

Antonia Hover

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 9:27 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: Docket #20240032
Attachments: Docket 20240032 -SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Good Morning:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Art Graham
Florida Public Service Commission
bleland@psc.state.fl.us
(850) 413-6024

Antonia Hover

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

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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

Antonia Hover

From: Sally B Johnson <sbjohnson3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 9:02 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; bill.truex@charlottecountyfl.gov
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU
Attachments: 20250320_164038.jpg; 20250128_182641.jpg

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My husband and I live on Don Pedro Island. We have suffered thru 3 major hurricanes. These storms have caused significant damage. BUT. The one part of our life that was NOT affected, was our septic. All of our neighbors up and down our street had no problem with their septic. They were all working. Jack Boyer is out to make money off of this project. PERIOD. He is banking on having you turn over a gold mine to him. It's not needed! It would be truly terrifying if you grant approval to someone with no experience on a project of this size. We are all suffering financially from the hurricanes. Having our roads jack hammered, landscaping ripped up, the COST of placing these units on our property, is horrifying and unnecessary.

In addition, at certain times, it now takes 1 to 3 hours to get on and off island due to the immense number of cars and workers coming over. Each barge takes 8 cars at a time. BUT, with large equipment it can reduce it to 2 cars per barge. To load vehicles, cross the intercoastal, and unload takes 15 to 20 minutes. See photo taken March 20th- taken 1/2 mile from the ferry. They waited many hours to get off the island. The expense, the intrusion on our lives, EU's proposed terrible system, and the fact that this is a horribly inept person who is asking for your approval, has us begging to have it be denied. PLEASE give our reasons, and the overwhelming number of residents who are against EU, the consideration they deserve- and PLEASE deny this sewer application. The second picture I've enclosed was taken during the hearings in January. This picture shows only one quarter of the room. Over the course of 2 days, hundreds of people were present to speak against EU; standing room only. PLEASE deny this application.

Sally Johnson
Dick Aulenti
120 N Gulf Blvd
Palm Island FL





Antonia Hover

From: Peter Baur <panbaur@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 7:37 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,
I am the owner of the house at 31 Bayshore Circle on Palm Island, Placida, FL 33946.

I am also a mechanical engineer who worked for BMW for several decades. As head of the Product Analysis department my task was to evaluate the field performance of state of the art safety technology.

This letter is to express my grave concerns about the sewer system proposed by Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU). The Low Pressure Sewer System EU is trying to get permitted is proven to be susceptible to failure.

A low-pressure sewer system (LPSS) has some downsides compared to gravity or vacuum sewer systems. Here are a few reasons why it has to be considered problematic:

1. **Dependency on Pumps** – LPSS relies on grinder pumps at each property to move wastewater. If these pumps fail or lose power, sewage can back up into homes or cause overflows.
2. **Higher Maintenance Costs** – Each home or business must maintain its own pump, leading to increased repair and replacement costs over time. Municipalities also face ongoing maintenance issues.
3. **Vulnerability to Power Outages** – Unlike gravity sewers, LPSS requires electricity to function. During storms or grid failures, the system can stop working, leading to service disruptions.
4. **Shorter Lifespan of Equipment** – Grinder pumps and pressure pipes have a shorter lifespan than traditional gravity sewer components, leading to more frequent replacements and repairs.
5. **Potential for Clogs and Failures** – Pumps can become clogged with debris, grease, or improper materials (like wipes), requiring expensive servicing.
6. **Higher Long-Term Costs** – While LPSS can have a lower initial installation cost in certain areas, the long-term maintenance, replacement, and operational expenses often make it more expensive over time.

There are counties which actually replace those type of system, i.e. Ruskin County where they replace the Low Pressure Sewer System for a more reliable Vacuum Sewer System.

"This project will also replace the existing low-pressure sewer systems in the project area with more reliable sewer service. The existing systems are aging and becoming more susceptible to failures, are increasingly expensive to maintain, and are unreliable during power outages."

<https://hcfi.gov/government/septic-to-sewer-and-lpss-conversion-projects/ruskin-and-wimauma-septic-to-sewer-and-lpss-conversion-project/ruskin-project-information-area-a>

In summation, I am not against replacing septic systems and the installation of sewer systems if proven to be necessary but I am a strong opponent of a system with so many shortcomings like the EU suggested LPSS. Besides, a community service like a sewer system should be initiated and run by a county and not by a privately owned company.

I ask you to **deny** EU's permit as requested.

