste water services. Please deny the EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you,  
Mike and Lisa Haney  
58 Tarpon Way  
Placida FL 33946

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Sara Green <sarawgreen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 3:41 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:** Docket #20240032-SU

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

Dear County Clerk,

I trust this communication finds you well. I address you with a sense of urgency and conviction concerning the pending application submitted by Environmental Utilities, LLC for a certificate to provide wastewater service on Don Pedro Island of Charlotte County.

As a concerned citizen and owner of multiple properties on Don Pedro Island, I stand in staunch opposition to the approval of this application. I stand before you with a grave concern and an unwavering determination to safeguard the unique charm and tranquility of our cherished barrier islands.

Stated below are some of the consequential reasons behind my fervent plea for the rejection of this application:

**Adherence to Comp Plan Mandates:** The Rural Service Area designation, meticulously outlined in our Comprehensive Plan, emphatically advocates for the use of on-site septic systems. I implore you to weigh the ramifications of deviating from this established framework, recognizing the profound implications such actions may have on our community's identity and environmental well-being.

**Imperative of Environmental Assessment:** In evaluating Environmental Utilities, LLC's proposal, it is imperative that we prioritize comprehensive environmental assessments. Without a thorough understanding of the potential repercussions on our fragile ecosystem, we run the risk of making decisions that could jeopardize the natural beauty and ecological equilibrium of our island sanctuary.

*Defense of Wildlife Habitat:* Don Pedro Island transcends mere geographical boundaries; it stands as a sanctuary for a diverse array of wildlife. As custodians of this precious habitat, it is our solemn duty to shield it from harm and preserve its sanctity for the enjoyment of future generations.

*Assertion of Property Rights and Privacy:* I hold dear the sanctity of privacy and autonomy afforded by my property rights, and I trust that you share my unwavering commitment to upholding these fundamental values. Any proposal that necessitates encroachments upon our properties must be approached with the utmost caution and respect for individual liberties.

*Evaluation of Financial Ramifications:* While cognizant of the necessity for infrastructure development, I beseech you to meticulously consider the financial implications of this project on taxpayers and property owners alike. It is imperative that we conduct a judicious examination, ensuring that our resources are allocated in a manner that serves the best interests of our community as a whole.

I earnestly trust my concerns will be taken into consideration and thank you for your careful time and attention to this pressing matter. I remain steadfast in my conviction that we can forge a path forward that honors the cherished values and aspirations of Don Pedro Island's residents.

Respectfully,

Sara Green  
13 & 17 Bayshore Circle  
Placida, FL 33946  
[sarawgreen@gmail.com](mailto:sarawgreen@gmail.com)

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Dena Craig <apolodena@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 8:39 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark;  
comissioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of  
Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Re: OBJECTION TO DOCKET NO. 20240032-SU

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

I am resending our letter to make sure everyone received it

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 4:28 PM Dena Craig <[apolloedena@gmail.com](mailto:apolloedena@gmail.com)> wrote:  
April 5, 2024

Commision Clerk  
Office of Commision Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commision  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee Florida32399-0850

CC> Our elected county commissioners: LaRosa, Clark, Passidoma. Graham, Fay

Docket No.20240032-SU

To whom it may concern,  
Our names are Edward and Dena Craig. We own a home at 261 Bocilla dr located on Don Pedro Island. This is a barrier island located in Charlotte County.  
We received notice on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 from a company, Environmental Utilities LLC filing an application for a certificate to provide wastewater service to our island and other nearby areas.

We would like to officially file our OBJECTION to this application.  
**PLEASE DENY ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES APPLICATION FOR WASTE WATER SERVICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

First, it just amazes us that a private for-profit company could just come in and file an application to force our community into something we have not asked for and have proven is not needed. Our community just went through a 2 year battle with this company and won. It cost a tremendous amount of money in legal fees. And now here we go again. Is there not anything to stop them from repeating this?

Again we repeat we OBJECT!!!

The final order released after our last battle by the PSC stated “noting the level of opposition to the Environmental Utilities’s proposal by its prospective customers, we find that customers are highly unlikely to voluntarily connect to the Environmental Utilities's system. Expert witnesses in the last administrative hearing refuted the arguments Environmental Utilities put forward supporting the need for service. Please go through and read all of the documents from the last time Environmental Utilities tried to take over our islands and force us into something we do not need or want. There is a reason it was not approved!!

No one has requested this service!!!!!! We do not want or need it!!!!

Our island is such a quaint little place. Our barrier islands are in the rural service area. The comp plan mandates on-site septic systems for the rural service area. Now they are insisting that the comp plan prohibits the county from installing a central sewer but not a privately owned utility. How is this right, fair or even legal?

There have been no environmental reasons or problems for us to be forced into this. We would face forced cost ,loss of property for easements, and traffic congestion.

Our area is just recovering from IAN. Many of us are still rebuilding. We do not need to face this expensive fight again!!!! Please consider our community's objection to this and don’t approve this application.

They are a private company just interested in profit, It is also our understanding that Environmental Utilities lacks experience of owning a wastewater utility. Is that not a huge red flag???

I thought this was a democratic country where we have the right to make our own decisions, There are no proven environmental reasons or dangers why we need sewers on our island . Just because a company decides they want to take over and force us into this is just mind boggling. Especially the fact that we spent so much money last time to fight this and now we have to do this all over. Is there no end to this?

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dena and Edward Craig

261 Bocilla dr

Mailing

17140 Bethlehem rd

Mulberry Fl 33860

813-767-4571

Apollodena@[gmail.com](mailto:Apollodena@gmail.com)

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** John Adams <jda600@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 12:54 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**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 Sirs,

I am John Adams, the Managing Partner of Shere Properties, LLC which owns Unit B at 221 North Gulf Boulevard that is affected by the proposed central sewer system on Don Pedro Island and I am writing to **object to the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization** that is the subject of **Docket #20240032-SU** and to formally ask that the Florida Public Service Commission **deny** Environmental Utilities, LLC application for a wastewater certificate.

My **arguments in opposition** to the application by Environmental Utilities, LLC for a wastewater certificate for a central sewer, are as follows:

- 1) Neither myself nor any other homeowner on Don Pedro island have requested a central sewer.
- 2) Equally, the need for such a service has not yet been demonstrated and no water quality testing has been done in the proposed service area to prove the need for sewer.
- 3) This proposed project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with island wildlife and in particular to endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.
- 4) The environmental risk aspects of such a system have not been evaluated and the risk of a major central sewer leak with a subaqueous crossing is greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing minor leaks.
- 5) The applicant has ZERO technical experience of installing and managing such an undertaking. In addition, the applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions nor how sewage back-up into homes will be prevented in times of disruption of power or service. Additionally there is no proposed grandfathering of septic systems regardless of age or condition.
- 6) The financial experience of the applicant's management is extremely poor and, it has been reported, comprises an individual that is a discharged bankrupt therefore there is a high risk of financial failure.
- 7) The applicant is not a contractor that has won a bid to install a sewer and therefore there is no "contract" and no single point of general oversight neither is there a performance bond required and so customers will have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.
- 8) The rates proposed by the applicant are excessive and far in excess of those currently being paid by like communities and are **approximately double** those that a ratepayer on the mainland in Rotonda pays per month for **water and wastewater combined**.

I believe Charlotte County and the State need to re-evaluate this whole project and, should it ultimately **be proven** to be necessary, a Utility District should be established to Install and operate any recommended system rather than Environmental Utilities, LLC, which is a private, for-profit start-up company.

Regards,

J. D. Adams  
For and on Behalf of Shere Properties LLC  
[\(1\) 832-758-7479](tel:832-758-7479) (mobile)  
[\(1\) 281-354-4641](tel:281-354-4641) (office)  
[jda600@hotmail.com](mailto:jda600@hotmail.com)



## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Dena Craig <apollodena@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 6, 2024 4:29 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; comissioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** OBJECTION TO DOCKET NO. 20240032-SU

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

April 5, 2024

Commision Clerk  
Office of Commision Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commision  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee Florida32399-0850

CC> Our elected county commissioners: LaRosa, Clark, Passidoma. Graham, Fay

Docket No.20240032-SU

To whom it may concern,

Our names are Edward and Dena Craig. We own a home at 261 Bocilla dr located on Don Pedro Island. This is a barrier island located in Charlotte County.

