

Antonia Hover

From: Ana Ortega
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 2:31 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032-SU
Attachments: Stop the Unnecessary, Unwanted and expensive Sewer; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Please add to docket number 20240032-SU correspondence.

Thanks! Ana

Antonia Hover

From: Barbara Walsh <palmislandbw@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 12:28 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa
Subject: Stop the Unnecessary, Unwanted and expensive Sewer

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Barbara Walsh
370 Kettle Harbor Drive

360 Kettle Harbor Drive

10480 Sunny dreams Terrace

Thank you!

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Antonia Hover

From: lillyonufрак (null) <lillyonufрак@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:01 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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County commissioners,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I live at 17 Palm Dr. I am opposed to EU putting a sewer system on our island. Given the small amount of full time residents, I don't feel it is necessary. If the county determined that we must have a sewer system, then I would hope that it would be under county supervision and not a private company. Otherwise there would be no accountability or oversight.

I have only been on the island for a few years. Many residents on island know the gentleman that would be responsible for the sewer system. He has a horrible reputation for being dishonest and incompetent. I have little faith in him to get the "job" done in an efficient, effective and timely manner.

Have a nice day

Lilly Onufрак

Sent from my iPhone

Antonia Hover

From: lia gray <uncpair@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:08 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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I would like to respectfully request that you vote to deny the petition of Environmental Utilities to install a low pressure sewage system on Little Gasparilla Island. Our family has owned property at 9810 and 9814 LGI for four generations. A low pressure system is not needed and, in fact, may very likely be more detrimental to the environment. Another concern is cost. What checks are in place to hold Environmental Utilities to the costs they project? The past 2 years have been tough. Homes have been lost, including ours at 9814, and most others severely damaged. Residents should not be required to pay an exorbitant amount of money for a system that is not needed while trying to rebuild after suffering through 3 hurricanes.

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Sincerely,
Lelia C Gray

--

lia gray

Antonia Hover

From: Dave Mulvaney <davemulvaney@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:42 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; pie@palmislandstates.org
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Hello Commissioners:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to address a concern that is becoming more and more common in our communities: the idea of for-profit private sewer systems, specifically the proposed installation of a low-pressure sewer (LPS) system by Mr. Jack Boyer dba Environmental Utilities LLC on Palm Island. We have firsthand knowledge of installing a new sewer system and removing a perfectly fine septic system. The new sewers were implemented by the County we were living in about 30 years ago, the County helped offset the costs of installation with grants and 0% interest loans. The disruption to our daily lives due to contractors and heavy equipment ruining our roads and our property were not easily forgotten along with the financial burden that was placed upon us at the time. We are dreading the possibility of reliving that same scenario again if you approve the request for private sewers.

We are full-time residents living on the island and we have carefully considered all the implications. We want to explain why we believe this is not a viable option for our property, for our environment, for our wallets and for our neighbors.

First, let's talk about the environmental impact. LPS systems rely on pumps to move wastewater from homes to the larger sewer infrastructure. While they may seem like a quick fix, these systems are harmful to the environment. The pumps can fail, leading to untreated wastewater being released into the ground, nearby water sources, or even directly into our local canals, rivers, and streams. These pumps will fail when we lose electricity unless we install an expensive backup generator. This failure can potentially contaminate drinking water supplies and create significant harm to wildlife and our fragile ecosystems. In addition, these systems require frequent maintenance/replacement and are more prone to clogging or breakdowns, leading to potentially catastrophic failures.

But there's another serious issue: flooding from extreme weather events which we have experienced just recently. We have had back-to-back hurricanes which caused unprecedented severe flooding on our island. LPS systems are particularly vulnerable during heavy rain or flooding and are unreliable during these types of events. When floodwater overwhelms the system, the pumps can become inoperable, leading to backflow and wastewater spilling out. This not only increases the risk of contamination but also places additional stress on already overwhelmed stormwater management systems. After a hurricane or flood, island residents may find themselves not only dealing with water damage to their homes, but also the risk of untreated sewage affecting their property and local environment.

