

**FLORIDA NATURAL HAZARDS
INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP
252.3655 Florida Statutes
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

January 1, 2023

Prepared by
Florida Division of Emergency Management

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document satisfies subsection 252.3655(2)(a) Florida Statutes (F.S.), by providing an annual progress report on the implementation of the state's hazard mitigation plan, an assessment of agency efforts to address the impacts of natural hazards and ongoing efforts to address the impacts of natural hazards. This report refers to activities between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022.

STATUTE REVIEW

In July 2017, Florida Statute 252.3655 went into effect. The statute mandates an interagency workgroup to share information on the current and potential impacts of natural hazards throughout the state, to coordinate the ongoing efforts of state agencies in addressing the impacts of natural hazards, and to collaborate on statewide initiatives to address the impacts of natural hazards. Each agency within the executive branch of state government, each water management district, and the Florida Public Service Commission is required to designate an agency liaison to the workgroup, while the director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) or designee will serve as the liaison and coordinator of the workgroup. Each liaison is required to provide information from their respective agency regarding the current and potential impacts of natural hazards to his or her agency, agency resources available to mitigate against natural hazards, and efforts made by the agency to address the impacts of natural hazards. DEM is also required to submit an annual progress report regarding the implementation of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), beginning on January 1, 2019.

Since the membership and purpose of this new Natural Hazards Interagency Workgroup was similar to two other statewide mitigation groups, the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) and the Silver Jackets team, the Mitigation Bureau combined the three groups into one and named it Mitigate FL. This was to avoid duplication of efforts and to leverage resources more effectively.

FLORIDA ENHANCED STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2018 UPDATE

The Mitigation Bureau is responsible for updating, maintaining, and implementing the SHMP in accordance with 44 C.F.R. Part 201 and 42 U.S.C. 5165. The SHMP was updated and submitted for approval to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on February 23, 2018 and was subsequently approved by FEMA on June 11, 2018. The 2018 Enhanced SHMP went into effect on August 24, 2018 and will expire on August 23, 2023. The SHMP is "Enhanced," per 44 C.F.R. Part 201.5, which allows Florida to receive increased funds for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) specifically 20 percent of total estimated eligible federal disaster assistance. Non-Enhanced states receive only 15 percent of disaster assistance for the HMGP program. Florida achieved "Enhanced" status by developing a comprehensive mitigation program, effectively using available mitigation funding, and managing the increased funding. Florida has been delegated certain authorities to manage portions of the mitigation program on behalf of FEMA, under the Program Administration by States (PAS). For example, the Mitigation Bureau reviews project applications, completes benefit-cost analyses, approves scope of work modifications, and reviews and approves county Local Mitigation Strategy plans. This allows Florida to have oversight over mitigation projects and shortens the standard 24-month grant obligation timeline.

ANNUAL ACTIONS

On September 24, 2022 the Governor signed EO-22-219 declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida for Tropical Depression Nine, later named Hurricane Ian. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activated to a Level 1 on September 25th, with full staffing from many of the participating Mitigate FL agencies. Hurricane Ian made landfall as a strong Category 4 storm on September 28th. Additionally, on November 7, 2022, the Governor signed EO-22-219 declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida for Subtropical Storm Nicole. Nicole made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane on November 10th. Following the immediate response efforts for both storms, discussions and efforts of recovery and mitigation began and at no time did the mitigation efforts of DEM and other agencies stop altogether.

The DEM Director designated a workgroup coordinator in the Mitigation Bureau. The coordinator communicates with state agencies regularly and schedules quarterly meetings, which were announced in the Florida Administrative Register and on the DEM website. Listed below are the dates of the Mitigate FL meetings held in 2022.

- March 8, 2022
- June 14, 2022
- September 13, 2022
- December 13, 2022

Meeting materials, including the meeting presentation, and meeting minutes are available on the DEM website.¹ Below are summaries of the meetings.

March 2022 Meeting

At the March 2022 Mitigate FL meeting, the DEM Mitigation Bureau provided updates related to mitigation grants, floodplain management, the insurance industry, the Watershed Planning Initiative, Florida Silver Jackets, and the SHMP 2023 Update. There were 175 attendees at this meeting.

June 2022 Meeting

The June 2022 Mitigate FL meeting included updates related mitigation grants, a new grant program opportunity, floodplain management, Silver Jackets, and the 2023 SHMP Update progress. There were 160 attendees at this meeting.

September 2022 Meeting

The September 2022 Mitigate FL meeting included a notice of proposed rulemaking, updates to mitigation grants including information about a new revolving loan program, floodplain management, the insurance sector, the Watershed Planning Initiative, Silver Jackets, and the SHMP. There were 194 attendees at this meeting.

December 2022 Meeting

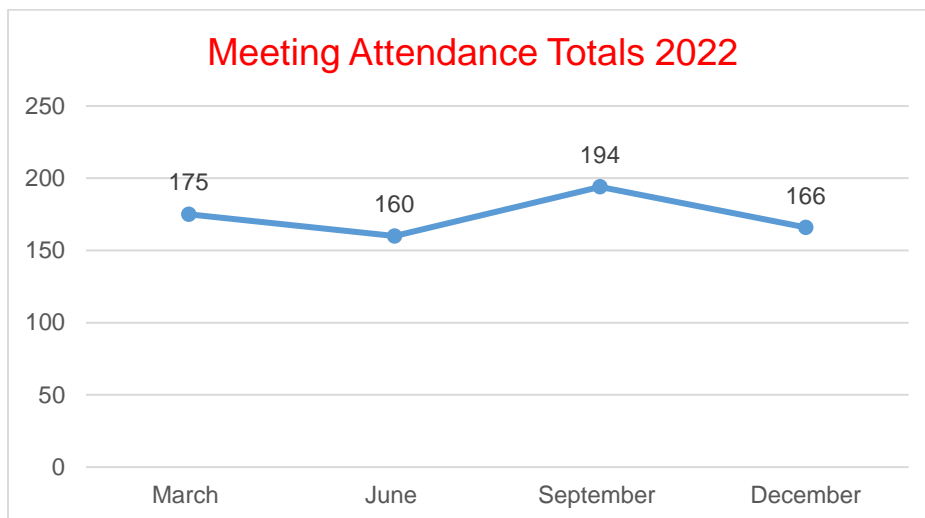
The December 2022 Mitigate FL meeting included updates to the mitigation grants, Watershed Planning Initiative, floodplain management, the insurance sector, Silver Jackets, and SHMP

¹ <https://portal.floridadisaster.org/mitigation/MitigateFL/External/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

update, as well as a brief history and update from the FL CRO and SHMO regarding resiliency and hurricane mitigation efforts. There were 166 attendees at this meeting.

Attendance at the quarterly Mitigate FL meetings in 2022 ranged between 166 and 194 via webinar/conference call and in-person attendance. There are twenty-five agencies required to participate in this group, per 252.3655 Florida Statutes. There were twelve agencies that attended all four meetings and four agencies that attended three of the meetings. Despite offering virtual attendance options, two agencies attended only one meeting, and six agencies did not attend meetings in 2022. Unfortunately, required agency attendance was down overall from 2021. However, overall, attendance was more consistent and increased from last year.

The twenty-five statutorily required agencies are not the only members invited to the meetings. Other agencies invited include other state agencies, county Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group coordinators, federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and members of the private and academic sectors. The graph below displays the number of attendees at each quarterly meeting, with September 2022 having the highest attendance and June 2022 having the lowest attendance.



In 2023, the workgroup coordinator will focus on increasing and maintaining attendance rates of the statutorily required state agencies, as well as other partners. The workgroup coordinator also intends to add more partners to ensure comprehensive collaboration regarding mitigation and resiliency in Florida.

The Silver Jackets group continued to meet virtually in 2022 with meetings held on March 7, June 15, October 11, and December 20. The Silver Jackets Coastal Resilience Workshops went off with a huge success and the Immokalee Regional Water Plan is ending. Four projects for 2023 were approved, including a Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Study for the Astor community, Bridging the Gap from Principle to Practice for Natural and Nature-Based Features (NNBF), Advancing Florida Vulnerability Assessments, and Resiliency Study of US-41 in Collier County.

ONGOING EFFORTS

In 2022, the Natural Hazards Interagency Work Group, and the entire Mitigate FL group, aimed to achieve the tasks below. The columns below indicate the status of those actions and the goal for maintaining the tasks next year.

Task	2022 Status	2023 Status
Provide grant management and technical assistance for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, Flood Mitigation Assistance program, and Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program	Ongoing	Ongoing
Mitigation education and outreach to all levels of government, the private sector, and the public, specifically focusing on homeowner mitigation and flood insurance topics	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue the Watershed Planning Initiative to develop and update all watershed plans in the state of Florida	Ongoing	Ongoing
Provide mitigation training, like G-393 and FL-391, to state and local agencies	Ongoing	Ongoing
Provide mitigation planning technical assistance to local entities, including local planning mechanisms such as Local Mitigation Strategy, local Comprehensive Plans and redevelopment plans, coastal resiliency, historical preservation plans, local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans, etc.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Implement the SCORE CAV program to conduct a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) in each community every three years	Ongoing	Ongoing
Manage the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in Florida	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue LiDAR data collection and analysis projects	Complete	
Hold Quarterly Silver Jackets Meetings	Ongoing	Ongoing
Coordinate with Florida Chief Resiliency Officer	Ongoing	Ongoing
Add new partners to the Mitigate FL workgroup	Ongoing	Ongoing
Consider establishing other subcommittees to address specific tasks or needs	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue the 2023 SHMP update by gathering information from stakeholders via Stakeholder Survey and Workshops, requesting updated risk assessment and capability information, and finalizing the website	Ongoing	Ongoing
Present and educate stakeholders about completed 2023 SHMP		To be Implemented
Develop Immokalee Regional Water Plan with partner agencies, per USACE Silver Jackets project	Ongoing	Complete
Develop Astor, FL H&H Study, per USACE Silver Jackets project	Implemented	Complete
Develop materials to bridge the gap between principle and practice for NNBF, per USACE Silver Jackets project	Implemented	Complete

Work with FDEP to create materials that will help develop vulnerability assessments in Florida, per USACE Silver Jackets project	Implemented	Complete
Develop a resiliency study for US-41 in Collier County, per USACE Silver Jackets project	Implemented	Complete
Work with FDEP to develop and implement the High Hazard Potential Dam grant program and provide education and assistance to local communities interested in applying		To be Implemented
Develop legislation and implement the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund program in Florida		To be Implemented

AGENCY ASSESSMENTS

Below is an assessment of each state agency within the executive branch, the Florida Public Service Commission, and each of the five Water Management Districts. For each agency, there is a summary of mitigation-related programs, a 2022 update, and a workgroup liaison as submitted by the respective agency. Additionally, DEM has provided a Mitigation Agency Assessment, which was agreed upon by the respective agency and DEM.

The Mitigation Implementation Rating is determined by first scoring each agency based upon its mitigation efforts in terms of three criteria: relevance, level, and significance, per the language in 252.3655, Florida Statutes. Each agency receives one to three points for relevance, level, and significance of its mitigation efforts. The scale is defined below.

Agency Assessment Scale			
Points	Relevance	Level	Significance
1	Not Relevant <i>Agency mission and programs are not related to mitigation</i>	Low <i>No programs or projects each year</i>	Not Significant <i>Agency not working to accomplish mitigation due to mission</i>
2	Somewhat Relevant <i>Agency mission and programs are somewhat related to mitigation</i>	Medium <i>Some programs or projects each year</i>	Somewhat Significant <i>Supporting agency assisting to accomplish mitigation</i>
3	Very Relevant <i>Agency mission and programs are very related to mitigation</i>	High <i>Many programs or projects each year</i>	Very Significant <i>Primary agency accomplishing mitigation</i>

These points are then added to provide each agency with an overall Mitigation Implementation Rating of Standard, Above Standard, or Exceptional. These ratings are defined below.

Mitigation Implementation Rating Scale		
STANDARD 3-4 points	ABOVE STANDARD 5-7 points	EXCEPTIONAL 8-9 points
Rarely implements mitigation projects or projects with mitigation or resiliency aspects. Mitigation or resiliency is not part of the agency mission.	Occasionally implements mitigation projects or projects with mitigation or resiliency aspects. Mitigation or resiliency is part of the agency mission.	Consistently implements mitigation projects or projects with mitigation or resiliency aspects. Mitigation or resiliency is a core aspect of the agency mission.

These ratings are intended to demonstrate which agencies, required per 252.3655 Florida Statute, are most relevant when completing mitigation actions. These ratings are not intended to claim that certain agencies are not doing enough mitigation projects, but rather the ratings serve to demonstrate that some agencies may not have mitigation as a core mission.

Below is a summary of the agency ratings.

