

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 7:20 AM
To: 'Fred Brown'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good morning,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

Brian Schultz

Commission Deputy Clerk II
Florida Public Service Commission
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Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.413.6770

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From: Fred Brown <fredwbrown@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2025 4:54 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@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>
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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As a property owner of a house on the Gulf and on a canal on Palm Island (Don Pedro Island) I am writing, pleading and begging for you **not to approve** the above application certificate for Sewer from Environmental Utilities.

At the hearings, many people who would be affected by the mandated sewer spoke how it was very clear that given that there is **no need** to change from our current septic systems. The few that spoke in favor of the sewer were **relatives (daughters & in-laws), business partners and close friends** of Jack Boyer (they all got together on breaks). Reasons not to change from our current septic systems include:

1. There is no need to eliminate our septic systems - they are in great working order and many testified that were no sewage compromises from the two hurricanes (Helene and Milton) wash overs (unlike Boca Grande who had sewage due to their sewer system being damaged). Many counties on the west

coast of Florida experienced sewage compromises with their sewers. **We did not with our septic systems!**

2. Two engineers spoke how Jack Boyer went over EU's plan for a pump system (to have them work for them) a couple of years ago and they recommended against using a pump system (if a sewer system was necessary - which they felt was not necessary). They said that was something Jack Boyer was not interested in hearing and stopped contacting them.
3. Given the two hurricane wash overs Palm Island experienced in 2024, a pump sewer system would be a disaster since (based on how pool equipment was ruined) every pump would have to be replaced. This would mean houses would not have waste capabilities for probably many months as hundreds of homes would need new pumps. That would be a disaster for people to be able to begin the cleanup process and do what is necessary to prevent mold (mold is not covered by flood insurance). A pump sewer system would be grossly inappropriate for Palm Island.
4. **If a sewer system was necessary**, we sure would not want a Limited Liability Corporation who has little to no sewer experience being in charge of it. According to Environmental Utilites Annual Report filed with the Florida Department of Corporations, Jack Boyer is the ONLY listed officer. They are not a true experienced company with any depth. We would want the local government to be responsible and assume responsibility so that the users are protected for years to come.
5. The cost to implement something that is not needed (I have heard anywhere from \$20,000 to \$50,000) for each property owner is going to hurt everyone - especially since **every property owner has already suffered ten of thousands of dollars worth of damage from hurricanes Helen and Milton**. This is in addition to the increasing Real Estate, operational and Insurance costs Again, this is not needed and will financially benefit a few people in a big way.

I disagree with the following issues in the summary of this Case that is covered in the Agenda for Commission Conference:

Issue 2 - there is no need for hundreds of home owners on the Islands to replace their working septic systems. I believe this is generated by the Palm Island Resort - north end of Palm Island who wants to update their wastewater system with a sewer system and have the expense to do so shared with hundreds of owners (who do not need or want such a system). The owner of the Resort and Mr. Boyer are working closely with this project as are some of the Charlotte County Commissioners (none showed up to the local hearings). Follow the money.

I would ask that if the Resort and "developers" want it, then let them pay for it and have it available to them and **NOT MAKE IT MANDATORY TO THOSE WHO DO NOT NEED IT.**

Issue 3 - the Charlotte County commission is now "in" for this project (where there was not County support in 2024) since the right people have probably been properly "motivated" to support it.

Issue 5 - Being a Limited Liability Corporation - they can walk away at any time without recourse. They do not have a proven track record for such a project and two engineers testified at the public hearing how Environmental Utilities approach (a pump system in a flood zone) is grossly flawed. Again, the company has no depth (Jack Boyer is the only office) nor experience. If sewer is going to be considered it should be installed and run by the County, not a LLC.

Issue 6 - They have NO track record of implementing a sewer system

Issue 9 - the only public interest for the granting a wastewater certificate is for the Resort, Jack Boyer, the Boyer family, any EU partners and "unknown developers". The hundreds of property owners of Palm Island do not feel it's in our public interest.

Issues 11-14 - whatever the real costs are they are going to hurt every property owner financially - especially for an unnecessary reason - our septic systems are proven to work just fine.

Please represent the people of Palm Island and don't' make us pay for something that is not needed so a few will benefit. Please do not approve this extortion request for something that is not needed. If it is approved please make it be 100% voluntary.

Thank you for reading and hopefully disapproving the application certificate.

Fred Brown
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