Now, let's consider the financial burden of installing and maintaining a private for-profit sewer system. The initial cost of installing a new sewer line to a residence can be astronomical. Not only do we have to pay for the installation of the pipes and pumps, but we also face the expense of permits, excavation, new electrical lines and labor. This is an enormous one-time investment that many homeowners simply cannot afford. Mr. Boyer continues to move the goal posts on the cost of installation. The first estimate a few years ago was approximately \$10,000.00 and has now swelled to well over \$50,000.00 with no end in sight. But it doesn't stop there—the ongoing costs of maintaining an LPS system can be just as high, if not higher. From pump repairs and replacement to regular inspections, the long-term maintenance can easily run into thousands of dollars over the years. In addition, these systems may not increase the resale value of a property, and in some cases, could even decrease it because of the perceived risk and the added costs.

On the other hand, our current in-ground septic system has been in place for over 30 years, and it has operated without any issues. This system, when properly maintained, is a proven and reliable solution for wastewater management. Unlike the LPS system, which requires frequent monitoring and repairs, our septic system is much less prone to mechanical failure and doesn't depend on pumps that can break down during flooding or extreme weather. The ongoing costs of maintaining a septic system are far more manageable, typically limited to periodic inspections and occasional pumping. It's also better for the environment when managed correctly, according to the EPA, as it naturally filters and treats wastewater through the soil, reducing the risk of contamination.

There's also the risk of putting too much responsibility on the homeowner. Unlike a public sewer system, which is regularly maintained and managed by professionals, with a for-profit private system, the responsibility falls squarely on our shoulders. In the event of a failure, it's up to us to repair or replace costly equipment—and there's no guarantee that we will be able to fix the problem quickly or affordably. Mr. Boyer has no experience with running a start-up sewer company, he cannot or will not provide the scope of work necessary for such a large-scale project. Mr. Boyer is telling island residents to trust him and his financial backers who remain anonymous at this point. We do not trust Mr. Boyer, to our knowledge, there are only a few of his friends who want the for-profit sewer system.

Another serious concern that we have is the fact **“Mr. Boyer was charged with and indicted for larceny as it relates to a utility as well as criminal mischief for stealing water from Don Pedro Island State Park to serve his own water utility on Little Gasparilla Island”.** Florida Park Patrol Case #96 J29 0153, Charlotte County. Mr. Boyer should not oversee running a Utility given his past dishonesty towards the County and island residents.

We have endured several natural disasters over the past 2-3 years, the emotional and physical toll takes years to recover. Jack Boyer is now telling island residents that he wants to inflict more emotional stress on us for several years while he destroys our island for his personal financial gain. While Mr. Boyer has a successful water utility company on island, we have more concerns. The water rates at which Mr. Boyer's water company continue to increase will become the highest in the State of Florida in a short period of time. This shows precedent that Mr. Boyer does not try to contain costs, he continually increases them for his financial benefit.

We have not received any communication directly from Mr. Boyer or Environmental Utilities LLC to date regarding the plan to disrupt our lives. Thankfully, several of our neighbors have pointed us to various websites to obtain knowledge of what Mr. Boyer believes is beneficial to the island, we disagree. Mr. Boyer and his associates, along with a few select individuals with inside deals will be the only beneficiaries of this flawed plan.

Ultimately, a for-profit private LPS system simply isn't a sustainable or responsible solution. It's costly, it's prone to environmental damage, it's vulnerable to flooding, and it can create an ongoing burden that many of us cannot afford or take on with confidence. Our current septic system, on the other hand, has served us well for over 25 years and presents far fewer risks to the environment, our finances, or our peace of mind.

