



WHAT'S NEW @SCOR

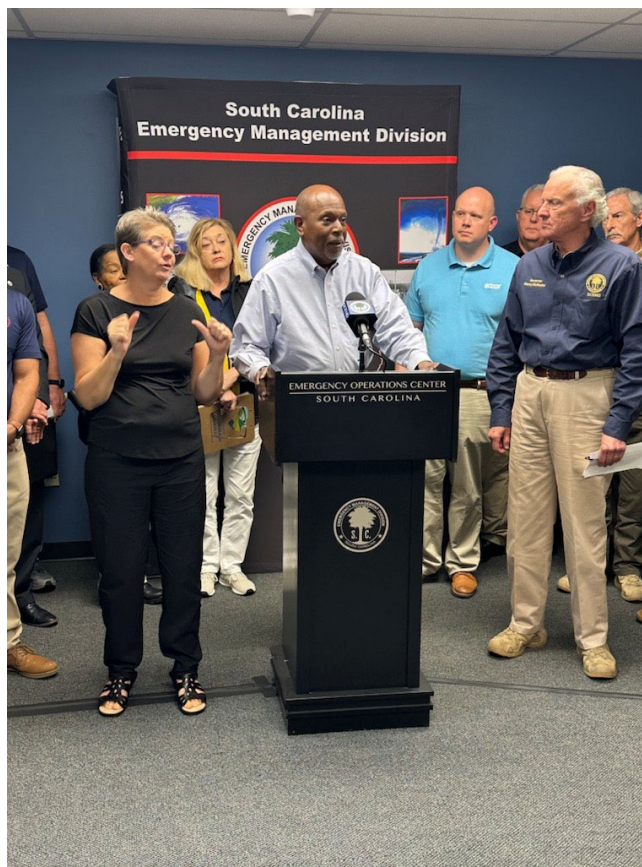
News from the South Carolina Office of Resilience | **September 2024**

New & Noteworthy

Tropical Storm Debby Coordination

As Tropical Storm Debby impacted the southern United States in August 2024, the SC Office of Resilience coordinated with state agencies, county governments, and community organizations to monitor the storm and prepare to assist with short and potentially long-term recovery efforts as part of fulfilling its role as a primary agency for South Carolina Emergency Support Function 14 “Recovery and Mitigation”. [SC Resilience Reserve Fund](#) Manager Anuradha Nair explains, this process included daily calls with state and county emergency management officials during and after the storm, and tracking unmet needs across

the state.



Chief Resilience Officer Ben Duncan speaks at a press conference

While damage assessments continue, the Office coordinates with the SC Emergency Management Division, SC Housing, and the Governor's Office to determine how it can contribute to short term recovery. For example, the SCOR Disaster Case Management Team maintains a list of community resources, such as Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, that it uses to connect citizens with immediate needs post-disaster and supplement SCEMD's list of resources. Additionally, the team of [Disaster Recovery Reserve Corps](#) members remains on standby in the event of a federal disaster declaration to provide direct guidance for citizens navigating the disaster recovery process.



SCOR team members review the current numbers of Disaster Recovery Reservists per county in South Carolina

The Office disseminated SCEMD's safety messaging before and during Debby's landfall in SC. SC Chief Resilience Officer Ben Duncan also joined Governor Henry McMaster, State Agency Leaders, and weather experts in daily press conferences during the storm to provide clear messaging about safety during the storm, and what citizens can expect from the state in the aftermath.

Isle of Palms Stormwater Improvements Ribbon Cutting

The South Carolina Office of Resilience joined the City of Isle of Palms and project partner Thomas & Hutton on Tuesday, 3 September for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly constructed drainage outfall on 41st Avenue. The ceremony marks completion of Phase III construction of the Isle of Palms Stormwater Infrastructure project. Funded in part through a US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant—Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) and the City, the project improves stormwater drainage by funneling water off the roadway through new drainage pipes.

The project on 41st Avenue restored a drainage ditch while adding new stormwater pipes and included a set of check valves. These valves allow stormwater to flow into the intracoastal waterway and can be sealed to prevent the waterway from flooding the system during high tides.

Prior to the system's installation, the fire station would flood during periods of heavy rainfall. This would cause the responders working in the station to stage their trucks and equipment in a separate location when flooding was possible. However, the new system was put to use during August when Tropical Storm Debby produced roughly ten inches of rainfall on the island. City officials noted the absence of standing water on 41st Avenue, indicating the system was functioning as designed.

View media coverage of the event [here](#).



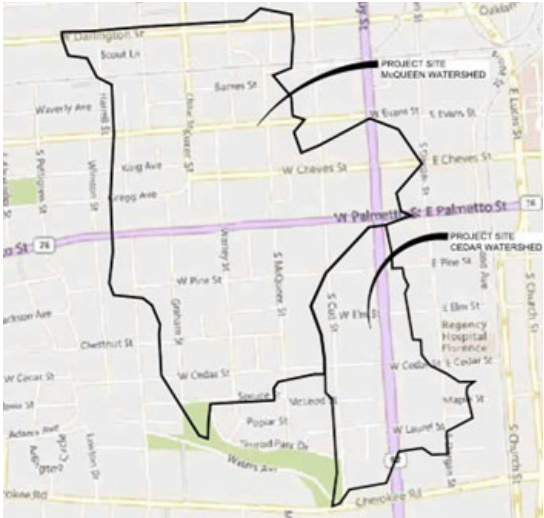
Buyout Program Update

The SCOR mitigation department currently administers six buyout programs in the counties of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Horry, Marion, and Marlboro. Across the six programs, SCOR's Steering Committee approved 192 parcels to be bought out, following applications by local governments. Homeowners are given the option to voluntarily participate in the buyout program. Any structures and paved surfaces on these flood-prone properties are demolished and returned to green space. The properties will remain undeveloped in perpetuity, providing a natural solution to floodwater management by retaining and absorbing excess water during storms—in addition to allowing residents to move out of dangerous-flood prone areas.

