

# Proviso 117.199 Report

Coordination of Disaster Mitigation Efforts

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**June 2026**



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# Introduction

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## Overview – Proviso 117.199

(GP: Coordination of Disaster Mitigation Efforts) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, the Office of Resilience and the Department of Natural Resources shall collaborate to evaluate and report on the spectrum of disaster types each agency plans and mitigates for statewide, as well as any overlap in these disaster type-specific efforts. Based on this evaluation, the agencies shall develop a coordinated approach to the expenditure of disaster planning and mitigation funds and service delivery, eliminating redundancies in addressing the same types of disasters. A joint report detailing the evaluations findings, including identified disaster types and overlaps, and any resulting recommendations, shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee by June 30, 2026.

## Overview – SCOR Mission and Role in Disaster Mitigation

The South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR) was established by Act 163 of 2020, also known as the SC Disaster Relief and Resilience Act, to develop, implement, and maintain the Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan (Resilience Plan) and coordinate statewide resilience and disaster recovery efforts, including coordination with federal, state, and local governmental agencies, stakeholders, and nongovernmental entities. The Resilience Plan, completed in 2023, as well as annual update reports, may be viewed on SCOR’s website (<https://scor.sc.gov/resilience-main>).

Pursuant to §48-62-50, the act also created in the State Treasury the Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund which is separate and distinct from the general fund and all other reserve funds. Money appropriated to the fund may only be used to develop, implement, and maintain the Statewide Resilience Plan, and for disaster relief assistance, hazard mitigation, and infrastructure improvements. Additionally, pursuant to §48-62-310, the act created the South Carolina Resilience Revolving Fund (RRF), which offers low-interest loans and grants to eligible recipients buying out repetitive flood loss properties and land tracts for flood plain restoration and/or preservation.

The Office of Resilience is organized into three primary programmatic areas serving South Carolina’s communities and citizens: Resilience Planning and Coordination, Hazard Mitigation, and Disaster Recovery. In coordination with federal, state, and local governmental agencies, stakeholders, and nongovernmental entities, SCOR utilizes a mixture of federal (primarily U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, generally tied to previous declared disasters) and state funds to implement these programs. The table below illustrates the primary responsibilities of each division.

RESILIENCE PLANNING & COORDINATION	HAZARD MITIGATION	DISASTER RECOVERY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development, maintenance, and implementation of the Strategic Statewide Resilience &amp; Risk Reduction Plan</li> <li>• Watershed planning and coordination</li> <li>• Data collection and Coordination</li> <li>• Land conservation efforts for flood mitigation purposes</li> <li>• Grants administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buyouts: voluntary acquisitions of repetitively flooded land and property to return it to green space in perpetuity</li> <li>• Infrastructure: gray and green stormwater infrastructure and other mitigation infrastructure projects</li> <li>• Plans &amp; studies: funding for local governments and state agencies to develop and/or update hazard mitigation plans, stormwater plans, and more</li> <li>• Matching grants: provide the local cost share for other federal flood mitigation programs</li> <li>• USS Yorktown remediation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term recovery: rebuild and replace homes damaged by hurricanes and flooding in FEMA-declared counties; funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program</li> <li>• Disaster case management: assisting disaster survivors in meeting disaster-caused unmet needs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of the Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund and the SC Resilience Revolving Fund</li> </ul>		

## Overview - DNR Mission and Roles Related to Disaster Mitigation

### *Flood Mitigation Program*

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), Flood Mitigation Program's (FMP) mission is to work with South Carolina citizens and communities to protect life and property from flooding. The FMP accomplishes this mission by helping communities build and manage their floodplain management programs by offering outreach, training, technical assistance, mapping and mitigation opportunities. The Program serves as the State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinating office, a FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner that maps flood risk throughout the state, administers the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program, assists in setting state mitigation priorities and as emergency support at the emergency operations center during disasters.