We received notice on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 from a company, Environmental Utilities LLC filing an application for a certificate to provide wastewater service to our island and other nearby areas.

We would like to officially file our OBJECTION to this application.

**PLEASE DENY ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES APPLICATION FOR WASTE WATER SERVICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

First, it just amazes us that a private for-profit company could just come in and file an application to force our community into something we have not asked for and have proven is not needed. Our community just went through a 2 year battle with this company and won. It cost a tremendous amount of money in legal fees. And now here we go again. Is there not anything to stop them from repeating this?

Again we repeat we OBJECT!!!

The final order released after our last battle by the PSC stated “noting the level of opposition to the Environmental Utilities’s proposal by its prospective customers, we find that customers are highly unlikely to voluntarily connect to the Environmental Utilities's system. Expert witnesses in the last administrative hearing refuted the arguments Environmental Utilities put forward supporting the need for service. Please go through and read all of the documents from the last time Environmental Utilities tried to take over our islands and force us into something we do not need or want. There is a reason it was not approved!!

No one has requested this service!!!!!! We do not want or need it!!!!

Our island is such a quaint little place. Our barrier islands are in the rural service area. The comp plan mandates on-site septic systems for the rural service area. Now they are insisting that the comp plan prohibits the county from installing a central sewer but not a privately owned utility. How is this right, fair or even legal?

There have been no environmental reasons or problems for us to be forced into this. We would face forced cost ,loss of property for easements, and traffic congestion.

Our area is just recovering from IAN. Many of us are still rebuilding. We do not need to face this expensive fight again!!!! Please consider our community's objection to this and don't approve this application.

They are a private company just interested in profit, It is also our understanding that Environmental Utilities lacks experience of owning a wastewater utility. Is that not a huge red flag???

I thought this was a democratic country where we have the right to make our own decisions, There are no proven environmental reasons or dangers why we need sewers on our island . Just because a company decides they want to take over and force us into this is just mind boggling. Especially the fact that we spent so much money last time to fight this and now we have to do this all over. Is there no end to this?

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dena and Edward Craig

261 Bocilla dr

Mailing

17140 Bethlehem rd

Mulberry Fl 33860

813-767-4571

[Apollodena@gmail.com](mailto:Apollodena@gmail.com)

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Paul Holmes <pbholmes0@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:59 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

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

Dear Commissioners,

We respectfully request that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service to Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Island and Knight Island. About two years ago EU(Environment Utilities) application for the same area was denied by the PSC on the grounds that there was no need for the service. Nothing has changed since the earlier application except that we are in much worse condition financially due to hurricane Ian. The Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan designates us as a Rural Service Area. It mandates on-site septic systems for Rural Service Areas. If it prohibits the County from installing a central sewer system, why is it okay for a privately owned utility to install a central sewer system? On-site septic systems are a way to control pollution and density. Does the County want to see high rises on the vulnerable barrier islands? These islands are the last vestiges of Old Florida on the coast.

The average water and sewer bill per month excluding taxes in Florida, based on 4000 gallons, is \$68.14. Our average water bill excluding sewer on Little Gasparilla Island is over \$110.00 per month. This water is brought to us by Environmental Utilities. The monthly bill for sewer only is estimated by EU to be \$263.57. Therefore our monthly water and sewer bill would be \$373.57. THIS FIGURE - \$373.57 - IS PROHIBITIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE MONTHLY WATER/SEWER BILL IN FLORIDA OF \$68.14!!!

THE UPFRONT COSTS FOR THE CENTRAL SEWER SYSTEM ARE ALSO OUTRAGEOUS!!! There will be a \$12,000 initial hook up fee plus \$1097 for a sewer lateral installation fee plus an initial deposit of \$414. That \$13,411 is NOT PRO RATED!!!

Sadly a low-pressure sewer system must be pumped out on a regular basis. At this time a pump out costs \$1600. Also the homeowner owns the pump and is responsible for its maintenance. What is the life of the pump? How often must it be replaced? The cost of a new pump? Then there is the necessity to have a generator to prevent sewage backup on our property in case of a lengthy power outage which there surely will be.

Again we respectfully request that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service to Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Island and Knight Island. We invite you to visit the islands and see one of the last pristine pieces of coastline in the state of Florida. Please help us keep it that way.

Respectfully,

Paul and Barbara Holmes  
Full Time Residents For 30 Years  
9496 Alborado  
Little Gasparilla Island

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Dave Irby Sr. <gpirby75@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 5:46 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.

Am I mistaken or has the PSC previously rejected this application after homeowner public hearings indicated serious negative issues with this applicant and the project as a whole? Considerable expense has already been encountered by homeowners objecting to the proposed Waste Water Certificate award to EU.

Has D.E.P. determined that a sewer system is the only way to manage the Island's sanitation problem? Home owners have not experienced problems or requested changes to the current system.

In my opinion it would be a major disservice to Island residents to award a project of this magnitude to a private contractor. Let alone a contractor with no experience in an undertaking of this scope and effect on homeowner financial responsibility. Approval of a waste water only approach itself is a major mistake when attempting to install and maintain such a system on a barrier island with only access by barge.

The inherent installation costs for replacing old septic systems and future maintenance pumping are prohibitively expensive for Island residents as preliminary estimates have shown. If sanitation issues cannot be avoided by enforcing the current requirements for safe septic systems, the only sensible approach would be full sewage disposal under the auspices of Charlotte county with a one time hookup fee and use rates comparable to those on the mainland. The technical design, installation and financial requirements must be under the control of Charlotte County.

We are 30 year residents and homeowners who have had no problems with our septic system. Please don't price us off the Island. We strongly request that this application for a waste water certificate application be denied.

William D. and Melba J. Irby  
[Gpirby75@gmail.com](mailto:gpirby75@gmail.com)  
175 N. Gulf Blvd, Palm Island  
Placida, FL 33946  
(941) 662 5583

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Kendall Reeves <krnow123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:38 AM  
**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

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

Good afternoon everyone! My name is Kendall Reeves and own a condo on Don Pedro Island along with my wife at

301 S Gulf Blvd.  
Unit 19  
Placida, FL 33946

What a wonderful example a particular industry is going through right now to reinforce the islands opinion of sewer installation. Overall, car manufacturers did not listen to their customers when making big plans for electric vehicle production and it is costing them dearly.

We received legal notice that a private company , Environmental Utilities LLC (EU), desires to install sewer on the island and we wish to extend our disagreement with it.

1) It seems strange that we have not been asked, again, if we felt sewer was needed, which we don't. Yet EU is trying AGAIN to force a business model on Islanders strictly for their profit where no need or request for the service exists. (Similar to the electric vehicle example)

2) There is concern that this private for profit entity will again present false and misleading information to you regarding COMPLETE costs to each homeowner as well as environmental impact to the island. This occurred on their last submittal. Example: EU would be asking for an Easement or Right of Way to each property without cost to EU. Plus expenses associated with the next item #3.

3) Some undiscussed costs are associated with the amount of power outages the island incurs and hurricane downtime. Extended periods of time without power requires an outside source to deal with waste treatment. This translates into each home, multixpliplex and duplex needing a generator. (Many are vacation homes) This would be additional expense as well as in some cases literally no place to put the propane tank for running it. An environmental disaster just waiting to happen. Additional to this particular topic is noise factor associated with maintaining a generator. If you own one, as we do in Venice, you know you have to turn it on weekly for approximately 15 minutes to keep everything functioning properly. The noise factor associated with this many generators on a relatively small geographic area on an ongoing basis completely goes against what the island does... attracts tourism which brings in revenue for the county.

4) We are not interested in being a guinea pig for someone's attempt at getting into this line of work. Major thought and planning has to be given and we anticipate as the last time they filed, that this responsibility would be handed off to another entity.

5) Similar to last time EU petitioned, there has been no water testing to prove the need for this service.

More can be said and discussed if you wish to get into the weeds of the project, but hopefully you grasp our perspective on having something forced on us with little to no thought other than EU's desire to make a profit. Please deny the request early so as not to waste people's time dealing with someone's frivolous idea for making money.

