

Charlie Smith

From: Charlie Smith on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 9:46 AM
To: 'Kelly Lube'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Good morning Kelly Lube,

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: Kelly Lube <lubekelly@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 9:18 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>; commissioner.grham@psc.state.fl.us; commissioner.Fay@psc.state.us
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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

This letter is in opposition of docket # 20240032. I apologize in advance if I ramble, but, I have a lot on my mind about this issue. I'm having a hard time understanding why this issue has been brought up again after the lengthy procedures 2 years ago that were denied. It is my understanding that nothing has changed from then to now.

Our small unique 7 mile bridge-less barrier island is home to a diverse array of wildlife-native & migratory birds, endangered species such as our gopher tortoises, wild honey bees, bobcats, bats, owls, ospreys, American bald eagles, seasonal endangered sea turtles & our abundance of fish and marine life, such as manatees. The Island is within the boundaries of the Lemon Bay Aquatic preserve which provides important estuaries, seagrass & oyster beds that filter the waters.



The island wildlife is flourishing!

1.

Our small unique 7 mile bridge-less barrier island is also home to many, many eco-conscious residents. The Bocilla Islands Conservancy (501) C3 was founded by island residents in 2015 to acquire green space to help preserve a natural island habitat for wildlife & future generations to enjoy.

*The conservancy currently has 12 green space lots, most all of which were acquired through donations from Island residents and visitors.

*It offers educational classes to residents & visitors-most recently-classes on sea turtles, mangroves, gopher tortoises, and shorebirds.

*A Native plant garden is on the island to educate residents & visitors about the island ecosystem & native plants.

*The island was recently certified as a NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT. In order to get this achievement, the community had to reach 2 benchmark goals-first, was certifying a number of individual properties (40). Along with public areas-such as parks and community gardens. The 2nd benchmark was engaging the community in activities that helped foster a greater awareness and understanding of the principles of the community wildlife habitat program. Points were obtained through specific education, outreach, registration and administration goals.



COMMUNITY WILDLIFE
HABITAT



- * Bocilla Islands Conservancy also has a gopher tortoise rescue team that helps relocate tortoises in accordance with state laws. The team consists of island residents!
- * The island has a state certified sea turtle islander volunteer team- that spend countless hours walking the beach each morning to mark new nests & conduct other state certified research.
- * Many of our islanders are avid boaters and are members of Captains For Clean Water and other eco-friendly organizations.
- * Island residents are known well by the staff at the Wildlife Center of S.W. Florida in Venice. This year they have taken in injured island wildlife brought in by caring islanders. 3 tortoises, an osprey, a juvenile loon, and a brown pelican, to name a few.
- * A group of islanders is currently working on obtaining information to get the island certified by Dark Sky International ... dark skies are important for all wildlife, not just sea turtles.
- * Island residents have purchased thru the Bocilla Islands Conservancy over 150 mini-reefs to put under docks to help filter the water. (Did you know that 1 mini-reef filters an average of 30,000 gallons per day!)



So...My long winded point is that the islanders love our island & all the wildlife that shares this space with us! We are a very conscientious community & we Consider ourselves ambassadors of this beautiful island. We take pride in taking care of our septic systems and keeping them up to code.. our fragile ecosystem depends on us.

Don Pedro Island
 Top contributor: Kelly Cotheman Lube · Mar 17, 2023 · 🌐

PIE members- It's batch septic pumping time! Go to the website for more details. Just another service reminder from your friendly voluntary homeowners association.

Palm Island Estates

Batch septic pumping time!



For more info go to : Palmislandestates.org/our programs

You and Sharon Kent



For Owners/Users of Aerobic Treatment Systems:

Aerobic Treatment Units (ATUs) are a special kind of wastewater disposal system that are more efficient at processing waste. They are highly versatile and efficient systems and have many advantages including the ability to be installed in a place where a conventional system could be infeasible due to soil quality or site conditions, or providing the ability to build a larger house on a smaller lot. ATUs require a smaller drainfield size than conventional systems. ATUs reduce the amount of biological material that enters your drainfield, and is more environmentally friendly than a conventional system.