The NFIP State Coordinating office houses subject matter experts regarding community participation, regulations and compliance. The office provides technical assistance to NFIP participating communities to assist them in staying in good standing with the NFIP to ensure federal flood insurance remains available to their citizens. The office also provides assistance to local governments post disaster to ensure they can meet the requirements of the local flood damage prevention ordinance.

The FMP administers the FMA grant Program for the state. FMA is funded through National Flood Insurance Fund and is open to National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy holders and NFIP participating communities. The goal of the FMA grant program is to reduce flooding of properties through mitigation, thereby, reducing flood insurance claims. The priorities for FMA are set to achieve the greatest savings to the National Flood Insurance Fund. Additional funds, related to the 2024 declared disasters, are administered by SCDNR as part of the FMA Swift Current program.

SCDNR became a FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner on September 20, 1999. As part of this partnership the FMP began producing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the state of SC. The FIRMs produced are utilized by local governments for regulatory purposes and determine where flood insurance is mandatory. The knowledge gained from modeling and mapping the floodplains is being utilized to produce storm specific inundation maps. The FEMA FIRMs and inundation maps are also utilized in floodplain management, mitigation, storm response and planning.

While the Flood Mitigation Program's mission and focus is on flooding, floodplain management regulations require buildings built in the identified regulatory floodplain to be evaluated if the structure is damaged by any origin. If the building meets the predetermined threshold, then it must be brought into compliance with the current community floodplain regulations.

## Key Agency Programs/Resources Differentiation

	SCDNR Flood Mitigation Program	SCOR Program Areas	Key Coordination or Differentiation Points
<b>Flood Data Products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FEMA, regulatory)</li> <li>- Flood Inundation Mapping (storm specific response)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First Street Environmental Risk Data (planning model, available to any level of government)</li> <li>- Resilience Atlas (data tool available to local governments and the public for no charge)</li> </ul>	<p>SCDNR’s mapping products are regulatory floodplain mapping for all communities and inundation mapping for flood events.</p> <p>SCOR’s data products are intended for local, watershed, and statewide planning and decision making based on long-term flood risk.</p>
<b>Mitigation Grant Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program - Funded annually by National Flood Insurance Fund</li> <li>- FMA Swift Current Grant Program - \$40M (post-Hurricane Helene &amp; Debby)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CDBG-MIT: \$162 one-time allocation from HUD</li> <li>- ARPA Stormwater Infrastructure Program: \$65M</li> <li>- CDBG-DR Mitigation Set Aside \$19M (Hurricane Helene Allocation)</li> </ul>	<p>SCDNR’s flood mitigation grant programs are focused on NFIP policy holders.</p> <p>SCOR’s CDBG MIT program focus on low-to moderate income communities in disaster impacted areas.</p>
<b>Post-Disaster Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enforcement of floodplain management regulations post disaster to remain in compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disaster Case Management Program for individuals</li> <li>- Long-Term Disaster Recovery – Housing (CDBG-DR)</li> </ul>	<p>SCDNR’s post-disaster activities relate back to regular enforcement and implementation of the NFIP program. SCOR deploys long-term recovery.</p>
<b>Other Coordination/Non-Disaster Services to Localities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordination with NFIP communities and local flood plain managers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Watershed Coordination to help communities identify risks and develop and implement solutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCDNR and SCOR both utilize watersheds in different ways. All of SCDNR’s mapping is done by watershed and not by community.</li> </ul>