Respectfully,

Kendall Reeves

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Tyler Erickson <Tyler@midlandinfosys.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 4:48 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; 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.

Please deny EU's application for wastewater service.  
It was denied in 2020 and there is not a need.

Thanks!

Tyler Erickson  
111 North Gulf Blvd (Palm Island)  
Placida Florida 33946

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** David Cohen <david.paul.cohen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 10:24 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.

To the all the Clerk and all the Commissioners of the FL PSC,

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](mailto: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,

Thank You,  
David Cohen



## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Kirsten Karnett Hosman <k2hkh2hh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 11:59 AM  
**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

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

April 9, 2024

Public Service Commission

RE: Docket #20240032-SU  
Environmental Utilities, LLC  
Central Sewer Installation Application for Palm Island (a.k.a. Knight Island)

Members of the Public Service Commission,

This communication is to inform you that we **HIGHLY** object to the Environment Utilities, LLC application to install central sewer on Palm Island, also known as Knight Island. This application and service is not needed or wanted by the great majority of residents on Palm Island and Don Pedro Island. As property owners of multiple properties on Palm Island, we feel this is an arbitrary and capricious request that will NOT benefit home and lot owners.

There is absolutely no need for a central sewer system. This sewer system does nothing except add additional costs for property owners, and does not alleviate the need for septic systems. The only entity a central sewer system will enrich is the Palm Island Resort. Many property owners can not afford a \$12,000 hook up cost or the \$1,100 cost for a sewer lateral installation fee. In addition, residents will be burdened with higher costs for monthly billing associated with the central sewer, and will still need to pay a separate monthly water bill.

In addition, there is NO indication or documentation that determines a central sewer service is necessary on Palm Island. Again, the only entity that such service benefits is Palm Island Resort. Also, a central sewer service only serves to advance future substantial high density development. Please understand island residents do not want additional traffic or the congestion that this project would cause both in constructing the system and from future short-term visitors.

Granting a property easement to Environment Utilities LLC without an owner receiving compensation is anathema. This is not a contract with Environment Utilities LLC that we want to enter into for any of the properties we own. In addition, we question the stability of Environmental Utilities as the principals have never owned or managed such a company.

Finally, there has been no indication as to where the central sewer lines will actually be installed. It is quite evident however, that wherever the lines would be placed will damage landscaping, impact the habitat of native animals, and potentially destroy homeowners' landscaping.

Please do not let this project go forward. It will ruin Palm Island and Don Pedro Island.

Sincerely,

Kirsten and Stephen Hosman  
341 N Gulf Blvd. Palm Island  
[k2hhk2hh@gmail.com](mailto:k2hhk2hh@gmail.com)

Properties owned that would be negatively impacted by sewer system installation:

Titled as Pelican Palms LLC (Stephen L. Hosman, President)

270 N. Gulf Blvd.

330 N. Gulf Blvd.

340 N. Gulf Blvd.

360 N. Gulf Blvd.

1/2 owner interest in 420 N. Gulf Blvd.

Titled as Panama 341 LLC (Stephen L. Hosman, President)

310 N. Gulf Blvd.

Titled as Stephen L. Hosman

341 N. Gulf Blvd.

351 N. Gulf Blvd.

441 N. Gulf Blvd.

451 N. Gulf Blvd.

1/3 owner interest in 420 N. Gulf Blvd.

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Mike G <miketothegreen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 8:50 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU Urgent Request to Deny Environmental Utilities, LLC Application for Wastewater Service

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

RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Dear Clerk of the Commission,

I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to you with a sense of urgency and conviction regarding the application submitted by Environmental Utilities, LLC for a certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County.

As a concerned citizen and owner of multiple properties on Don Pedro Island, I stand in staunch opposition to the approval of this application. My objections are not rooted in mere personal preference, but rather in a deep-seated commitment to preserving the integrity of our beloved barrier islands and safeguarding the well-being of our community.

Allow me to articulate the compelling reasons behind my fervent request for the denial of this application:

- \*\*Violation of Comp Plan Mandates\*\*:** The Rural Service Area designation, as outlined in our Comprehensive Plan, explicitly mandates the use of on-site septic systems. Any deviation from this requirement not only disregards established regulations but also threatens to disrupt the delicate balance of our island ecosystem.
- \*\*Lack of Environmental Assessment\*\*:** Environmental Utilities, LLC has failed to provide any substantive evidence demonstrating the necessity or environmental impact of their proposed wastewater system. The absence of a comprehensive environmental study is deeply concerning and underscores the recklessness of this endeavor.
- \*\*Threat to Wildlife Habitat\*\*:** Don Pedro Island boasts a rich and diverse wildlife habitat, which stands at risk of irreparable harm should the proposed wastewater system be implemented. We cannot afford to jeopardize the delicate balance of our ecosystem in pursuit of profit-driven agendas.
- \*\*Property Rights and Privacy Concerns\*\*:** Granting access to my property for the installation of this wastewater system would constitute a blatant infringement upon my property rights and privacy. I vehemently oppose any measure that would compromise the sanctity of my land without just cause or consent.
- \*\*Financial Burden on Taxpayers and Property Owners\*\*:** The financial implications of this project are deeply troubling. Taxpayer dollars should not be squandered on ill-conceived ventures that serve the interests of private entities at the expense of the public good. Additionally, the prospect of shouldering the burden of initial

installation costs and ongoing service fees is untenable and unjustifiable.

In light of these compelling arguments, I implore you to uphold the principles of environmental stewardship and community welfare by unequivocally denying Environmental Utilities, LLC's application for wastewater service. Our collective future depends on responsible decision-making that prioritizes sustainability, integrity, and the preservation of our natural resources.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I remain hopeful that you will act in the best interests of our community and our environment.

Respectfully,  
Michael Green, MD  
13 Bayshore Circle  
17 Bayshore Circle  
Placida, FL 33946



## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Valerie Hance <polohut@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 9:24 AM  
**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.

As the property owners of 41 Bayshore Circle, Palm Island, we have recently received a legal notice from Environmental Utilities LLC. The notice stated Environmental Utilities' desire to install a central sewer system on the Islands.

We do not support this application. As seven-year residents of the Island, we do not feel this application is needed nor in any way proposing an improvement. Our system and many of our neighbors' systems are less than 10 years old. All of the systems are complying with the Charlotte County Septic System inspection code requirements.

The Environmental Utilities LLC application contains unnecessary costs. These costs represent an unnecessary burden with no added benefit to the Island families. We already pay an added cost for household water due to the system being privately owned. Our water is simply Charlotte County water with the private company's surcharge added on. The proposed Island sewer system will be the same situation.

Our goal should be to improve our quality of life, not replacing a system that is working. Appreciate your continued support of working for the best Charlotte County quality of life.

Valerie and Edward Hance  
41 Bayshore Circle

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Accon Marine <erica@acconmarine.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 1:35 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.

Hello,

I am writing today to strongly oppose the application by Environmental Utilities, LLC to install central sewer to Knight Island. We own a home at 470 N Gulf Blvd on Knight Island.

We completely lost the house in Hurricane Ian. It is still not rebuilt. We are already under a lot of financial stress, and have already paid for a brand new septic system. We should not have to bear another, incredibly hefty cost to connect to sewer. With central sewer, we would be at the mercy of a for-profit utility company, instead of being self sufficient.

Despite the house being destroyed to the point of needing to be torn down, there was no breach of the septic system. Can the same be said for sewer when the next strong hurricane comes through? Also, it is my understanding that Environmental Utilities, LLC has never owned a wastewater utility before. Please do not make us a guinea pig so that these people can make money. We do not want sewer and have never requested it.

Best Regards,  
Erica Ring & Bernd Czipri

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** jameslgreenbaum@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 13, 2024 3:32 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; 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.

Hello,

As a resident of Palm Island, I am very concerned about the application for wastewater service. Among my concerns are the following:

1. There is no proven need for this service. The existing systems in place function efficiently and pose no health hazards.
2. There is no proven harm to the water ways, or aquifers.
3. I have never requested sewer service on the Island.
4. I am concerned that the entity applying for this permit has absolutely no experience owning or operating a wastewater facility. No has he proven to have the financial ability to build, run, and manage such a facility.
5. This entity will be a for profit company, and I am really afraid of unregulated rates, fees, charges, and assessments that will forthcoming.
6. There has been NO water quality testing performed in our area...a must before such an endeavor.
7. There will be a financial burden on property owners not monitored by the state. Many will not have the money to pay for associated costs related to the construction and ongoing operation.
8. The traffic congestion due to the transportation of heavy construction equipment will only add to more frustration, while still recovering from the recent hurricane.

