

Nickalus Holmes

From: Office of Commissioner Fay
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 3:19 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU
Attachments: Re: Docket #20240032-SU; Deny EU Application Docket #20240032-SU; RE.Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Little Gasparilla Island -

Place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032

Nickalus Holmes

From: LAWRENCE THEES <ltsail@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 3:07 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Re: Docket #20240032-SU

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Please consider these additional reasons why we on the island oppose this proposed sewer system:

The Main Reasons We Oppose Private Sewer

No Need for Service

There has been no water testing or any evidence of need for sewer and there has not been any polling of the community for interest.

Excessive Cost

The realistic estimated cost to the homeowner is over \$40K up front! There will be no “pay-over-time”, no low-cost loans and no way to opt out.

[Learn More](#)

Private & For Profit

Because EU would be a private company running the sewer instead of the county, we won’t be afforded payment plans, there’s no competition, and no central oversight.

[Learn More](#)

Outdated Technology

EU wants to use a low-pressure systems, which Charlotte County won't install any more because of the excessive maintenance they require.

[Learn More](#)

Damage to the Environment

The proposed sewer project will cause years of disruption and destroy natural wildlife habitats for decades. The island will never be the same!

[Learn More](#)

Traffic Congestion

We all know how long the ferry waits can be and how difficult getting around the island can be with FEMA trucks. Imagine that, but worse.

Maintenance & Emergency Situations

The required grinder pump at each home will be susceptible to our harsh salt air. If there's an emergency repair needed, how will they get here after ferry hours?

[Learn More](#)

Undue Installation Burden to the Homeowner

Each homeowner will have to provide electric permits and service, plumbing and the system will need a generator to run in a power outage.

[Learn More](#)

Mandatory Easements

Plan on giving away an estimated 15' runway of your property from your house to the road that you can't build on, drive over or put anything permanent on.

[Learn More](#)

Undesirable Development

Central Sewer opens the door to highrises. We've seen it on Fort Myers Beach and Anna Maria Island. We do not want to see it here.

No Oversight

There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 31, 2025, at 1:57 PM, Larry Thees <ltsail@aol.com> wrote:

I was dismayed (appalled really) to read the staff recommendation to approve this proposed sewer system. It points to 29 property owners supporting the application but fails to mention that the large majority of those 29 are family members, friends and associates of the applicant and a single, non-resident property owner of 17 lots which counted as 17 of the 29. When balanced against the near unanimous opposition to the sewer system by actual owner/residents, it is a disingenuous distortion of reality. I own 3 properties on the island. Please count my voice as the voices of 3.

There was absolutely no evidence of any environmental harm caused by our safe septic systems. There was testimony that the applicant has offered for sale his Sewer company for \$11 million upon receiving approval. This makes sense since they don't have any experience in operating any sewer system. Why was this ignored? This is a money grab, plain and simple, upon the backs of taxpaying residents who oppose this entire scheme. The preliminary staff recommendation reads as if it was written by the applicant himself. This is shocking! Shame on whoever was responsible for this inherently dishonest report.

At the very least, a comprehensive environmental study on our specific island water quality and any actual connection to our septic systems should be required before approval. My septic system has survived 3 hurricanes in 2 years without any failure, along with all of my neighbors. At the hearings we heard testimony from 2 speakers about "poop" floating in flooded yards after Milton. Nobody else saw this or experienced this. Interestingly, those 2 speakers are direct relatives of the applicant. I call BS on that testimony.

Luckily, you are in a position to save us from this tyranny by a minority. Taxpaying residents deserve better. Please reject this application outright or, minimally, require environmental testing and clarification from the county as to why they no longer permit this type of sewer system on the mainland, but somehow it is just fine for our environmentally sensitive island.

We pray that you will do the right thing.

Larry Thees

Tel: 732-489-7900

8725 Placida Road, Suite 7
Box 230
Placida, FL 33946

Nickalus Holmes

From: Duffy Smith <mcduff8894@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 2:40 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Deny EU Application Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

PLEASE DENY ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITY'S APPLICATION

My husband and I are full-time residents on the sparsely populated, salty piece of land known as Little Gasparilla Island. We built here over 20 years ago, when there were about 40 full-time residents and a small transient population. Today, there are approximately 120 full-time residents. In the past two decades, there has been very little growth. The island's total capacity is only about 450 possible Equivalent Residential Connections (ERCs), and that number will not change unless an unnecessary central sewer system is imposed upon our community. Nearly 70% of stakeholders oppose this application.

