

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Chairman La Rosa
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 9:00 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence - 20240032
Attachments: DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; docket 20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; EU sewer app number #20240032; DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU; DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Re: Docket #20240032-SU; RE.Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Little Gasparilla Island -; Deny EU Application Docket #20240032-SU

Good morning,

Please place the attached emails in CORRESPONDENCE – Consumers & Representatives in docket 20240032.

Thank you.

Antonia Hover

From: Paul Madsen <pm@groupmadsen.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 8:11 AM
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

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

Good morning,

I am once again writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed private sewer system for Little Gasparilla. I cannot comprehend how this has gotten to this point. A private, for profit entity with no experience installing or maintaining sewer systems will possibly be granted a no bid contract which forces homeowners to pay massive upfront and ongoing costs for a system no one has asked for and no one has proven a need for. And that doesn't mention the taking of property required to make it happen. My wife and I own two properties on LGI - 8522 and 8526. We will fight this vigorously for as long as it takes and we urge you to deny the application.

Paul Madsen
8522 Little Gasparilla and 8526 Grand Avenue

Sent from my iPad

Antonia Hover

From: Jane Pottmeyer <jpottmeyer@gmavt.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 12:05 AM
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

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

To the PSC Staff,

My husband and I are building a home on Palm Island and are dismayed and opposed to the idea of sewer systems being proposed for the island. The potential environmental damage to wildlife, plant, & aquatic life to the island would be catastrophic. We chose this particular island due to how dedicated the residents are as stewards of the wildlife that lives here. We stand alongside the residents in wanting to protect the future of all the creatures that live on the island for generations to come. With the threat of putting in sewer systems, the potential for sewer discharge and leaks would be devastating for tortoises, seas turtles, manatees, dolphins, fish, mangroves, and the balance of the unique ecosystem currently thriving on the island. Irreparable damage to wildlife, plant, & aquatic life could throw the entire ecosystem out of balance which would have far reaching outcomes.

Another concern is the possible introduction of pathogens and health risks for anyone visiting and/or living on the island. Given Florida has so many tropical storms & hurricanes, low-pressure sewer systems are highly susceptible break down or stop working which will result in a health risk with un-flushable toilets likely for days before anyone can gain access to the island to service the numerous homes and condos. The risk for sewers to fail and contaminate canals & bays is too large a risk to wager.

The proposed hook up fees, permitting, barge fees, and monthly water billing all prohibitive. Charlotte County works with an affordability rate of no more than \$113/mo for wastewater for all Charlotte County residents. There will be equipment failures and given just one ferry that doesn't operate in weather conditions.

It's time to make a different choice, one that prioritizes protecting nature, the animals we get to share this earth with who are depending on us to make good decisions. I am asking you to be stewards for wherever you happen to live, for Palm Island, for Charlotte County, for Florida, and be an example for the rest of the United States. What legacy do you leave for people today in Charlotte County? For your children? For your grandchildren?

Thank you for your time and care in favor of preserving the ecosystem for the future of Palm Island.

Health & Peace.
Jane & Kevin Pottmeyer

Compassion is a verb.
Thich Nhat Hanh

Antonia Hover

From: Sharon Steckler <sharon@stecklerlcsww.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 11:05 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa
Subject: docket 20240032-SU

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

Docket #20240032-SU

Dear Commissioner LaRosa,

I am writing as a home owner on Little Gasparilla Island to voice my strongest possible opposition to the above docket for a sewer system on the Boca barrier Islands. There is absolutely no need for this system as no problem exists with the current management of sewage on these islands and the overwhelming majority of homeowners oppose it. In the words of President Reagan, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". This proposal is a money making scheme for the FOR PROFIT Environmental Utilities who have NO experience with such a system. The costs would be passed on to us owners and is estimated to cost each home owners in excess of \$40,000, plus monthly fees once in place. They are proposing an outdated low pressure technology that Charlotte County won't install any more because of the excessive cost to maintain. These have a high failure rate and spillage of raw sewage into our delicate island and intracoastal environment will be disastrous for wildlife, the fisheries and tourism. Construction for this system will be very disruptive to the island residents. These are bridgeless islands and access is dependent on a ferry which does not operate on a regular schedule. If there is an emergency with the sewage system, access to repair it will be slow in arriving.

This system will be an undue burden on homeowners: each homeowner will have to provide electric permits and service as well as a generator for the frequent power outages on the island. We would also have to give away 15' of property for an easement. Also, there is no oversight for this

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

Please do not impose this terrible project on the people of the Bocilla Islands and vote no again on this project.

Sincerely,

Sharon Steckler, LCSW
Mind's Eye Psychotherapy
& Consultation
(sent from my iphone)

Antonia Hover

From: Carol Spyerer <carolcms@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 8:40 PM
To: 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

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

Dear Commissioners,

I do not understand why I am still writing and pleading with you to stop the low pressure sewer system from being approved on LGI. Charlotte County no longer even uses this system because of the expense. LGI has been through Ian which was catastrophic and two flooding hurricanes Helene and Milton in the last three years. Houses and docks have been severely damaged. We do not need more of the land or our island destroyed by this endeavor. I don't understand how you could allow this when I have been waiting 2+ for permitting and now dealing with an electrical permit which is due to an FPL issue. This nonprofit only has one agenda and that is to do the Christian thing and purchase all the land after they run everyone off the island if you allow this to pass.