I vote NO to this application.

James Greenbaum  
170 Kettle Harbor Drive  
Placida, FL 33946

978-815-1577

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Soosie <soosie71@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 12:09 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:** Environment Utilities, LLC Wastewater Application, Docket No. 20240032-SU

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

To The Clerk of the PSC and Commissioners LaRosa, Clark, Passidomo, Graham and Fay:

I am writing to you, once again (two years hence), as a ***property owner and resident of Don Pedro Island for 48 years. I strongly object to Environmental Utilities, LLC [EU]'s plan for wastewater service on our bridgeless barrier islands.***

Given the the fact that ***I do not believe there is a proven need for sewer service***, the proposal to do so seems moot. But the primary reasons for requesting the denial of this particular proposal is the fact that it is a private for-profit utility and my concern regarding the applicant's financial strength and management experience. The costs (both hookup and rates) to the stakeholders involved with this project are exorbitant!!

Having personally known the applicant since his arrival on the island in 1986, I am highly concerned about the financial responsibility and business acumen of the applicant. As an individual, the applicant has been a good friend for all these years, but his ability and record of running businesses is questionable. Although the applicant has run the water plant on Little Gasparilla, he has no experience running a sewer service.

I am heartened that we, as islanders, have collectively (even as our numbers have grown) been diligent stewards of our islands. The uniqueness of our location has dictated that we be ever mindful of our environment and its preservation. In keeping with that concern, I do not believe there is a need for sewer on our islands and that it would be detrimental on many levels.

Therefore, ***I am asking (with much background and personal knowledge) that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service!!***

Yours truly,

Susan Sirmons

190 Kettle Harbor Dr.

Don Pedro Island

[soosie71@gmail.com](mailto:soosie71@gmail.com)



## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Peter Schaffer <schaffer.peterw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 1:27 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.

Dear Commissioners,

First and foremost, I formally request that the PSC **deny Environmental Utilities LLC's application for an Original Certificate of Authorization** to provide wastewater service and direct your attention to the following factual data points:

To date, no evidence supports a requirement to abandon existing privately owned and well-maintained individual wastewater systems in the proposed service area. In fact, expert witnesses testifying at prior Administrative Hearings refuted all arguments that **Environmental Utilities LLC** put forward in attempting to support the need for service.

Going further, the Final Order from the PSC, denying **Environmental Utilities LLC's** previous application, indicated that the PSC fully understood and supported the community's countless factual data points refuting baseless claims for the necessity of a private, profit-centered utility that would charge egregious usury rates far in excess of what a county-provided system, with lifecycle amortized development, depreciation, and substantially lower non-profit rate structure, would cost taxpayers.

In addition, the PSC fully understood that, along with the associated level of community opposition to neophyte Environmental Utilities LLC's lack of any demonstrable wastewater development / operating history, customers would not voluntarily accept the economic hardship and countless development and operating risks associated with their proposed system.

Additional factors requiring significant consideration:

### **Environmental**

There is no water quality testing data that supports a proposal to abandon existing well-maintained wastewater systems or the devastating development impact of construction, which will unnecessarily expose, compromise, and irreparably interfere with sensitive habitats supporting wildlife, including endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.

#### Urban and Rural Service Areas

The Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan categorizes land in two groups: the Urban Service Area and the Rural Service Area.

**The Urban Service Area** is intended to direct development to places that are desirable for large populations and provide infrastructure and utilities to attract developers.

**The Rural Service Area** designation is intended to minimize / direct development away from an area.

As our barrier islands are within the **Rural Service Area**, the associated Comprehensive Plan mandates that only on-site septic systems are allowed. Nonetheless, for some unexplained reason Charlotte County is attempting to overlook the mandate of on-site septic systems by suggesting that while the County is prevented from installing a central sewer system, they are somehow allowed to abdicate responsibility to provide services by transferring said responsibility to a profit-centered private utility which will somehow circumvent the mandate, thereby exposing the tax paying citizens to both environmental damage and unconscionable economic burden.

Under any circumstances, if a neophyte, private, profit-centered utility with no operational experience or history, and a proposed rate structure far in excess of what the county would provide, is able to circumvent the mandate and develop a central wastewater system, I believe that a thorough and transparent investigation is necessary to confirm exactly why Charlotte County is not able to provide the same service, with a rate structure that is consistent with the Charlotte County Community wastewater services at large.

## Easements

Another consequence of Charlotte County abdicating its responsibility is that each property owner would be forced to grant easements and suffer through development-associated private property repairs without any compensation or benefit. i.e., The private developer can recoup its investment and will also receive an ongoing annuity comprised of excessively high rates while the county leaves the tax-paying citizens to deal with the inflated expenses. This is no different than the egregious \$60 minimum monthly rates the Barrier Island residents pay Bocilla Utilities for reselling Englewood Water District water, whether or not they consume a drop of water.

14.0 **RIGHT-OF-WAY OR EASEMENTS** - The Customer shall grant or cause to be granted to the Company, and without cost to the Company, all rights, easements, permits, and privileges which are necessary for the rendering of wastewater service.

## Current and Proposed Costs

The individual homeowner cost of central sewer is unnecessary and considerable.

It is also worth noting that due to damage incurred from Hurricane Ian, there are homeowners on the islands have expended enormous sums to install new or repair existing septic systems at their newly built or rebuilt homes. It is unconscionable that the State and County now force the unnecessary abandonment of those systems and allow a private utility to egregiously profit off the tax-paying citizens' backs.

## Current Homeowner Costs

Typically, individual homeowners have little to no operating costs other than periodic pumping every three to five years to remove typical solid waste accumulation from holding tanks.

## Proposed Environmental Utilities LLC's \$\$\$

**Environmental Utilities LLC's application** indicates that the **initial hook-up** would cost **\$12,000.00 plus \$1097** for the sewer lateral installation fee (*the charge to run the pipe from the road to the location of the equipment near your home*). In addition, an **initial deposit of \$414** is also required, which is 2x the estimated monthly bill. PIE believes that this figure does not include additional expenses that the homeowner may be obliged to pay (see below).

## Ongoing Monthly Costs

**Environmental Utilities LLC's application** estimates average household usage at 2,500 gallons/month. Based on this figure, the monthly billing would be **\$207.00/month**. However, the PSC estimates average household usage to be 4,000 gallons/month. Using this figure, the monthly billing would be **\$263.57** for wastewater service alone, exclusive of your separate water bill.

## Related Costs

Additional items that may be required based on individual homeowner requirements

- \$\$ Cost of pump-out and maintenance of new system tank
- \$\$ Cost of ALL permitting, i.e., removal, installation, rehoming wildlife, etc.
- \$\$ Cost of electric installation for system
- \$\$ Cost of additional electric service if needed (potential of new or added panel)
- \$\$ 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 out, you may need to have a generator to prevent sewage backup on your property.

In closing despite the lack of necessity to replace the current on-site functional septic systems, Charlotte County, without transparent justification, is attempting to abdicate its duty to provide services to its tax-paying citizens by transferring its responsibility to an inexperienced “profit-centered” utility with an exceptionally high passthrough rate structure that will continually escalate and that citizens will be required to pay in perpetuity.

With the above in mind, the citizens of Charlotte County look to the PSC, which clearly understands the significant environmental, economic, and developmental / operational risks associated with **Environmental Utilities LLC**' application, to protect the community and deny said application.

Thank you

Peter Schaffer  
schaffer.peterw@gmail.com



## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** mlube1 <mlube3203@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 1:18 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.

4/15/2024

Dear Public Service Commission:

I recently received legal notice in the mail from Environmental Utilities, LLC alerting me to their application to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the installation of central sewer on Palm Island, where I own a home.

