



**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager

**DATE:** July 5, 2023

**TITLE:** Motion Approving Interlocal Agreement with Broward County to Conduct a Study for “Evaluation of Changes to the Salinity Distribution within the Surficial Aquifer under Projected Future Hydrologic Conditions, Broward County, Florida” - \$87,437 - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve an Interlocal Agreement with Broward County to conduct a study for “Evaluation of Changes to the Salinity Distribution within the Surficial Aquifer under Projected Future Hydrologic Conditions, Broward County, Florida” for a period of three (3) years from the effective date.

**Background**

Broward County Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division intends to enter into a separate agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for a cooperative study that will evaluate the changes to the spatial distribution of salinity within the surficial aquifer of the urbanized areas of Broward County resulting from projected future hydrological conditions.

Saltwater intrusion into coastal wellfields is a major concern to fresh drinking water supplies in coastal areas and is heavily influenced by local hydrology and changes to hydrologic conditions.

The primary objective of the study is to develop a tool to simulate the distribution of salinity within the surficial (Biscayne) aquifer under historical and/or projected conditions and to assess the projected changes to the saltwater front due to expected or proposed changes to the hydrologic conditions (i.e., sea level, wellfield pumping rates, recharge)

This study will update an earlier study conducted in 2009 and inform water-supply managers on past, present, and future spatial distributions of salinity within the surficial (Biscayne) aquifer and help identify the primary influences on the advancement of the saltwater front.

This project will be performed by the USGS located in Davie, Florida via a joint-funding Agreement with Broward County. The total cost of this project is \$1,049,232. USGS is contributing 50 percent of the cost for this project \$524,616, and Broward County Contribution is \$262,308.

The remaining balance is paid via cost-sharing Interlocal Agreements (ILA's) between Broward County and the cities of Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, and Hollywood. The City of Fort Lauderdale's not to exceed share is \$87,437.

**Resource Impact**

There will be a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$87,437 for this agreement. Funding for this agreement is available in the FY 2023 Operating Budget in the account(s) listed below:

<b>Funds available as of June 9, 2023</b>					
<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>COST CENTER NAME (Program)</b>	<b>CHARACTER/ ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>AMENDED BUDGET (Character)</b>	<b>AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10-450-7301-536-30-3299	Treatment Operations	Services/Materials /Other Services	\$11,375,748	\$1,604,776	\$81,107
10-450-7316-536-30-3299	Installation/ Repairs Operations	Services/Materials /Other Services	\$848,187	\$383,774	\$6,330
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ►</b>					<b>\$87,437</b>

**Strategic Connections**

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community
- Objective: Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, stormwater, road, and bridge infrastructure

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Ready

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Sanitary Sewer, Water & Stormwater Element
- Goal 3: Develop and maintain an adequate water supply, treatment, and distribution system, which meets the existing and projected needs of the service area in an efficient, economical, and environmentally sensitive manner.

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Interlocal Agreement

Exhibit 2 – Joint Funding Agreement (USGS)

Exhibit 3 – Project Cost Share

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Prepared by: Talal Abi-Karam, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director - Utilities

Department Director: Alan Dodd, P.E., Public Works  
Linda Short, Finance