SCOR has currently acquired 54 parcels in Horry County, of which 33 have been demolished and returned to green space in Phase I of demolition. Phase II, encompassing up to 25 parcels, will begin in late 2024/early 2025. Furthermore, SCOR has acquired 11 parcels in Chesterfield County (Town of Cheraw) and demolition is expected to begin in September 2024. Offers to purchase properties in Marlboro County (City of Bennettsville) have been ongoing since July 2024.



Cedar & McQueen Stormwater Improvements Begins Construction



Our Mitigation Department looks forward to a Florence County stormwater improvement project starting construction on 4 November, 2024. Funded with a CDBG-MIT grant, the project will have two work sites in downtown Florence. Within the McQueen watershed (beginning at West Darlington Street and running southward along South McQueen Street to Timrod Park), an existing drainage pipe will be replaced with new pipes, inlets, and junction boxes. Furthermore, stream restoration to a

portion of Doe Branch will increase stormwater storage capacity while also improving water quality and adding more open space to Timrod Park.

The second project site is in the Cedar Watershed (running north to south along South Irby Street from West Palmetto Street to Timrod Park). The project will upsize 2,300 linear feet of pipes, inlets, and basins. Both projects will direct stormwater into property acquired by the city away from residential and commercial areas.

The project cost in total for the two work sites is \$5.4 million and construction is expected to last 12-15 months.

SOUTH CAROLINA Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan 2024 Annual Update

Since publishing the [Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan](#) in Summer 2023, the Office has been guided by the Plan's 50+ recommendations. Catch up on our initiatives in the 2024 annual update! Our milestone achievements include start-up of the Watershed-Based Resilience Planning to assist communities across the State, developing the Resilience Atlas to bring together statewide data on risks, vulnerabilities, and other mapping resources into a single online platform, and working with conservation partners to protect 7,614 acres. Access the full update on the Resilience section of our website soon.

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](#)

Recent Events:

SCOR Presents Programmatic Overview to SC Chamber of Commerce



On September 6th, Chief Resilience Officer Ben Duncan and Resilience Planning Director Alex Butler briefed the SC Chamber of Commerce Environmental Affairs Committee on current SCOR activities. The committee consists of corporate environmental managers, environmental attorneys, and consultants. Among the topics covered were mitigation project milestones, statewide risk and vulnerability assessments, and watershed-based resilience planning.

Upcoming Events:

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

ONSITE HIRING EVENT

Apply to join the Disaster
Recovery Reserve Corps
(DRRC)!

Kingstree Recreation Center
375 Nelson Blvd
Kingstree, SC 29556

Friday, September 27, 2024
10:00am-3:00pm

**Visit scor.sc.gov/drrc or
scan the QR code to learn
more**

The DRRC is a dedicated team of
individuals committed to helping
communities and citizens recover
following a federally declared
disaster



Information and Listening Session with the SC Office of Resilience

Lower Richland Police Substation
2615 Lower Richland Blvd.
Columbia SC, 29061

Saturday, September 28, 2024
9:00-11:30am

Meeting Agenda Items

- Introduction to SCOR's work
- Mapping Local Environmental Issues
- Community Member Input

All are Welcome!

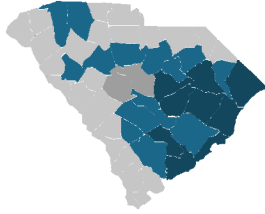


Program Updates

Disaster Recovery (HUD CDBG-DR)

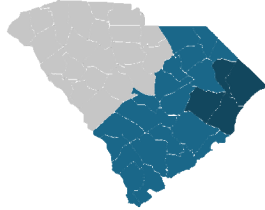
3,448

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



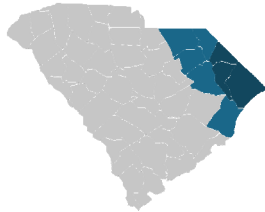
2015 Flood

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



2016 Hurricane Matthew

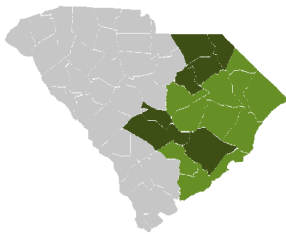
Total award: \$95 million
100% complete
1,142 homes complete



2018 Hurricane Florence

Total award: \$72 million
~97% complete
477 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

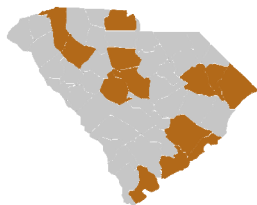
projects

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](#)