Please step up Charlotte County and close your pocketbooks and do the right thing for your constituents. Veto the Sewer system for your stepchildren at LGI.

Carol Speyerer
9274 LGI

Antonia Hover

From: Natalie Coburn <nataliecoburn3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 4:53 PM
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.usb; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: EU sewer app number #20240032

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

Hello

I am writing urging you reject this application. I am currently building a home at 8904 Gulf Street and own a condo at hideaway bay beach club 9400 little Gasparilla Island, A8.

I spoke at the commissioner meeting in January against this project. No need has been established, the costs are excessive, their technology is outdated there would be damage to the environment, and easements would be mandated (many lots on LGI are 50 by 100 feet with little to no room to spare for additional easements) to name a few of the many issues.

I am permitted to install a performance based automated unit at the total cost of \$50,000 later this year. It is the highest standard of automated units which is required to have testing twice per year and even more in the early phases of set up. It is superior to the system EU is proposing in every way but if this passes I would be forced to dig out and remove this brand new superior system at my own cost and be forced to spend 40k to hook up to EU's system. As I'm sure you're aware, we live on a barrier island with no bridges and have to barge everything over which greatly increases the cost of everything we do.

It is highly unfair that we have to pay for a new septic system and then be forced to tear it out within a year or two in order to accommodate a sewer system that we do not want nor need and also fear. And, there are many others in this same situation. Island-wide fear is due to the lack of effectiveness of the kind of system being proposed, the time it will take to complete along with the interruptions to our right for the peaceful enjoyment of our property. The destruction to our island will compound the devastation already inflicted by the recent hurricanes. In addition, the estimated costs are going to far exceed the estimate presented by the applicant and does not include the upgraded electrical system that each home or property will be required to provide.

And then, God forbid, what will happen should there be another storm the magnitude of Ian, Helene or Milton. What will happen each time the power goes down on the island (which most recently went down for the entire day on March 24th) and happens often? What is the plan for another catastrophic storm surge? Who will be responsible for the damage to property owners due to effluence escape?

The majority of the people on the island do not want this and the very few in favor appear to have personal reasons: either they are related to the applicant, good friends of the applicant or stand to benefit from the approval of the subsequent project.

As I said, I attended and spoke at the hearing and nearly all were against it.

The testimony that I found most appalling, and also quite interesting, was from the gentleman who stated that he had been offered to buy this sewer system for eleven million dollars. Why would he say this if it wasn't true? With all due respect, this has shade of backroom shenanigans.

I am disappointed (and quite honestly, disgusted) should there have been any sort of back room positioning in order for persons to make money off the backs of people who have already been through several traumatic, damaging and expensive experiences since 2021, some losing everything with no federal, state or local help.

There has been no evidence presented of environmental damage to sensitive areas that surround our beautiful island. The current systems in place to the north, south and east of us all had major problems due to the fact that the systems did not perform as planned during and after these recent storms, subsequently wreaking havoc with overflow waste flowing into and onto private property, not to mention the surrounding waters.

I would ask you from the bottom of my heart to deny this application due to the following:

1. The applicant is not qualified to install and operate the planned system.
2. He (jack boyer) has expressed to others the plans to sell the "slam drunk" project to enrich himself, and has stated to others that this is "his retirement plan".
3. 95% of the community opposes this application.
4. Most owners are not able to afford it and will have to sell which, in all likelihood, will create a "land grab" by those who wish to change one of the last, beautiful vestiges of Old Florida... for personal monetary gain.
5. Many owners will refuse to give an easement or right of way which will result in long, embroiled and acrimonious lawsuits.
6. To add insult to injury, should this be forced upon us, we will be obligated to pay monthly fees for the "privilege" of having this unwanted atrocity after being strong-armed to fund it in the first place.
7. The likelihood of unforeseen mishaps due to the nature of our unique island, and the lack of the adequate infrastructure to support such a fiasco, would surely reap dire consequences to our surrounding environment, not to mention our individual homes and land.

Hideaway bay beach club was excluded from the scope of this project in May of 2024. It came to light in January of 2025 that the Waste water Transmission line for LGI is being brought over to HBBC property. This has the potential of completely closing down our property if a pump house is built on our septic drain field. We have been denied our due process. Our lawyer's letter was ignored when the PSC staff made their recommendation to approve the application.

I have 2 dogs on this fight and this application negatively effects both of my properties immensely. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Natalie Coburn

Antonia Hover

From: Ashley Morrison <ashleymm24@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 6:06 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

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

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
ashleymm24@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: Gage, Jamie <Jamie.Gage@bsci.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 3:31 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

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

Hello and thank you for your attention to this issue,

Please deny this application. This is a very costly and unnecessary request for our beautiful and pristine island. Come out and visit! There is no place like it.

Kind Regards,

Jamie S Gage
8900 Gulf St.
Little Gasparilla Island
941-737-8838
Jamie.Gage@bsci.com

Antonia Hover

From: LAWRENCE THEES <Itsail@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

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

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

Antonia Hover

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

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

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

Antonia Hover

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

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

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

Antonia Hover

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

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

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](mailto:steveimprint1@aol.com)

Antonia Hover

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 -

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

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.

--

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

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

Antonia Hover

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

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

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