

**Antonia Hover**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 1:11 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032  
**Attachments:** Docket # 20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket# 20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket No. 20240032-SU; PSC Docket # 20240032-SU

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

Thank you!

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** johnspurvis@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:55 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**Subject:** Docket # 20240032-SU

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We are John Purvis and Gayle Moore, husband and wife, owners of 380 Bocilla Drive on Don Pedro Island. Our email is johnspurvis@yahoo.com.

We are writing to OPPOSE the application of Environmental Utilities, LLC to install central sewer on our island.

We are not opposed to sewer but we are opposed to Environmental Utilities providing it. If we get sewer, it should be provided by Charlotte County, not a private for profit company. This company has no ( zero ) experience in central sewer. They are very opaque with the rates but from what we have gleaned, they will be much higher than the rates that would be charged by the county. We do not believe that they know what they are doing and are terrified of potential spills that would spoil our pristine islands. They have conducted NO tests of the surrounding waters that indicate that there is any problem with the current septic systems. They have demonstrated NO need except the need to make money. Please do not allow inexperienced operators to muddle this in one of the most pristine areas in our state.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Todd Belden <todd.belden@onedigital.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:48 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; mfriedman@deanmead.com; cbelden@huff.com  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk, Commissioners, and Mr. Friedman,

As homeowners effected by the above application, we object to EU's application to provide wastewater services. Here are several reasons:

**Hook-up Cost:** According to the application, the initial connection fee will be \$12,000. There is an additional \$1,097 "Sewer Lateral Connection" fee 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. That's a total of \$13,511.00. Note that costs could exceed the estimates by large measure and homeowners will likely be saddled with additional burdens.

**Average Residential Bill:** The rates and tariffs submitted to the PSC shows a base rate of \$115.81 per month just to provide wastewater service. In addition, the monthly residential service charge is \$39.64 per 1000 gallons. EU estimates average household usage at 2,500 gallons/month. Based on this, the monthly billing would be \$207.00/month. However, when the PSC prepared a Rate Case summary that was distributed at the 2022 Administrative Hearing, they cited a more realistic average household usage estimate of 4,000 gals/month. Using this average the monthly billing would be \$263.57/month for wastewater service alone. This is exclusive of your water bill.

**Electric:** the system pump requires a separate electric panel, installed by a licensed electrician at the expense of the homeowner.

**More electric:** If the owner has maxed out their main electric grid with pool equipment or other large-draw items, the panel will need an expensive upgrade.

**Generator:** the 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.

**Tree removal:** Landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area will need to be cleared at the expense of the homeowner to gain access to the crush & fill the existing septic tank and install the new one.

**No pay-over-time plan:** Ratepayers may need to take loans to cover the cost of connection.

**Mandatory Hook-up:** Charlotte County regulations require all homes to connect to central water and wastewater within 1 year of availability.

**No grandfathering of septic systems:** regardless of age or condition.

**No "contractor" and no single point of general oversight:** 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.

**Access to homes:** Some properties have physical constraints that will complicate how the applicant gains access to the property without leaving the boundaries or damaging the grounds.

**Disruption of traffic:** Vehicles have only one point of entry/egress -- the car ferry. With normal traffic, service and construction trucks, delays at the ferry line in season can be an hour or more. This project could result in years of traffic issues.

**New easement giveaway:** Most utility easements are placed in the road right-of-way. EU has claimed ownership of a utility easement that will go from the sewer equipment, located near the house to the connection in the road without compensating the homeowner.

**System maintenance and emergencies:** The applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions.

**Lifespan of the equipment:** Salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. Equipment will need replacing when it fails, possibly at 5-year intervals. This proposal places too much responsibility on the homeowner at too great a cost.

**Environmental concerns:** 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.

**Potential of sewer spill in the Intracoastal:** The risk of a central sewer leak with a subaqueous crossing is greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.

Please STOP this ridiculous ask!

Todd J. Belden  
171 Bocilla Drive  
Placida, FL 33946



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## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Carol Rowe <carowe34@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:50 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

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To whom it may concern,

We are homeowners and full time residents of 8160 and 8162 Little Gasparilla Island.

We are in opposition of docket # 20240032-SU. A few of the concerns we have are as follows:

- There has been no study showing the need for a low pressure sewer system or evidence of environmental damage allegedly caused by the current septic tanks and/or leach beds.
- In the case of extended power outages, example being Hurricane Ian, we were without power for twelve days. How will the proposed system move waste without power?
- Forced hook up fees are estimated to start at \$12,000 with additional monthly surcharge fees (similar to our current water bills.) There is no maximum charge limitation.
- What will the impact be to the protected wildlife, vegetation and private properties by the equipment necessary to install said system? Will construction halt for the various nesting seasons of protected wildlife?
- We believe the sewer and water systems should be under Charlotte County Governmental service umbrella.

