



WHAT'S NEW @SCOR



News from the South Carolina Office of Resilience | **August 2024**

New & Noteworthy

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Award

On July 22nd, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that they intend to award the office, as part of a regional partnership, a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The partnership, known as the Atlantic Conservation Coalition, includes the states of South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland, along with The Nature Conservancy. The coalition will be awarded \$421,238,074 with \$50,000,000 coming directly to SCOR to acquire natural working lands throughout the state that sequester carbon and reduce flooding risk. This award aligns with SCOR's mission to enhance the State's resilience to environmental changes and natural disasters through the conservation and restoration of natural resources.



“This award provides a great opportunity to implement landscape scale-resilience solutions to reduce flooding, in line with the principles of the Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan,” said Chief Resilience Officer Ben Duncan. “EPA’s significant investment underscores the numerous co-benefits that land conservation brings to communities, economies, and ecosystems.”

In addition to the \$50,000,000 coming to SCOR, a portion of \$200,000,000 allocated to The Nature Conservancy for projects across the 4 state region will be used in South Carolina to improve the health and management of 18,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forest across the coastal plain.

Read our press release [here](#).

See media coverage of the grant [here](#).

Mingo Pond Infrastructure Project Reaches Substantial Completion



SCOR is proud to announce the successful substantial completion of Mingo Pond, an infrastructure project in Georgetown County. This stormwater management initiative facilitates rapid drainage off Highway 17 at Blackgum Road during periods of significant rainfall. The project is funded by a US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT).

The project was selected during a competitive application process from local units of government. Among the selection criteria considered were the severity and frequency risk of floods, environmental impact, mobility improvements, and more. SCOR has received feedback that the amount of flooding on this segment of Highway 17 was significantly lower during Tropical Storm Debby than in previous storm events with similar rainfall.



Highway 52 Project Starts Construction

On July 31st, 2024, construction began on the Lake City Hwy 52 Phase 2 Infrastructure Project between Carver St, W Thomas St, Burnside St, Thurston St. The project will upsize the current stormwater infrastructure and regrade ditches to reduce flooding in the project area. Construction is expected to last 6-8 months.



Horry County Buyout Completes Demolition Phase 1

SCOR's Horry County Buyout Program successfully completed Phase I of its demolition schedule. To date, 33 homes have been demolished, and the properties are permanently restored to green space. SCOR is proud to facilitate voluntary buyout programs in SC. Through these initiatives, residents in repeatedly flooded areas are afforded an avenue to move out of harm's way. The project is funded by a US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT).



SCOR Staff Recognitions

Bea Hightower Completes SC Department of Administration Certified Public Manager (CPM)



SCOR Lead Attorney Bea Hightower completed her CPM certification through the SC Department of Administration. According to the Department, “This program helps participants to identify their strengths and areas of improvement through the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and the Edge360 feedback tool. Through this self-reflection, program participants can hone their management skills, strengthen strategic leadership skills, identify processes for improvement and build a collaborative team environment.”

Glenda Gillespie Completes SC Department of Administration Associate Public Manager (APM)



SCOR Constituent Services Manager Glenda Gillespie successfully completed the SC Department of Administration’s APM certification. According to the Department, the program includes “techniques for sharpening interviewing and selection skills, minimiz(ing) crises through proper planning and preparation, and how to manage disciplinary situations and the grievance process.”

Glenda Gillespie (left)

Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector (CEPSCI) SCOR Graduates

We are proud to announce three SCOR team members successfully completed their CEPSCI certifications! According to Clemson University, “The purpose of the Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector (CEPSCI) Program is to educate field personnel on the proper installation, maintenance and inspection of erosion prevention and sediment control measures at construction sites. Preventing sediment-laden runoff not only protects our rivers, creeks and streams, but is also a trademark of a quality construction project.”

Amy Azarias

Samantha Brooks

Shauna Webb

Hope Warren Becomes SCOR's Strategic Communications Director

SCOR has named Hope Warren as the agency's Strategic Communications Director. Hope has been with the Office of Resilience for 3 years, contributing to both our Mitigation and Resilience Planning programs. Her expertise in SCOR's program areas, strong communication skills, and strategic planning abilities make her an excellent choice to lead strategic internal and external communications.



Hope played a significant role in the development of the Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan and is committed to sharing SCOR's mission. Additionally, her experience in policy and coordination with federal, state, regional, and local governments positions her well to serve as the agency's legislative liaison.

SCOR Wishes Margaret Jordan a Happy Retirement



The SC Office of Resilience thanks the Office of State Engineer's Margaret Jordan for her hard work, commitment, and dedication to our mission. Her ongoing support has played a pivotal role in our ability to create lasting change—and for that we are truly grateful. Margaret's influence on our agency will continue to help improve the lives of South Carolina's most vulnerable citizens and increase the resiliency of our state long after her retirement.

Reminders

Funding Assistance

Two tools from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the American Flood Coalition (AFC) can assist local communities and organizations in finding funding for resilience, housing, and more:

- [HUD Funding Navigator](#)
- [Flood Funding Finder](#)

Calendar

- **August 13:** PUBLIC MEETING: Hanahan Downtown Stormwater Improvement Project
- **August 28:** RESCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETING: Town of Nichols Nature-Based Stormwater Park
- **September 28:** Lower Richland Community Information and Listening Session with League of Women Voters

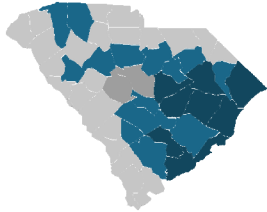
For more information about upcoming public engagement opportunities and other events, visit scor.sc.gov/public-engagement.

Program Updates

Disaster Recovery (HUD CDBG-DR)

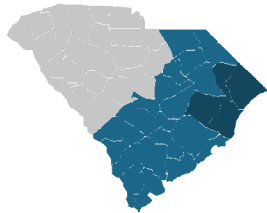
3,443

total homes complete
(across all 3 HUD CDBG-DR programs)



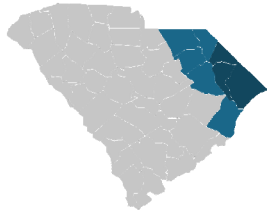
2015 Flood

Total award: \$126 million
100% complete
1,829 homes complete



2016 Hurricane Matthew

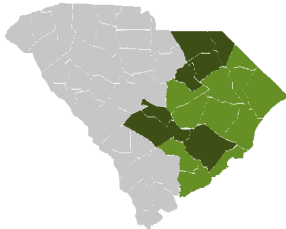
Total award: \$95 million
100% complete
1,142 homes complete



2018 Hurricane Florence

Total award: \$72 million
~96% complete
472 homes complete

Mitigation (HUD CDBG-MIT)



The Mitigation program currently has **61 active HUD CDBG-MIT projects** across 17 counties that suffered previous hurricane disaster impacts. Detailed information on active projects can be found on the [Mitigation projects page](#).

Infrastructure

27

projects

Buyouts

6

project locations

Plans & Studies

21

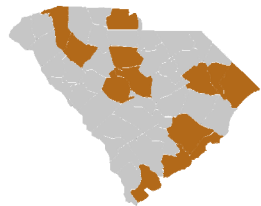
projects

Matching Grants

8

projects

ARPA Stormwater Infrastructure Program (ASIP)



17
projects

Under SCOR's ARPA Stormwater Infrastructure Program, funding was awarded for projects that will lessen the impact of flooding. A total of **17 projects** were awarded statewide. [Learn more](#)