

Jenae Thornberry

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 7:18 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032
Attachments: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU Dear Commissioners,

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Morning:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Art Graham
Florida Public Service Commission
bleland@psc.state.fl.us
(850) 413-6024

Jenae Thornberry

From: Novak, Richard M <rmnovak@uic.edu>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2024 10:46 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
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk and Commissioners:

I am a current homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island, and have been for the past nearly 10 years, but I have been a regular visitor prior to ownership for the last 19 years. My address is 9498 Alborado Rd, LGI. I want to express my strongest opposition to the plan to centralize the sewage system as proposed by Environmental Utilities. This island is a unique island ecosystem and habitat for numerous sea birds, reptiles and amphibians. The waters around the island are home to manatee, dolphins, and a rich marine environment which is really quite fragile. We witness this first hadn't when overflow from Lake Okeechobee is allowed to drain into the Caloosahatchee, flooding our coast with organic material that leads to large bacterial blooms, consuming all the oxygen in the sea waters along the coast, and resulting in huge die off of sea life, with beaches littered with dead fish (this is distinct from red tide).

We currently manage our sewage with decentralized septic systems, which each individual household has.

A centralized system is a high maintenance system dependent on mechanical pumps and sewer lines running across the intracoastal waterway. Any interruption in this system from a broken pipe or pump failure would result in sewage back up to all the homes on the island. Any work that would have to be done on the system on our bridgeless barrier island would have to be brought by barge. If a sewer spill occurred, it would be devastating to the natural habitat, and would take months to clean up, since trucks would have to be brought by barge to the island at huge expense. Environmental Utilities is not equipped to do this, and has no experience working on a bridgeless island. Their costs estimates for building this system are underestimates: they claim the cost to each home owner would be only 13,000 plus a new monthly utility fee: already a financial burden. But the reality is that other counties that are centralizing their sewer systems are estimating 35,000 per capita, and they are not bridge less barrier islands, but rather on the main land. Environmental Utilities has not sought or received any grant support, and plans to pass all the costs on to the home owners.

This plan in its entirety appears to be an attempt to a money grab by a group with little expertise working in this environment, and to force the homeowners who already have satisfactory sewage management to pay for it. Once in place, they have limited or no ability to maintain it, and Charlotte County states clearly in the docket that they will not be responsible if the system fails. A number of these systems exist throughout Florida and when they fail, the results are disastrous to local residents and communities. Why would anyone want that?

While there does not appear to be an existing problem, the homeowners of LGI would prefer to investigate newer, decentralized septic systems that would be environmentally friendly and improve on existing systems and to seek grant support to bring these to the island. We wish to maintain the low density occupancy on the island that allows the natural beauty and wildlife to coexist.

Please reject the above docket and rule against Environmental Utilities as you have done in the past and send them packing once more.

Sincerely,

Richard Novak
9498 Alborado Rd
LGI

Jenae Thornberry

From: Ann Evans <annuhbeth@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2024 12:04 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU Dear Commissioners,

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As an owner on the beautiful bridgeless barrier island, Little Gasparilla Island, I'm troubled and extremely wary of the proposal for our island concerning the central sewer system proposed by Environmental Utilities. Our island has a delicate ecosystem and although it is possible that eventually a more advanced system may be needed on our island, the system by EU is not what we need. This company is concerned for profits for itself and not care of the environment or the needs of the island owners. Their proposal is an onerous financial burden on our home owners. Research into other island communities clearly show ways a system can be brought to an island safely and economically to taxpayers. We on LGI already pay one if not the highest water rates in Florida -- brought to us by this same company! Environmental Utilities must not be allowed to do this sewer project. They have no proven expertise to attempt such an important project with the potential for severe ecological and financial repercussions.

Thank you for your time and listening to my concerns.

Ann Evans
LGI property owner