I vehemently oppose this for the following reasons:

- 1) I did NOT request this service, nor did the majority, if not all of the homeowners on the island, and I do not feel there is a proven need for central sewer service on our island. We have a septic system that works well and has never given us any issues. It is properly maintained and routinely inspected.
- 2) There would be a significant environmental impact and threat, with the potential destruction to endangered species that make our island their home (example: gopher tortoises).
- 3) Providing such infrastructure and utilities to our currently Rural Service area could attract high-density urban development to our unique Island and ruin it forever.
- 4) COST: In an area with significant property taxes, high utility costs (water) and escalating wind and flood insurance rates - installation, hook up, new tank and pump installation / current tank removal, landscaping and lifelong monthly costs (that are not insignificant) of this utility would just add to monthly living expenses, almost nearing the breaking point to many who already own their homes outright and no longer work and are retired. Not to mention that many of our island residents have had significant damage to their homes during Hurricane Ian are still fighting insurance companies – and will be paying for these damages / deductibles and other uncovered costs for years to come.

- 5) The potential difficulties in operation of the proposed system during storms and lengthy power outages that frequently come during not only major but even more minor storms, that would affect the operation of the proposed system.
- 6) We are still rebuilding our beautiful Island from a horrible storm a year and a half ago. This has been a monumental effort on everyone's part to say the least. I could not even imagine the time (likely years) and destruction to our beautiful island and its habitat that would be involved by installing an Island wide central sewer system – to not only the roads but to the individual properties themselves and the lush vegetation that surrounds them. THIS CANNOT BE OVERSTATED.
- 7) \*\*\* Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of all of this, is that EU is a private, for profit organization that has absolutely no stake in this whatsoever (other than profit). We have not asked for this, and the private operator in charge is not an island resident, and has never owned a wastewater utility company before. More so, this individual, to put it nicely, does not have a very good reputation when it comes to providing utility services to bridgeless barrier islands. \*\*\*

For the reasons outlined above, I ask the PSC to deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Sincerely,

Matthew Wilbur Lube  
290 Kettle Harbor Drive  
Placida FL 33946

(Don Pedro Island)

[MLube3203@gmail.com](mailto:MLube3203@gmail.com)

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Susanne Stubbs <suzstubbs93@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:55 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**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.

Dear PSC Board of Commissioners,

My name is Susanne Stubbs and I live at 352 S Gulf Blvd, Placida, on the barrier island of Don Pedro Island. I am a full-time resident. I am writing to implore you to deny the EU's application for wastewater service for our barrier islands: Palm Island, Knights Island, Don Pedro Island, and Little Gasparilla. My, and our fellow residents reasons for denial request are numerous and reasonable.

Environmental burden and function:

Having experienced Ian and it's aftermath, there is no way that the proposed sewer would have been positive; it would have been a disgusting, disastrous environmental situation for our home and island (there are still areas that still need addressed as well as we still haven't resolved with insurance carrier / rebuilt our home).

Additionally, we feel this has already been resolved based on your earlier evaluation and decision (thank you).

Costs:

The initially cost is truly unknown and monthly costs will be exorbitant and a burden.

There is no proof that this request is even necessary. It has the potential to have disastrous implications, if not maintained properly. And we are not convinced that the majority of our neighbors even renters have the capacity to run the system appropriately without negative impact on the environment.

There are numerous reasons not to move forward on this, all of which have been stated and proven in the last round of discussion and decision.

We will not be hooking up.

Respectfully,

Susanne Stubbs  
706-621-0046

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Pat Carlton <pat@4cpartners.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 7:52 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; 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 the 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**

**Pat Carlton**

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

**[Carlton.pat@gmail.com](mailto:Carlton.pat@gmail.com) 828-508-6536**

**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 of the 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**

**Pat Carlton**

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

**[Carlton.pat@gmail.com](mailto:Carlton.pat@gmail.com) 828-508-6536**

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Michelle Brown <shellybrown091@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 9:11 AM  
**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.

Hi All,

My name is Michelle Brown and I am emailing you in regards to the proposed central sewer. I have been a resident on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island for 4 years but vacationing here for over 29 years. I strongly oppose the proposed central sewer for the following reasons:

First, a sewer spill in the Intracoastal would be devastating to the local waters. As you probably know, the water quality in Charlotte County suffers tremendously from red tide. As a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Captain that spends majority of my time on the water, I have personally seen the long-term horrible effects of bad water quality such as thousands of dead fish, dead manatees, dead birds, dead sea grass, sick humans and house pets, and a significant decline in tourism. I strongly advise against the proposed central sewer since the risk of a central sewer leak with an underwater crossing would be much greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks and spilling in the Intracoastal.

Next, gaining access to homes to install the new system and destroy the existing septic tanks would be a demanding, destructive, and expensive task. Some, if not most, properties on the island have physical constraints or landscaping that will complicate how the applicant gains access to each property. If the project were to move forward, these physical constraints would need to be damaged along with any trees or landscaping around the septic tanks that are currently in place. This will not only be very expensive to each homeowner, but also have negative effects to the wildlife, such as the endangered gopher tortoise, and destroy their habitat.

Lastly, the residents on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island have many concerns and unanswered questions regarding system and installation quality, system maintenance, and emergency preparedness. EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer systems. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure. EU does not have experience installing sewers, especially in non-traditional neighborhoods and environments such as those on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island, which makes me extremely concerned for the quality of the system and installation. As you may know, the only way on and off the island is via boat or car ferry that operates only during certain hours. The applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions.

Charlotte County regulations require all homes to connect to central water and wastewater within 1 year of availability. I speak for myself and several other residents of Palm Island/Don Pedro Island when I say that there are no benefits to the homeowners or the environment in moving forward with a central sewer. No water quality testing has been done in our



area to prove a need for a central sewer. The costs of the mandatory generators, electric equipment, and land destruction are uncertain and estimated to be extremely high which could make the island unaffordable for many residents. The potential of a mass sewer leakage into the Intracoastal would be detrimental to the local waters and wildlife which would directly affect tourism and small businesses on and off the island.

Based on the above reasoning, I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Captain Michelle Brown

[shellybrown091@gmail.com](mailto:shellybrown091@gmail.com)

727-710-0747

230 Bocilla Drive

Placida, FL 33946

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Robby Anderson <robby.anderson1323@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 4:52 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.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Captain Rob Anderson and I live on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island, along with many other residents who share my concerns. We oppose EU's application for wastewater service because we do not see the need for a central sewer system. We see no benefits or need for central sewer on our island, which has a low-density population and a pristine natural environment. The costs and risks of central sewer are too high for us and could harm the island's environment, affordability, and surrounding economy. We fear that a central sewer project could lead to more pollution, erosion, and loss of wildlife habitat. We also worry about the reliability and safety of the sewer system, especially during hurricanes and power outages. We urge you to reject EU's application and respect our wishes to preserve our island's character and quality of life. Please do not move forward with this project as the damage will outweigh any possible gain.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Captain Rob Anderson  
(813) 774-1513  
230 Bocilla Drive  
Placida, FL 33946

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** ROCKY MANLEY <the4manleys@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 7:07 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**Subject:** Re: New Docket#20340032-SU

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

Dear Clerk/Commissioners,

We received information and a request by county commissioners regarding the proposal to again pursue a waste water service to Little Gasparilla island. Our objections have not changed. The conclusions for denial remain the same as in the original filing. There has been no evidence provided that supports the need for this service. Little Gasparilla Island is a small barrier island which remains under Rural Service Area Classification which prohibits the county to extend a central sewer service to a bridge-less barrier island. Individual septic systems are already in place. No water testing has been done to prove that there is need. Each home owner is responsible for their own system which they maintain. This project also brings the possibility of harm and destruction of our endangered species. There are power outages from bad weather and this could cause problems with the pump stations operating with electricity. Home owners do not have the resources to pay for something that is not needed. We are just recovering from a major storm which caused a lot of damage to our homes at major expense. our home on Little Gasparilla Island has been a gathering place for our family and friends for over 30 years during the spring and summer months. We have the same concerns as before. This system is not in our best interest for the island. Higher costs would only further impede the care of our beautiful island .

