

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 3:58 PM
To: 'Debbie Dunn'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Proposed low pressure sewer system for Charlotte County Barrier Islands: DPP, LGI and PIE

Good Afternoon, Debbie Dunn.

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

Thank you!

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

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From: Debbie Dunn <debbiedunn8457@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 3:54 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: Commissioner.LaRose@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Proposed low pressure sewer system for Charlotte County Barrier Islands: DPP, LGI and PIE

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Dear Commissioner:

This letter is to respectfully ask that you reject the proposed central sewer system for the above-referenced barrier islands here in Charlotte County. My husband, Pete, and I bought a house at 8314 Grand Avenue on Little Gasparilla Island. We have had a second home here in Placida at Boca Vista Condos for 20 years and decided after Hurricane Ian and its damage, to sell the condo and seek another property elsewhere to escape astronomical assessments and lack of control over our surrounding complex. We were familiar with Little Gasparilla Island and were fortunate enough to be able to purchase a home here where we will be spending most of our time. We do have another property and I travel back to DeLand, Florida to take care of my real

estate brokerage, but will spend our time here at our homestead; one we bought with no plans of being under another mandatory assessment of any kind. So, we have been bonafide taxpayers in Charlotte County for over 20 years.

We are in receipt of a letter outlining the proposed sewer system for LGI. We are vehemently against it for many reasons. The first being that we see no problems with the current septic systems located on individual properties. There has been no study that I am aware of to determine that the septic tanks on the island are causing any damage to the estuaries or the surrounding environment.

The second reason that I am not in support of this system is because it is owned by a for-profit company and from my understanding, this is not a large corporation with the ability to install, handle and maintain for the long haul, this type of sewer/septic system. It depends on electric power, and should there be an outage, (and there are many on the Island) the system would go down... and I shudder to think about what the outcome of that mishap could be. In addition, why does a for-profit company get to apply and perhaps be awarded with this job when it has not even been put out for bids by the County or the State? I'm not sure how that works, but one would surmise that a job of this magnitude would require a governing body to request bids by qualified contractors. I do not know this contractor/company who has made an application to put in this system, have no personal reasons to object to him/it, but only care about what happens to this Lovely Little Piece of Old Florida that we now call home.

The third reason is that this island is a piece of off-the-beaten-path paradise. There are no vehicles allowed here, with the exception of a few workers still here making repairs to homes and properties destroyed or severely damaged by Ian and Irma; this island has only sandy paths and roads (if you can call them that) which are traversed by golf carts. There is no County, State or municipal infrastructure here that would be able to support the kind of elements putting this system in would require. There are many areas of native vegetation, landscaped properties with tropical plants and trees. There is also wildlife that would and should not be disturbed by such a project, including endangered species such as the gopher tortoise, many birds, native reptiles and mammals. Tearing up the sandy paths and its accompanying easements that are home to this vegetation, trees and wildlife would be a huge detriment to all of the home owners and inhabitants of Little Gasparilla Island., especially after almost getting back to normal after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Ian.

The fourth reason is the expense that would be incurred by each homeowner: many have family homes that have been passed down through the generations and cannot afford to pay for the required hookup. Many others have a second home here and live elsewhere most of the time, so their septic tanks are rarely used. Furthermore, if a for-profit company wishes to come in and do such a project, why should any property owner bear the burden of this cost. Let that company foot the bill. The majority of the islanders do not wish to have this thrust upon them and their right to a peaceful existence, so why should they be forced to use their hard-earned resources to pay for something that is not needed nor wanted?

If a sewer system was deemed a necessity because what LGI has here is broken, then let there be studies to prove that. And, should such studies show the need, then let a municipal entity (the one who collects the majority of real estate taxes from the properties on the island) take care of the project, and do it as it is done on the mainland. I don't know alot about this proposed system, but I have read enough to understand that there are many problems that are associated with the mechanics of it. If these barrier islands are to be forced to hook up to a sewer system, it should be the same types of systems used by those provided to the residents of other parts of Charlotte County and/or the State of Florida; and this should be after a need for such a service has proven to be necessary.

As a side note: this island does not need a bridge. Everything is fine just the way it is and those of us who live here the majority of the time seem to manage just fine with our boats and taxi services or with a little help from our friends. Should our access be diminished due to the sale of the Eldred's Marina in the future, then Charlotte

County should step up and provide a solution to the limited availability of parking, boat ramps and slips needed for the Island access. A bridge is certainly not the answer due to the lack of infrastructure on Little Gasparilla Island.

In closing, I wish to state my strong objection to the approval of this project and request that the application for a central sewer/septic system for these barrier islands, and in particular, Little Gasparilla Island be rejected.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to following this process and to continuing to be a voice of opposition.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dunn, wife of Emory "Pete" Dunn
Homeowners at 8314 Grand Ave., Placida, FL 33946
Little Gasparilla Island resident

Debbie Dunn, President/Founder
HOFFRW
DeLand, FL 32720

and last but not least:

Debbie Dunn, Broker/Owner

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