

Juno Isles residents,

The intent of this letter is to both brief you and solicit your input in regard to an upcoming project that directly impacts all Juno Isles residents. Seacoast Utility Authority (SUA) has determined that the water main pipes throughout Juno Isles are due for replacement. In addition, SUA informed the community of their intent to install a low-pressure sewer line in the community, as opposed to a more traditional gravity flow sewer system. They intend to begin construction for the areas on and west of Ellison Wilson Road by early 2024.

Juno Isles Civic Association (JICA) hosted two SUA meetings on the subject: November 17, 2022, and May 11, 2023. JICA also hosted a Q&A for residents on May 25, 2023. Since many questions remain, JICA decided to ask residents to complete a survey that would provide some clarity on how the neighborhood would like to proceed. Please understand, that SUA is not accountable to our Association or results of this questionnaire. The purpose of this survey is simply to know what our residents want and to guide the JICA and Special Project Committee on how to proceed.

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION:

Low-pressure sewer system:

- The planned low-pressure sewer system will require the homeowner to buy and install the grinder pump and holding tank on their property, as well as install electrical components (dedicated 220V) to run the pump. Seacoast estimates the cost to homeowners for this system as Private \$42,000 - \$56,500 - Public \$12,000.
- Annual maintenance and operating costs would be about \$1,464 to \$1,560 per year.
- SUA also requires all owners to “maintain at all times a maintenance/service agreement for the grinder pump system with a person or firm acceptable to SUA.” This additional cost to homeowners is one reason why the annual costs are greater.

Gravity flow sewer system:

- Gravity flow sewer systems have pipes directly from homes to the main line, with no private equipment for homeowners to install and maintain. Seacoast estimates the cost to homeowners for this system as Private \$11,200 - \$13,200 - Public \$63,800. Palm Beach County has not verified this cost.
- Annual operating cost is approximately \$264 to \$360.
- An evaluation by the County, which is typically undertaken for large capital projects, would better outline the costs, and typically allows the cost to homeowners to be added to property taxes over the course of approximately 20 years.

NOTE: In order for the County to consider conducting an evaluation, the Supervisor of Elections Office would conduct an official vote and require “50% plus one household” in favor of a gravity flow sewer system. Upon completion of this study, residents can then decide if they wish to proceed with a gravity flow sewer system.

KEY DIFFERENCES:

Low-pressure sewer system:

- If your home does not have a generator, your system will not push waste out to the main line in the event of a power outage.
- The cost to install private equipment will need to be paid at the time of installation.
- There is some disruption to our roads.
- While SUA has said they will not mandate residents to hook up to the low-pressure sewer system at this time, they have stated that a guarantee of this cannot be given for the future. There is existing FL Statutes that state homeowners must hook-up within 365 days of the availability of a sewer system.
- Additionally, there is the underlying possibility that the Palm Beach County Health Department may deny all future permits for septic tank repairs or drain field replacement.

Gravity flow systems:

- This system is not affected by power outages.
- There is no privately owned equipment on homeowner property to install and maintain.
- There will be significant disruption to our roads.
- According to FL Statute, residents would be required to hook up during the initial installation process. The cost to homeowners may be added to your property tax roll and paid over a 20-year period.

Special note: Upon hookup, at a cost and responsibility to homeowners, all current septic systems will need to be abandoned, regardless of which system is installed.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO:

- 1) Research – there is plenty of reliable information available on the internet to assist you in determining which system is best for your family.
- 2) Talk to neighbors who attended the meetings listed above or reach out to committee members or Board members. You may also email your questions directly to jica@junoisles.org.
- 3) Visit junoisles.org for links to additional resources, including a website created by SUA for the Juno Isles project.
- 4) Contact your local County Commissioner (Maria Marino) at MMarino@pbcgov.org or call 561-355-2201.
- 5) Select the ONE option (on the following page) you feel is best for you and our community and return this survey through one of the methods listed below.

CHECK ONE OPTION BELOW:

OPTION A: _____ Allow SUA to proceed with their plans to install a low-pressure sewer line at the time the water main lines are replaced.

OPTION B: _____ Ask SUA to pause the project, giving us time to work with Palm Beach County to request an evaluation for a gravity-flow sewer system.

****The Juno Isles Civic Association Board voted unanimously to recommend option B.**

Please submit only ONE form per household and complete the following information:

Resident name: _____

Resident address: _____

There are several ways to RETURN this survey:

- 1) Mail to Juno Isles Civic Association, P.O. Box 1442, North Palm Beach, FL 33408 *Must be postmarked by June 15, at midnight.
- 2) Drop off on June 22, at Oceanview United Methodist Church, 701 Ocean Dr., North Palm Beach, FL 33408 lower level between 6:30 and 7:00 PM where the Board will meet at 7:00 to tally the questionnaire results.
- 3) Volunteer residents will be going door to door between June 16 and 20th, to collect questionnaires.
- 4) Volunteer residents will be going to door on Saturday, June 17, to collect questionnaires.
- 5) Scan or photograph this page and e-mail it to jica@junoisles.org as soon as possible but no later than by 5:00 PM on June 22, 2023.

If you want to receive future email notices and information from the Juno Isles Civic Association, check the box below and provide your email address.

____ Send emails to me Email address: _____