

Jenae Thornberry

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 7:26 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Importance: High

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

From: JANE FROST <jfrostee12@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 9:46 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: 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 Smith <Commissioner.Passidomo.Smith@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU
Importance: High

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Dear Commissioners of the Florida Public Service Commission,

We are writing to urge you to deny Application Number 20240032-SU, which proposes the installation of a low-pressure central sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island, specifically impacting our property at 9356 Little Gasparilla Island.

Due to catastrophic flooding from Hurricane Milton, where our home was inundated with over 4 feet of water, we are currently unable to stay in our home and unable to attend the hearing in person as we manage extensive repairs. This disaster has already placed a significant financial strain on us, making the proposed sewer system costs even more burdensome.

We have reviewed the expert engineering testimony associated with this application, and the projected cost of \$46,189.79 for our sewer hook-up is prohibitively expensive. For comparison, Charlotte County charges roughly \$11,500 per household for similar conversions on the mainland. We find it incomprehensible and deeply unfair that we are expected to pay over four times that amount for the same service.

Our home's certified just value, as listed by the Charlotte County Property Appraiser, is \$259,471.00. The proposed sewer hook-up fee would amount to nearly 20% of our property's value, an untenable financial burden. This cost not only affects our personal finances but also threatens the economic viability and property values of our island community.

In addition to these hard costs to homeowners, there are significant environmental costs associated with running a sewer line to a bridgeless barrier island. The construction would involve dredging and filling in wetlands, which would disrupt natural fish habitats, and could compromise conditionally approved shellfish harvesting areas, affecting both local ecosystems and economies. Moreover, the project poses a direct threat to the sensitive habitats on Little Gasparilla Island, home to species like the gopher tortoise, with its current bald eagle nest, and hosts to the Tricolor Heron, Small Heron, Black Skimmer, and the Least Tern. The disturbance from such construction could lead to habitat destruction, impacting these endangered and threatened species.

Given these circumstances, we strongly request that the Commission deny this application. The financial implications are too substantial for many residents here, particularly following the recent natural disaster. The proposed system does not consider the unique logistical and financial challenges that come with living on a bridgeless barrier island. The current proposal does not serve the best interests of our community and could lead to significant hardship for many homeowners.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your service in overseeing these vital public utilities decisions.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Reed
Jane K. Frost

Owners of 9356 Little Gasparilla Island