



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Augustine Port, Waterway, and Beach District to contribute \$1.5 million toward Genovar Property Purchase

St. Augustine, Florida, August 11, 2022 – In a unanimous vote by the St. Augustine Port, Waterway, and Beach District, during its Aug. 9, 2022 meeting, \$1.5 million will now go toward funding the purchase of the Genovar property. The contribution by the St. Augustine Port, Waterway, and Beach District demonstrates the widespread support behind St. Johns County’s decision to acquire approximately 31 acres on the San Sebastian River, known as the Genovar property, for the future development of a public boat ramp and related uses. During the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners meeting on Aug. 2, 2022, commissioners voted to purchase the property for \$17.5 million.

“I’m thankful for the continued support and partnership from the St. Augustine Port, Waterway, and Beach District. The generous contribution toward purchasing the Genovar property ensures our vision for greater deep-water access and recreational facilities becomes a reality,” said St. Johns County Board Chairman Henry Dean, District 5 Commissioner.

The funding sources for the purchase are as follows:

Waterway Access Fund	\$5,250,000
Tree Bank Fund	\$2,000,000
St. Augustine Port Waterway & Beach District	\$1,500,000
Impact Fee Parks Zone C	\$1,125,000
Tourist Development Tax Category V	\$1,125,000
General Fund/Short Term Financing*	\$6,500,000

**Recommendation for General Fund / Short-Term Financing to be reimbursed, over successive fiscal years, by a combination of TDT Cat V, Impact Fee Parks Zone C, and grant opportunities, including the Florida Inland Navigation District.*

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to benefit the residents of our District as well as the County as a whole, not just by improving waterway access, but also by adding to the County's growing stock of outstanding public parks, and by ensuring that this extraordinary property remains largely preserved in its beautiful, undeveloped state. We applaud the County for their vision and tenacity in securing the Genovar property for public use and look forward to working together on future improvements," said Matt Brown, Chairman of the St. Augustine Port, Waterway, and Beach District.

Closing on the property could occur as early as December 2022. Once the property is under County ownership, staff will begin the process of conceptual planning of the site, including community and stakeholder input to ensure the best use for the vast property.

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