Florida Statute 252.3655 Executive Agency Mitigation Assessment				
Agencies	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Agency for Health Care Administration	2	2	2	6
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	1	2	1	4
Department of Business and Professional Regulation	2	1	2	5
Department of Children and Families	1	2	1	4
Department of Citrus	1	1	1	3
Department of Corrections	1	1	1	3
Department of Economic Opportunity	3	3	3	9
Department of Education	1	2	1	4
Department of Elder Affairs	1	2	2	5
Department of Environmental Protection	3	3	3	9
Department of Health	2	2	2	6
Department of Juvenile Justice	1	2	2	5
Department of Lottery	1	1	1	3
Department of Management Services	2	2	2	6
Department of Military Affairs/FLNG	2	2	2	6
Department of State	2	2	2	6
Department of Transportation	3	3	3	9
Division of Emergency Management	3	3	3	9
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	2	2	2	6
Public Service Commission	2	2	2	6
Northwest Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
South Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
Southwest Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
St. Johns River Water Management District	3	3	3	9
Suwannee River Water Management District	3	3	3	9

Agency for Health Care Administration

AHCA is responsible for health policy and planning in the state, including the Medicaid program, licensing health care facilities, and sharing of health care data. The Division of Health Quality Assurance oversees healthcare facilities in Florida, including hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities (ALF). AHCA requires that each of Florida’s 67 counties review and approve Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) for hospitals, nursing homes, and ALFs. AHCA also requires that all nursing homes and ALFs have generators.

Florida Administrative Code 59A-36.025 (formerly 58A-5.036) and Florida Administrative Code 59A-4.1265 were enacted to reduce vulnerability of ALFs and Nursing Homes to power outages. Each assisted living facility and nursing home is required to prepare a detailed plan to serve as a supplement to its CEMP to address emergency environmental control in the event of the loss of primary electrical power. The plan must include information about the acquisition of a sufficient alternate power source, such as a generator, to ensure that ambient air temperatures are maintained at or below 81 degrees Fahrenheit for minimum of 96 hours in the event of the loss of primary electrical power. If a facility violates any part of this rule, AHCA may revoke or suspend the license or impose administrative fines.

2022 Update

The Agency continues to enhance its emergency response. As part of funding received to modernize ESS, the Agency was required to expand the ESS system and rebrand it the Health Facility Reporting System (HFRS). This was completed in mid-August 2022. The HFRS was utilized during hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole to collect critical facility information pre- and post-storm impact. Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities are among the facilities that are required to report.

The Agency is currently evaluating improvements to its response to storms and will incorporate those changes into the HFRS system and overall emergency response procedures. An overall reevaluation of the reporting function is part of that evaluation, as well as ideas to increase facility response and reporting.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Agency for Health Care Administration	2	2	2	6
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Jamie Skipper Chief of Human Resources Agency for Health Care Administration 850-412-3872 Jamie.Skipper@ahca.myflorida.com	Chuck Merck General Services Coordinator Agency for Health Care Administration 850-412-3924 Chuck.Merck@ahca.myflorida.com

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD/Agency) serves more than 58,000 Floridians with developmental disabilities to include severe forms of autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome, and Prader-Willi syndrome who are eligible for agency services. Over 35,000 of these individuals are served on the iBudget Florida Home and Community-Based Services waiver (also known as the iBudget waiver), more than 22,000 individuals are on the waiting list for waiver services, and 545 individuals are served in agency operated facilities. The Agency operates statewide through six regions, two developmental disability centers (DDCs) licensed by AHCA, and the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program (DDDP) which is a forensic facility on the grounds of Florida State Hospital. The agency is responsible for three major service delivery systems as described in Florida statute:

Services provided in the least restrictive and most community-integrated setting available (Chapter 393, Florida Statutes)

24/7 care, habilitation, and rehabilitation provided by state-owned and operated facilities at Tacachale in Gainesville and Sunland in Marianna (Chapter 393, Florida Statutes)

Competency restoration services at the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program (DDDP) provided to individuals accused of a felony and deemed incompetent to stand trial, in a 146-bed secure facility on the grounds of Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee and a 34-bed secure satellite program, Pathways in Marianna (Chapter 916, Florida Statutes)

APD licenses over 2,100 community-based residential facilities (also known as Group Homes) throughout the state. Individuals on the waiver must select a Waiver Support Coordinator (WSC) to assist them with managing their budget and services or enroll in a self-directed program called Consumer-Directed Care Plus (CDC+). This program provides payroll management for certain Medicaid providers and has its own emergency payroll protocols during a disaster.

All three APD operated facilities and all APD-licensed residential facilities are required to maintain Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs). APD has developed a CEMP template and guidance document to be used by providers of residential Group Homes. The DDCs and DDDP must also maintain Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans, with the intention that staff will remain on site with clients, and they will shelter in place.

APD meets regularly with the APD-operated and licensed facilities and their providers about emergency management practices including mitigation, and makes sure the facility, staff, and clients have their own disaster plans. APD's website maintains a disaster and recovery toolkit <https://apd.myflorida.com/news/toolkit.htm> which links to www.floridadisaster.org and is updated regularly. APD Waiver Support Coordinators, clients, providers, stakeholders, and staff utilize this informational site.

The agency encourages all staff and clients to be personally prepared, provides annual training, and has provided a personal disaster plan template to be completed and updated annually. APD has found that utilizing the Everbridge emergency notification system to notify staff and providers of impending disasters has been beneficial. The Agency continues to refine the process protocols for use of this system. Working with DEM and our own internal Client Data Management System

(iConnect), the agency has also identified the number of clients and licensed facilities that live or are located within flood zones.

2022 Update

During FY 2022, APD operated facilities received numerous repairs, renovations, and upgrades to their facilities and infrastructure. Facilities that were damaged due to Hurricanes and other natural disasters received fixed capital outlay support to include but not limited to underground piping improvement, updated HVAC systems, roof repairs, asbestos abatement, interior renovations, and life safety equipment upgrades. While renovations and repairs continue at APD facilities, equipment like dehumidifiers, air scrubbers, generators, and coolers were provided to assist the facilities in maintaining the safety and well-being of facility residents and staff.

In the Fall of 2022, APD developed a position to manage the Everbridge system and hired an Everbridge Coordinator.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	1	2	1	4
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 4 – Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Karen Hagan Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) Agency Persons with Disabilities 850-545-7724 Karen.Hagan@apdcares.org	Eddie Kay Harris Alternate ECO/Everbridge Coordinator Agency Persons with Disabilities 850-274-1458 Eddie.Harris@apdcares.org

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

DBPR licenses and regulates more than 1.7 million businesses and professionals in the State of Florida, including accountants, architects and interior designers, asbestos consultants, athlete agents, auctioneers, barbers, building code administrators and inspectors, community association managers, construction contractors, cosmetologists, electrical contractors, employee leasing companies, geologists, home inspectors, landscape architects, mold assessors and remediators, pilot commissioners, real estate appraisers and brokers, and veterinarians, as well as businesses dealing in alcoholic beverages, tobacco, food service, public lodging, and condominiums, timeshares, and other cooperative residential arrangements.

Through the Florida Building Commission, a regulatory body administered under the jurisdiction of DBPR, the Department facilitates the processes related to adoption and advancement of state building codes and standards. Section 553.77(1)(b), Florida Statutes, requires the Commission to make a continual study of the operation of the Florida Building Code (FBC) or laws relating to the design, construction, erection, alteration, modification, repair, or demolition of public or private buildings, structures, and facilities to determine the effect upon the cost of construction and the effectiveness of their provisions. Under this requirement and corresponding annual appropriations, the Commission funds research on specific FBC issues and topics for the purpose of providing solutions to a specific problem or guidance on future code changes. Many of these technical studies are informative references for broader mitigation planning relating to the impacts of natural hazards on various structures.

DBPR facilitates broad business and professional licensing functions through twenty statewide field offices, which are leased from the state Department of Management Services, from counties, or from private companies. DBPR does not own the buildings where these offices are located, and accordingly, does not manage the mitigation responsibilities associated with these structures. However, the agency maintains active planning for Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations to ensure the continuity of regulatory services following a natural disaster.

Disaster Response

Following a natural disaster, DBPR assists Floridians and their businesses in several ways, with each main category of activity overviewed below.

First, the Division of Hotels & Restaurants mitigates post-disaster risks associated with food safety at impacted commercial food service locations. This is accomplished by way of significant communication to licensees on best practices, ranging from attention to boil water notices to assessment of food storage and susceptibility to spoilage in the absence of electricity and ability to refrigerate and/or heat. This can also include inspection of apartment complexes as well as lodging facilities when appropriate.

Second, the Division of Regulation seeks to ensure consumer protection and deter unlicensed activity through a number of public-facing engagements in impacted disaster zones: (1) disaster recovery centers and insurance villages; (2) public education regarding unlicensed contractors/bad actors/fraud; (3) neighborhood sweeps; and (4) investigation and prosecution of increased complaints and nefarious activity in partnership with the Department of Financial Services, Attorney General, Department's Office of General Counsel, and local law enforcement agencies.

Third, the Bureau of Law Enforcement of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco aids with law enforcement assignments often including deployments of sworn officers via ESF 16 to impacted communities to provide guidance and security during the response and recovery phases of a disaster.

Fourth, the Department provides support of recovery of the private business sector (ESF 18) engaging with and problem-solving for the unique challenges and needs presented among the regulated industries and professions overseen by the Department. Supporting ESF 18 and constant engagement with stakeholder associations and other state agencies supporting the private sector, the Department can uniquely target and amplify disaster response messaging across the state.

Lastly, the Department continues to support other aspects of disaster response through ESF 14 and ESF 6 by providing staffing and, in the case of ESF 6, ongoing leadership of mass care response by trained staff on loan to the SERT, who oversee coordination of statewide sheltering, feeding and points of distribution.

2022 Update

In FY 2022-2023 the Florida Building Commission is conducting the second step of research related to the 40-year recertification (building safety) inspections in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties and is surveying and assessing the damage caused by Hurricane Ian. In addition, the Commission is also conducting research on establishing inspection timeframes for mid-rise buildings in South Florida and evaluating the need to modernize water penetration resistance testing requirements.

The Division of Hotels & Restaurants continues to perform disaster assessments of its licensed public food service establishments following a major disaster event resulting in localized damage or service disruption. The division deploys staff from other regions of Florida, as necessary, to the most heavily impacted areas to assess the viability of food service establishments to return to serving food as quickly as is safely possible. The division focuses on helping operators to ensure that foods are in wholesome, sound condition and that they have the necessary guidance to consider important food safety concerns as they prepare for a safe reopening to their customers.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Dept of Business and Professional Regulation	2	1	2	5
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 5 – Above Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Patricia Broadway Emergency Coordinating Officer Department of Business and Professional Regulation 850-717-1522 patricia.broadway@myfloridalicense.com	VACANT Title Department of Environmental Protection Phone Email

Department of Children and Families

DCF is tasked with protecting the vulnerable, promoting strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advancing personal and family recovery and resiliency. There are three primary program areas, Child Welfare, Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and Economic Self-Sufficiency, and five Assistance Secretaries, which are each responsible for several programs. Additionally, there are six operational regions where most program delivery occurs. There are also three state mental health treatment facilities, as well as five contracted treatment facilities. DCF owns, operates, and maintains the three mental health treatment facilities. There is aging infrastructure on these campuses, and more than general maintenance is needed to truly mitigate the facilities. Additionally, DCF has various Emergency Management (EM) and Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans in place for the various programs they implement to ensure continuity of services post-disaster.

2022 Update

The Department does not typically require extensive mitigation activities as part of its mission and normal course of business. However, the Department has recently installed a full campus generator at the Northeast Florida State Hospital in Macclenny. This now provides full backup power to support 600 residents at this mental health Treatment Facility.

Additionally, the Department has been appropriated Fixed Capital Outlay funds for all 3 DCF operated mental health treatment facilities from American Rescue Plan funds. Many of the projects funded with this appropriation include mitigation measures such as life safety generators, roofs, and emergency notification systems. These projects are currently in the design and procurement phase and should be complete by end of calendar year 2023.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Dept of Children and Families	1	2	1	4
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 4 – Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Matt Howard General Services Director Dept. of Children and Families 850-717-4017 Matthew.Howard@myflfamilies.com	Josh Register General Services Manager Department of Children and Families 850-778-4033 Joshua.register@myflfamilies.com

Department of Citrus

The Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC) is an executive agency of Florida government charged with the marketing, research, and regulation of the Florida Citrus industry. Its activities are funded by an assessment paid by growers on each box of citrus that moves through commercial channels. FDOC also has extensive regulatory responsibilities, covering every aspect of the industry, including research, production, maturity standards, licensing, transportation, labeling, packing, and processing. FDOC conducts a wide variety of programs involving industry regulation, scientific, market and economic research, advertising, merchandising, public and industry relations, and consumer promotions.

FDOC is governed by the Florida Citrus Commission (FCC), an eleven-member board appointed by the Governor of Florida to represent citrus growers, processors, and packers. The Commission is dedicated to overseeing and guiding the activities of the Florida Department of Citrus, conducting a variety of industry programs, and regulating the quality standards of citrus grown in Florida. It is responsible for setting the annual amount of the assessment tax as well as quality standards for all citrus grown, packed, or processed in Florida.

2022 Update

The Florida Citrus industry continues to face significant challenges to production since the introduction of Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening disease. The disease has affected tens of thousands of citrus acres around the state since it was first detected in Florida Citrus crops in 2005. While the industry is still recovering from losses incurred when Hurricane Irma crossed through the majority of Florida's citrus producing regions in September 2017, the impacts of Hurricane Ian in September of 2022 are yet unknown. The industry is fighting for its survival with hundreds of millions of industry, state, and federal dollars going toward research to find a cure for the devastating greening disease.

