

**Antonia Hover**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 12:58 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032  
**Attachments:** Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #  
20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #  
20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket 20240032 -SU

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

Thank you!

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** John Baird <[jbaird@steer4solutions.com](mailto:jbaird@steer4solutions.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 11:30 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith;  
Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** Docket #20240032-SU Opposition Letter.pdf

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Please find attached my letter of opposition for Docket #20240032-SU.

John and Elaine Baird  
241 Kettle Harbor Dr  
Placida, FL 33946  
[jbaird@steer4solutions.com](mailto:jbaird@steer4solutions.com)

DOCKET 20240032-SU  
John and Elaine Baird – Opposition Letter  
03/24/2025

Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

**Subject: Opposition to EU Docket #20240032-SU**

Dear Commissioners,

We strongly oppose Docket #20240032-SU, a proposal for a privately owned, for-profit utility that is unnecessary, financially exploitative, and environmentally reckless. As residents who spoke out against this proposal at the public hearing, we demand that the Florida Public Service Commission reject this application for the following reasons:

1. **No Justification for Service** – The overwhelming majority of island residents do not want or need this service. This proposal is a Trojan horse for unwanted commercialization that will erode the very character of our island. We purchased our property in 2021 for its undeveloped “Old Florida” charm. It would be a disgrace to sacrifice that to developers’ profits.
2. **Unacceptable Financial Burden** – Private utility services impose exorbitant costs on residents, far beyond what a county-run system would require. Forcing homeowners to pay for an unnecessary system is outrageous, especially when the community overwhelmingly opposes it.
3. **For-Profit Exploitation vs. Public Accountability** – Unlike a county-run system, this private entity is designed to maximize profits at homeowners’ expense. County projects allow residents to spread costs over time; this does not. Many of us are still recovering from Hurricanes Ian (2022), Helene (2024), and Milton (2024). Forcing immediate, steep financial obligations on us is unjustifiable. We are already burdened with costly property repairs that are not covered under insurance (100% of these repairs are out of pocket)
4. **Outdated and Inefficient Technology** – The proposed system fails to incorporate modern, sustainable infrastructure. Outdated methods will result in breakdowns, inefficiency, and increased environmental risks. This condemns us to the very problem they are claiming to fix. See <https://www.wusf.org/environment/2024-10-16/tens-of-millions-of-gallons-of-wastewater-flowed-into-tampa-bay-waterways-during-hurricane-milton>
5. **Severe Environmental Consequences** – The proposed construction and operations will disrupt wetlands, harm wildlife, and threaten an already delicate water quality. This is reckless and unacceptable.
6. **Intolerable Traffic Disruptions** – Our island has only one way on and off: the ferry service operated by Palm Island Transit. Construction-related traffic already causes delays exceeding an hour. I recently experienced this firsthand due to ongoing hurricane repair work. Adding unnecessary infrastructure projects will create intolerable congestion and negatively impact residents’ quality of life.

7. **Maintenance and Emergency Failures** – The plan requires grinder pumps at each home, which will corrode in our salt-air environment. What happens when one fails at night or a holiday or weekend, or when the ferry is not operating? How will homeowners address emergencies when private ownership means slower response times?
8. **Power Outages and Operational Risks** – Frequent power outages already plague our area. A low-pressure sewer system requires electricity—how are we expected to use basic sanitation if the power goes out? Will we now be forced to install generators? Will every lift station have one? These critical concerns have not been addressed.
9. **Violation of Property Rights** – This proposal mandates a **15-foot easement on private property**. That is an egregious overreach. Our property is not large, and losing 15 feet is absolutely unacceptable. This is an infringement on private landowners' rights.
10. **Unwanted Commercial Development** – This sewer project is a clear setup for commercial expansion, increased urban sprawl, and destruction of our community's unique character. We demand transparency: **Who is pushing this project, and who stands to gain financially?** This proposal is not in the best interest of residents—it is a play for profit at our expense.
11. **Zero Public Oversight** – A privately owned utility means zero transparency. Residents will have no recourse when rates skyrocket, service fails, or maintenance is neglected. Publicly managed utilities ensure accountability—this for-profit scheme does not.