Sincerely

Peter Baur

Peter Baur
31 Bayshore Cir.
Placida, FL 33946
201 960 6525
panbaur@icloud.com

Antonia Hover

From: Trish McCarty <trishmccarty9@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 7:35 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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Good morning commissioners

I'm writing to respectfully request that you vote to deny the sewer application fo Palm, Don Pedro & Knight Islands. We do not want nor need a sewer system on these islands and we are completely against the application for sewers. Imagine someone coming to your neighborhood and your home and telling you that you have to have something you don't want, don't need, that isn't better and you have to pay a high price for it. Again, ***please deny the sewer application.***

Kind regards
Trish Fichter-McCarty

Antonia Hover

From: Pat Carlton <pat@4cpartners.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 7:25 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:

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

1. We already 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

Pat Carlton
340 Bocilla Drive
Placida, FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: Michelle Brown <shellybrown091@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 6:03 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,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to EU's proposed central sewer system for our island community. This project is not only unnecessary but also financially burdensome, environmentally destructive, and technologically flawed. I urge you to deny EU's proposal for the following reasons:

1. No Demonstrated Need - There has been no water quality testing or scientific evidence presented to justify the need for a sewer system. Implementing such a drastic and costly project without clear justification is irresponsible. Additionally, the overwhelming majority of folks that spoke at the January service hearings were strongly opposed (with the exception of those that had financial interest or were related to the applicant), yet this proposal is being pushed forward without our consent. *Since there's no scientific evidence this is needed and the overwhelming majority of residents (again, other than those related to the applicant or those with a financial interest), why is this being considered?*

2. Excessive Cost to Homeowners - The estimated upfront cost for each homeowner exceeds \$40,000. As the overwhelming majority of folks mentioned during the January service hearings, we are opposed and do not want/need this. *Would you like to be forced to pay for something you and your neighbors have made it clear that you don't need?*

3. Use of Outdated Technology - EU plans to install a low-pressure sewer system—an outdated technology that Charlotte County itself no longer installs due to excessive maintenance requirements. It is unreasonable to saddle our community with an inferior system that even the county has deemed unfit. *Is it not a red flag that the EU is suggesting equipment that Charlotte County considered unsuitable?*

4. Environmental Destruction - The construction process will cause years of disruption and irreversibly damage our island's fragile ecosystem. Natural wildlife habitats will be destroyed, and the character of our island will be permanently altered. The environmental cost of this project is far too great. *Is it worth destroying the environment and essentially extorting millions of dollars from island residents to stuff the pockets of the inexperienced EU?*

This sewer proposal lacks justification, places an undue financial burden on residents, relies on outdated technology, and threatens our island's environment. I strongly urge you to deny EU's application and recognize the voices of the overwhelming majority of our island.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michelle Brown

230 Bocilla Drive (Don Pedro Island)
727-710-0747

Antonia Hover

From: Robby Anderson <robby.anderson13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 5:20 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,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed central sewer system project for Don Pedro Island, Knight Island, and Little Gasparilla Island. As a resident of this community, I strongly believe that the project, as currently proposed, is not in the best interest of our environment, economy, and the well-being of our residents. Therefore, I respectfully urge you and your colleagues to please decline the proposed implementation of the central sewer system.

There are several critical reasons why I believe this project should not move forward:

1. Environmental Impact

One of the primary concerns with the proposed central sewer system is the potential for significant negative environmental consequences. The installation of such a system could lead to the disruption of our precious local ecosystems. The construction process would involve damaging excavation and the alteration of natural habitats. This not only threatens biodiversity but may also risk contamination of our water sources should the system fail during a long-term power outage caused by the storms our barrier island is prone to.

Moreover, we rely on individual septic systems, which are far more sustainable and environmentally friendly when properly maintained. A large-scale central sewer system could ultimately exacerbate pollution issues rather than resolve them.

2. High Costs and Economic Burden

The financial impact of implementing a central sewer system is another critical issue. The cost of installation and maintenance would be substantial, and this project will have a significant financial impact for all of us islanders who are already burdened financially by the recent hurricanes that have severely damaged our homes on the island. The fact this is being forced upon us feels wrong. The proposed fees are extremely high for a project that an overwhelming majority of islanders OPPOSE. For many in our community, especially those on fixed incomes, this could become an unbearable financial burden.

Furthermore, the central sewer system may not be necessary for our community at this time, as residents currently use private septic systems that function adequately. The proposed system would essentially require significant investments in infrastructure where it will not provide enough tangible benefits to justify the costs.

3. Disruption to the Community

The construction of a central sewer system would create significant disruptions to daily life. Roads may need to be torn up, the ferry lines will be outrageous and daily activities will be significantly impacted.

Additionally, the project could result in a loss of property value as residents face the inconvenience of construction and potential changes to the character of our special and fragile island. This could lead to discontent among property owners, as well as an overall decline in the quality of life for those who live here.

4. Lack of Community Consensus

The lack of widespread community consensus about this initiative is troubling, and it is essential that local residents are consulted and engaged before making a decision that will impact their lives for decades to come. Majority of residents are not convinced that this is the best course of action, and without their full support, the project may only foster division within the community.

In conclusion, while I understand the desire to improve infrastructure, I firmly believe that the proposed central sewer system is not the right solution for our community. Its environmental, economic, and social implications are far-reaching and potentially harmful, and I urge you to decline EU's application.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Captain Rob Anderson
230 Bocilla Drive
(813) 774-1513