While FDOC does not have a direct responsibility for mitigating hazards such as disease and weather, the agency does provide whatever support is necessary to assist industry stakeholders in securing funding for both disease research and disaster relief. However, maintaining demand for Florida Citrus in the short-term and positioning global markets for growth in the long-term is imperative to the success of the Florida Citrus industry – an industry that, despite its current challenges, still generates an economic impact of over \$6.6 billion dollars for the State of Florida, \$140 million in state and local tax contributions, and supports 32,000 jobs. FDOC's investments in marketing and research are equally important to preserve established markets for Florida, and this was demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Until March of 2020, the industry was experiencing a downward trend in sales of orange juice. However, throughout the pandemic, consumers increasingly turned to foods and beverages that provided immune support and increased their usage in eCommerce. Earlier that year, the FDOC launched several eCommerce programs, through retailers such as Instacart, Amazon, and Walmart online, aimed at driving sales of Florida Orange Juice and highlighting the health benefits it provides as part of its "The Original Wellness Drink" campaign. This combination of factors along with the timing of the FDOC program helped support an increase in sales. With ongoing messaging around the health and wellness benefits of orange juice, OJ sales have remained above those of the last three years. The timing of our entry into the eCommerce world, and the

research supporting the nutritional benefits of orange juice will enable FDOC to help support the Florida Citrus industry as it determines the impact of Hurricane Ian.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Department of Citrus	1	1	1	3
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 3 – Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Christine Marion Dpt. Executive Director of Admin and Finance Department of Citrus 863-537-3961 cmarion@citrus.myflorida.com	Kimberly Pittzer Administrative Services Manager Department of Citrus 863-537-3984 kpittzer@citrus.myflorida.com

Department of Corrections

The Department of Corrections (FDC) is tasked with providing a continuum of services to meet the needs of those entrusted to our care, creating a safe and professional environment with the outcome of reduced victimization, safer communities, and an emphasis on the premium of life. FDC has two programmatic areas Institutions and Community Corrections. As of January 2022, there are 145 facilities (State-operated & private partners) statewide that incarcerate approximately 82,000 inmates sentenced to more than one year. Community Corrections is responsible for providing supervision of roughly 146,000 offenders on probation.

FDC has comprehensive Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations (COOP) programs to perform essential functions during an emergency or other situation that disrupts normal operations. Additionally, FDC places significant emphasis on facility infrastructure by making major repairs and renovations statewide.

2022 Update

FDC completed a review of the Department’s emergency response plans.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Department of Corrections	1	1	1	3
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 3 – Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Christopher Brannon Director of Institutional Operations & Intelligence (ECO) Florida Department of Corrections 850-717- 9729 christopher.brannon@fdc.myflorida.com	Todd Sharpe Assistant Bureau Chief-Emergency Management Florida Department of Corrections 850-717-3330 Todd.Sharpe@fdc.myflorida.com

Department of Economic Opportunity

The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is tasked with advancing Florida's economy by championing the state's economic development vision and administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help residents, communities, businesses, and visitors. These programs and activities directly and indirectly mitigate disasters, and they serve as connective threads between mitigation, response, recovery and ultimately Florida communities' long term economic resiliency and opportunity.

Ongoing Community Development Mitigation Activities

DEO's Division of Community Planning, Development and Services manages several programs, including reviews of Comprehensive Plans and plan amendments to ensure that peril of flood planning requirements are included, per section 163.3178(2)(f)(1-6), Florida Statutes. Specifically required is the inclusion of development and redevelopment principles, strategies and engineering solutions that reduce flood risk in coastal areas from high tide events, storm surge, flash floods, storm water runoff and related impacts of sea level rise. These amendments also include references to the Community Rating System and Local Mitigation Strategies. The Division includes a Community Resilience Planner, who provides one-on-one technical assistance in meeting these statutory requirements.

Staff also assists with other planning elements such as:

- Coastal management planning including coastal high hazard areas, adaptation planning, and coastal redevelopment to reduce the risks of coastal flooding and related impacts to sea level rise
- Evacuation planning to ensure development within a county evacuation zone accounts for the time it takes those additional people to evacuate
- Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning
- Military installation coordination with local governments to prevent encroachment

The Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant Program helps municipalities and counties in creating economic development strategies, addressing critical planning issues, and promoting innovative planning solutions.

The Areas of Critical State Concern program provides oversight and assistance to the five identified areas of critical state concern. Program oversight includes reviewing and approving amendments to comprehensive plans and land development regulations and reviewing development orders adopted or issued by local governments within the designated areas. An area of critical state concern is an area containing, or having a significant impact upon, environmental or natural resources of regional or statewide importance, including, but not limited to, state or federal parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, aquatic preserves, major rivers and estuaries, state environmentally endangered lands, Outstanding Florida Waters, and aquifer recharge areas, the uncontrolled private or public development of which would cause substantial deterioration of such resources. The five identified areas of critical state concern are Big Cypress Swamp, the Green Swamp, the Florida Keys Area, the City of Key West, and the City of Apalachicola.

The Division also implements the Weatherization Assistance Program, which provides grant funding to reduce the monthly energy burden on low-income households by improving the energy efficiency of a home. These improvements sometimes include mitigation measures.

2022 Update

The Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant Program helps municipalities and counties in creating economic development strategies, addressing critical planning issues, and promoting innovative planning solutions. For FY 2022-2023, the Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant Program has awarded grants to nine municipalities, ten counties and four regional planning councils whose projects will benefit additional communities. During this fiscal year, it was also specifically noted that these grants could be utilized for disaster recovery and resiliency planning. Additionally, during this fiscal year, the Bureau that implements the Weatherization Assistance Program began active steps to pursue opportunities to utilize this program for mitigation measures.

Office of Long-Term Resiliency

DEO manages the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant program through its Office of Long-Term Resiliency (OLTR). CDBG-DR funding becomes available post-disaster through a congressional allocation and includes consideration for mitigation actions, such as retrofitting, hardening and resiliency projects.

Rebuild Florida, a partnership of DEO and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), launched in September 2018 to use federal funding for Florida's long-term disaster recovery efforts from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Irma and subsequent disasters.

Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program assists eligible homeowners impacted by Hurricanes by repairing, rebuilding, or replacing damaged homes across the hardest-hit communities. All repairs or reconstruction must meet or exceed Florida Building Code and applicable local building standards, including meeting Florida's hurricane protection and "wind-borne debris region" standards, ensuring resilience against future storms.

Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program is dedicated to local government programs to purchase residential properties from low to moderate-income (LMI) citizens in high flood-risk areas and assist them to relocate outside of flood prone areas. Land acquired must be deed restricted after acquisition to green space making them resilient to impacts from future storms. Approved local governments may receive 100% funding for voluntary home buyouts or leverage match funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program's (HMGP) land acquisition program.

Rebuild Florida Mitigation Program

In April 2018, HUD announced funding for a first-of-its-kind CDBG for mitigation programs. The mitigation allocation was made available to the State of Florida, which is administered through DEO's OLTR. Since 2021, this new Mitigation Program has been awarding funds to community and regional projects that address resilience-building needs associated with presidentially declared disasters for 2016, 2017, and 2018 storms. These declarations encompass areas that were impacted by Hurricanes Hermine & Matthew, Irma, and Michael.

To date, the Rebuild Florida Mitigation Program has awarded more than \$585 million in funds in response to nearly 200 requests for assistance. Spanning communities in 40 counties, the Rebuild Florida Mitigation Program has been, and remains, focused on creating more resilient communities through critical infrastructure hardening, mitigation planning, and general infrastructure projects designed to reduce or eliminate risks attributable to natural disasters. Over the past year, the Rebuild Florida Mitigation Program has made significant progress in implementing, monitoring, and completing resilience enhancement projects throughout the state. In the coming year(s), DEO is confident that vulnerable communities will be positioned and able to withstand and recover more quickly from future disasters.

Rebuild Florida Hazard Mitigation Grant Match Program

The Rebuild Florida Hazard Mitigation Grant Match Program is designed to fund the local match portion of the award. These funds represent a unique and significant opportunity for the state, in the areas most impacted by recent disasters, to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to rebuild and harden infrastructure to prevent or reduce losses in future disasters.

The Rebuild Florida Hazard Mitigation Grant Match Program has awarded approximately \$40 million in funds in response to 86 requests for assistance. The Rebuild Florida Hazard Mitigation Grant Match Program is currently serving communities in 10 of the 11 HUD-designated “Most Impacted and Distress Counties” impacted by Hurricane Michael. As 2022 ends, DEO is pleased with the progress that has been made in implementing grantee agreements, with many quickly approaching conclusion and/or completion of the initial phase of their project(s).

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Department of Economic Opportunity	3	3	3	9
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Melissa Coleman Corbett Regional Planning Administrator Department of Economic Opportunity 850-717-8505 Melissa.Corbett@deo.myflorida.com	Lecia Behenna Office of Long-Term Resiliency Bureau Chief Department of Economic Opportunity 850-717-8436 Lecia.Behenna@deo.myflorida.com

Department of Education

DOE works to increase the proficiency of all students and to maintain an accountability system to measure student progress. DOE is comprised of several divisions and offices including the State Board of Education, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Blind Services, the Board of Governors, and the Office of Early Learning. The Office of Early Learning has a dedicated liaison to the group, in addition to the DOE liaison.

DOE works closely with the Domestic Security Coordinating Group (DSCG) Executive Board & Critical Infrastructure-Education Focus Group to evaluate measures to identify and develop initiatives building upon the safety and security of all the state's educational institutions. The Critical Infrastructure-Education Focus Group evaluates measures to improve security and response to crisis situations on campuses. In addition, they strive to help improve communication and collaboration among education, mental health, law enforcement, and emergency management agencies. Finally, they will recommend policies, procedures, and actions related to campus security to the DSCG. DOE has a dedicated Interagency Fusion Liaison (IFL) and two Executive Advisory Board (EAB) members embedded in the Florida Fusion Center (FFC), which provides the department situational awareness. DOE encourages school districts to participate in their Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF). DOE also promotes online Active Shooter training throughout the department making it a mandatory requirement.

The Office of Safe Schools (OSS) was created as a new division within DOE after the tragic event in Parkland, Florida in 2018. The OSS serves as a central repository for best practices, training standards and compliance oversight in all matters regarding school safety and security. The mission of OSS is to support districts in providing a safe learning environment for students and educators through prevention, intervention, and emergency preparedness planning efforts. Furthermore, Florida law requires schools and school districts to complete vulnerability and security assessments and report the findings and local school board actions to OSS.

DOE rents most of their offices from DMS, counties, or private owners. However, the agency does own the Daytona School for the Deaf and Blind, which is a critical facility. DOE conducted a vulnerability assessment for this facility, which has resulted in additional security measures.

In the event of an imminent threat, K-12 schools are often used as shelters, as required by Florida Statute 252. The DOE Facilities Office, in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management, assisted the Division of Emergency Management with their bi-annual Statewide Shelter Plan update, providing information and recommendations.

Ensuring vulnerability assessments occur at the local level and conducting assessments on DOE facilities is important and helps to identify opportunities for future mitigation. DOE is also able to provide limited state and federal funding to school districts for such opportunities.

2022 Update

A 2022 update was not provided due to staff turnover and the response activities for Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Department of Education	1	2	1	4
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 4 – Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Peter Newman Director of the Office of EM Department of Education 850-245-9989 Peter.Newman@fldoe.org	Mark O’Neill Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Management Department of Education Mark.O’Neill@fldoe.org

Department of Elder Affairs

During an emergency event, needs and resources are managed at the local level and state emergency operations assist as and when needed – all emergencies are local. This locally focused operational structure required of DOEA and the community providers of the Aging Network in an emergency is essentially the same as the day-to-day operational structure of the Aging Network. So, although disasters bring their own unique set of challenges, this structure provides a solid platform for successfully dealing with the varying degrees of impacts that a disaster can have on a community. It should be noted that the Aging Network providers are also responsible for identifying all elders, not just the clients they serve but elders located in the general population, who may be at risk due to disruption of services caused by a disaster (e.g., lack of food, power, water, sewer, medicine, fire protection, emergency medical service, law enforcement, and/or continuity of care). Since it is critical that the number of elders who may be affected by a disaster/emergency in any given area is known, DOEA developed a set of geographic maps that are overlaid with demographic information to display those populations who might be at risk when a disaster strikes – including geographically vulnerable areas like flood zones or storm surge risks. It is important that this information be available before an emergency, so that when an event occurs or is about to occur, roles and tasks are clearly defined and understood to provide optimal care for older Floridians.

Additionally, DOEA produces an annual [Disaster Resource Guide](#) for seniors, families, and emergency management offices and organizations regarding disaster preparedness. Within this guide, there is information about mitigation, such as hurricane readiness, making evacuation plans, protecting valuable documents, and other important preparations to take before an emergency event. DOEA supports all 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) throughout the state. The AAA provides local information and resources to the states aging population including local mitigation efforts that are specific to their counties and region.

2022 Update

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs has continued to provide support to Florida's Aging population throughout 2022 by working in concert with federal, state, local, and community-based partners, and the 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to increase impacts from local disasters mitigation. DOEA has coordinated with the AAAs regularly to make sure mitigation is taking place at the local level.

Florida's Aging Network has shown incredible resourcefulness during their most challenging times. The Aging Network continued to ensure basic needs for older adults were met by increasing the number home-delivered meals, safely recruiting and mobilizing volunteers, and staffing grocery and prescription delivery services due to Hurricane Ian and Nicole.

