

Charlie Smith

From: Charlie Smith on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 1:09 PM
To: 'Scott Almand'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: PSC Docket #20240032-SU

Good afternoon J. Scott and Christa Almand,

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.

Best regards,

Charlie Smith II

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
850-413-6770

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From: Scott Almand <scott.almand@smrranch.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: Christa Almand <scalmand1@gmail.com>; scotthbbc@gmail.com
Subject: PSC Docket #20240032-SU

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Good morning,

My name is J. Scott Almand and I'm a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County within the proposed service area reference in **Docket #20240032-SU** currently at the PSC. I own a unit in the Hideaway Bay condominiums and I serve on the condo association board as Treasurer and Vice President.

I would like to formally request the PSC deny this application for wastewater services for the following reasons –

1. First and Foremost - The Island is still in the process of recovering from Hurricane Ian and more disruption to the landscape would be detrimental. We do not have public, traditional roads and many are

simply shell paths over private property. To try to run a sewer system without public roads or roads able to accommodate construction equipment would be almost impossible.

2. Owners on the island are all financially strapped to the point of “breaking” after trying to recover from Hurricane Ian and then Idalia. This would put even more of a financial burden on many residents, dare I say to the point that they can not handle.
3. We are a Bridgeless Barrier Island that has a unique charm. We would like it to remain that way. Approving this application will only promote more development on the Island against the residents’ desires.
4. EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer. The PSC approves certification based solely on four criteria: need for service, financial ability of the applicant, technical expertise of the applicant and fair/equitable rates and charges. Each of the other agencies (County, DEP, Army Corps, etc.) is responsible for supervising only their specific area where regulation and/or permitting is involved. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.
5. The applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions. Each homeowner would need a generator at their own expense to ensure their system continues to run.
6. 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. Gopher tortoise relocation is extremely expensive, with cost estimates up to \$10,000 per individual relocation.
7. Finally, Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service. Why are we doing this again when nothing has changed?

Specifically to Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condos – The proposed system is exactly the same as the current wastewater plant on our property that serves both HBBC and Placida Condos on LGI, just on a much larger scale. Requiring us to remove our system and connect to another system would be so unbelievably expensive and such a burden to the owners in hideaway that it might push some towards foreclosure. We have been unable to occupy or rent our units for the last 18 months as we continue to try and rebuild....this would be financially devastating to our unit owners.

Please add my email to Docket #20240032-SU

Sincerely,

J. Scott & Christa Almand

Scott.almand@smrranch.com

941-812-0715

9400 Little Gasparilla Island Road