

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Fay
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 3:16 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032-SU
Attachments: Docket #20240032-SU; Re: Docket #20240032-SU; Re: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU Dear Commissioners,

Place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032

Thanks

Antonia Hover

From: Captains Bungalow <captainsbungalow@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 9:32 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Cc: Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing this letter to inform you that the vast majority of homeowners, as well as myself, on Little Gasparilla Island Florida **oppose** the sewer system.

I am an owner of 8484 Grande Ave. on LGI.

For every major storm that hits our coastline there is always a sewer line release, and thousands of gallons of raw sewage go into our local waters. In this last storm, "Debbie", Boca Grande had a major spill and didn't notify anyone for weeks after. Before that Sarasota and Venice had spills this summer.

It is the belief of almost all homeowners on LGI that Jack Boyer, owner of Environmental Utilities, is overly greedy and he wished to force customers to go broke paying his hefty sewer bills, He has already proven that with his horrible water utility. Customers on LGI pay double the price for water. Mr. Boyer somehow has been able to fool our Charlotte county commissioners into taking his side with this. He doesn't care about our environment, he is just trying to get richer. It's just wrong.

You are our only hope ! Please tell Greedy Mr. Boyer that his sewer system is not for Little Gasparilla Island.

Thank you for your considerations,
Greg Adams

Antonia Hover

From: JeanPaul Jenack <spindrifter@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 9:35 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: Re: Docket #20240032-SU

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

To the Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

My name is John Jenack and I am a full-time resident and owner of two properties on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to you to register my opposition to the application from Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) to provide wastewater services to a service area inclusive of Don Pedro Island.

My specific objections include:

1. **No Demonstrated Need.** The County adopted the 2017 Sewer Master Plan which includes these Islands for sewer executed by CCUD (Charlotte County Utilities Dept.). No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. Amid allegations of nitrogen pollutants in our inland and shore waters, there was no study to determine if they exist and if so whether they were coming from leaky sewage tanks or from fertilizers. Therefore, the assumption that the alleged pollution is emanating from septic tanks is a false one, as is the assumptions made about the presumed ages of the tanks.
2. **Environmental Impacts:** The proposed project is on a bridgeless barrier island with unique characteristics that have not been addressed in this application. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise. The sensitive environment will affect the cost and feasibility of the project. There is no indication that stakeholder agencies such as the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Florida State Parks, The Florida Submerged Land Trust, or Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) have been consulted. Plans appear to include a subaqueous crossing under a waterway required to access many homes on the island. DEP permits would be required for destruction of flats and mangroves; FWC approvals would be necessary for destruction of endangered and threatened species habitat. None of these issues have been addressed, and these are only a few of them. The acquisition of easements has not been addressed in EU's application. The question of who will oversee the construction through sensitive and protected habitat has not been addressed. The financial costs of this type of project, e.g. affecting threatened species and protected wetlands and shorelines, have not been addressed.

For these and other reasons, I am requesting that you deny Environmental Utilities' application for certification of this wastewater service area. Thank you for your consideration.

John C. Jenack
121 Kettle Harbor Drive
141 Kettle Harbor Drive
Don Pedro Island, FL

Antonia Hover

From: Meryl Schaffer <merylschaffer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 7:07 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
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.

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
VIA EMAIL: clerk@psc.state.fl.us

Re: **Docket #20240032-SU**

To the Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

My name is Meryl Schaffer, owner of two properties on Don Pedro Island and a full-time resident of the Island for the past 24 years. I am writing to you to register my opposition to the request from Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) to provide wastewater service in the areas specified in their application contained in Docket number 20240032-SU. This application for certification includes Knight Island and Don Pedro Island.

I specifically object to this application owing to the lack of an evidence-based definitive need for service.

A virtually identical application by this particular utility was previously adjudicated at an administrative hearing on February 8th and 9th, 2022. The Commission denied the application, determining that there was no need for service and that the certification of this service area would not be in the public interest. I am outraged that the law permits this travesty. Our besieged community is once again forced to devote time, resources and taxpayer dollars to an issue that we thought had been put to rest.

This request from EU should never have been brought back to the Public Service Commission. I seek redress from the Commission via denial of this application. There may be more pages in the current application submission, but there is certainly no more substance nor is there anything new.

Thank you for your consideration.

Meryl Schaffer
121 Kettle Harbor Drive
141 Kettle Harbor Drive
Don Pedro Island, FL
merylschaffer@hotmail.com

Antonia Hover

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

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

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

Antonia Hover

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,

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

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