The agency continued to expand programs to mitigate the exposure of COVID-19 and combat the impacts of social isolation on the aging population. The 11 Area Agencies on Aging have provided over 30 million home-delivered meals, including meals through the restaurant meal initiative, since the pandemic. Home-delivered meals continue to be an option in place for those who are still uncomfortable in a congregate setting. The partnership with the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association has continued to provide a safe and scalable option for providing meal options for seniors.

DOEA is maximizing its partnership with Scent Evidence K9 to distribute Scent Preservation Kits® to caregivers of those living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD). 76 Scent Kits have been sent out in 2022 and were distributed through Memory Disorder Clinics throughout the state. Older adults with ADRD may have an increased tendency to wander and become lost. If that happens, proactive family safety measures, such as the Scent Preservation Kit®, are providing effective response systems to locate missing persons and return them to safety. These kits provide K9 responders with uncontaminated scent articles that significantly reduce the time it takes to locate someone.

DOEA worked with the Aging Network and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers to continue telephone reassurance calls to check on the unmet needs, well-being, and safety of older residents.

Another solution to breaking social isolation is through the therapeutic robotic companion pets initiative. DOEA partnered with Ageless Innovation’s Joy for All® Companion Pets to enhance meaningful interactions among older adults, their caregivers, and family members. The interactive companion pets help combat loneliness or depression by improving overall mood and quality of life. Robotic pets remain available through DOEA’s [online application](#) and are available for any older adult. DOEA has distributed 1,117 robotic pets in 2022.

DOEA’s Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE) provided over 50,707 hours of Virtual Medicare Counseling to more than 41,212 people. The virtual Medicare classes resulted in dozens of Senior Medicare Patrol cases where beneficiaries have reported being a victim of suspected Medicare fraud, waste, and abuse. SHINE then followed up with each senior to obtain the necessary details to report the cases to the proper authorities.

Throughout 2022, DOEA has remained committed to proactive information sharing because it can help older adults cope with social isolation and any accompanying sense of grief or stress. The innovations and new programs provided by DOEA have provided outreach and links to helpful resources that can reduce feelings of loneliness and replace them with a sense of inclusion.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 7.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Department of Elder Affairs	1	2	2	5
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 5 – Above Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Carl Epperson General Services Manager/ECO Department of Elder Affairs 850-414-2148 eppersonc@elderaffairs.org	Tyler Jefferson Legislative Affairs/ ALT-ECO Department of Elder Affairs 850-414-2140 jeffersont@elderaffairs.org

Department of Environmental Protection

DEP is responsible for environmental management and stewardship, protecting our air, water, and land. There are three primary areas including land and recreation, regulatory, and ecosystem restoration.

The Land and Recreation program area has two Divisions: Recreation and Parks, and State Lands. The Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources, under the Division of Recreation and Parks, is responsible for providing technical and professional services to preserve and manage natural and cultural resources in state parks. Another program under the Division of Recreation and Parks is the Land Acquisition and Administration program which identifies, evaluates, and establishes priorities for the land acquisition program. The Division of State Lands is responsible for the acquisition of new land and administration of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) owned lands which includes approximately 3,000,000 acres of BOT uplands; 6,000,000 acres of territorial waters; 1,235,000 acres of lakes and 260,000 acres of rivers.

The Regulatory Program has six divisions: Air Resource Management, Water Resource Management, Waste Management, Florida Geological Survey, Law Enforcement and Regulatory District Offices. Many DEP mitigation related programs are within the Division of Water Resource Management. The Engineering, Hydrology and Geology Program oversees relevant programs including Dam Safety Program, Hydrology and Hydraulics Support, Mining and Mitigation Technical Support and Storm Water Support.

The Dam Safety Program coordinates statewide dam safety activities and provides technical support for permitting, inspection, evaluation, condition assessment, and Emergency Action Plans (EAP) for dams. This program is critical in statewide mitigation because dams are water control structures and provide protection to large numbers of people from flooding.

The Hydrology and Hydraulics Support staff reviews hydrographic assessments submitted in support of environmental resource permits.

The Mining and Mitigation Technical Support staff assist the Mining and Mitigation Program with completeness reviews regarding the technical aspects of stormwater management systems proposed for mine and reclamation projects to ensure that water quality and quantity meet state statutes and rules. The Mining and Mitigation Program regulates mining and reviews environmental resource permit applications and reclamation plans for mines. In this program the term "mitigation" refers to mitigating mines, not general risk reduction actions.

The Storm Water Support staff serves as a reference for statewide consistency in review of the stormwater portion of environmental resource permits and provides stormwater and engineering expertise for rulemaking efforts, Basin Management Action Plans, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program, and the Non-Point Source Section 319(h) and Total Maximum Daily Load grant selections. Staff assists the district offices on complex projects seeking environmental resource permit authorizations. The NPDES Stormwater Program regulates point water source discharges from three potential sources: municipal separate storm sewer systems, construction activities, and industrial activities. The program also develops policy to minimize and prevent pollutants in stormwater discharges.

The Division of Water Resource Management (DWRM) is also responsible for implementing state laws providing for the protection of the quality of Florida's drinking water, ground water, rivers, lakes, estuaries and wetlands, and the reclamation of mined lands. It is comprised of several programs that perform water facilities regulation, and operational support services and functions. The majority of division staff is located in Tallahassee; however, its Mining & Mitigation and Oil & Gas programs have staff operating in satellite offices throughout the state. The division also serves as Florida's central point of contact for federally delegated water programs, such as NPDES Stormwater, Drinking Water and Underground Injection Control (UIC), and has regulatory oversight of certain functions of water and wastewater facilities throughout Florida. Additionally, the division regulates the environmental resource permitting of mines and mitigation banks.

The Division of Waste Management implements state and federal laws to protect the environment from improper handling and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes, manages programs for waste facilities and pollutant storage systems, and conducts non-regulatory activities like financial and technical assistance for recycling and waste reduction.

The Florida Geological Survey (FGS) focuses on proactive environmental problem solving for geologic hazards as they relate to public health and safety. For example, FGS maps topographic depressions across the state. FGS partnered with DEM under a mitigation grant to conduct a study to determine the geologic favorability to sinkhole development across the state. That study was used to complete the Sinkhole Risk Assessment in the SHMP and is included as an appendix to the plan. The FGS also led a project to assess economic benefits of a statewide LiDAR data collection. The report informed elected officials during the state budgetary process. Funds were authorized and the data are now being collected through DEM administration. FGS is also an active participant in the Florida Coastal Mapping Project (FCMaP), the mission of which is "Accessible, high resolution seabed data of Florida's coastal waters to support infrastructure, habitat mapping, restoration projects, resource management, emergency response, and coastal resiliency and hazard studies for the citizens of Florida." The DEP Geographic Information Officer is an FCMaP co-chair, and the State Geologist serves on the FCMaP Steering Committee. The goal of FCMaP is to facilitate acquisition and availability of high-resolution bathymetry from Florida's shoreline to the edge of the continental shelf. Such data can improve coastal flooding models.

The Ecosystem Restoration program area has several divisions described below. The Office of Ecosystem Projects has a key role in restoring America's everglades, which is the largest environmental restoration project in the world. The Office also ensures implementation of Everglades Forever Act, and focuses on improving water quality, and restoring hydrology and ecology of Florida's ecosystems.

The Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection coordinates the protection of Florida's coastal resource, including submerged lands and coastal uplands, aquatic preserves and national estuarine research reserves, and coral reef resources. The State Buffer Preserve Program works to conserve and preserve the natural values of ecosystems. The Florida Resilient Coastlines Program provides technical assistance to communities to develop coastal management strategies and plans. The Program achieves this through grant funding. The Coastal Management Program also developed the Adaptation Guidebook to assist communities in sea level rise and adaptation planning. The Coastal Engineering and Geology Program prepares annual reports on critically eroded beaches, which are Appendices to the SHMP; develops inlet management plans;

conducts post-storm erosion and damage assessments; provides technical expertise regarding coastal engineering, coastal hydrodynamics and morphology, beach erosion control, coastal sediment processes, coastal structures design and construction, and coastal geology and sedimentology. The Beaches, Inlets, and Ports Program processes Joint Coastal permit applications and environmental resource permit applications. The Coastal Construction Control Line Program regulates structures and activities which can cause beach erosion, destabilize dunes, damage upland properties, or interfere with public access.

The Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration has several purposes including surface water and groundwater quality standards; assesses bodies of water to identify pollution problems; adopts water quality restoration targets known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs); develops and implements Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs), Reasonable Assurance Plans, and Nutrient Reduction Plans; provides training on stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation control inspections; and works to protect and restore springs. The Division compiles reports from the Water Management Districts to develop an annual report on TMDLs, BMAPs, recovery, and prevention strategies. Projects to restore basins and water quality often include mitigation projects.

The Division of Water Restoration Assistance provides grants and loans for projects to improve the state's water quality, quantity, and which define the benefit to the environment and local communities. There are three funding programs: Springs Restoration Funding, Nonpoint Source Funds, and the Revolving Funds which are divided into the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Projects from the Nonpoint Source Funds are those that reduce water pollution from sources like Stormwater, which may also be mitigation projects. The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds programs are designed to plan, design, build, or upgrade wastewater, stormwater, or drinking water facilities. The Office of Water Policy addresses statewide water management issues in coordination with the Water Management Districts.

The Sustainable Initiatives Program is a voluntary, non-regulatory program in DEP to assist Florida industry and residents to protect Florida's environment and promote sustainability.

2022 Update

Resilient Florida Grant Program

The Resilient Florida program was created through Senate Bill 1954/House Bill 7019, which is comprehensive legislation that ensures a coordinated approach to Florida's coastal and inland resilience to flooding and sea level rise. The Resilient Florida program works with communities across the state to inform and support community planning and adaptation of critical assets, including restoring critical ecosystems.

This program is charged with developing a comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set and assessment; an annual Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan; and the framework to administer grant funding to local governments, eligible special districts, and regional resilience entities for planning and implementation of resilience projects.

Section 380.093, F.S., outlines the eligible project and grant types of the Resilient Florida grants. Counties, municipalities, regional resilience entities, water management districts and flood control districts are eligible to submit proposed projects that address flooding and sea level rise through

community resilience planning, including vulnerability assessments, comprehensive plan amendments, and necessary analyses to meet the requirements of s. 163.3178 (2)(f), the Peril of Flood statute. The grants also provide funds for construction projects adapting critical assets to the effects of flooding and rising sea levels.

Over the past year, the Resilient Florida program has:

- [Awarded over \\$404 million for 113 resilience projects across the state.](#)
- [Created the first preliminary Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan](#) totaling over \$270 million and funding 76 infrastructure projects across the state over three years.
- [Awarded nearly \\$20 million for 98 planning projects across the state.](#)
- Awarded regional resilience entities [\\$2 million in 2021-2022](#) and \$1.7 million in 2022-2023.
- Developed 62S-8, F.A.C. to ensure that projects are evaluated, scored, and prioritized under Florida Statutes. This rule went into effect in August 2022.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Department of Environmental Protection	3	3	3	9
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Samuel Graves Environmental Administrator Department of Environmental Protection 850-245-2875 Samuel.A.Graves@floridadep.gov	VACANT Title Department of Environmental Protection Phone Email

Department of Health

The mission of FDOH is to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida, through integrated state, county, and community efforts. FDOH actively works to achieve its mission through the activities and functions of its various Divisions.

The Divisions in FDOH include Children's Medical Services, Public Health Statistics and Performance Management, Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Community Health Promotion, Disease Control and Health Protection, Medical Quality Assurance, Disability Determinations, and Administration.

The Department's Office of County Health Systems provides oversight for 67 county health departments, which are responsible for creating and maintaining conditions that contribute to their community's health. Each county health department office investigates health problems and health threats and leads planning and response activities for public health emergencies. Local county health department offices prevent, minimize, and contain adverse health effects from communicable diseases, disease outbreaks from unsafe food and water, chronic diseases, environmental hazards, injuries, and risky health behaviors.

Through the actions of its Divisions, several FDOH programs are administered that directly support the overall health of Florida's communities.

In the Emergency Preparedness and Community Support Division, the Healthcare System Preparedness program ensures there is capacity and capability for the provision of critical public health and medical services to reduce the potential for adverse health outcomes during a disaster. In this Division, the Bureau of Preparedness and Response provides departmental expertise and leadership in the public health and medical component of all-hazards planning; preparation (including training and exercises); coordination; and the provision of funding, staff and material support for potential catastrophic incidents that may threaten the health of our communities and compromise the ability of the healthcare system to deliver needed health care services. During activation of the State Emergency Response Team, the Bureau provides the Department's primary support for Emergency Support Function 8 (Health and Medical), including the agency's emergency coordinating officer. The Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight creates and sustains a continuum of care that integrates injury prevention, emergency medical services, trauma, rehabilitation, and community reintegration into an inclusive health care system that engages all stakeholders and partners as part of a cohesive health care and injury prevention community.

The Division of Community Health Promotion implements the Built Environment Program. The built environment includes all buildings, spaces, and products that are created or modified by people. The built environment impacts our physical and social environments and subsequently our health and quality of life. The State Health Improvement Plan includes Environmental Health objectives including integrating health-related language into local government Comprehensive Plans, increasing the number of jurisdictions with Complete Streets policies to provide for safe travel irrespective of the mode of transportation, and share best practices to promote biking, walking, and using public transportation. These objectives are related to risk and vulnerability reduction. Another program in the Division of Community Health Promotion, Community

Resilience, works to develop informed, empowered, and resilient healthcare systems and residents. Resilient healthcare systems incorporate mitigation techniques and approaches.