Thank you,

Jerry and Ruth Ridings  
Rocky and Suzzanne  
Manley  
Dock 21  
8318 Grand Ave. (Peacock lane)  
Little Gasparilla Island  
ruthridings@yahoo.com  
the4manleys@bellsouth.com  
Sent from my iPhone

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Roy Petteway <roypetteway@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 10:52 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:** EU Letter 4 7 24.odt

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

Please find attached a letter protesting the above docket.  
Thank you,  
Roy Petteway

9744 Little Gasparilla Island  
Placida, FL

Commission Clerk  
Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

April 7, 2024

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

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to file a vehement objection to the application by Environmental Utilities (EU) for a permit to install a sewer/wastewater system on the barrier islands of Charlotte County, specifically, Little Gasparilla Island, Palm Island and Knight Island.

I am a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island, my address is 9744 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida, Florida.

To begin, there is no requirement for a sewer system on the barrier islands, as Charlotte County is issuing septic tank permits frequently for the said islands. As a matter of fact, I was issued a new septic tank permit in August of 2023. There is no evidence of damage or pollution in the Lemon Bay Estuary from septic tanks.

Second, the said barrier islands are still desperately trying to recover from the direct hit the island took during Hurricane Ian on September 28, 2022. Homes are still in varying states of damage, or are in the process of either repair or rebuild. My house specifically was destroyed by a tornado in the eye wall and we are just now beginning to rebuild. We also have been given a permit for a septic tank as recently as August of 2023. With the cost in the tens of thousands of dollars per household for the installation of the wastewater system, it could prove catastrophic to homeowners on the island struggling with rebuilding their homes in the wake of the storm and subsequent insurance issues that could possibly lead to some homeowners abandoning their homes due to the inability to pay for such an expense.

Third, this issue was dealt with in the spring of 2022, with the Public Service Commission (PSC) declining to issue the certificate to EU. Hundreds of objections were raised either by mail or in person at one of the public hearings. Mr. Boyer himself was found to be less than honest about issues in the previous application by the PSC. I feel the present application by EU is yet another attempt by Mr. Boyer to install a wastewater system that is not necessary, and not required by the County. If indeed Charlotte County thought it necessary to rid the island of septic tanks, it should do so, and manage it as any other municipality does. The owner and operator of the wastewater system should not be a for-profit, private entity that has absolutely no experience managing a wastewater system.

Fourth, as was brought to your attention at the previous public hearings and in the letters sent to the PSC in 2021 and 2022, the damage to the island with the installation of a wastewater system would be catastrophic. The island is a unique ecosystem, with nesting gopher tortoise, nesting bald eagles, bobcats, armadillos, osprey and the wildlife would either be permanently displaced or would be outright destroyed with the installation of a wastewater system. The trees that are recovering from

Hurricane Ian, along with native grasses would be pushed over and ground up to make way for the sewer lines that would have to be installed all over the island to facilitate the wastewater system. As was brought to your attention previously, Little Gasparilla Island especially, has no roads, save a few. Most of the dirt paths on the island are easements, and some of those end up going over private property. Some homeowners have been kind and allowed the north/south path to continue as it goes, but some do not. Getting easements all over the island for the purpose of installing the wastewater system would be time consuming and extremely difficult. And there are some homes that have very small lots, and getting the equipment in-between houses to install would be next to impossible. It could take years just to obtain easements, and those easements would be obtained at no cost to EU, causing homeowners to give up their property rights for free. Not only would the side boundary easement be on each property, but yet another easements would be on each piece of property for the tanks and equipment so they could be installed and serviced. And if anything more than “basic” landscaping were removed for installation, it would also be at the homeowners expense to remove and replace if able once the tank and equipment were installed.

Fifth, the type of wastewater system that Mr. Boyer was to attempt to install last time was a grinder tank system. This system is a low cost to install, but high cost to maintain for residents. The electric power on the island is sometimes out for whatever reason, sometimes for hours. To keep the raw sewage from filling in the tank and backing up into the yard or homes, homeowners would have to have a generator to pump the grinder tank out into the wastewater lines. The cost of generators alone for each household would be a monumental undue expense, especially in light of attempting to recover from the Hurricane in 2022. Mr. Boyer is heartless to attempt this project again, in light of the struggles of the island to recover.

It is also my understanding that Mr. Boyer plans to have this system installed at great expense to the community then sell the system to Charlotte County, and make untold amounts of money off the backs of the island property owners. You should also be advised, Mr. Boyer owns a home on Little Gasparilla Island, which is now for sale. So, after everything, Mr. Boyer would not even have to live with the system he wishes to install, nor would he have to live with the ecological and physical damage the installation of this system would inflict on Little Gasparilla Island.

I would invite any of you who have never been to Little Gasparilla Island to come for a visit and see first hand the terrible obstacles to provide the service Mr. Boyer wishes to attempt again. You will also see that septic tanks are working properly and there is absolutely no need to change the system already in place. The island is a very special place, and no homeowner on the island wishes to harm the island any more than Hurricane Ian did. I am afraid the wastewater system Mr. Boyer wants to install would do just that.

I formally request that you deny the petition of Environmental Utilities, LLC, a for-profit private company that has absolutely no experience in wastewater service, to install a wastewater system on Little Gasparilla Island, Knight Island or Palm Island.

Sincerely,

Roy Petteway  
roypetteway@gmail.com

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Roy & Wendy Petteway <oranges@embarqmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 10:48 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** 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:** EU letter 4 19 24.odt

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

Please find attached my protest concerning the above docket.

Thank you,

Wendy Petteway

9744 Little Gasparilla Island  
Placida, Florida

Commission Clerk  
Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
April 19, 2024

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

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to formally request that you deny the above stated application to install a sewer/wastewater system on the barrier islands of Charlotte County, specifically, Little Gasparilla Island, Palm Island and Knight Island.

As a long time homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island, my family has enjoyed the serene beauty of the barrier island. We own a home at 9744 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida, Florida.

I have many concerns about the wastewater system Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) wishes to install against our will on the island. The main reason is the environmental disaster during the installation, which would be catastrophic for the nature of the island. There are nesting bald eagles, osprey, bobcats, endangered gopher tortoises and many other native Florida wildlife that call the island home. The installation of the system would severely disrupt the nesting habitats of these animals. Also, the destruction of the native flora and fauna to run the underground pipelines necessary for the effluent to be removed from the island.

The island took a direct hit from Hurricane Ian in 2022 and is still recovering very slowly. Most of the homes on the island in all three communities were either severely damaged or destroyed by the storm. Many homeowners are still in the process of getting the necessary insurance monies to repair their homes and would be severely impacted by the cost of the installation of this system. The cost of the system installation would be in the tens of thousands of dollars and a monthly cost of over \$200 for sewer alone. After Hurricane Ian and the direct hit the island absorbed, it is unconscionable for Mr. Boyer to attempt to force the island to install this system after he was rejected by this board just two years ago. Nothing has changed on the island since the application by EU then. The installation of the system would even destroy landscaping and decks, walkways, etc. on people's property. It would be done with no reimbursement to the homeowner to replace. The collecting of easements to run the underground lines would be done with no payment to the homeowner, which is unconstitutional.

The Lemon Bay Estuary is a pristine coastal body of water and there is no data to support that septic tanks are polluting the waters. We all enjoy the fishing, boating and swimming in the area and would never want anything to pollute the waters. There is a great risk with a pipe running across the bay to the mainland from our bridgeless barrier island carrying effluent. There is always the risk of an accidental spillage that we don't have to deal with now, having septic tanks. A well maintained septic tank system will last many, many years.

The system that EU proposes to install would require the demolition of all septic tanks on the island and then the installation of a very small tank to hold as it's pumped out to the sewer lines. In the



event of power outages, which occur frequently and last for hours and hours, a generator would have to be purchased by every homeowner to keep the tank from overflowing into their yard. Being on a barrier island, the salt atmosphere is very hard on any equipment, necessitating the need to replace pumps on the system every so often, at the homeowners expense. If you look at the application, you will see that everything being done to install the wastewater system is done at the homeowners expense. This is patently unfair and holds the homeowner responsible for expenses that are exorbitant and way beyond the scope of what would be required in a mainland community. EU has no expertise in the wastewater system arena, and the possibility of a damaging mistake is a certainty, with no recourse to the homeowner.

