

**Jacob Veagh**

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**From:** Jacob Veagh on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2022 8:23 AM  
**To:** 'Debbie Daugherty'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Good Morning, Debbie Daugherty

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket 20200226, and the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach will be notified.

**Jacob Veagh**

Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Florida Public Service Commission  
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**From:** Debbie Daugherty <ufdaugherty@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 9:07 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Docket #20200226-SU

To Commissioner Larosa, Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Passidomo, and Clerk of the Commission:

My name is Debbie Daugherty and I own 9850 Little Gasparilla Island, which is within the proposed sewer service area for Little Gasparilla Island. **I am formally objecting to the sewer proposal and request that the PSC deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) for a central sewer system for Little Gasparilla Island.**

I have over 20 years experience in water and wastewater utilities and a Bachelors and Masters in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida. I am currently the Water/Wastewater Engineering Director for Gainesville Regional Utilities. There is no doubt in my mind that proceeding with this particular party (EU) for providing private central sewer is the wrong move for our island. EU does not have the technical expertise to properly construct, operate and maintain a sewer system. Allowing EU to move forward with a central sewer system will result in situations that will be more damaging to the environment. While a central sewer system has its merits for improving the environment, selecting the appropriate party and technology is essential for success of the project. From the information presented so far, EU is proposing a pressurized sewer system, however,

previous engineering reports and other utilities experience show that a vacuum system would provide a more reliable sewer system for our island.

We are currently customers of Little Gasparilla Water Utility, which is owned and operated by the same parties that are applying as Environmental Utilities, LLC. The owners have minimal experience operating a water system and no experience operating a wastewater system. The water system on Little Gasparilla Island is constructed poorly and not operated responsibly by these parties. The owners of the water system do not respect owners property rights and place water lines wherever they want without proper communication with the homeowner nor obtaining proper easements for their water lines. While the project to bring sewer services to the island has merit, Environmental Utilities is not the appropriate party to complete a project of this nature. Part of EU's proposal for the central sewer system is "claiming ownership" of a utility easement on private property without compensating the homeowner. Charlotte County should continue to seek other experienced parties to provide sewer service to Little Gasparilla Island or pursue funding to extend County sewer service to our residents. Septic to Sewer conversion projects are being successfully completed across the state of Florida. Converting these barrier islands to a central sewer system would be a strong project for Charlotte County to propose for infrastructure grants and funding. Millions of dollars are going to be available for these types of projects in the coming years, which would reduce the financial burden for connection charges for the residents of Little Gasparilla Island.

The proposed connection charges for the sewer system have ranged from \$11,000 to \$20,000 and it does not appear that sufficient engineering studies have been conducted to verify the pricing provided. The proposed monthly sewer charges are VERY high compared to other utility rates. For the residents of Little Gasparilla Island, we already pay high monthly rates for the water system. I currently pay around \$75 per month for water with little water usage. Adding the proposed monthly sewer charges would bring the monthly water and sewer charges to over \$250 a month which is a ridiculous monthly charge for water and sewer compared to other local utilities.

Mr. Boyer, the owner of Environmental Utilities, has been very vocal as a resident on Little Gasparilla Island that he has no intentions of completing this project, nor does he care about improving the environment on our island, he is solely making the petition to be granted the sewer service rights then sell them for his own financial gain. He has told other island residents that he is "locking in his retirement" expecting to make millions and retiring. I personally want someone who cares about the future of our island to be involved in such an important public health and safety project for Charlotte County and Little Gasparilla Island. The residents and property owners in Charlotte County deserve fair and equitable rates and monthly charges for sewer service, not to be a private individual's retirement plan.

**In conclusion, due to the lack of technical expertise of the applicant, lack of respect for homeowner property rights of the applicant, and inability to provide fair and equitable rates, I formally request that Environmental Utilities, LLC Application to provide sewer service to Little Gasparilla Island be denied.**

Sincerely,

Debbie Daugherty

Water/Wastewater Engineering Director

Gainesville Regional Utilities

Property Owner: 9850 Little Gasparilla Island

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