This proposal is an unmitigated disaster for homeowners, the environment, and the integrity of our community. We urge the Florida Public Service Commission to reject Docket #20240032-SU immediately.

Sincerely,

John and Elaine Baird  
241 Kettle Harbor Dr, Placida, FL 33946  
jbaird@steer4solutions.com

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Novak, Rick <rmnovak@uic.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 11:26 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith  
**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 Passidomo,

I am writing as a home owner on Little Gasparilla Island to voice my strongest possible opposition to the above docket for a sewer system on the Bocilla barrier Islands. There is absolutely no need for this system as no problem exists with the current management of sewage on these islands and the overwhelming majority of homeowners oppose it. In the words of President Reagan, “ If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”. This proposal is a money making scheme for the FOR PROFIT Environmental Utilities who have NO experience with such a system. The costs would be passed on to us owners and is estimated to cost each home owners in excess of \$40,000, plus monthly fees once in place. They are proposing an outdated low pressure technology that Charlotte County won’t install any more because of the excessive cost to maintain. These have a high failure rate and spillage of raw sewage into our delicate island and intracoastal environment will be disastrous for wildlife, the fisheries and tourism. Construction fo this system will be very disruptive to the island residents. These are bridgeless islands and access is dependent on a ferry which does not operate on a regular schedule. If there is an emergency with the sewage system, access to repair it will be slow in arriving.

This system will be an undue burden on homeowners: each homeowner will have to provide electric permits and service as well as a generator for the frequent power outages on the island. We would also have to give away 15’ of property for an easement. Also, there is no oversight for this project, no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

Please do not impose this terrible project on the people of the Bocilla Islands and vote no again on this project.

Sincerely,

Rick Novak  
9498 Alborado Rd  
Little Gasparilla Island  
Placida, FL 33946

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** sherry esch <eschsherry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 10:55 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Sir or Madame,

I oppose this sewer application for the following reasons:

1. We just replaced our entire septic system for a cost of over \$20,000 and it works perfectly. We have no need for a sewer.
2. The costs of a sewer would be excessive and many people would not be able to afford it.
3. EU wants to use a low pressure system that has an excessive maintenance required and is outdated.
4. We have had horrible traffic on the island due to Ian, Helene and Milton for the past few years and installation of the sewer system would only add to this congestion for years.
5. Each homeowner would have to have electric permits and service, plumbing and a generator which only adds to the exorbitant costs.
6. The required easements would need each owner to give a 15 foot easement that we could not build on, drive over or put anything permanent on.
7. There is no performance bond required and we would have no recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.
8. How will the grinder pump get emergency repairs after the ferry closes down?
9. This sewer project will disrupt the natural wildlife habitats for years and years!

Please DO NOT APPROVE THIS SEWER APPLICATION!

Sherry Esch

301 S. Gulf Blvd.  
Lots No. 427 and 428  
Placida, FL 33946

440 454 0513  
[eschsherry@gmail.com](mailto:eschsherry@gmail.com)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Mike G <miketothegreen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 10:24 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**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 County Clerk,

As a deeply concerned citizen and a property owner with multiple holdings on Don Pedro Island,

I stand in staunch opposition to the approval of this application.

My concern is that this will place undue financial burden on myself and the other residents of our beautiful island. Furthermore I am concerned this will pave the way for large development and zoning changes that will essentially result in a land grab by deep pocket corporations.

After watching the hearing regarding the application submitted by Environmental Utilities, LLC for a certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, I am absolutely appalled by the mere suggestion that this application might be approved. They have no experience related to this field, no track record of success and lack the financial capability to recover from a failure of this system caused by a large storm surge which, as you know has been more frequent. I am concerned that the containment is insufficient to handle these increasing storms and would likely result in larger contamination than the current systems which have functioned well for decades. Their proposal does not even use the safest, most up to date system in terms of pressure which will cost more and perform poorly.