The Division of Disease Control and Health Protection implements the Environmental Health program, which works to prevent disease of environmental origin. Within this programmatic area, the Climate and Health program assess the impacts of climate on human health; for example, Florida faces natural hazards such as severe storms, flooding, and tropical cyclones. Additionally, the Environmental Health program partners with Florida State University to help Build Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) to improve the ability of the public health sector to respond to health effects related to climate variability. This is a form of vulnerability reduction.

2022 Update

FDOH is the lead agency for the state response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and therefore assets were focused on the response to and mitigation of this disease. FDOH did complete several projects that either hardened FDOH facilities or provided for increased operational resiliency and redundancy. These projects include the following:

Emergency Response Related:

Developed and implemented an online inventory tracking system to monitor the allocation and use of monoclonal antibody therapeutics for the treatment of COVID-19. The FDOH emergency Medicine Inventory Tracker (EMIT) was developed to facilitate accurate monoclonal antibody inventory reporting by Florida healthcare providers. The EMIT system was developed to complement the Federal Health Partner Ordering Portal system (HPOP).

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Department of Health	2	2	2	6
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Jeff Bielling ESF-8 Operations and Planning Manager Department of Health 850-294-0190 Jeffery.Bielling@flhealth.gov	Bobby Mills Planning Unit Manager Department of Health 850-766-0435 Robert.Mills@flhealth.gov

Department of Juvenile Justice

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is tasked with increasing public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth. The Bureau of General Services is responsible for facility management. There are 45 Residential and Correctional Facilities and 21 Juvenile Detention Centers. The Bureau of General Services takes an active role in the emergency management and mitigation of the facilities. For example, in 2017 Hurricane Irma caused flooding at a DJJ facility. Damages were repaired, and now DJJ is reviewing options to mitigate future flooding. DJJ and this facility are engaged with the water management district and the Division of Emergency Management (DEM). Furthermore, DJJ has completed other mitigation type projects on their facilities using maintenance funds, and all new construction projects consider mitigation options.

2022 Update

The Department has two ongoing mitigation projects.

Hastings Youth Academy Flood Mitigation Project

Part 1 – Building Sealants: Removal and replacement of all vertical joint caulking of the existing tilt wall panels (TWP) at a maximum height of 4' from top of the slab, installation of sealant between existing concrete pavement and the building, apply waterproof sealant coating at a maximum height of 4' from top of slab and install 4" wide traffic coating at all door openings. Project is complete.

Part 2 – Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements: Contract with a Civil Engineer to complete research of present storm water infrastructure system and provide plans for detailed improvements. Design for improvements have been completed and submitted to permitting.

Part 3 – Perimeter Flood Wall: Contracted with Civil Engineer to design and provide scope of work for perimeter flood wall. Civil engineering is complete and in permitting. DJJ was able to turn the data over for the structural engineer to complete their design and once completed, the project will go out for bid.

The anticipated project timeline for completion is December 2023.

Impact Resistant Windows

DJJ is phasing in a window replacement program that will convert present operable glass windows to fixed glass impact resistant windows for facilities on the coast. All new windows must be certified to meet Miami-Dade County codes. All windows at two DJJ facilities will be replaced this year and the program will continue to move forward with the process in the following years as funding permits.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Dept of Juvenile Justice	1	2	2	5
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 5 – Above Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Gregory Davis Acting Chief of General Services Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) 850-717-2772 Gregory.Davis@djj.state.fl.us	Robert Bass Facilities Services Manager Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) 850-717-2756 Robert.Bass@djj.state.fl.us

Department of Lottery

The Florida Lottery was created to allow the people of the state to benefit from significant additional moneys for education, while playing the best lottery games available. The mission of the Florida Lottery is to maximize revenues in a manner consistent with the dignity of the state and the welfare of its citizens.

Lottery dollars have funded School Recognition and Merit Programs for improved schools and have even helped build and renovate schools through the Classrooms First and Classrooms for Kids programs.

2022 Update

More than \$42 billion transferred to the Education Enhancement Trust Fund (EETF) since the Lottery’s inception in 1988. For the 20th consecutive year, the Florida Lottery transferred more than \$1 billion to the EETF – including over \$2.3 billion in FY 2022-23.

Florida’s public schools (Pre-K, K-12 programs, and school construction) received more than \$16.96 billion since the Lottery’s inception – including over \$210 million in FY 2022-23.

Florida’s public colleges and universities received a combined total of more than \$11 billion since the Lottery’s inception – including over \$661 million in FY 2022-23.

The Florida Lottery contributed more than \$7.75 billion to the Bright Futures Scholarship program – including over \$648.5 million in FY 2022-23 – allowing over 950,000 students to attend college.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Florida Lottery	1	1	1	3
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 3 – Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Loren Lowers Deputy Director of Operations Florida Lottery 850-487-7777 LowersL@flalottery.com	Cory Williams Special Agency Supervisor Florida Lottery 850-487-7777 WilliamsCo@flalottery.com

Department of Management Services

DMS supports sister agencies as well as current and former state employees with workforce and business-related functions so that agencies can focus on their core missions. The Division of Real Estate Development and Management (REDM) is responsible for overall management of the Florida Facilities Pool (FFP), as well as other facilities and structures DMS has been given the responsibility to manage, which totals 112 structures. REDM also manages the Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO) fund appropriated by the Florida Legislature and oversees repairs and renovations of DMS-managed facilities with those funds. These projects involve mitigation in the form of code compliance. The Building Construction Bureau oversees construction of public buildings statewide. The Operations and Management Bureau is responsible for the daily operations of DMS managed facilities. When requested and funded by sister agencies, DMS may assist with code compliance for other state facilities.

The Florida State Owned Lands and Records Information System (FL-SOLARIS) is a database owned by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to maintain an inventory of all real property and facilities owned by the State. DEP is responsible for the maintenance of all real property records (land). State agencies, water management districts, Board of Governors Universities, FCS colleges, and the judicial branch, not including Department of Transportation facilities, are responsible for maintaining respective facility data within FL-SOLARIS. The database includes more than 20,000 facilities owned and maintained by sixty-five different entities. Each of these entities is responsible for maintenance and mitigation efforts for their facilities. The FL-SOLARIS database was used to complete the Risk Assessment within the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The location of the 20,000 facilities were overlaid with risk and vulnerability maps to determine whether the facilities may be vulnerable or at risk. The mitigation efforts conducted by DMS are in the form of code compliance for facilities in the FFP, which could impact the continuity of operations and continuity of government at each of these facilities. Through general operations and maintenance, as well as the FCO projects, DMS completes mitigation projects annually for 112 structures. Additionally, the DMS database FL-SOLARIS is crucial to accurate risk and vulnerability mapping and analysis in the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

2022 Update

Mitigation will be implemented as described above through capital improvement and code compliance. In addition, the FL-SOLARIS database will be utilized for the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan five-year update, in coordination with FDEM.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Department of Management Services	2	2	2	6
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Alonna Vinson Interim Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) Department of Management Services 850-559-0340 Alonna.Vinson@dms.fl.gov	Hank Stephens Alternate ECO – ESF-2 Department of Management Services 850-294-5620 Hank.Stephens@dms.myflorida.com

Department of Military Affairs/Florida National Guard

DMA provides management oversight of the Florida National Guard (FLNG) and provides units and personnel ready to support national security objectives, protect the public, and contribute to national, state, and community programs. The Department and Guard are headquartered at St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine, Florida and operate together within policy guidance and fiscal framework of federal and state authorities. The joint headquarters is responsible for more than one billion dollars in state property, armories in 55 communities in Florida, and more than 73,000 acres in training lands. DMA/FLNG is responsible for the maintenance and repairs of over 800 buildings, which often includes retrofitting and hardening. For example, DMA/FLNG partnered with other agencies, including the City of St. Augustine, to complete a mitigation project. An existing historic seawall runs along the coast, protecting historic districts, residential and commercial structures, and headquarters. Over time, the historic seawall has deteriorated and no longer provides adequate protection. The project involves reinforcing and stabilizing the seawall, waterward of the historic seawall, to protect the area from Category 1 storm surge.

2022 Update

The design for the historic seawall reinforcement project is complete. The project was bid, the documents were modified for clarity and second bid opening has been held and awarded. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers issued the contractor's Notice to Proceed for mid-December, although anticipate he will bring on his full force in January.

The Installation Energy and Water Plan (IEWP) was developed by the Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) in June 2022 and provides a roadmap for achieving increased security, resilience, readiness, and mission assurance for the FLARNG in an event of a natural hazard or other disruption to the FLARNG. The IEWP provides the goals and strategies of energy and water (E&W) management, for the next 5 years, for 26 critical facilities at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC) and 30 critical FLARNG facilities.

Development of the roadmap involved a holistic approach including, but not limited to, current and future sustainability efforts (E&W efficiency, demand reduction, renewable energy implementation) as well as identifying solutions to address deficiencies identified in the Installation Status Report – Mission Capacity (ISR-MC) assessments for E&W. Cybersecurity across utility systems was addressed as part of infrastructure condition and risk analysis. One of the major outcomes of the IEWP was the development of courses of actions (COAs) and associated implementation timelines to ensure a minimum of 14 days of critical mission operations in the event of a disruption to E&W supply. DMA will utilize the prioritized listing to pursue funding for the planning and execution of these projects over multiple years.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Dept of Military Affairs/ Florida National Guard	2	2	2	6
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
LTC Ryan Leonard Construction and Facility Management Officer Dept of Military Affairs/FLNG 904-823-0250 Ryan.A.Leonard.mil@mail.mil	Timothy Smith Deputy State Quartermaster Dept of Military Affairs/FLNG 904-823-0216 Timothy.j.smith53.nfg@army.mil

Department of State

The mission of DOS is to improve the quality of life for all Floridians through the agency's critical functions and programs. The Division of Historic Resources (DHR) is responsible for identifying, evaluating, preserving, and interpreting historic and cultural resources. DHR has several programs to accomplish this objective, including the Florida Main Street program and the Compliance and Review program, both housed in the Bureau of Historic Preservation, within DHR.

Florida Main Street provides technical assistance to revitalize historic downtowns and encourage economic development. DHR also conducts compliance reviews for all project types and provides technical assistance to ensure compliance with state and federal preservation laws which mandate consideration of a project's impact on historic and archaeological properties. The Division assists communities with disaster planning and mitigation for historic properties through written documents and individual guidance, improving coordination between emergency management and historic preservation efforts, as well as identifying funding sources and providing best practices for mitigation. DHR's Bureau of Archaeological Research conducts surveys and excavations and provides specialized damage assessments after hazards have impacted an area, such as flooding, high winds, and forest fires.

In addition to historic preservation, the Division of Library and Information Services oversees the Records Management Program, including the State Records Center. The State Records Center offers government agencies low-cost storage in a secure facility as well as vault storage for microfilm master and backup copies of vital records and 24/7/365 emergency access to system backups. The Records Management Program provides Disaster Recovery resources, including information on recovery techniques and handling guidance regarding records impacted by floods, fires, and other hazards.

2022 Update

The Florida Main Street program currently oversees 56 active Main Street communities throughout the state. In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, Florida Main Street program staff continued to focus on designated Florida Main Street Communities that had significant storm damage from Hurricane Michael; specifically, Chattahoochee, Havana, and Blountstown. The National Main Street Center applied for a Resiliency Grant from the National Park Service's Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund, to support Main Street Community Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Program workshops. Florida was specifically targeted as a subject state, and the City of Chattahoochee was chosen as a subject model for response, recovery, and resiliency strategies. Florida Main Street has been working with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) ESF 18: Business, Industry and Economic Stabilization team and the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) program areas to provide resources and training to our Main Street communities in the areas of disaster preparation and recovery from both physical and business continuation standpoints. One of the workshops will be held at the upcoming Main Street Quarterly workshop in Ormond Beach, Florida on September 11-12, 2022.

Marianna Main Street collaborated with community partners to revitalize an area containing an interior building that suffered major structural damage from Michael into a community park. Not only has this proven to be an effective gap placeholder, but it has increased the community's use

of the downtown area. Additionally, with the assistance of grants from DHR, city owned properties that had storm damage and have been restored now serve as locations to new businesses in the downtown.

Many of our Main Streets help with organization of blood drives, food banks and workforce assistance. To highlight the impact of Main Street Communities, in calendar year 2020, during the economic downturn, Florida Main Street's active programs reported positive net growth with more than \$82,996,818 public and \$128,576,590 private investments. Additionally, the Main Street districts welcomed 387 net new businesses, 238 net new jobs and more than 64,229 volunteer hours. DHR is also working to update our Disaster Planning and Mitigation guidance. Between 2005 and 2007, DHR developed manuals to assist communities with integrating historic preservation into disaster preparedness. Since that time, 1) [*Disaster Planning for Florida's Historic Resources*](#) and 2) [*Disaster Mitigation for Historic Structures: Protection Strategies*](#) have been widely circulated and utilized by state and local government and non-profit organizations to assist communities with improving coordination between emergency management and historic preservation efforts, as well as identifying sources and providing best practices for mitigation.