Please do the will of your constituents by denying this request made under docket #20240032-SU.

Sincerely,

Daveann Ceridon  
Carol Rowe

Sent from my iPad

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Chris Woodall <Chris@tranorindustries.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:40 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:** 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 confirm that this was received and entered into the record.

I did not receive a reply that it was received as most others have.

Sincerely,

Chris Woodall  
9400 Little Gasparilla Island Rd

**From:** Chris Woodall  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:47 AM  
**To:** clerk@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

Good morning,

My name is Chris Woodall and I am a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County within the proposed service area.

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

We are a Bridgeless Barrier Island that has a unique "Old Florida" charm. We would like it to remain that way. Approving this application will only promote more development on the Island against the residents' desires.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Finally, 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. Why are we doing this again?

Sincerely,

Chris Woodall

[Chris@tranorindustries.com](mailto:Chris@tranorindustries.com)

313-909-3799

9400 Little Gasparilla Island Road

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** lia gray <uncpair@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:20 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

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To Whom It May Concern,

We are, and have been, property owners at 9810 & 9814 Little Gasparilla Island for over 30 years. We are writing to express our concerns regarding the low pressure central sewer system proposed by EU, LLC. Our primary concern is whether EU has the expertise to construct and adequately maintain the system. To our knowledge, EU has not done this type of project before. Constructing anything on a barrier island is met with unique challenges that require experience and expertise to address obstacles when they arise. Another major concern is the financial aspect. Will homeowners be required to pay a large sum of money up front without any guarantee that this system will be completed in a timely manner or completed at all? Who will maintain the system and provide service if EU becomes insolvent? We also are puzzled by the lack of information provided by EU. As homeowners, we have never received any communication regarding the plans or an attempt to explain why this would be beneficial to Little Gasparilla Island.

We are not opposed to a central sewer system on LGI, but do not think EU, LLC has the expertise to provide this service in a unique environment. **We are formally requesting that PSC deny EU's application to provide wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island.**

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Lelia C Gray  
[uncpair@gmail.com](mailto:uncpair@gmail.com)  
John H Gray, Jr.  
[jaygraywhfl@gmail.com](mailto:jaygraywhfl@gmail.com)



## Antonia Hover

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**From:** tandhburns@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:09 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; commissioner.fay@psc.state; Office of Commissioner Clark  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032-SU

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

My name is Heather Burns, and I am a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island. The greatest Public Service you can provide to our island community is to deny the application for Original Certification of Authorization that Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) has put before you in Docket No. 20240032-SU.

I don't know what exactly EU is offering as a change since being denied less than a year ago for the same Certification, but it definitely has not included community involvement or approval. I have not seen evidence of feasibility studies for implementation nor how the proposed plan is better than properly functioning septic systems for our unique environment and isolated situation.

Little Gasparilla Island is designated Rural according to Charlotte County for good reason, and has additional logistical and topographic issues compared to a mainland rural area. Not only is it a low density, bridgeless barrier island with sand paths, it doesn't have a continuous North/South platted public route. Every service, supply, and piece of equipment must be brought over by boat or barge, and the cost of this has steadily increased over the past 5 years. The cost estimates cannot be comparable to what it might cost on the mainland.

EU's proposal puts a heavy burden on individual homeowners for initial expense, including electrical requirements, and uncertain ongoing service and maintenance issues in a salt air and storm sensitive area. Stating that EU will hire the experts is just further proof that they don't have any themselves. Where will these experts be based once the system is in place? Will we need to wait for days for them to get to the island to fix issues? When there is a power outage from either a storm or a transformer exploding, FPL is often limited for how quickly they can get across to the island to make repairs. The EU option has our sewage reliant on electricity as well. If, indeed, Mr. Boyer is hoping to get this system in place and then hand it over to the County for future control and maintenance, LGI residents will be even less well-served, with no resident control or say in operations.

Well worded applications and nicely drawn diagrams do not give a full picture as to the unique nature of Little Gasparilla Island, and I respectfully ask that until such a time as there is community involvement, oversight, and a better plan for bringing sewer to the island, that you DENY this application.

Sincerely,

Heather Burns

8960 Seagrape Lane

tandhburns@gmail.com

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Scott Almand <scott.almand@smrranch.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:59 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  
**Cc:** Christa Almand; 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](mailto:Scott.almand@smrranch.com)  
941-812-0715  
9400 Little Gasparilla Island Road