

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-873

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

Date of Introduction: December 12, 2023

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

Date of Analysis: December 14, 2023

Type of Action: Authorization of the mayor's execution and deliverance of an amendment to the interagency agreement between the City of Jacksonville and JEA; request for emergency passage

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the mayor or her designee to execute and deliver a third amendment to the interagency agreement between the City of Jacksonville and JEA. The amendment extends the term of the Agreement from September 30, 2023, to December 31, 2024, and enables JEA to provide additional nutrient reduction credits to the City to facilitate the City's compliance with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Lower St. Johns River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The amendment specifies that JEA pursue the approval of the transfer of supplemental credits to the City amounting to 35 to 45 metric tons of total nitrogen per year in order to meet this goal.

The bill requests emergency passage upon introduction, as the terms of the BMAP require the City to have 106.9 metric tons of nutrient credit in place prior to December 31, 2023, for the reduction of nitrogen discharged into the river, and emergency passage upon introduction is necessary to meet this goal before the deadline.

Background Information: The City of Jacksonville entered into an Interagency Agreement with JEA on March 22, 2016. Section 4.9 of this agreement allowed the parties to engage in discussions regarding a plan for meeting the future needs of both parties with respect to the regulatory reduction of total nitrogen in the Lower St. Johns River and its tributaries. JEA has additional credits that it has agreed to transfer to the City as a part of the amended agreement.

As part of the Lower St. Johns River BMAP, the City of Jacksonville agreed to have 106.9 metric tons of nutrient credit in place prior to December 31, 2023, for the reduction of nitrogen discharged into the river.

Policy Impact Area: River protection; JEA

Fiscal Impact: This bill authorizes the transfer of FDEP nutrient credits from JEA to the City at no cost.

Analyst: Webb