In 2021, DHR contracted with a vendor to update both the Disaster Mitigation and Disaster Planning documents for Historical Resources in Florida. At the end of the project, there will be guidance available for planning and mitigation at the state and local level, as well as resources for individual owners of historic homes and commercial properties. We expect these documents to be completed in fall 2022, after which they will also be made available on the division's website.

Funding for this project is from a federal grant for Hurricane Irma disaster relief for historic properties, from the National Park Service (NPS) to the DHR. Case studies were completed in 18 communities in Florida: St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg Beach, Tampa Hyde Park, Venice, Key West, Everglades City, Stuart, Lake Worth Beach, St. Augustine, Cedar Key, Leesburg, Daytona Beach, Fernandina Beach, Jacksonville, and Miami; as well as Apalachicola, Port St. Joe, and Pensacola (funded by a separate grant from the NPS).

The NPS awarded the DHR disaster recovery grants for both Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Michael. In addition to the above disaster mitigation project, this grant funding was subgranted to non-profits and local governments for projects aimed at recovery and repair of historic properties in areas that received a major disaster declaration related to Hurricanes Irma and Michael, respectively. These subgrant projects must also substantially mitigate the threat and include steps to mitigate future damage. A total of \$4,959,699 of the Hurricane Irma Funding from the NPS was allocated to subgrants, and a total of \$8,054,000 of the Hurricane Michael Funding from the NPS was allocated to subgrants.

In addition, the DHR is utilizing \$2 million of the federal Hurricane Michael grant from the NPS to contract for surveys of the most affected, underrepresented and most undersurveyed counties in the panhandle. From September 2021 to February 2022, the division solicited proposals and was able to contract with Cultural Resource Management companies for six county-wide historic structures surveys in Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, Jackson, Wakulla, and Franklin Counties. Prior to the surveys, Calhoun and Liberty Counties had less than 1% survey coverage for historical resources survey; Gulf and Wakulla Counties had less than 2% survey coverage; Jackson County had less than 6% coverage, and Franklin County was slightly below 9% coverage, with nearly all the recorded historic resources located in Apalachicola.

The final survey reports and final site forms were received by DHR on August 31, 2022, and staff are currently reviewing the product for final payment before the contracts expire on September 30, 2022. Once approved, the reports will be added to the Florida Master Site File and site form information and locations will be added to the Site File GIS data. The reports and data will be shared directly with the affected county and city governments, including file sharing with those local governments that maintain GIS capabilities. Access to the Site File and GIS is available for researchers, Cultural Resource Management (CRM) consultants, state agencies, local governments, and citizens upon request, and efforts are underway to build an online portal to make the information more accessible. The total number of historic structures recorded across these six county-wide surveys is expected to document more than 15,000 previously unrecorded historic structures.

In addition, the division earmarked \$50,000 of our annual Historic Preservation Fund appropriation from the NPS to survey underserved, agricultural, and rural historic structures in Gadsden County. This survey documented another 500 historic resources that were previously unrecorded.

These survey projects will improve the ability of both the state and local governments to be better prepared for disasters and improve review times for projects following storms. It will ensure that when the DHR is reviewing state and federal undertakings and permitting for impacts to historical resources, the division staff has the best information available to make a quick and accurate assessment on the impact to historical resources in disaster areas. It will also help to rule out projects that the division does not need to review, per the Division's Programmatic Agreement with FEMA and will further speed up response time.

Our office has recently extended our 2014 Programmatic Agreement with these FEMA and FDEM, and we have provided our comments for a new version of the agreement to FEMA, which we expect to be signed by all parties by the time the current agreement expires on September 30, 2023. In 2020, the DEO was added to the current Programmatic Agreement and the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) addendum to the agreement to expedite the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery projects.

Our office communicates daily with the DEO concerning disaster mitigation projects and expedites these projects in not more than 15 days, but usually less. We work with DEO staff and consultants to determine impacts to historical resources for projects that are listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, per Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Compliance Review staff provide technical assistance regarding proper treatment of damaged historic structures and archaeological sites from impacts due to hurricanes and other disasters.

Since 2019, the division reviewed over 4,000 projects related to Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Michael mitigation through our Compliance and Review process, to determine project impacts to historic resources.

Florida Master Site File staff shares information with FEMA, FDEM, DEO, and HUD on a regular basis to assist in identifying damaged properties or those at risk during response and recovery.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Department of State	2	2	2	6
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
John Boynton Department Operations Officer/ECO Department of State 850-245-6692 John.Boynton@dos.myflorida.com	Alissa Slade Lotane Director of Historical Resources Department of State 850-245-6357 Alissa.Lotane@dos.myflorida.com

Department of Transportation

FDOT provides a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhanced economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of our environment and communities.

The Office of Environmental Management, within the Engineering and Operations Office integrates environmental and stewardship principles into all Department plans and programs, and balances natural, human, cultural, and physical considerations with sound engineering principles, with the goal of preserving the quality of our environment and communities. This Office provides statewide technical expertise in all areas related to natural and community resource considerations in association with transportation actions in all phases of project development. These considerations include wildlife and habitat, wetlands and mitigation, historic, archeological, tribal, socio-cultural, and public involvement. Also, within the Engineering and Operations section is the Chief Engineer, who oversees the Office of Design, Office of Maintenance, Office of Construction, Office of Materials, Office of Right of Way, Traffic Engineering and Operations, the Program Management Office, and the Emergency Management Office.

The Office of Design develops policy, procedures, criteria, and standards for the design of roadways, bridges, and other structures. This includes drainage design procedures involving hydrology, hydraulics, pipe material selection, bridge scour, coastal engineering, stormwater management, and erosion and sediment control. The Office developed the Drainage Manual as guidance for communities that want their infrastructure to be built to the same standard as the Department's. These design policies and procedures include mitigation efforts.

The Office of Maintenance implements the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater program, which provides statewide oversight and coordination with FDOT Districts.

The Emergency Management Office coordinates and oversees disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for the Department. It also works closely with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and FEMA on the Department's federal reimbursement.

The Office of Policy Planning develops and coordinates implementation of the Florida Transportation Plan, a single overarching statewide plan guiding Florida's transportation future. The Florida Transportation Plan includes several goals, objectives, and strategies related to mitigation, and ensuring resilient transportation infrastructure is central to the plan.

Related Goals, Objectives, and Strategies from the FTP:**Goals**

- Safety and security for residents, visitors, and business
- Agile, resilient, and quality transportation infrastructure
- Transportation systems that enhance Florida's communities
- Transportation solutions that enhance Florida's environment

Objectives

- Eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries
- Reduce the number of crashes and other safety incidents on the transportation system

- Reduce the frequency and severity of transportation-related public health, safety, and security risks
- Improve emergency response and recovery times
- Increase the resilience of infrastructure
- Reduce transportation's impact on water, critical lands, and habitats
- Improve transportation system connectivity
- Increase the energy efficiency of transportation

Key Strategies

- Identify and mitigate risks to Florida's transportation system
- Strategically complete transportation systems and networks
- Integrate land use & transportation decisions
- Develop transportation systems to protect and enhance air quality, water quality and quantity, critical lands, and habitats

Florida will place a high priority on identifying risks to its transportation system and the customers that use it. Florida will incorporate these risks into planning and management decisions for all modes, including steps to:

- Identify vulnerabilities to hazards and implement actions to reduce or prepare the system to withstand these risks
- Improve the agility of the transportation system during emergencies and disruptions
- Expand asset management decisions to address the long-term costs of known vulnerabilities
- Adapt transportation design, construction, and maintenance techniques to reduce vulnerability and improve resilience of transportation infrastructure
- Identify and implement approaches for coordinating environmental management, land use, and urban design decisions
- Establish long-term approach to incentivize, where appropriate, the transition of infrastructure and development away from vulnerable areas
- Update emergency management plans covering preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation to reflect changing conditions

The Systems Implementation Office implements the Strategic Intermodal System, a network of high priority transportation facilities, through development of needs, cost feasibility, and Ten-Year Project Plans. The Research Center at FDOT conducts research regarding resilience and hazards. FDOT is a partner in the current LiDAR data acquisition project, along with the DEM and US Geological Survey.

2022 Update

The agency is continuing to implement the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and has published the Implementation Element, which includes implementation strategies and actions. The FTP includes considerations of hazards, vulnerability, risk assessments, mitigation, and resiliency. The FTP update process incorporated a wide range of stakeholders through its Resiliency Subcommittee. The FTP includes four elements: Vision Element, Policy Element, Implementation Element, and Performance Element.

The Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) is a statewide network of high-priority transportation facilities that represent the State's primary means for moving people and freight between Florida's regions, as well as between Florida and other states and nations. A core focus area of the SIS Policy Plan update includes identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities of the SIS network from risks such as extreme weather, sea level rise, coastal and inland flooding.

FDOT's Resilience Policy focuses on sea level rise, flooding, and storm events and identifies implementation strategies through planning, project development, design, construction, operations, and maintenance of transportation facilities. The Department is continuing to implement the Resilience Policy through updates to manuals and various business processes.

FDOT is also developing a Resilience Action Plan as required by S. 339.157, Florida Statutes. The plan is due to the Governor and Legislature by June 30, 2023, and will be updated every 3 years. The Resilience Action Plan will recommend strategies to enhance infrastructure and operational resilience, recommend design changes for existing and new facilities, and enhance partnerships to address multijurisdictional resilience needs.

The Resilience Action Plan will include several elements, including an evaluation of past events and our current policies, procedures, processes, and manuals; a vulnerability assessment of the State Highway System; alternatives to retrofit existing infrastructure and systems; a database of vulnerable assets; and enhanced partnerships and technical assistance to address multijurisdictional resilience needs.

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established the new Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program, which provides both formula and discretionary funding for resilience activities. The purpose of this program is to provide funds for resilience improvements; provide competitive grants to communities for vulnerability assessments; and provide competitive grants for resilience improvements to vulnerable transportation infrastructure. FDOT plans to enhance the Resilience Action Plan to meet the requirements of the optional Resilience Improvement Plan included in the PROTECT program to provide for an increased federal share of work funded under the PROTECT program. The Resilience Improvement Plan will be coordinated with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Several resiliency-related studies and research projects were completed during 2022, including an evaluation of Metropolitan Planning Organization planning for resiliency and data gaps, development of a resilience index framework, and development of policy and planning recommendations for addressing resilience of vulnerable populations. Several research projects are underway, including projects addressing resiliency of rigid and asphalt pavements to flooding and incorporating nonstationarity into FDOT planning and design guidelines and processes.

FDOT is continuing to develop and enhance tools and guidance to address sea level rise, flooding, and storm surge and enhance the resiliency of transportation infrastructure.

- FDOT has worked with the UF GeoPlan Center to create and enhance the Sea Level Scenario Sketch Planning Tool to identify impacts of sea level rise and storm surge to transportation infrastructure and to provide a tool for project-level evaluation of resilience data and issues

- The Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Resiliency Study has helped guide the development of the resilience focus area in the recently updated SIS Policy Plan
- The agency continues to modify design manuals, including the Drainage Manual and the Project Development & Environment Study Manual to incorporate resiliency considerations
- Projected sea levels and tides are analyzed in design of bridge replacement projects
- Corrosion free products such as stainless steel and Fiber reinforced polymers (FRP) are used in vulnerable areas to extend facility service life

The agency coordinates closely with various local, state, and federal agencies, including the state's Chief Resilience Officer, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Economic Opportunity, the Division of Emergency Management, and others.

FDOT is designing and building infrastructure to enhance readiness and respond to storm events through design and construction of a range of adaptation measures such as armoring projects, seawalls, articulating concrete blocks (ACBs), and rubble rip-rap which absorb wave forces, during hurricane events.

Storm Event Response and Recovery

A great deal of pre-storm preservation and preparation takes place in advance of a storm event. FDOT conducts pre-event staging for early response from neighboring Districts, lowers high-mast lights, secures maintenance yards and construction sites, and checks and clears drainage areas, inlets and other locations that historically flood. Additional activities include staging generators at rest areas, locking-down movable bridges, and wind speed monitoring.

Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU) was a key strategy first implemented during Hurricane Irma evacuations along the I-75 and I-4 corridors. ESU was also recently implemented on the I-4 corridor during Hurricane Ian during evacuations. The ESU strategy was developed to increase traffic capacity during major hurricane evacuations. ESU plans have been developed for key corridors (I-4, I-10, I-75, I-95, and Florida's Turnpike).

Pursuant to recent state legislation, Florida's Turnpike is incorporating staging areas along its facilities and service plazas for emergency response and recovery efforts.

Advanced procurement for traffic signal generators and repairs, sign and roadway lighting repairs, debris monitoring, and cut-and-toss operations help residents to return to their homes and businesses and allow for critical repairs to utilities, aiding a quicker and comprehensive community and economic recovery.

Project Examples: Living Shorelines

Innovative solutions are a high priority at the Department. We continue to identify solutions to adapt and enhance our infrastructure resilience. Several projects under development are focusing on a living shorelines approach, which is a sustainable and resilient solution.

NOAA defines Living Shorelines as a green infrastructure technique that uses native vegetation alone or in combination with low sills, or harder shoreline structures, to stabilize the shoreline. They provide a natural alternative to 'hard' shoreline stabilization methods, like rip rap or

bulkheads. They also provide benefits including nutrient pollution remediation, essential fish habitat structure, and buffering of shorelines from waves and storms.

