Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk

Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 7:24 AM

To: 'Ashley Morrison'
Cc: Consumer Contact

Subject: RE: DENY EU APPLICATION - 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: Ashley Morrison <ashleymm24@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 6:06 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@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman La Rosa

<Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>

Subject: DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Good afternoon,

I am writing ahead of the vote on Tuesday regarding the proposal to allow a central sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island. I strongly **oppose** the central sewer system on the island and respectfully ask that you vote against the sewer system. I believe this project poses serious risks to the environment, economy, and long-term sustainability of the island.

My family has been homeowners on the island since the 1970s. I am passionate about preserving and protecting the island's fragile and beautiful environment. Little Gasparilla Island is home to fragile ecosystems that make our island unique and irreplaceable. The construction of a central sewer system would disrupt these areas,

risking environmental degradation and posing a significant threat to the water quality of the island. More concerning is the potential for large sewage spills, which could devastate both our local environment and the public health of our community.

Second, there's the economic burden. The proposed hookup fees of \$40,000 to \$50,000—along with sky-high monthly bills—are simply unaffordable for many residents, particularly in a community like ours where the cost of living is already high. These fees do not align with the affordability standards set by Charlotte County's Master Sewer Plan, and forcing residents to bear such a financial load is unfair, especially considering a sewer system is viewed as a horrible idea by island residents.

Then, we have the issue of infrastructure risks. Little Gasparilla Island is highly vulnerable to hurricanes and extreme weather events. A central sewer system, with its complex infrastructure, could easily fail during a storm. This could result in sewage overflows, further endangering our island's delicate ecosystem and creating serious health hazards for our community.

Lastly, I want to address the regulatory and compliance concerns. Our island's water quality is already within acceptable standards, meaning that there is no immediate need for this sewer expansion. Moreover, this project does not comply with state laws or local plans that are designed to protect areas like ours—areas that are already under pressure from development and climate change.

In conclusion, I urge you to carefully consider the long-term consequences of this project. We do not need or want a central sewer system to preserve our island's future. What we need is to protect our environment, our economy, and the character of Little Gasparilla Island, ensuring that future generations can enjoy it as we have.

Thank you for your time. Again, I ardently ask that you vote against a sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island and protect the beautiful and beloved ecosystems that make the island paradise for so many.

Ashley Morrison

9862 Little Gasparilla Island <u>ashleymm24@gmail.com</u>