I have carefully reviewed the Environmental Utility's (EU) application, all the briefs, testimony, and attended two days of hearings, listening to attorneys and expert witnesses. There was no demonstrable need for this service. If a few family members and developers are enough to justify the imposition of a central sewer system, this would be an absurd decision.

Please, DO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE as the Charlotte County Commissioners, who supported EU's application without due diligence. Charlotte County did not conduct any impact studies, neglected the needs and rights of homeowners, and failed to assess the water quality of Little Gasparilla Island's surrounding waters. The "resolution of support" was composed by EU's attorney and merely rubber-stamped by the commissioners, as requested by a private, for-profit individual. This is a clear dereliction of duty to the citizens they are supposed to serve and protect, leaving 800 residents to fend for themselves.

Commissioners Clark, Graham, and Passidomo-Smith, you have seen more evidence on this case than our local commissioners, who were absent during the hearings. They have not taken the time to hear, see, or witness the testimony of their constituents. This is not the first time they have failed to represent us adequately.

Our island is surrounded by a state-designated Outstanding Florida Water body. We want to protect, preserve, and improve it. A central sewer system is not the solution. We cannot risk sewer pipes beneath our sandy paths and through our bay and intracoastal waterway. The possibility of untreated wastewater spilling into our waters and onto our property is unacceptable.

While some septic systems on the island may need repair or replacement, this does not justify a blanket, astronomically costly mandate for the entire community. Viable solutions, such as Enhanced Nutrient Onsite Sewage Treatment Disposal Systems (ENR-OSTDS), are being considered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection possibly as better alternatives than septic to sewer conversions for coastal communities.

PLEASE GIVE US A CHANCE

Give us a chance to preserve our homes. Give us a chance to protect our fragile environment. Give us a chance to explore better systems and funding where needed. Give us a chance to maintain our peaceful community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Smith
8894 Gulf Street
Little Gasparilla Island

Nickalus Holmes

From: Sally Mingerink <smingerink@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 2:17 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE.Docket #20240032-SU

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To Whom It May Concern:

These are the reasons we are against Environmental Utilities proposal:

There is no need for service.

We live in a complex that doesn't have space for the type sewer system being proposed.

Against private ownership.

The cost. Some people will have to sell their property because they will not be able to afford it.

More development. We are very happy not having hotels, stores & etc.

Destruction of the island.

We are also wondering why there is only one bid. Normally when there is project this large you have several bids.

Sincerely
Ken & Sally Mingerink
301 S Gulf Blvd
CDP 26

Nickalus Holmes

From: Larry Thees <Itsail@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 1:58 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Luckily, you are in a position to save us from this tyranny by a minority. Taxpaying residents deserve better. Please reject this application outright or, minimally, require environmental testing and clarification from the county as to why they no longer permit this type of sewer system on the mainland, but somehow it is just fine for our environmentally sensitive island.

We pray that you will do the right thing.

Larry Thees

Tel: 732-489-7900

8725 Placida Road, Suite 7
Box 230
Placida, FL 33946

Nickalus Holmes

From: Steve Egan <steveimprint1@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 1:34 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Good Afternoon,

I was curious as to how 29 "requests for sewer service" can override the opinions of so many other residents that do not want sewer on LGI, or the other barrier islands as well. Are those 29 people going to pay for all of us that can't afford it? I already know the answer to that. I sincerely was shocked that the PSC would go along with Charlotte Co. BOCC on this. Jack Boyer is only out for himself. If the BOCC is going to push this down our throats then at least have the county take on the project instead of someone trying to line their pockets. It really smacks of something inappropriate going on between some members of the BOCC and a private individual.

Steve Egan
8270 Gasparilla Island
813-453-LOGO
lprintTampa.com

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nelson Kirkland <nelson@centralfloridamediagroup.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 1:56 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Little Gasparilla Island -

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I have a house on Little Gasparilla Island. What the island has been through these past few years has been hard, very hard, very very hard.

Now we are under threat of being forced to tie into the septic sewage system at our own expense that is neither needed or wanted.

Please deny the EU application.

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Best regards,
R. Nelson Kirkland
9768 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida Fla.

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