There are fees associated with maintaining an ATU as a direct result of the requirements to maintain a valid operating permit, and a maintenance contract for the life of the system.

What are the requirements?

- The homeowner must maintain a current operating permit for the life of the system. The operating permit must be renewed every two years, and costs \$225.00 payable to the Department of Health.
- The homeowner must maintain a valid maintenance contract with an approved maintenance entity for the life of the system. The maintenance contract or new construction will usually be good for five years. Subsequent renewals must be good for at least a one-year term for the life of the system. Prices vary depending on the maintenance entity selected and type of system.
- Maintenance entity is required to inspect/maintain the ATU at least two times per year. Inspection reports must be submitted to the Department of Health in Lee County.
- The Department of Health must inspect the maintenance and performance of the ATU at least once per year.

Don Pedro Island
 Top contributor: Sandie Ahrens · Oct 11, 2022 · 🌐

Anyone need septic pumped? Call SOS and we can share barge fees. They need 2 more people. 941-473-1767

Janet Behnke and Deborah Stephens Lietzke · 3 comments

Like Comment Copy

Don Pedro Island
 Top contributor: Collins-Reed Diane · Jul 21, 2022 · 🌐

Planning to pump my septic in September, any one want to join me to share ferry fee? PM me if interested... See more

1 · 1 comment

Like Comment Copy

Don Pedro Island
 Roger Zakrajshch · Feb 12 · 🌐

FYI SOS SEPTIC WOULD LIKE TO PUMP ON WEDNESDAY OF THIS WEEK. THEY NEED ONE MORE TO GET TO 4 PEOPLE TO SPLIT BARG FEES IF YOU NEED A PUMP CALL THEM

Like Comment Copy

David Cohen

Top comments

Dona Cabela
 I'm interested! I called and spoke to Pat. I believe we are good to go.

10w Like Reply

Roger Zakrajshch
 THANKS !!!!

10w Like Reply

Dona Cabela
 Came this morning. Good for another 4-5 years
 Thanks for posting this.

10w Like Reply

Write a reply...

Sharon Saad
 I'm interested! I'll call SOS.

10w Like Reply

4.

As a concerned & environmentally conscious island resident,,, I am concerned that EU, having no prior experience with sewer systems is not equipped to handle this job.



'SEWER CRISIS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA'

MANATEE
Longboat Key pipe may have dumped 28 million gallons of sewage into Sarasota Bay
Timothy Fanning tim.fanning@heraldtribune.com



Failing Fort Myers wastewater system could cause major sewage spill
ARTICLE DETAILS

One Million Gallons of Untreated Wastewater Spilled in Charlotte County

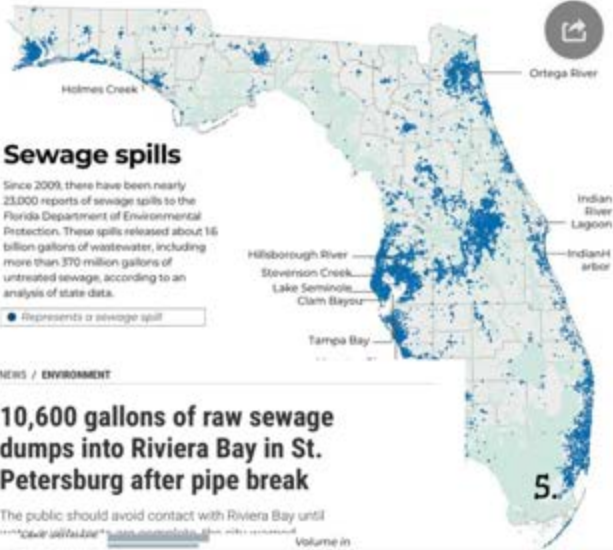
Mar 2, 2021 | Press

More than 900,000 gallons of raw sewage flowed into Sarasota Bay after a violent December storm forced open a city pipe.

