

Charlie Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 3:40 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032
Attachments: Docket No.20240032-SU- Knight - Don Pedro Island / EU Re-Application for Certificate of Authorization - OBJECTION TO RE-APPLICATION 04/03/2024

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240032.

Thank you!

Charlie Smith

From: John Baird <jbaird@highlandag.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 12:59 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Cc: lane.baird@verizon.net; Bill.Truex@CharlotteCountyFL.gov
Subject: Docket No.20240032-SU- Knight - Don Pedro Island / EU Re-Application for Certificate of Authorization - OBJECTION TO RE-APPLICATION 04/03/2024
Attachments: Docket #20240032-SU (BAIRD).pdf

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Dear County Commissioners and Public Service Commissioners,

I write to you today with a sense of urgency and deep concern regarding the **ongoing consideration of Environmental Utilities LLC's** application for a Wastewater Certificate in Charlotte County, Florida. **Despite previous rejections and undeniable evidence against the applicant**, it appears that this matter is being revisited, raising serious doubts about the integrity of the decision-making process.

The very fact that Environmental Utilities LLC, an applicant with a criminal background directly related to the industry they seek to enter, is being considered for such a crucial project is **alarming**. The lack of experience, funding plans, and business planning further underscore the unsuitability of this applicant for such a responsibility.

As elected representatives entrusted with the well-being of our community, it is imperative that you uphold the will of the people you serve. The initial denial of the application was a reflection of the community's concerns and the absence of any substantial justification for such a project. **Revisiting this decision undermines the trust placed in your governance and raises questions about ulterior motives.**

I urge you to consider the following points:

1. **Lack of Substantiated Need:** The previous denial highlighted the lack of evidence supporting the necessity of the proposed project. Without empirical data to justify the need, approving this application would be unjustifiable.
2. **Zero Experience in Wastewater Management:** Entrusting such a critical infrastructure project to an applicant with zero days of wastewater systems management experience is reckless and irresponsible.
3. **Absence of Funding Plans and Business Planning:** The applicant has failed to provide any concrete plans regarding funding, business strategy, or environmental impact assessments, further highlighting their unsuitability for this endeavor.
4. **Potential Environmental Impact:** Approving a project without proper planning and justification could have severe environmental consequences, threatening the pristine condition of our properties and islands destroying habitat and interference with species such as the endangered and protected gopher tortoise.
5. **Criminal Record:** Environmental Utilities LLC has a criminal record directly related to the utilities industry, casting serious doubt on their suitability for such a project.
6. **Power Related Issues & Unjustified Financial Burden:** Since we have purchased our home on the island, our property taxes have skyrocketed with no additional support by Charlotte County. Now, in addition, a private utility wants to charge for something that is **unwarranted and unmerited**. How we will use a **basic function** without power, as we lose electricity frequently during the numerous Florida summer storms, has yet to be explained.

I implore you to prioritize the interests and well-being of the community and the native species over any potential special interests or ulterior motives. Uphold the integrity of our governance by rejecting Environmental Utilities LLC's application and ensuring that decisions are made in the best interests of the people you represent.

The eyes of the community are upon you, and your actions in this matter will have lasting repercussions. Please stand on the side of integrity, transparency, and the will of the people.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

// John and Elaine Baird

John & Elaine Baird

241 Kettle Harbor Drive,

Placida, FL 33946

April 12, 2024

Subject: Urgent Appeal to Reject Environmental Utilities LLC's Wastewater Certificate Application

Docket No. 20240032 – SU – Knight – Don Pedro Island / EU Re-Application for Certificate Authorization

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Baird - 241 Kettle Harbor Dr – Docket No. 20240032 SU – Knight - Don Pedro Island

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// John A and Elaine M Baird

John & Elaine Baird

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