

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



**JEFFREY R. CLEMENTS**  
Chief of Research  
(904) 255-5137

117 West Duval Street  
City Hall, Suite 425  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
FAX (904) 255-5229

**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2023-205

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council President at the request of the Mayor

**Date of Introduction:** March 28, 2023

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R, F, TEU

**Date of Analysis:** March 30, 2023

**Type of Action:** Appropriation; Ordinance Code waivers; invocation of direct contracting exemption; requirement for annual report

**Bill Summary:** The bill appropriates \$107,693 from Environmental Protection Fund fund balance to provide funding for production of the 16<sup>th</sup> State of the River report for the lower St. Johns River basin. It waives the provisions of the Ordinance Code regarding uses of the Environmental Protection Fund to permit the funding to be used for a purpose that is not of a unique, one-time nature; waives the requirement for a competitive procurement process; and waives the prohibition against providing City funding via an advance payment. It invokes the Procurement Code's exception to permit direct contracting with Jacksonville University to conduct the study in collaboration with several other universities and authorizes execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Jacksonville University to produce the report. The Environmental Quality Division of the Neighborhoods Department is designated as the oversight agency for the project.

**Background Information:** The Environmental Protection Board has traditionally provided funding for production of the State of the River report as a means of regularly evaluating the condition of the St. Johns River and its tributaries and informing the City, policy makers, and the general public about that condition and any problems or issues. The project has been managed by the Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville University, in collaboration with research scientists from other universities who contribute expertise in particular areas. The 16th report will be a collaborative effort of researchers from JU, UNF, Florida Southern University, and West Chester University. The Code waivers are required to permit EPB funding to be used for a recurring expense rather than one-time uses, to permit direct contracting with Jacksonville University because of its history with the project and its expertise, and to permit some funding to be provided to the research project in advance rather than being completely reimbursed at the end of the project. The Environmental Protection Board has approved the project expenditure and the associated waivers.

**Policy Impact Area:** St. Johns River health

**Fiscal Impact:** The bill appropriates \$107,693 from Environmental Protection Fund fund balance

**Analyst:** Clements