We ask of you to deny the request once again for private sewer on the island.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dave & Pam Mulvaney
76 Palm Drive
Placida FL 33946

Dave Mulvaney
941.234.3749

Mailing Address
8725 Placida Road
Suite 7-107
Placida, FL 33946

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security of this email cannot be guaranteed over the Internet. Therefore, the sender will not be held liable for any damage caused by the message. Is it necessary to print this email? If you care about the environment like we do, please refrain from printing emails. Every unprinted email helps the environment.

Antonia Hover

From: Sandy MacKinnon <smackinnonadm@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 6:42 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; A.D Sandy MacKinnon.; Estates Palm Island
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk of the court—in attempting to do a group email Comm Passidomo and comm Graham may have been left out. If you could please cc i would appreciate .

Commissioners I Have written 3 previous letters to all you on this subject . I am writing you on the above docket # ref a private proposed sewer system on DonPedro, Palm and Knights island. I am-unable to attend any of the prescribed meetings which i regret so i hope this letter carries my thoughts and wishes.

I own 2 properties one at 400 S Gulf blvd and unit 28 at S gulf blvd. I have owned both for 30 year plus. The proposed private sewer system in our little island is about as incomprehensible as it gets. As a business owner for 45 years and an individual who sits on 10 boards both private and public in the writers eyes and many others there is no common sense attached to this proposal no matter how far one attempts to stretch the need.

ONE—this is a private company who not once has installed owned and or operated what Is being Proposed.

TWO— there are no guarantees from the county government if the private company Fails. The private company will NOT fall under the PSC or the county governance For rates increases , Issues or worst of all Bankruptcy — SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE to burden tax payers and home owners with this liability .

THREE-Cost are simply out of control if approved hook up fees From someone who has Never done this are estimated at \$19,646. To \$46,000 . The county recently Published hook up fees on the mainland \$30,000 And would offer financing to Of pocket Land holders financing over 20-40 years...,In this case All the cost are born out by the individual owners.

FOUR Other costs include possible generator on each property to generate power for a Lift station. Monthly charges totally unsupervised can be whatever they chose to Charge because of no oversight from the PSC or Charlotte County. Owners are at Mercy of an unknown company with no regulation mandated to follow if anything

Happens. Free to operate in totally free wheeling atmosphere. Not why the PSC Was formed or county government to protect the people by providing oversight For public service providers .

FIVE. Many unknowns like where is the treatment plant to be located. If on the Island what is the proposal to cross the inter coastal waterway?? If on one of Islands how is that to work in a neighborhood with residence near by?

SIX. If you would to do a senses of the island you would find a very mixed usage Factor of all houses units or what ever. But i would guarantee that more than 50 % are second residence and if The Mackinnons two second homes were displayed the Utilization factor would Be less than 15% or 365 days x 15% -54 days per year. The septic systems have the same amount of Utilization And hence no need for The proposed system. We have not had a Nano second of a problem and the county inspectors will tell you as they have No leaching exists

SEVENTH AND LAST — I ASK FOR YOUR COMPASSION. THESE 3 LITTLE ISLANDS WITH THE PRISTINE SHORES AND BEACHES AND WONDERFUL QUITE NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE STOOD THE TEST OF TIME. UNTIL RECENTLY HELENA AND MILTION HAVE NEARLY DESTROYED SO MUCH PROPERTY AND LEFT IT LOOKING LIKE A WAR ZONE OR A THRID WORLD COUNTRY. A DRIVE ABOUT WOULD PAINT A VERY CLEAR PICTURE. IN MANY CASES. NO WAY TO ACCESS THE PROPERTY FOR ALL THE INFRASTRUCTURE SWEEP AWAY. FEMA AND INSURANCE COMPANIES SLOW TO REPOUND. IT HAS TORN THE HART OUT OF MANY AND FOR SOME THE WILL TO GO ON IS NOT DESIRED OR POSSIBLE. MANY ARE FACED WITH LARGE OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES THAT ARE NOT RECOVERABLE AND STALLED THE REPAIR PROCESS. IN ADDITION THE PEOPLE TO REPAIR, SO MUCH ARE NOT PLENTIFUL IN OUR COMMUNITY.