Summer rain in Daytona Beach and equipment failure in Jacksonville each prompted more than a quarter-million gallons of human waste to spill from sewers last year.

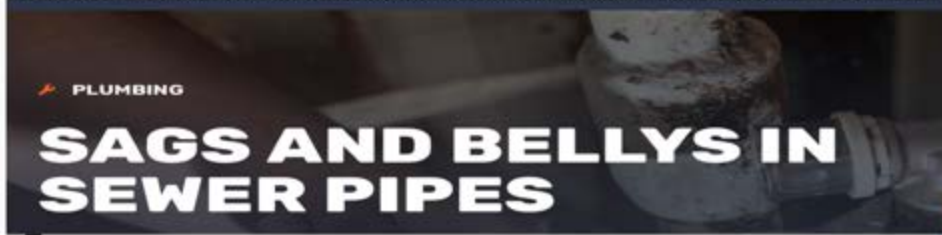
In Boca Raton, a pressurized pipe gushed out nearly 50,000 gallons of untreated wastewater, while another 55,000 gallons spewed from a DeFuniak Springs

environmentalists fear it will only get worse.



I will admit I have no expertise in this area, but I would worry that the island is basically "sugar sand", and EU having no experience... worries me. We have lots of storms and runoff and shifting of the beach and other areas of the island during storms. I worry that sewer pipes could easily shift in these situations..& we would have sewer leaking into our precious waterways.

Barrier islands in Florida typically have shallow surficial aquifers with sandy soils that can become nutrient enriched by use of septic systems. The barrier islands in Charlotte County have two types of sand, with soil profiles generally a mix of Canaveral fine sand and St. Augustine fine sand down to 80 inches depth (Soil Conservation Service). High ammonium concentrations averaging 43 μM (n=35) and 28.6 μM (n = 86) were found in shallow groundwaters in sandy soils at distances of 57 m (185 feet) and 86 m (280 feet) downgradient from septic systems, respectively, on Saint Georges Island (Corbett et al., 2002). Similarly high ammonium concentrations would be expected to occur in septic-impacted shallow groundwaters along the sandy shorelines on the barrier islands in



SAGS AND BELLYS IN SEWER PIPES

There are a number of reasons why bellies in sewer lines may occur. The most common reason is if the sewer line was installed by a non-licensed or inexperienced plumber. The average handyman may be able to lay pipe and put it together however, there are many other variables to consider when measuring for proper pitch for the entire length of the sewer line. It is also important for the plumber to understand the plumbing code, what is allowable and even the possibility of too much pitch.

A belly may occur if the pipe was not installed with proper support, this may mean that the soil was not compacted properly, the pipe may have been installed on sludge or without the proper pitch.

It is also possible for a belly to occur for reasons out of everyone's control such as tree roots shifting the soil or pipe, earthquakes or a change in temperature which forces the grounds to shift.

The best way to avoid a sewer belly is to make sure that your sewer line is installed with proper support, quality soil and compaction. It is also extremely important to make sure that the pipe is installed with the proper pitch from the beginning which will allow your sewage to flow on gravity as it is supposed to.



6.

Ok, Thank you for still being here & reading. My next point will be... water quality testing. I am aware that Charlotte County health department regularly monitors the waters in the area... and I don't believe they have had any issued warnings. I have noted both a good & poor result on 4/22/24 on Boca grande and also one on Palm Island, but viewing all the charts, there are "poor" numbers that come and go throughout the coast... which could be from a variety of reasons. I will note.. that Boca Grande has a sewer system.



Hmmmm....so many people, drinking & having a great time..What? No porta potties? Hmmmmm...

7.