Barracuda Bridge Replacement, New Smyrna Beach, FL: This project occurs within an Essential Fish Habitat. The Department coordinated with several federal, state, and local agencies to ensure there would be no adverse impacts to oysters. The Department made the commitment to relocate as many oysters as possible to a restored saltwater marsh that has been created near the project area by the Marine Discovery Center. The oysters that will be relocated from the project area will also help stabilize the tidal creeks within the restoration area.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Dept of Transportation	3	3	3	9
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Irene Cabral Emergency Coordination Officer Florida Department of Transportation 850-445-7111 Irene.Cabral@dot.state.fl.us	Brian Richardson EM Coordinator – Planning Florida Department of Transportation 850-544-8359 Brian.Richardson@dot.state.fl.us

Division of Emergency Management

The Mitigation Bureau within the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) is the lead agency for mitigation efforts in the state of Florida. 252.3655 Florida Statutes designates DEM as the coordinator of the Natural Hazards Interagency Working Group.

The Mitigation Bureau is responsible for developing, updating, maintaining, and implementing the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP). The SHMP is reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) every five years and is required to meet Standard criteria per CFR 44 Part 201.4 to be eligible to receive federal mitigation grant funding. The state of Florida has an Enhanced SHMP because the plan meets additional requirements, per CFR 44 Part 201.5, which authorizes Florida to receive additional funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This has resulted in nearly an additional \$298 million in mitigation funding since 2007. The Mitigation Bureau is also responsible for implementing the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) program. Each county is required to develop, maintain, update, and implement a county mitigation plan to be eligible for federal mitigation funds. These plans must include specific criteria according to 44 CFR Part 201 and Florida Administrative Code 27P-22. Florida has been authorized to review and approve LMS plans on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) behalf, under the Program Administration by States (PAS) program.

The Mitigation Bureau provides three mitigation grants from FEMA, HMGP, the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program, and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. HMGP is managed by the Bureau under the FEMA PAS program, which allows increased oversight over mitigation projects and shortens the standard 24-month grant obligation timeline. DEM also developed a first-of-its-kind agreement with FEMA to allow DEM employees to serve as non-federal representatives to conduct environmental and historic preservation (EHP) reviews at the federal level. This has also shortened the length of application reviews.

The Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund allocates funding for the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program, which is managed by the Bureau. The program conducts mitigation projects on mostly residential properties.

The State Floodplain Management Office is within the Mitigation Bureau and implements the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by ensuring communities adopt and adhere to various codes and ordinances through conducting Community Assistance Visits (CAVs).

The Technical Unit provides support to the four grant programs by reviewing local project applications before they are approved and funded, for criteria such as cost effectiveness, technical feasibility, and environmental and historical compliance.

DEM is also responsible for disaster and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery, which are managed by the Preparedness Bureau, Recovery Bureau, and Response Bureau, respectively.

2022 Update

The Mitigation Bureau made a push to focus on outreach and education in the various units throughout 2022. In addition to these efforts, many Mitigation employees helped in the response and recovery efforts for Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. On September 24, 2022, the Governor signed

EO-22-219 declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida for Tropical Depression Nine, later named Hurricane Ian. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activated to a Level 1 on September 25th, with full staffing from many of the participating Mitigate FL agencies. Hurricane Ian made landfall as a strong Category 4 storm on September 28th. Additionally, on November 7, 2022, the Governor signed EO-22-219 declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida for Subtropical Storm Nicole. Nicole made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane on November 10th. Following the immediate response efforts for both storms, discussions and efforts of recovery and mitigation began and at no time did the mitigation efforts of DEM stop altogether. These efforts will continue through the expected HMGP disaster funding in 2023 and collaborative resiliency efforts of various state agencies, led by Florida's Chief Resilience Officer.

The Planning Unit reviewed and approved over 33 county LMS plans in 2022, approving 66 out of 67 plans for the current LMS 5-year update cycle. The Planning Unit also instructed five G-393 courses across the state, presented at several LMS Working Group meetings, and coordinated projects for the Florida Silver Jackets program in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Planning Unit also continued to make progress on the 2023 SHMP 5-year update. To include stakeholders and solicit feedback, planners held a SHMP Planning Team Subcommittee meeting in June and held a series of in-person stakeholder workshops in September. Three workshops were held in Tallahassee, Orlando, and Palm Beach County, where the team gave a live demo of the working website and garnered feedback from the participants.

The Office of Floodplain Management completed several activities to assist local communities, including conducting 117 CAVs, approving 49 ordinances that were adopted by local communities, and completing a total of 3,275 requests for General Technical Assistance. Additionally, the Deputy State Floodplain Manager, Kristabel Moore, was elected to the Association of Floodplain Manager's Board of Directors as Vice Chair. On July 26, 2022, the OFM held a joint virtual course with FEMA Region IV titled "Substantial Damage and Post-Disaster Training for Floodplain Administrators" which garnered 265 attendees around the state. On November 16, 2022, floodplain staff hosted a virtual training on reviewing private appraisals for communities which were severely impacted by Hurricane Ian.

This year, the Mitigation Bureau closed 4 Non-Disaster mitigation projects, while working to fulfill FEMA requests for information (RFIs) for 11 FY 2021 FMA/BRIC projects selected for further review, including 2 projects selected for further review in the BRIC National Competition. In preparation for the FY 2022 FMA and BRIC application cycle, the Non-Disaster Unit held a Statewide Applicant Briefing and received and responded to 151 Notice of Interest forms, which assist potential applicants in determining eligibility of proposed projects ahead of submission to the state. Additionally, HMGP staff successfully continued efforts in reviewing and approving projects for Hurricanes Irma, Michael, and COVID-19, as well as managing projects and reimbursements for ongoing grants. The unit began staffing the Hurricane Ian Joint Field Office (JFO) on October 28th and will continue to prepare and provide technical assistance for the upcoming HMGP grant opportunities.

The Mitigation Bureau has made great strides in implementing the Watershed Planning Initiative. After the closure of the project proposal period in June, 38 projects were approved for funding for a total of \$9,009,190.13. The projects submitted represent 22 counties and 22 unique communities. As of December 1st, three projects have completed the review process and contracts have been fully executed to begin work.

Both the FL Peninsular Lidar Project and the Michael Supplemental Lidar Project have completed post-processing deliverables and all block/area deliverables have been accepted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Preliminary data deliverables are available for download from the USGS RockyWeb FTP site. The information to access these downloads is available on the Florida Geographic Information Officer (FGIO) [website](#). USGS is currently working through the final vertical accuracy quality control review for all block/area deliverables for both projects and should be completed by the end of the year. Final deliverables will be posted to the [USGS National Map](#) as they become available.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Division of Emergency Management	3	3	3	9
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FWC's mission is to manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people. With headquarters in Tallahassee and five regional offices across the state, FWC protects and manages more than 575 species of wildlife, more than 200 native species of freshwater fish, and more than 500 native species of saltwater fish. The FWC also balances the needs of these species with the needs of Florida residents and visitors who share the land and water with Florida's wildlife. In addition to the five regional offices, FWC also has 76 field offices and facilities. Furthermore, there are six divisions and nine offices within FWC. The divisions applicable to natural hazards and mitigation are the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Hunting and Game Management, Freshwater Fisheries Management, Law Enforcement, Habitat and Species Conservation, and Marine Fisheries Management.

2022 Update

The FWC has developed and implemented a State Wildlife Action Plan. Florida's Wildlife Action Plan is continuously updated and a comprehensive, statewide plan for conserving the state's wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations. It outlines native wildlife and habitats in need, why they are in need and, most importantly, conservation actions for protecting them. Florida's vast landscape, diverse climate, rising sea-level, endangered species, urban sprawl, and conservation management are topics that provide a comprehensive plan to mitigate risk and foster resiliency. The Action Plan is available on the FWC website at <https://myfwc.com/conservation/special-initiatives/swap/action-plan/>.

Manatee Unusual Mortality Event

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continue to investigate a high level of [manatee mortalities](#) and respond to manatee rescues along the Atlantic coast of Florida. Responding to live manatees in need of rescue is a top priority for wildlife agencies and partners from the Manatee Rehabilitation Partnership. FWC manatee biologists have been working hard to respond to public reports of distressed manatees and rescue manatees that need assistance ([preliminary rescue summaries](#)). The FWC takes manatee conservation seriously by actively implementing science-based conservation measures that are making a difference for manatees and habitat.

The Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events has confirmed these manatee mortalities have met the criteria to be an [Unusual Mortality Event](#) (UME) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has declared it an UME. Moving forward, the FWC will continue to coordinate closely with our federal partners, participate in the investigative team, and conduct analyses related to the cause of the UME. Working with these partners, FWC staff will explore both short- and long-term and small- and large-scale response options, including aquatic habitat restoration.

Environmental conditions in portions of the Indian River Lagoon remain a concern. Researchers have attributed this UME to starvation due to the lack of seagrasses in the Indian River Lagoon. In recent years, poor water quality in the Lagoon has led to harmful algal blooms and widespread seagrass loss.

As water temperatures warm, manatees naturally disperse from their winter habitats, traveling to other areas of the state and beyond. This dispersal should lead manatees to better habitats. The FWC will continue to closely monitor the situation and work with our partners.

Red Tide

The FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) is a national leader in red tide research and response. FWRI processes dozens of water samples every week and reports our findings to the public. FWC remains in constant contact with local governments, health officials, partner agencies and the public regarding this event.

The FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) maintains this hotline through a federally funded project to survey fish-related diseases and mortalities.

FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and Mote Marine Laboratory work together to monitor *Karenia brevis*. This cooperative effort is designed to help mitigate the adverse impacts of red tide. This joint research program that includes red tide monitoring, research and public outreach and education has resulted in better tools and ongoing monitoring for red tides along the Gulf Coast.

Mote Marine Laboratory's [Beach Conditions Report](#) provides up-to-date information about the effects of red tide on Florida Gulf Coast beaches, including reports of dead fish, respiratory irritation among beachgoers, water color, and wind direction. The site also provides information on red drift algae and rip currents.

FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) group closely monitors the status of *K. brevis* on Florida's coasts, providing technical support to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), the agency that regulates approved shellfish harvesting areas.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	2	2	2	6
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Rett Boyd Deputy Chief Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 850-617-9543 Rett.Boyd@myfwc.com	Roger Young Colonel Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 850-617-9490 Roger.Young@myfwc.com

Public Service Commission

The Florida Public Service Commission's (FPSC) mission is to facilitate the efficient provision of safe and reliable utility services at fair prices. FPSC achieves this through economic regulation, regulatory oversight, service regulation, and consumer assistance.

FPSC regulates the retail rates and service territories of investor-owned electric utilities, gas utilities, and water and wastewater utilities. The regulation of utilities is commonly referred to as rate base or rate-of-return regulation, which includes rate setting responsibility, earnings oversight, quality of service, and consumer complaints. A characteristic unique to Florida's water and wastewater industry is that counties have the option to elect to regulate the investor-owned water and wastewater companies in their county pursuant to Chapter 367, Florida Statutes, or transfer jurisdiction to the FPSC. Currently 38 of 67 counties cede regulatory authority to the FPSC.

For telecommunications companies, the Commission has jurisdiction over company-to-company matters, such as disputes over interconnection agreements, along with numbering issues such as determining the appropriate form of area code relief when telephone numbers exhaust within an area code. The Commission also provides oversight for the Lifeline program for low-income customers, established under the federal Universal Service Program, and Telephone Relay Services for the deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired. The FPSC has oversight over pay phone services as well.

FPSC's jurisdiction over municipal electric utilities and rural electric cooperatives is limited to rate structure, safety, and territorial boundaries. Rate structure refers to the classification system used in justifying differing rates between various customer classes. To assure an adequate and reliable supply of electricity in Florida, FPSC has jurisdiction over the generation and bulk transmission planning of all electric utilities. The Commission is responsible for reviewing electric utility Ten-Year Site Plans and determining the need for major new power plant and transmission line additions under the Florida Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Acts. Finally, FPSC also has authority to set conservation goals for Florida's investor-owned electric utilities, the two largest municipal electric utilities, and the largest investor-owned natural gas utility.

In addition to the activities described above, FPSC provides information to consumers regarding storm preparedness, such as hurricane survival kits, portable generator safety, and ways to prepare your home before a storm. In the event of a storm, links to current DEM information are highlighted on the FPSC website (www.floridapsc.com), as well as links to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Hurricane Center. All this information is distributed via the FPSC's Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/floridapsc>) at appropriate times throughout the year.

2022 Update

In support of sharing individual hurricane preparation activities among IOUs, Municipals, and Cooperatives, FPSC has held annual Hurricane Season Preparation Workshops since 2006. The workshops provide an opportunity for electric utilities to discuss their storm preparation and restoration processes, including the following FPSC-mandated initiatives:

- Facility inspections, maintenance, and repairs
- Vegetation management

- Flooding and storm surge mitigation
- Wooden pole inspections
- Coordination with other utilities, government, and community groups

The 2022 Hurricane Preparedness Workshop was held on May 17, 2022. Other topics of discussion at the Workshop included lessons learned from the previous hurricane season.