My objections are not based on trivial preferences, but on a profound commitment to preserving the unique integrity of our barrier islands and protecting the well-being of our community. Let me state once again: I am vehemently opposed to this application for several critical, non-negotiable reasons:

The financial implications of this project are staggering and unjust. Taxpayer dollars should never be used to fund poorly conceived projects that serve the private interests of a few at the expense of the greater community. Furthermore, the idea that property owners like myself would be saddled with the costs—both initial and ongoing—is completely unacceptable. In light of these irrefutable points, I demand that you reject this application in its entirety.

In light of these compelling arguments, I implore you to uphold the principles of environmental stewardship and community welfare by unequivocally denying Environmental Utilities, LLC's application for wastewater service. Our collective future depends on responsible decision-making that prioritizes sustainability, integrity, and the preservation of our natural resources.

Our community, our environment, and our collective future depend on decisions that prioritize responsible stewardship, respect for our natural resources, and the preservation of the unique qualities that make Don Pedro Island so special. Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter. I trust you will make the right decision, for our community and our environment.



Respectfully,  
Michael Green, MD  
13 Bayshore Circle  
17 Bayshore Circle  
Placida, FL 33946

Regards,

Mike Green

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Alice Chapman <akchapso@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 10:07 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Records Clerk  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioners,

As a resident of Palm Island, I strongly urge you to vote against permitting EU to be awarded the approval to provide a sewer system to our community.

First, there is no need for this system. There has been no water testing or any evidence of need for sewer and there has not been any polling of the community for interest. Second, EU would be a private company running this instead of the county. The residents would not have any central oversight, there is no competition for EU, and no payment plans for the residents of Palm Island, if this was awarded.

Third, this is being forced upon residents who have just experienced two major hurricanes in a short time period, and are just recovering from the major expense to repair their homes. The realistic estimated cost to the homeowner is over \$40K up front! There will be no "pay-over-time", no low-cost loans and no way to opt out. Not sure how I would even go about financing this project, I just got done using my savings to repair my home. I'm not taking a loan when I'm retired and living on fixed income.

Fourth, EU wants to use a low-pressure systems, which Charlotte County won't install any more because of the excessive maintenance they require. Why would you ever even consider permitting EU to do this inferior work?

Fifth, The proposed sewer project will cause years of disruption and destroy natural wildlife habitats for decades. The island will never be the same! There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure. Your allowing EU to rob the residents of this island.

Our small island cannot handle the difficulty and burden this would present to everyday life having our roads ripped up for many years, residents having to provide 15 ft of their property to install this system in which we cannot build anything, drive over or install anything permanent on this area of our land. Another burden to our residents.

We will also have to buy a grinder pump for our homes which would be susceptible to our harsh salt air and therefore, require additional maintenance costs. Each homeowner will have to provide electric permits and service, plumbing and the system will need a generator to run in a power outage. **Costs, Costs, Costs!!!**

How will EU provide service after hours in an emergency? There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

**The financial burden to the residents is astronomical!** You are not only causing financial strain, but ruining the lives of people who have worked their whole lives to have a private home. All so a private company can decide they want to make some money. **Central sewer systems carry a greater risk of leaks compared to individual septic systems, potentially impacting larger areas and more properties.**

As our elected representatives, please listen to the concerned residents of Palm Island and understand our viewpoint. I strongly urge you to stand up for your supporters and vote **NO** to EU.

Sincerely,

Alice Chapman  
Michael Chapman  
179 N Gulf Blvd.  
Placida, FL  
[Learn More](#)

[Learn More](#)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Laura Luke <lukes4@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 9:45 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear commissioners –

As a landowner, soon to be homeowner and possible future full-time residents of Don Pedro Island we are writing to once again express our strong opposition to the proposed sewer. There is no environmental need for this, and in fact the sewer construction will cause a great deal of damage to our pristine island and its protected wildlife like the tortoises. In addition the cost to us and other homeowners is excessive, and the project will cause years of disruption and traffic headaches at a time when the island cannot handle it due to the recent hurricane. We ask that you reject EU's proposal and close this matter for good.

