

CORRESPONDENCE
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Date: Friday, April 19, 2024 at 10:48 PM EDT

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2024 APR 24 AM 11:28
COMMISSION
CLERK

Being a property owner on Don Pedro Island for over 34 years, 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.

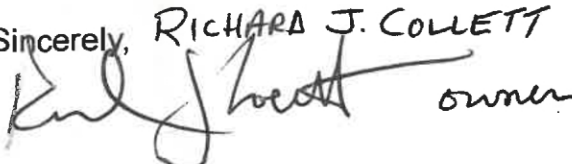
This beautiful and peaceful island has been our family's place to unwind from the stress of daily living for, as I said, well over 30 years. We have come to love the wildlife that is part of our daily walks. There is something about seeing an endangered Gopher Tortoise walking ever so slowly, and stopping 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 has 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 waste water 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 J. COLLETT
 owner

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