## Key Points of Coordination Between SCDNR & SCOR

- A. **Mitigation Coordination Meeting:** Representatives from SCEMD, SCDNR, SCOR, and SCDES meet monthly to share information and coordinate mitigation efforts and projects. This includes discussing the agencies' respective funding sources and opportunities, and coordinating specific projects (ex. Funds matching and addressing duplication of benefits). Attendees include representatives from SCEMD (Hazard Mitigation), SCDNR, SCDES Dam Safety and Stormwater Permitting, and SCOR.
- B. **Coordinated Land Conservation Efforts:** Partnering on strategic land acquisitions that mitigate flooding. SCOR provides funding for the purchase of several properties that will be acquired and managed by SCDNR. SCOR and SCDNR coordinate with other land resource agencies at regular conservation roundtable meetings.
- C. **Climate Data & Resilience Planning:** SCOR partnered with the SCDNR Climate Office to develop the Climate Trends chapter of the Statewide Resilience Plan, with SCDNR serving as a statutory member of the Resilience Plan Advisory Committee. SCOR is beginning the update of the Resilience Plan, and coordinating with the Climatology office to update the climate portion.
- D. **Resilience Project Coordination**
  - a. **NOAA Atlas 14 Update:** Update of rainfall Inundation duration frequency curves. Data was last updated in using data only up to 2000. Updated numbers are critical to ensuring infrastructure is appropriately designed to handle designed storms (Partners: Federal Highway Administration, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia. Delaware; SCOR, SCDNR & SCDOT contributed funding)
  - b. **Low Tide Imagery:** Cooperative effort with OCRM, SCOR, SCDNR and TNC to acquire low tide imagery for all coastal counties. Imagery will serve as a base line for living shoreline and oyster restoration programs aimed at reducing storm impacts to coastal communities.
  - c. **Watershed Coordination:** SCOR program participates with the coastal training program to provide education and outreach materials to communities around coastal natural resources and community resilience.

### *Hazards Planned For by Agency*

	<b>SCDNR</b>	<b>SCOR</b>
Flood	X	X
Wildfire		X
Drought	X	X
Heat		X
Seismic (Earthquakes)		X
Severe thunderstorms		X
Wind		X
Winter Weather		X

While there is overlap in the types of hazards the agencies plan for, they play different roles. While SCOR's legacy federally funded mitigation project funds, and its disaster recovery efforts have previously focused on flood hazards, SCOR plans for and looks at risk and vulnerability to a number of hazards outlined above.

## Additional Details: SCDNR Flood Mitigation Program

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) - Flood Mitigation Program (FMP) administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The mission of the SCDNR Flood Mitigation Program is to work with South Carolina citizens and communities to minimize losses due to flood conditions.

### A. Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

- a. Annual FMA Grant Program: This FEMA grant program, funded through National Flood Insurance Fund premiums, is open to National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy holders, with the intent of mitigating impacts to insured properties and reducing claims. This program funding is not tied to any particular disaster. Last year there was \$600M available nationwide. SCDNR works with applicants to submit applications. Categories of funding: project scoping, localized flood risk reduction projects, and individual flood mitigation projects.
- b. FMA Swift Current Grant program: This FMA program, funded by IIJA, is provided because the state received a disaster declaration for both Hurricanes Debby and Helene. The state set aside for this program is \$40M. Applications were due in June 2025 for the following types of individual flood mitigation projects: acquisition, elevation, mitigation/reconstruction, dry floodproofing, and retrofitting of buildings. All structures must be NFIP insured. Priority is given to applications for Severe Repetitive and Repetitive Loss structures. Disaster declarations must have occurred between June 1, 2024 and May 31, 2025 to activate the availability of funding.

### B. Flood Mapping:

- a. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps(FIRMS): These maps are a regulatory product (requiring due process and meeting federal guidelines and specifications), used to identify where floodplain management regulations and the purchase of flood insurance is required. These maps are available through FEMA and at SCDNR's Flood Impact site [scfloodimpact.com](https://www.scfloodimpact.com).
- b. Flood Inundation Mapping: This is a data product being developed through SCDNR. It is intended to be used for specific storms to provide worst case scenario inundation mapping to inform search and rescue, evacuations, and to determine impacts to hunting season, roads, prisons, etc in real time. This data is available at [scfloodimpact.com](https://www.scfloodimpact.com) – providing a flood forecast 84 hours before a flood event and on the ground conditions once the rain has fallen.