THIS PROPOSAL THAT REST ON YOUR DESKS AND IN YOUR CONSCIOUS ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND ALL THE ISLAND RESIDENTS PEASE WE DO NOT NEED THIS UNKNOW MONSTER EVER ,BUT ESPECIALLY NOW IN KEEPING WITH SO MUCH DAMAGE AND BROKEN HEARTS,,SLOW RESPONSES FROM FEMA AND INSURANCES CARRIERS . STRUGGLES ARE INDEED OCCURRING

I/WE AS ISLANDERS REPECT ALL THE TASKS YOU FACE FROM DAY TO DAY AND THE JOBS YOU DO AND WE APPRECIATE YOU. BUT I/WE RESPECTABLY REQUEST THAT YOU PEASE IF NECESSARY PUT UNDER THE MAGNIFYING GLASS AND VOTE ———NO. WE SIMPLY DONT HAVE THE NEED BECAUSE ONE INDIVIDUAL PERSON IS SEEKING TO ENHANCE HIMSELF WITH PERSONAL GAINS AT OUR EXPENSE.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED AND THANKS FOR LISTENING !!!

SANDY MACKINNON

PS THE CAPS I AM NIOT YELLING JUST TRYING TO EMPHASIZE OUR COMPASSION AND NEED FOR YOU TO BE ON OUR SIDE .

A.D. "Sandy" MacKinnon
CEO ADM Family LTD
2912 West Santiago St. #2401
Tampa, FL 33629
Cell: [\(813\) 629-6266](tel:8136296266)
smackinnonadm@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: lillyonufрак (null) <lillyonufрак@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2025 5:10 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Sent from my iPhone

County commissioners,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I live at 17 Palm Dr. I am opposed to EU putting a sewer on our island. Most of the homeowners live here part time. I don't think sewers are needed for such a small percentage of people
Have a nice day Lilly Onufрак

Antonia Hover

From: terry kent <terryakent1031@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2025 12:14 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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My Name is
Terry Kent
470 Bocilla Dr.
Don Pedro Island
25 year full time resident.

The main reasons I oppose the Private Sewer on our Barrier Island

1. No need for service. There has been no water testing or any evidence of need for sewer.
2. Excessive cost. Over 40k up front and no way to pay over time. A burden for someone that is retired and living on fixed income.
2. Private for Profit. Because EU would be a private company running the sewer instead of the county, we won't be afforded payment plans, there's no competition, and no central oversight.
3. Outdated Technology. EU wants to use a low-pressure systems, which Charlotte County won't install any more because of the excessive maintenance they require.
4. Traffic Congestion. Only access to the island is by ferry. Long wait times.
5. Maintenance Problems. The required grinder pump at each home will be susceptible to our harsh salt air. If there's an emergency repair needed, how will they get here after ferry hours?
6. No Oversight. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

Finally I would like to point out that after the last 2 Hurricanes that caused flooding on the island very few septic tanks were affected by the flooding. However every pool pump on the island was ruined. With an out dated system like EU is proposing every house on the island would be without a sewer. Imagine the cost and impact to replace all of this.

Given the documented inefficiencies and maintenance costs associated with this type of system, I strongly recommend that you deny the request of EU to install this type of system.

Sincerely
Terry Kent

[Learn More](#)

Antonia Hover

From: lillyonufрак@aol.com
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 1:23 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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County commissioners,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I live at 17 Palm dr. There are many reasons that I oppose the sewer. We recently built our home; our septic is only a few years old. Sewer installation will create a financial burden, with estimated costs exceeding 30,000. There are no payment plans available, payment is required up front. EU has no competition. As a for-profit sewer, he can charge whatever he likes with no guarantees of completion or quality.

Sincerely,
Lilly Onufрак