

**Jenae Thornberry**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:53 AM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** FW: Docket number 20240032 – SU

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Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

Thank you!

**From:** Vernon Murphy <vernon.murphymd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2024 5:16 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Docket number 20240032 – SU

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**From:** **Vernon Murphy** <[vernon.murphymd@gmail.com](mailto:vernon.murphymd@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Sat, Aug 31, 2024 at 4:11 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Docket number 20240032 – SU  
**To:** <[clerk@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:clerk@psc.state.fl.us)>  
**CC:** <[commissioner.larosa@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:commissioner.larosa@psc.state.fl.us)>, <[commissioner.clark@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:commissioner.clark@psc.state.fl.us)>, <[commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us)>, <[commissioner.graham@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:commissioner.graham@psc.state.fl.us)>, <[commissioner.fay@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:commissioner.fay@psc.state.fl.us)>

I'm writing this email to express the most vigorous objection to the proposed sewage system on our precious Little Gasparilla Island. My reasons are enumerable. Below are only a few reasons for our objections.

One – Such a system is an environmental catastrophe in the making. Placing a large bore PVC pipe underground would not only destroy the habitat of our hundreds of gopher turtles, as well as our flora and fauna, but being constructed with PVC, the possibility of leaks at joints by far exceeds the risk of any significant potential leaks from our current septic tanks. Obviously, the current pollution in Charlotte Harbor is the result of the confluence of contaminated water from the Peace and Myakka rivers, rather than our tiny little barrier island.

Two – The potential health concerns related to the use of polyvinyl chloride since it is a known carcinogen related to angiosarcoma.

Three- Such a system would cause an extreme financial burden on the homeowners of LGI. The newer homes on our island have already spent between \$20,000 to \$30,000 on their current septic system. In addition, the hook up fee is likely to exceed \$20,000-\$30,000 as well as unforeseen costs. This is untenable since we have the cost associated with rebuilding resulting from Hurricane Ian, Hurricane Irma and our most recent tropical storm, Debby.

Four-This will be a private rather than a public endeavor. As such, services will be exclusively at the whim of EU as is our current water system. Our current water pressure is sub optimal and the cost of the water approaches or exceeds our electric bills being one of the most costly, if not the most costly water system in the state. Only recently, we had an increase in the cost of water, and we were notified several days after the increase went into effect.

Five-It is likely that this will impede our ability to get from one end of the island to the other to meet with friends or family since our only mode of transportation is via golf cart. We have a single road leading from north to south which would doubtlessly be involved in this construction. Making new roads is not an option and this would also destroy habitat.

In conclusion, our home on LGI was to be the legacy that my wife and I could leave to our children and grandchildren. Considering the state of the economy, this would place a financial burden upon them with sewer and water bills exceeding \$500 to \$600 per month. As well the financial burden placed on my wife and I considering our Social Security income.

We chose this location because of the remoteness, beauty, and sense of community that we have established over the years.

Our Islanders are aggressively pursuing avenues which will assure that the Bay waters on the east side of our island as well as the westerly Gulf waters remain pristine. Ecologically, this island is a jewel which cannot be re-created when destroyed. Nature will have its way in the future but mankind will certainly expedite this occurrence. We should always strive to keep this habitat as undisturbed as possible and EU's sewage system would cause massive disruption in our islands natural evolution.

We are,

Vernon Murphy, MD and Kathi Murphy  
8070 Grand Ave.  
Little Gasparilla Island, Florida