### C. Community Assistance Program:

- a. Provides technical assistance to local floodplain managers regarding the NFIP.
- b. The FMP conducts audits of SC NFIP participating communities to assist them in staying in compliance with the NFIP requirements.
- c. Assists communities with enforcement of floodplain management regulations post disaster to remain in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program - substantial damage requirements

## Additional Details: SCOR Programs

The mission of the South Carolina Office of Resilience is to lessen the impact of disasters on the communities and citizens of South Carolina by **planning and coordinating statewide resilience, long-term disaster recovery, and hazard mitigation**. Guided by the Disaster Relief and Resilience Act, and in coordination with federal, state, and local governmental agencies, stakeholders, and nongovernmental entities, the office achieves this mission through the following programs. SCOR utilizes a mixture of federal and state funds to implement these programs

### *SCOR's Mitigation Project Funding Programs*

SCOR's mitigation efforts focus on activities that increase resilience to future disasters and reduce or eliminate long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship.

- **CDBG-MIT** (<https://scor.sc.gov/CDBGmitigation>) utilizes US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds for mitigation activities in 17 counties most impacted and distressed (MID) in previous disasters. The CDBG-MIT program has 4 program areas: Infrastructure, Plans and Studies, Buyouts, and Funds Match. South Carolina will spend a minimum of 50% of program funds on activities that benefit the low-to-moderate income (LMI) population
  - *Infrastructure* (<https://scor.sc.gov/infrastructure>): This portion of the CDBG-MIT funding is designed for public infrastructure projects to reduce future flood risks. These projects can range from storm sewer installations and upgrades to retention ponds, waterway and wetland restoration. Nature-based solutions are encouraged.
  - *Buyouts* (<https://scor.sc.gov/buyouts>): The focus of this program is the voluntary acquisition of repetitively flooded land and property (homes) to return it green space in perpetuity. The goal of this program is to relocate citizens out of harm's way and restore the natural function of the land to capture and absorb floodwaters. Units of Local Governments (UGLG) apply to the program on behalf of their community. Once properties have been acquired, the UGLG becomes the responsible entity. At no time does SCOR or the state take ownership of the property.
  - *Plans and Studies* (<https://scor.sc.gov/plans-studies>): SCOR is assisting communities in developing plans and studies that identify flood reduction projects. Current projects include stormwater plans and studies, hazard mitigation plan updates, hydrologic and hydraulic studies, risk assessments, watershed studies, and comprehensive plans. Several projects identified in plans and studies have then been funded by the infrastructure and buyouts program, developing a project implementation pipeline.
  - *Funds Match* (<https://scor.sc.gov/funds-match>): This program provides the non-federal or local cost share for an approved federally funded mitigation project.
- **ARPA Stormwater Infrastructure Program (ASIP)** <https://scor.sc.gov/arpa> The South Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$100M of American Rescue Plan Act State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) funding to the South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR) with H4408 Joint Resolution. SCOR has awarded over \$65 million to counties, cities, and towns to complete 17 stormwater infrastructure projects across the state that will lessen the impacts of future flooding events. Green infrastructure or other nature-based solutions were prioritized in this program. Additionally, SCOR completed the USS Yorktown Environmental Remediation Project utilizing ARPA funds.
- **CDBG-DR Mitigation Set-Aside Program:** The South Carolina Office of Resilience is administering a Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery program for Hurricane Helene, a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. \$19.6 million of this grant is set aside for mitigation projects which will focus funding on reducing potential riverine and surface flood impacts in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-defined "most impacted and distressed" (MID) areas. Per HUD's limitations, state agencies and cities, towns, counties, and councils of government in the following MID counties may apply for mitigation funds: Aiken, Anderson, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, & Spartanburg. As of June 2026, SCOR is preparing to make award announcements for this program. This program has the same four activity types as defined above from the CDBG-MIT program.

## Recommendations

SCOR and SCDNR should continue enhanced flood mitigation coordination, including floodplain land acquisition efforts, sharing of data for disaster planning, and mutual project coordination.

SCOR and SCDNR should coordinate scientific data acquisition such as Light Imaging Detection and Range (LiDAR), automated weather condition collections, and flood modeling for disaster planning and response.