Sincerely,

Chris and Laura Luke  
101 Bocilla Dr.  
773-230-9366

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** robert nistico <fireflyrobert1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 9:41 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Cc:** Cyndi Nistico  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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We are writing to formally OPPOSE The wastewater proposal on Palm / Knight Island.

Robert & Cynthia Nistico  
66 Palm Dr  
[fireflyrobert1@gmail.com](mailto:fireflyrobert1@gmail.com)

1. The group that is requesting to manage this is a convicted felon IN THE UTILITY space.
2. They have NO EXPERIENCE in waste water disposal
3. They are proposing an antiquated system that is 40 to 50K that homeowners are expected to pay and is being removed from other FL counties due to system leaks and failures.
4. Need has yet to be determined by an impartial agency
5. They are claiming that the residents support this ... COMPLETELY FALSE. I spoke at both meetings. the only 2 or 3 that were in favor were developers and/or connected to Jack Boyer.

We are not quick to make assumptions, especially damaging ones without evidence, but something is dangerously wrong with this situation ... 90% of the residents do NOT want this ...

Should there be an actual need, most will support this but it needs to slow down and be carefully thought out first.

I deal with RFP's in my business ... and something is very wrong here and needs to slow down and be looked into.

That's all we ask ....

Thank you

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Wendy Carlton <wencarlton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 9:38 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**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. .

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing you once again to voice our concerns about putting a private sewer system on our barrier islands.

1. We (island residents) have a private ferry service that is the only means of accessing our island. The costs for this service is very expensive. Although it does not apply to this docket, it is an example of where private companies, providing a service to the island becomes abhorrently expensive.
2. There is no need for service as there has been no water testing directly around our island showing any problem. Their testing was from the other side of the state. Also, each community meeting and PSC meeting was met with community backlash and petition to stop this process from costing the local taxpayers AGAIN to fight this scheme.
3. The system will cost my household \$40,000 to install. On top of that I ALREADY HAVE this system that failed in the hurricanes, at my home. It is an INFERIOR solution.
4. No competition, no opt-out provision, (if you already have one), and no structured payment plans. Their position is pay up or leave.
5. I have a system very similar to the one being proposed and it is BAD, expensive to maintain, and fails with flood events. Overflowing is the thing that they say is the reason to have them installed. SIMPLY, it wont work. Other communities have REMOVED this system in our county because it is outdated.
6. The impact on our fragile ecosystem on the islands would be horrendous.
7. Our island does not have a traffic system that will support such an invasive installation process.
8. There is no way for service to be performed on these systems from 10:30 PM to 6:30 AM. ( Ferry hours)
9. Each homeowner will have to provide electric permits and service, plumbing and the system will need a generator to run in a power outage.
10. Mandatory easement of 15 feet is being proposed WITHOUT JUST COMPENSATION. It is essentially a taking of property in my view.
11. So many other faults with this proposal, NO BONDING REQUIREMENT, the company has never run one of these expensive systems and will just pass the increased costs onto the island homeowners. There is little if any oversight.
12. Finally, for those of you at our hearings you saw first hand how many people took time out of their day. (evening), to speak to you, to show our support against the proposal. The opposition was easily 80% against the proposal, from my count.

Thank you for you time and service. Please vote AGAINST Environmental Utility's project.

Cordially

Wendeline Carlton  
340 Bocilla Drive

Placida, FL 33946

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Art Knighten <captartknighten@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 9:05 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Records Clerk  
**Subject:** Docket 20240032 -SU

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

**As a full time resident of Don Pedro island I was very disappointed in your staff's recommendation to go forward with EU's sewage treatment on the island. It seems obvious that the county commission is in cahoots with EU, making statements that have no factual relevance in the issue. They just want this done with no cost to the county. Not one commissioner came to the public meetings you held also they have not held one public meeting to hear the facts about the safety of our septic tanks and the cleanliness of our waters.**

The Charlotte County commission has been in cahoots and meeting privately with EU since before 2020 and not once with the residents of our island

Please do not approve EU's application , if you feel it necessary have each septic tank inspected as needed but at this point no one even the people paid by Jack have shown the need for these millions of dollars to be spent by the residents.

Sent from my iPhone