The only way to the barrier island is by boat. There is a barge service operating to the island, and if the installation is approved, EU would dominate the use of the barge service to bring over the hundreds of tanks, the multiple trips required to bring over the heavy equipment required for installation and the regular homeowners would not be able to use the barge service for normal necessary maintenance on their homes.

If any of you have never been to Little Gasparilla Island, Palm Island or Knight Island, I would like you to come and see the beauty and old Florida nature that EU would destroy with the installation of the wastewater system. There aren't many old Florida coastal communities left in the state and it would be an awful shame to see this pristine environment changed forever. All of us homeowners on the island have worked diligently to clean up after Hurricane Ian and the island looks better than ever now. It would be a shame if it all was for naught.

Again, I am formally requesting that you deny the above application for a wastewater system on Little Gasparilla Island, Knight Island and Palm Island.

Sincerely,

Wendy Petteway  
9744 Little Gasparilla Island  
oranges@embarqmail.com

cc: Commissioner LaRosa  
Commissioner Clark  
Commissioner Passidomo  
Commissioner Fay  
Commissioner Graham

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Lesley Finch <lesley747@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 10:05 AM  
**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

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

Dear Commissioner,

I want to strongly object to Environmental Utilities, LLC application for installation of central sewers to the barrier islands.

Why is this coming up again when it was denied two years ago?

Have been a resident for 20 years on Little Gasparilla Island in two different homes. Been on a septic system with no problems and none to the environment. I am retired and on a budget. Cost to hook up is proposed between \$15k-\$20K, with other added expenses, then \$100 a month additional service bill.

What happens when the power goes out, everyone will have to run a generator. Have you ever heard 400 generators running? It will be heard on the mainland. It was the only sound you heard on LGI plus chainsaws for months due to Hurricane Ian.

I still have no roof on my residence and repair in the house needs attention.

Certainly don't need the stress and expense of a sewer system that doesn't work by a company that has no experience. E.U. Took away islanders perfect good water forcing everyone (at great expense) to hook up to the public water. In my case crossed my property without an easement and hooked up

water to my neighbor without permission saving installation cost of EU to my detriment. Who knows what damage this waste water system will entail. Let alone devastating results for wildlife, especially the gopher tortoises that have burrowed in my yard for years.

Please consider my concerns and confirm you have received this.

Lesley M Finch

8276 Little Gasparilla Island. Dock 18

[Lesley747@gmail.com](mailto:Lesley747@gmail.com)

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Amy McCully <amymccully11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 8:08 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

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

Amy McCully  
Property owner at 61 Kettle Harbor Dr. on Don Pedro Island, in Placida Florida.

This letter is to serve as my formal request that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities (EU) application for wastewater service. Bringing a central wastewater system to our precious island would forever change it and not for the better. I personally invite you to my home, to experience our beautiful island.

This proposed project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species. The heavy equipment and materials transport needed to construct an island-wide central sewer system will bring unbelievable congestion to our islands and ferry, our only form of transportation to and from our homes. The logistics of this project are endless and will only benefit the EU as a private company.

This letter is to also serve as my formal request to be added to the docket as an interested person.

Kind regards,

--

**Amy McCully**  
Cell: (224) 715-8163  
[amymccully11@gmail.com](mailto:amymccully11@gmail.com)

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** James Davis <drjwdavis@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 9:13 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark  
**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.

Good Morning,

As a home owner on Don Pedro Island I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to put a sewer system on the island. I have carefully reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal and have come to the conclusion that this is not going to benefit the island community, the environment or the home owners. The initial cost will be excessive and the monthly rates will be extremely high. It will be dependent on electricity and not function when the power goes out, which it frequently does on the island. After Ida we were without power for over a week. This would have resulted in sever sewer backups and spillage of raw sewage. Who will service the system after a severe storm?

It appears the cost of insulation, hookup, maintenance and repairs will be the responsibility of the homeowners. We will end paying thousand of dollars to have and maintain a system that we do not want, does not benefit the island, or those living on the island.

Please deny the proposal from Environmental Utilities LLC to install a central sewer on the island.

Sincerely  
James W Davis  
161 S Gulf Blvd  
Don Pedro Island

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** James Davis <drjwdavis@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 9:13 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark  
**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.

Good Morning,

As a home owner on Don Pedro Island I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to put a sewer system on the island. I have carefully reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal and have come to the conclusion that this is not going to benefit the island community, the environment or the home owners. The initial cost will be excessive and the monthly rates will be extremely high. It will be dependent on electricity and not function when the power goes out, which it frequently does on the island. After Ida we were without power for over a week. This would have resulted in sever sewer backups and spillage of raw sewage. Who will service the system after a severe storm?

It appears the cost of insulation, hookup, maintenance and repairs will be the responsibility of the homeowners. We will end paying thousand of dollars to have and maintain a system that we do not want, does not benefit the island, or those living on the island.

Please deny the proposal from Environmental Utilities LLC to install a central sewer on the island.

Sincerely  
James W Davis  
161 S Gulf Blvd  
Don Pedro Island

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Fred Brown <fredwbrown@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 2:44 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark  
**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 Clark:

As an owner of three properties on Don Pedro/Palm Island I am requesting the PSC deny the EU application for wastewater service.

I cannot believe that this is even being considered given that our current septic system has worked great over the years and currently we have no monthly fees. I am aware of issues where (St. Petersburg) sewer systems will back up and sewage will go in the roads and the Gulf. I have never heard of any issues with septic spillage for the over 35 years we have enjoyed Palm Island.

It appears to me that certain people are pursuing this project only for profit at the expense of exploiting all the residences of Don Pedro/Palm Island with unnecessary hook up charges and monthly fees. **I do not see how anyone on the Commission would even consider adding to the financial burden for costs to replace something that is working fine** unless they too are receiving a kick-back. Even considering awarding this project to Mr. Boyer, who is inexperienced in sewer, and can provide no actual costs or monthly fees for this is inconceivable at best. Just because the resort's septic is aging and needs to be replaced, let them update and replace their own. All the residents on Don Pedro should not have to pay. **Please represent the people of Don Pedro Island and don't make people pay for something that is not needed to represent the financial benefit of a few.**

Thank you

Fred Brown  
fredwbrown@hotmail.com

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** b OK <oneillkieler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 2:41 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Edward Small  
**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.

Dear Clerk of the Commission,

I am writing in earnest to ask that you Please **DENY the request for the** Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service on Palm Island/Don Pedro. We do not want to see a private entity insert this utility (and themselves) for personal gain. The out of pocket costs to us to implement the service and ongoing monthly fees/maintenance expenses would be a tremendous burden for the residents of this island.

You will be receiving many letters outlining the rational reasons for denying the implementation of a central sewer service so I will not be redundant. Please take these notable arguments into serious consideration. The vast majority of residents do not support this application. Please know and hear my vote against any private entities coming to the island to introduce a sewer service not needed nor invited by the people who call Palm Island/Don Pedro "Home".

Sincerely,  
Roberta O'Neill  
Residence: 390 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida, FL 33946



## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Susan Brown <sjbday@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 1:23 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**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.

This email is in reference to EU's application for central sewer service on Don Pedro Island. I have coming to this beautiful island for 38 years and have been a homeowner for over 15 years.

I am asking you to DENY EU's application for wastewater service. I have not asked for this service, it is being forced on residents.

There is no proven need for this service and the cost to homeowners is astronomical. From initial costs, from hookup and additional electric required.

Charlotte County is definitely going through a building boom that is destroying a lot of animal habitats. The destruction to put in sewer that is not needed will only disrupt /destroy our fragile ecosystem on the island which is home to a lot of endangered species like the gopher tortoise.

EU is not a contractor and has no experience in installing sewer. They are a private for profit company, again, with no experience in owning wastewater systems.

There is no proven need for sewer. I have lived on the west coast of Florida for 59 years. There are several reports of spilled sewage during storms from just Pinellas County only, which have polluted waterways incredibly.

