

Nickalus Holmes

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 4:21 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032
Attachments: URGENT! RE. Docket #20240032-SU; SEWER PROPOSAL: PLEASE VOTE AGAINST

Good Afternoon:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thx.

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

Nickalus Holmes

From: Palm Island Estates <pie@palmislandestates.org>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 4:16 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: URGENT! RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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To the Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

Tomorrow is a monumental day in the lives of Island residents. The decision you render regarding Environmental Utilities' application will impact the property owners within the prospective service area for many years to come.

In their recommendation, staff took the position that the application should be approved based on only the most limited factors to be considered. In other words, the application was complete and not deficient.

Staff also took the narrowest interpretation of what constitutes "need for service". They stuck to the 4 specific items in the application and dismissed any other considerations, such as environmental need for service, securing of easements and more.

As Commissioners of the PSC, we understand that you have the autonomy to consider more than the fulfillment of a checklist. There were only two items that differed from the previous docket where you denied certification:

- The inclusion of request for service with the application submission instead of later in the process.
- The submission of the Charlotte County supporting resolution with the application instead of a letter of support from Charlotte County that was submitted late in the process in 2022.

Nothing else has significantly changed since the last application.

We ask you to consider the following when making your decision regarding need for service/public interest. All can be verified in evidence and testimony:

- Environmental need is a part of the need for service. No testing has been done to prove water pollution, nor is there proof of a public health and safety issue.
- The Charlotte County resolution is not proof of a "need" for service, but rather it is a "want" for service as the Comprehensive Plan prohibits them from installing central sewer.
- EU's attorney wrote the Charlotte County resolution, not the Charlotte County attorney. That's why it states that there's no conflict with the Comprehensive Plan, when even the PSC staff agrees that there is.
- Even Charlotte County believes that a low-pressure system requires too much maintenance. They no longer use the system, only doing new installations where the system already exists.
- There is no mandate for central sewer, and Charlotte County continues to issue permits for septic system installations.

- The major discrepancies in the cost estimates among the various expert witnesses leaves the potential for a return to the PSC for a rate adjustment.
- The owners requesting service only represent 4% of the total ERCs. Everyone else who is aware of it opposes it.

Should this application be approved, the negative impacts will come without any demonstrable benefit or need. There will also be unintended consequences, as is always the case when a rubber-stamped solution is applied to a unique situation.

We respectfully request that you use the full extent of your authority to consider all of the factors in this case and deny this application.

The Palm Island Estates Association, Inc. Action Committee

Meryl Schaffer

Co-Chair, Communications

PIE Communications Team
Palm Island Estates Association, Inc
<https://www.palmislandestates.org/>



Nickalus Holmes

From: Laurie Barclay <it000016@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 4:09 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: SEWER PROPOSAL: PLEASE VOTE AGAINST

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

We are homeowners on Don Pedro Island for 35 years. We strongly oppose the sewer proposal because:

Our existing septic works just fine and requires no power to operate. If the power goes out on a sewer system, raw sewage would back up into our home within 8 hours.

The cost of installing and maintaining a sewer, generator, and associated costs is prohibitive and unnecessary.

Sewers pose environmental hazards to the fragile ecosystems and wildlife on our pristine island. Consider all the sewer systems that dumped billions of gallons of sewage into the Gulf, causing red tide, destroying marine life, and ruining air quality.

The generators needed for backup are also a hazard and could catch fire.

Our island life and finances have already been severely disrupted by the hurricanes. The last thing we need is more disruption from sewers being installed and maintained and ultimately failing, not to mention the extreme upfront costs and backup to traffic getting on and off the island.

There is no need for sewer on our island. The only one it benefits is those who proposed it for their own financial gain.

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

We would lose an estimated 15' runway of our property from our house to the road that we can't build on, drive over or put anything permanent on.

Central Sewer opens the door to high-rises, which would destroy the old Florida, nature preserve feeling of our pristine island.

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

In short, we do not want this and have never wanted it. We have spoken up against it each time it has come up. Please VOTE NO and put an end to this once and for all.

Sincerely,

Laurie Barclay and Richard Collett
Homeowners: CDP Unit #8 and 50 S. Gulf, Don Pedro Island