

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2022-219

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

Date of Introduction: March 22, 2022

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

Date of Analysis: March 24, 2022

Type of Action: Appropriation; fiscal year carry-over authorization; Ordinance Code waivers; invocation of Procurement Code direct contracting exception; authorization to execute Memorandum of Understanding; designation of oversight agency

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$96,956 from Environmental Protection Fund fund balance to provide funding for production of the 15th annual State of the River Report for the Lower St. Johns River Basin and provides for carry-over of the appropriated funds to FY22-23. 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 15th 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 \$96,956 from Environmental Protection Fund balance

Analyst: Clements