A final note- I have to wonder why after the PSC dismissed this case 2 years ago, Why in the world would Charlotte County support this private sewer project?

Why would Charlotte County not want to do this project themselves?

The collage features several news snippets:

- Environmental Groups Intend to Sue City** (November 2, 2016 by Lynn Taylor): Three environmental groups sent a notice of intent to file a lawsuit against the city of Gulfport last Friday over its sewage discharges, which the groups allege is a violation of the Clean Water Act. In a press release, Suncoast Waterkeeper, Our Children's Earth Foundation and Ecological Rights Foundation filed a 60-day notice for what...
- Sarasota County Facing Lawsuit After Environmental Groups Claim Faulty Systems Are Polluting Suncoast Waterways**: Includes a video player with a play button.
- Environmental groups reach a settlement with Bradenton over sewage spills** (WUSF | By Steve Newborn, Published May 13, 2022 at 5:15 AM EDT): Includes social media share icons for Facebook, X, and LinkedIn.
- Environmental Groups Threaten St. Pete With Lawsuit Over Sewage Spill** (By The Associated Press, Published September 30, 2016 at 8:16 AM EDT): Includes social media share icons and a photo of a beach with a yellow "WARNING SURFACE WATER IS CONTAMINATED" sign.
- Environmental groups announce intent to sue St. Pete over sewage dumps** (By Charlie Frago, Former Times Reporter, Published Sep 29, 2016): Includes social media share icons and a photo of a spotted cat walking on a sandy beach.

Maybe they are afraid of something...

8.



Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy letter. I know this is not the guy (Jack Boyer) that you will allow to disrupt our beautiful, thriving & fragile ecosystem.. Just so he can pad his pockets with our dollars. He also has stolen from Charlotte County in the past. His character is questionable, at best.



Thank you, Kelly Lubē
290 Kettle Harbor Dr.

In the meantime...we will continue to be stewards of our beautiful island & continue to share its wealth of nature with those that love it like we do & encourage the next generation to do the same.



Help our beautiful wildlife and keep our island from zoning changes ... if sewer is allowed.. they will pave paradise and put up a parking lot. 9.

Come visit our beautiful island sometime!



Palm Island Resort
NATURE WALK
Learn about native island plants & animals

Guided by Master Naturalist Michael Weisensee

Every Wednesday—April 3, 10, 17, 24th
9-11am/meet behind Coconuts. \$5.00 per non Resort person

41-830-8460

Palm Island
RESORT
CONSERVATION

A poster for a nature walk at Palm Island Resort. The poster features a large green title "NATURE WALK" and a photograph of a bird in flight over a lagoon. The text includes the resort name, the walk's purpose, the guide's name, the schedule, and the contact number.

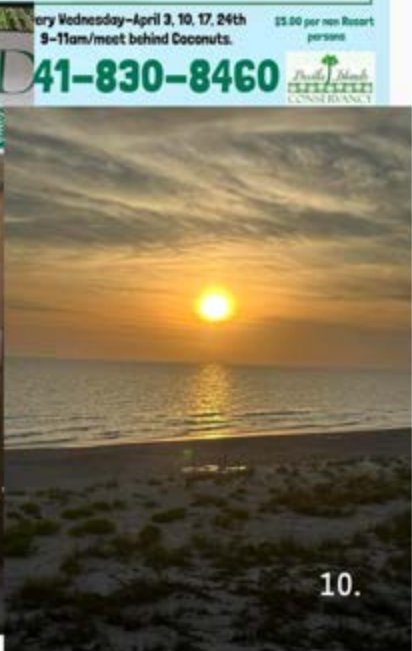


BOCILLA ISLAND

WE DID IT!

BICI

A sign for Bocilla Island with a bulletin board below it. The sign has a decorative border and the text "BOCILLA ISLAND". The bulletin board has a "WE DID IT!" sign and a "BICI" logo.



Sent from my iPad