

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-622

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

Date of Introduction: August 13, 2024

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

Date of Analysis: August 15, 2024

Type of Action: Appropriation; Ordinance Code waivers; authorization to execute agreement; invocation of Procurement Code direct contracting exemption; designation of oversight agency; annual report requirement

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$113,609 in fund balance from the Environmental Protection Fund to procure the professional services of Jacksonville University for preparation of the Seventeenth State of the River Report. It waives a portion of Ordinance Code Section 111.755 – Environmental Protection Fund – and Section 360.602 – Use of Fund - which require that uses of the fund must be for special projects of a unique, onetime nature, and shall not be continuing. The bill waives a provision of Section 118.107 - Nonprofits to receive funding through a competitive evaluated award process – and invokes the exemption in the Procurement Code to directly contract with Jacksonville University outside of a competitive procurement process for the production of the report. The Environmental Quality Division is designated as the City’s oversight agency for the project. It requires JU to provide the State of the River report to the Environmental Protection Board in September 2024.

Background Information: This contract provides for the production of the 17th edition of the State of the River Report, which will be produced by the Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville University with assistance from faculty at the University of North Florida and Penn State University – Berks. The report reviews and synthesizes data from numerous reports and data sets to present an up-to-date overview of the current condition of the St. Johns River in the Lower Basin. The Environmental Protection Board annually requests this funding and the associated waivers of the one-time project requirement because the information is deemed to be of valuable use to the City, environmental and regulatory agencies, and the general public. The report will be released to the public at the EPB’s annual environmental luncheon.

Policy Impact Area: Environmental information

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates \$113,609 in fund balance from the Environmental Protection Fund

Analyst: Clements