

1 Introduced by Council Member DeFoor and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Diamond, White, Pittman, Becton, Ferraro and R. Gaffney:
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5 **RESOLUTION 2020-736**

6 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING JEA'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS
7 SURFACE DISCHARGE ELIMINATION AND ENCOURAGING
8 THE LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS
9 OFFERED BY JEA TO ELIMINATE THE DISPOSAL OF
10 EFFLUENT, RECLAIMED WATER, OR REUSE WATER FROM
11 WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES (WWTF) VIA
12 SURFACE WATER DISCHARGE BUT IN A RESPONSIBLE
13 AND TIMELY MANNER WHICH IS FINANCIALLY
14 FEASIBLE; DIRECTING LEGISLATIVE SERVICES TO
15 FORWARD COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION UPON
16 ADOPTION TO THE DUVAL DELEGATION, THE SENATE
17 PRESIDENT AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF THE
18 REPRESENTATIVES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE
19 DATE.
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville (the "City) recognizes water
22 is a precious commodity which should not be wasted and the City
23 supports water reuse and reduction of surface water discharge
24 through thoughtful planning and execution; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the proper treatment and disposal or reuse of
26 domestic wastewater is an important part of JEA's (the City's
27 publicly-owned utility) work in protecting the environment and
28 Florida's water resources; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the City, through JEA, actively invests in technology
30 to result in effluent below the Florida Department of Environmental
31 Protection's (FDEP) total maximum discharge limitations (TMDLs) and

1 subsequent Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP); and

2 **WHEREAS**, JEA has recognized potable reuse to be an alternative
3 water supply and included use of potable reuse water in the
4 development of its Integrated Water Resource Plan; and

5 **WHEREAS**, JEA treats approximately 80 million gallons of
6 wastewater per day, of which 20 million gallons a day (MGD) is
7 beneficially reused, to include irrigation and wetland
8 regeneration; and

9 **WHEREAS**, JEA has developed a capital strategy to build or
10 upgrade 7 WWTFs within the next 5 years to continue to process
11 wastewater to meet reclaim/irrigation/ecological standards; and

12 **WHEREAS**, legislation was proposed in the 2020 State
13 Legislative Session (Senate Bill 1656 and House Bill 715) which
14 would eliminate surface water discharge of effluent within a
15 proposed timeline that would have been financially and technically
16 untenable for JEA and would place a major burden on rate payers;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, a study commissioned by JEA estimated the cost of
19 implementation under the proposed timeline at greater than \$1
20 billion; and

21 **WHEREAS**, necessary and valuable capital improvements for the
22 Water/Wastewater System would have been reduced in scope or held in
23 abeyance in order to accommodate the proposed timeline; and

24 **WHEREAS**, due to the age of existing infrastructure, as well as
25 the geography and hydrogeology of JEA service territory, JEA will
26 be required to use expensive alternatives such as aquifer recharge
27 and deep well injection; and

28 **WHEREAS**, nevertheless JEA continues to expand its reclaimed
29 water transmission, distribution and storage systems and increase
30 its production of reclaimed water each year; and

31 **WHEREAS**, it is expected that the Legislature will again

1 consider legislation which would address the surface discharge
2 elimination concept in the 2021 Legislative Session; and

3 **WHEREAS**, JEA supports the intent of the prior legislation to
4 address surface discharge elimination and continues to implement
5 the reuse of reclaimed water to the maximum extent technologically,
6 economically and environmentally feasible but urges the Legislature
7 in the future to consider extended timeframes for surface discharge
8 elimination to avoid significant challenges due to the complexity
9 and financial impacts of such requirements; and

10 **WHEREAS**, at the JEA Board of Directors meeting held on
11 November 17, 2020, the Board approved action presenting a
12 resolution to the City Council on this topic; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the City Council stands in support of JEA, it's
14 publicly-owned and operated utility, and would respectfully urge
15 the Legislature, if it decides to take up legislation on this topic
16 in the 2021 Legislative Session to consider extending timeframes
17 for surface discharge elimination as originally proposed in House
18 Bill 715 and Senate Bill 1656 in 2020; now therefore

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

20 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby stands in
21 support of JEA, it's publicly-owned and operated utility, and
22 encourages the Legislature, in considering any future legislation
23 in the 2021 Legislative Session, regarding surface discharge
24 elimination to allow input from the public and private utilities
25 which would be impacted by such legislation and to implement a more
26 extensive timeframe with an expanded phased schedule to allow for
27 legacy utilities, and those utilities which serve large
28 geographical areas and would need to be retrofitted, adequate time
29 to comply with any state mandated legislative changes.

30 **Section 2. Directing Legislative Services to forward this**
31 **legislation to the Duval Delegation and the Legislature upon**

1 **adoption by City Council.** Upon adoption of this resolution, the
2 Legislative Services Division is directed to send a copy of this
3 resolution to the members of the Duval Delegation, the Florida
4 Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
5 and the Board President of the JEA Board of Directors.

6 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
7 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
8 without the Mayor's signature.

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10 Form Approved:

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12 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

13 Office of General Counsel

14 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

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