Please, deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you,

Susan Brown  
Don Pedro Island  
101 S Gulf Blvd  
Placida, FL 33946

## Charlie Smith

---

**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.

## Charlie Smith

---

**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

---

### **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

---

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

---

**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

---

**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

---

**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

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

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

---

**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

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

---

**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

---

**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

---

**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

---

**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.

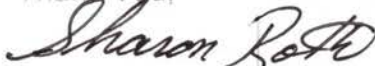
The rates that a proposed for service are excessive. I owed a home in the Florida Keys up to last year and my Quarterly water and sewer bills averaged \$400. Our base water on the island is over \$70.00 per month and the proposed sewer bill is estimated at \$200.00 per month. We don't need another private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

---

**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

---

**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

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

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

---

**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

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

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

---

**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

---

**From:** danielle charmes <dcharmes@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 8:50 AM  
**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

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

Danielle Charmes  
9482 Alborado road  
Little Gasparilla island  
Dcharmes@yahoo.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

My personal perspective as a concerned homeowner of Little Gasparilla Island and environmental proponent is that the proposed wastewater service will have a devastating impact on the island and islanders. The service proposal has not demonstrated evidence to be better for the environment or residents/owners. It is, however, beneficial for those who stand to profit from the installation and forced hook up for ongoing service. This is an untenable situation. I can't fathom how the installation of such a system wouldn't create massive upheaval to the landscape, not to mention at a high cost to all owners. There seems to be little to no advantage of this project and it represents a major can-of-worms with potential problems in my mind. PLEASE deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you!

A concerned LGI Resident,  
Sent from my iPhone

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Greg Rauth <greg.rauth@maxamtirena.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 9:06 AM  
**To:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Commisioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us; Records Clerk  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** LGI docket # 20240032-SU.docx

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

**Thank you for your consideration in this matter of protecting Florida wildlife.**  
Sincerley  
Greg

From Greg Rauth <[Gregrauth@yahoo.com](mailto:Gregrauth@yahoo.com)>

RE: docket #20240032-SU

**To whom it may Concern/ Commissioners**

**Our family has owned a home on LGI since 1989 and again we find ourselves trying to protect one of SW Florida's barrier islands and the wildlife such as the endangered gopher tortoise that thrives here. Little Gasparilla Island has been a sanctuary for many types of water fowl, Manatees and other native Florida animals. The proposed EU wastewater request would devastate much of the habitat for these animals.**

**The negative environmental impact of this proposal far out ways any positives as this proposed septic service still needs to be pumped. The current septic service for this remote barrier island is the most efficient and affordable for most of the residents who have homes here.**

**The EU is just another 'money grab' mandating services that will cost homeowner \$12,000-\$15,000 by their own projections just to hook up? , monthly charges will also add \$200-\$300 per month driving out most average family's.**

**It is clear that this is all about profit with NO consideration to the environment or Florida residents whom have homes here.**

**I ask that you deny docket#20240032-SU as LGI is a bridgeless, roadless low density barrier island with no commerce.**

**There is simply no benefit, demand or need for this costly habitat damaging project and again we ask this be denied.**

**Sincerely**

**Greg Rauth**



## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Debbie Daugherty <ufdaugherty@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 11:41 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  
**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.

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

My name is Debbie Daugherty and I own 9850 Little Gasparilla Island, which is within the proposed sewer service area for Little Gasparilla Island. **I am formally objecting to the sewer proposal and request that the PSC deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) for a central sewer system for Little Gasparilla Island.**

I have over 25 years experience in water and wastewater utilities and a Bachelors and Masters in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida. I am currently the Water/Wastewater Officer for Gainesville Regional Utilities, responsible for all aspects of the water and wastewater system for the utility. There is no doubt in my mind that proceeding with this particular party EU for providing private central sewer is the wrong move for Little Gasparilla Island. EU does not have the technical expertise to properly construct, operate and maintain a sewer system. Allowing EU to move forward with a central sewer system will result in situations that will be more damaging to the environment. While a central sewer system has its merits for improving the environment in the future, selecting the appropriate party and technology is essential for success of the project. From the information presented, EU is proposing a low pressure sewer system, that will only remove the clear water from the tank and leave the solids behind, similar to a septic tank. There are very few letters of support compared to the long list of homeowners that do NOT support this project. The support letters provided from Little Gasparilla Island residents mention times of flooding with sewage on the island. The currently proposed sewer system will cost millions of dollars to construct and will not change the situation in times of flooding having solids from inground sewage tanks overflowing on the island. Many current septic to sewer conversions are installed across the State of Florida using small grinder pump stations at the home to transport the solids and water from the home to the treatment facility. A sewage grinder pump station would provide more effective design and provide better environmental benefits to have a central sewer system that removed all of the wastewater to be treated.

We are currently customers of Little Gasparilla Water Utility, which is owned and operated by the same parties that are applying as Environmental Utilities, LLC. The owners have minimal experience operating a water system and no experience operating a wastewater system. The water system on Little Gasparilla Island is constructed poorly and not operated responsibly by these parties. The

owners of the water system do not respect owners property rights and place water lines wherever they want without proper communication with the homeowner nor obtaining proper easements for their water lines. While the project to bring sewer services to the island has merit, Environmental Utilities is not the appropriate party to complete a project of this nature. Part of EU's proposal for the central sewer system is "claiming ownership" of a utility easement on private property without compensating the homeowner. Charlotte County should continue to seek other experienced parties to provide sewer service to Little Gasparilla Island or pursue funding to extend County sewer service to our residents. Septic to Sewer conversion projects are being successfully completed across the State of Florida. Converting these barrier islands to a central sewer system would be a strong potential project for Charlotte County to propose for infrastructure grants and funding. Millions of dollars are going to be available for these types of projects in the coming years, which would reduce the financial burden for connection charges for the residents of Little Gasparilla Island.

The costs of owning a home on Little Gasparilla Island have increased dramatically over the last 4 years since EUs first petition to provide sewer. With the devastation from Ian, many homeowners have significant repairs or complete rebuilds of their homes. Construction prices have tripled in the last 2 years to get any work done on our home, no matter how small or big the project is. We continue to experience rising costs in every aspect of home ownership on Little Gasparilla Island. The insurance and property taxes alone have increased dramatically. This is NOT the time for an additional expense for the homeowners of Little Gasparilla Island, especially when the proposed project will not offer environmental benefits as currently proposed.

The proposed connection charges for the sewer system are listed from \$11,000 to \$20,000 and it does not appear the pricing provided for connection has changed since the 2020 petition to provide sewer service. Today a typical septic to sewer project is costing utilities between \$30,000 to \$40,000 per property to provide sewer service. It does not appear he has updated the construction costs for this project nor reflected that in his connection charges submitted. Many utilities performing septic-to-sewer conversions are doing so with grant funding and SRF loans to lessen the burden on the homeowner. Because EU is a private utility, they are not able to access any of the infrastructure funding being provided in the state of Florida. This area is currently designated in the Charlotte County Utility District and should stay that way to allow for funding dollars to assist with installation of a central sewer system.

On top of the significant connection charges, the proposed monthly sewer charges are VERY high compared to other utility rates. For the residents of Little Gasparilla Island, we already pay high monthly rates for the water system to the same entity. I currently pay \$83 per month as the base meter facility charge then the water usage is added on top of that fee. Adding the proposed monthly sewer charges would bring the monthly water and sewer charges to over \$250 a month which is a ridiculous monthly charge for water and sewer compared to other local utilities.

Mr. Boyer, the owner of Environmental Utilities, has been very vocal as a resident on Little Gasparilla Island that he has no intentions of completing this project, nor does he care about improving the environment on our island, he is solely making the petition to be granted the sewer service rights then

sell them for his own financial gain. He has told other island residents that he is "locking in his retirement" expecting to make millions and retire. I personally want someone who cares about the future of our island to be involved in such an important public health and safety project for Charlotte County and Little Gasparilla Island. The residents and property owners in Charlotte County deserve fair and equitable rates and monthly charges for sewer service, not to be a private individual's retirement plan.

**In conclusion, due to the lack of technical expertise of the applicant, lack of respect for homeowner property rights of the applicant, and inability to provide fair and equitable rates, I formally request that Environmental Utilities, LLC Application to provide sewer service to Little Gasparilla Island be denied.**

Sincerely,

Debbie Daugherty

Water/Wastewater Officer

Gainesville Regional Utilities

[ufdaugherty@yahoo.com](mailto:ufdaugherty@yahoo.com)