

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 7:20 AM
To: 'cori.palmere'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: 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
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.413.6770

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From: cori.palmere <cori.palmere@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2025 5:13 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>; commissioner.Grahm@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

My husband Jim and I are homeowners on Don Pedro Island.

I began the first draft of this email while sitting in line on the mainland waiting for the ferry to take me back to the island after a Dr. appointment. I have been waiting for an hour and will probably wait another 45 minutes or so. You see, because of the construction equipment needed to repair homes on the island as a result of the past 2 hurricanes, the line for the ferry is very long. If I have to leave the island starting at 3:00 or so, I need to plan on the same length of waiting time. I am not complaining. My neighbors and I must get these repairs done and that takes people and equipment. This is the reality of living on an island that requires a ferry to transport the cars. Why am I sharing this? I want you to get a sense of what life is like on our island. Why we choose to live here. I cannot even imagine the traffic that would be caused by the equipment needed for installation of a sewer system. But this is secondary to the facts of the issue at hand.

I am frankly shocked that the staff report to the PSC is recommended granting the certification to Environmental Utilities for central sewer. I was one of the 200+ island residents who spoke recently in opposition of the EU's application for Central Sewer. I based my opposition on facts. I am truly suspicious of how fair and balanced evaluation of the facts of this case has been arrived upon by the staff of the PSC.

Fact: EU has NO experience building a central sewer system.

>Would you hire someone to do a major renovation for your home, for example, with NO home renovation experience?

Fact: The community residents have never been polled to find if there is support for a central sewer system for our island.

>Over 200 people came out to speak against the proposal in January. Why is the overwhelming opposition being ignored?

Fact: The estimated cost to the homeowner is over \$40,000 with NO pay-over-time option, NO low interest loans and NO WAY to opt out.

>Could you afford a \$40,000 expenses like that? MANY people on our island can not.

Fact: EU is a private, for-profit company. There is no competition to help keep costs down and no central oversight.

>Again, would you hire someone for your home renovation without getting multiple bids and an agreed upon contract of the cost? Would it be fair for you to be told mid project that it was going to cost more?

Fact: EU plans to install outdated technology that requires excessive maintenance. Even Charlotte County won't install this type of low pressure system anymore.

<Outdated technology??

Fact: There has been no water testing evidence to show the need for sewer service.

<:No demonstrated need!

Questions I have:

? I am wondering if any of you have visited our island that you are making this ruling on? It is unique, quiet, and full of nature where you see gopher tortoises crossing the unpaved roads on a warm day. These gopher tortoise burrows are found all over the island. There are very specific rules surrounding relocating these burrows when a new homeowner wants to build. I am unclear how EU would be able to relocate all of the potentially affected burrows. The facts about the gopher tortoise, a **threatened species**, protection and relocation can be found at <https://myfwc.gov>.

? I am trying to understand how the grinder pumps used in the proposed low pressure systems that are susceptible to the salt air would work effectively. From what I understand, if there is a power outage or need for maintenance, the waste does not move away from our homes. How does EU plan to keep over 700 homes' systems working smoothly during power outages? Even after 3 major hurricanes, our septic systems are working fine. How long would it take EU to get us all 700 homes up to speed? So in the meantime, what happens to the waste? I can picture the family next door, who is renting a home on our island for their spring break, losing power after a simple thunderstorm. What do those people do for toilet use?

? What do we do as residents if EU runs into unforeseen problems that are bound to show up during this MAJOR project? I envision torn up roads, heavy equipment all over the island standing and waiting for a solution. Because there is no performance bond that would allow homeowners to have a single point of

recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure. Can I call your office and have you help me out in the event of this happening?

I am sure you can hear my passionate opposition to this project. I could continue with many more of my concerns based on the facts, but I will conclude with a plea to deny the proposed Environmental Utilities project.

Thank you for your time,
Cori Palmere
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269-598-2526
Don Pedro Island