Following legislation passed in 2019, FPSC created rules requiring Florida’s investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to file 10-year Storm Protection Plans outlining initiatives to strengthen infrastructure to withstand extreme weather for FPSC approval. Florida’s IOUs already have storm hardening programs financed through utility base rates. The new rules establish a separate cost recovery mechanism for storm protection activities. On October 4, 2022, the Commission approved Storm Protection Plans for Florida’s IOUs.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Public Service Commission	2	2	2	6
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Robert Graves Bureau Chief Public Service Commission Phone 850.413.7009 RGraves@psc.state.fl.us	Peter Queirol Budget Analyst Public Service Commission Phone 850.413.6289 PQueirol@psc.state.fl.us

Water Management Districts**History of Water Management Districts in Florida**

Due to extreme drought and shifting public focus on resource protection and conservation, legislators passed four major laws in 1972: the Environmental Land and Water Management Act, the Comprehensive Planning Act, the Land Conservation Act, and the Water Resources Act. Collectively, these policy initiatives reflected the philosophy that land use, growth management and water management should be joined. Florida's institutional arrangement for water management is unique. The Florida Water Resources Act of 1972 (WRA) (Chapter 373, F.S.) granted Florida's five water management districts broad authority and responsibility. Two of the five districts existed prior to the passage of the WRA (South Florida and Southwest Florida), primarily as flood control agencies. Today, however, the responsibilities of all five districts encompass four broad categories: water supply (including water allocation and conservation), water quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural systems.

The five regional water management districts, established by the Legislature and recognized in the Florida Constitution, are set up largely on hydrologic boundaries. Water management districts are funded by ad valorem taxes normally reserved for local governments using taxing authority which emanates from a constitutional amendment passed by Floridians in 1976. The water management districts are governed regionally by boards appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. There is also general oversight at the state level by the Department of Environmental Protection.

In Florida, water is a resource of the state, owned by no one individual, with the use of water overseen by water management districts acting in the public interest. Florida law recognizes the importance of balancing human needs for water with those of Florida's natural systems.

Northwest Florida Water Management District

NWFWMD works to implement Chapter 373, F.S., with four areas of responsibility: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection and Floodplain Management, and Natural Systems Protection. There are three applicable divisions at NWFWMD: Regulatory Services, Resource Management, and Asset Management.

The Division of Regulatory Services implements regulatory programs to better protect and manage the region's water resources. This is achieved through permitting for water use, environmental resources, dam safety, well construction, agricultural surface water projects, and minor forestry works. Some of these permits are involved in mitigation projects. Environmental Resource Permitting helps reduce flooding risks associated with new development, and it protects wetlands and water quality.

The Division of Resource Management implements programs that span all the District's areas of responsibility. For example, this division develops minimum flows and minimum water levels to prevent harm to the water resources or the ecology of an area. The Surface Water Improvement and Management program provides the planning framework based on major riverine-estuarine watersheds for addressing watershed protection and restoration. This is achieved through implementing cooperative projects, such as wetland and aquatic habitat restoration and stormwater retrofits to improve water quality and flood protection. The District's springs program helps implement the state's priority for spring restoration and protection in northwest Florida through such projects as extension of central sewer service to connect areas served by septic systems, the agricultural cost-share program, and spring bank habitat restoration, which may also reduce flood risk. This program is conducted cooperatively with local governments and agricultural producers. Through the Precision Agriculture System and Solutions program, the District provides cost-share funding to help farmers implement best management practices that improve water use efficiency and reduce nutrient application in a manner that protects springs and other water resources.

The regional wetland mitigation program provides wetland mitigation services to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for transportation projects with unavoidable wetland impacts in areas not currently served by private mitigation banks. Some of the FDOT mitigation projects restore hydrology to restore connectivity of wetlands and floodplains, helping reduce flood risks within affected basins.

NWFWMD works closely with FEMA and affected communities to update floodplain maps, called Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), through FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program. This effort includes collaboration with state and local agencies to deliver detailed data to foster informed risk management decisions through the development of DFIRMs. The Risk MAP program and DFIRMs are a consistent approach to assess potential vulnerability and losses and helps to increase public awareness of and support for actions that reduce flood-related risks. Additionally, the District provides technical assistance to state agencies and local governments to help respond to waterbody impacts and flooding associated with major storms and natural disasters.

The Division of Asset Management is responsible for acquisition and management of water management lands and facilities. The District manages conservation lands to maintain and protect

vital water functions and natural systems, such as floodplains. The District’s protection of floodplains and other lands important for water resources help to maintain floodplain functions and natural hydrology and, in so doing, reduces risks to human communities associated with flooding.

2022 Update

NWFWMD continues work on a regional flooding evaluation within the areas affected by persistent flooding and impacted by recent tropical events (Hurricane Michael, Hurricane Sally, and Tropical Storm Fred). This work is focused primarily in Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, and Gulf counties. The District also continues to help local governments identify funding resources that will advance regional and local resilience to threats of coastal and inland flooding.

Ongoing Hurricane Michael recovery efforts associated with NWFWMD lands includes the removal of 1,107 acres of vegetative debris within the Econfina Creek, Chipola River and Apalachicola River WMA’s (Primary Impact Zones) as well as repair of 10 miles of District access roads. More than 1.5 million trees were planted (2,140 acres) on District lands for restoration and protection of vital water functions and natural systems.

Revised Preliminary FIRMs were issued for Bay County on April 5, 2022. Updated FIRMs became effective for portions of Liberty and Wakulla counties in the Lower Ochlocknee watershed on August 2, 2022.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Northwest Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Jerrick Saquibal Chief, Bureau of Resource Projects & Planning Northwest Florida WMD 850-539-2619 Jerrick.Saquibal@nfwwater.com	Paul Thorpe Deputy Director, Resource Management Northwest Florida WMD 850-539-2643 Paul.Thorpe@nfwwater.com

South Florida Water Management District

SFWMD is responsible for managing and protecting water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality, and natural systems.

SFWMD operates and maintains a regional water management system known as the Central and Southern Florida Project, which was authorized over seventy years ago to protect residents and businesses from floods and droughts by more effectively managing floodwaters during heavy rains.

Stormwater Treatment Areas are constructed wetlands that improve water quality, like reducing phosphorus levels in the Everglades. SFWMD conducts many ecosystem restoration projects to protect and preserve unique ecosystems, such as the Everglades, the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and coastal watersheds. These restoration projects are often implemented via federal partnerships with Foundation projects and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) with projects like the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and Indian River Lagoon South (IRL-S) projects and state initiatives such as the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), Restoration Strategies Program and Dispersed Water Management Projects.

To fulfill the need of long-term flood protection for basins throughout the 16-county region, a flood protection level of service (FPLOS) program has been established. This program identifies and prioritizes long-term infrastructure improvement needs. The program goals are to assess flood vulnerability (Phase 1 Study) and to develop a project implementation strategy (Phase II Study) to assure that each basin can maintain and improve its designated FPLOS in response to population growth, land development, sea level rise and changed climate conditions. SFWMD has developed a methodology and suite of modeling tools for evaluating structures and canals in priority basins, and a framework for establishing the level of service. The FPLOS is being implemented in a phased approach in an 8- to 10-year cycle. Each basin is being evaluated and actions taken as necessary to ensure that the level of service is maintained. In 2016, SFWMD completed Phase I of the FPLOS study (Flood Vulnerability Assessment) in the C-4 Basin in Miami-Dade County. In 2017 and 2018, Phase I and a pilot Phase II Study (Adaptation Planning) of the C-7 Basin and the Big Cypress Basin were completed. Additional FPLOS Phase I studies were completed in 2020 at the C-8 and C-9 Basins in Broward and Miami Dade Counties and in 2021 for all the remaining Broward County Basins.

SFWMD also evaluated the feasibility of improvements to the L-31E Levee System for a higher level of storm surge protection, a curtain wall in South Dade to reduce groundwater seepage to the east, and resiliency improvements to coastal structures for storm surge protection. SFWMD provides regulatory guidance to assist FDOT and communities through the permitting process for projects involving preventative and restoration measures to address the impacts from natural hazards. SFWMD issues Environmental Resource permits to applicants seeking to construct and operate a surface water management system. The permit authorizes activities that are not harmful to the water resources or inconsistent with public interest. Applicants must identify any activity that would affect wetlands, alter surface water flows, or contribute to water pollution.

The Land Mitigation Program involves the modification of a project to avoid or minimize wetland impacts and compensation for wetland impacts that are unavoidable. These acquired lands are

used to encourage establishment of private and public mitigation banks and off-site regional mitigation areas.

Finally, to continue mission critical functions, under current and future conditions, SFWMD is taking steps to ensure the water management system is more resilient considering climate change impacts, including sea level rise and extreme rainfall events, and has named its first SFWMD Resilience Officer in 2020. In coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection alongside local, state, and federal partners, the SFWMD is making investments to make its water management infrastructure resilient.

In the context of Chapter 380.093 F.S., which established the Resilient Florida / Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resiliency, the SFWMD developed its first Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan in 2021. The plan, updated annually, is the first SFWMD initiative to compile a comprehensive list of priority resiliency projects with the goal of reducing the risks of flooding, sea level rise, and other climate impacts on water resources and increasing community and ecosystem resiliency in South Florida. This goal will be achieved by updating and enhancing water management infrastructure and implementing effective, resilient, innovative, and integrated basin-wide solutions. This list of projects was compiled based upon the FPLOS assessments that have been ongoing for the past decade. These assessments utilize extensive data observations and robust technical hydrologic and hydraulic model simulations to characterize current and future conditions, and associated risks.

Section 380.093 (5) F.S. requires DEP to develop a Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan and submit to the Governor and Legislature for approval. As part of the Resilient Florida Program Implementation, the SFWMD submits the list of priority projects, supported by the SFWMD's Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan, to FDEP by September 1st, every year.

Water and Climate Resilience Metrics are being implemented to track and document trends in its relevant water and climate observed data. These efforts support the assessment of current and future climate condition scenarios, operational decisions, and SFWMD resiliency priorities. As part of these efforts, the SFWMD is collecting flood elevations and high-water marks, including high tide and extreme storm events, by deploying environmental conditions teams, and working with field station and regional representative staff, in support of modeling, planning, and mitigation efforts.

2022 Update

Current planning projects include:

- Flood Vulnerability Assessments: FPLOS Phase I Study for South Miami Dade was completed. FPLOS Studies for C-111 COASTAL C-111 SOUTH, C-111 AG, MODEL LAND, and L-31NS; and the C2, C3W, C5, C6, basins in Miami-Dade County are underway. In addition, FPLOS Phase I Study for Upper Kissimmee Basin and Palm Beach County were initiated in 2022.
- Adaptation Planning Efforts: FPLOS Phase II Study at C-8 and C-9 Basins in Broward and Miami Dade counties is underway. Phase II Study of the C7 Basin is planned for 2023.
- SFWMD completed the updates for the 2022 Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan to summarize priority infrastructure investments and support its applications submitted to

the Resilient Florida Grant Program in September 2022, along with other funding opportunities. SFWMD has incorporated valuable public comments received this year, and the priority projects identified in the plan were submitted to FDEP Resilient Florida Program on September 1.

- SFWMD executed a cost share agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to initiate the Central and South Florida Flood Resiliency Study to plan for flood mitigation/adaptation infrastructure investments needed for the Central and Southern Florida Project. The study is justified by the changed physical conditions already impacting the original project purposes, including land development, population increase, sea level rise and climate change. The study will assess which infrastructure is at the highest risk of impact from a changing climate and address flood vulnerabilities.
- High Water Mark – Environmental Conditions Team was deployed to document flood impacts from king tide and extreme events, including Pre-Tropical Storm Alex, Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole.

Current implementation projects include:

- Foundation Projects – C111 South Dade Hydrologic Improvements, Kissimmee River Restoration and floodplain improvement, and Tamiami Trail Next Steps - Bridge and Road Raising
- CERP – C43 Reservoir, Indian River Lagoon South, Picayune Strand Restoration, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, Broward County Water Preserve Areas, Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration, Western Everglades Restoration, Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration, and Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration projects
- CEPP – EAA Components: Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area and North New River and Miami Canal Conveyance Improvements
- CEPP – New Water Components: South Dade Curtain Wall
- CEPP – South Components: S-356 Pump Station Replacement, L-67A Culverts, L-67C Gaps, and L-67 Extension Backfill
- CEPP – North Components: L-4 Degrade, S-630 Pump Station, S-8 Pump Station Modifications, L-6 Diversion, L-5 Canal Improvements, and Miami Canal Backfill
- NEEPP – Lake Hicpochee Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) Expansion, C43 Water Quality, BOMA FEB, Lower Kissimmee Basin STA and Dispersed Water Storage Projects
- Restoration Strategies Projects – STA-1W Expansion #2, C139 FEB, and G341 Conveyance Improvements
- C139 Annex Wetland Restoration, STA-2 Refurbishments, and 8.5 Square Mile Area Curtain Wall
- Big Cypress Basin Canal Enhancements and S-27 & S-29 Coastal Structure Hardening and Forward Pump Stations

- Managing, refurbishing, and replacing water control structures that provide flood control during the wet season and water supply during the dry season in the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control System and Big Cypress Basin
- Vegetation and tree removal projects along canal rights of way to prevent future impacts to flooding and to maintain and further comply with federal standards. Planned tree removal projects for this year include L-28I, L-14, L-28, C-31, C-35, L-61, L-8, G-56, G-54, S-36, S-37A, G-57, C-51, C-11, C-8, C-7, C-102N, C-103S, C-102, Golden Gate Canal, Orange River, Daughtry Creek, Bedman Creek, Kehl Canal, Lightner Creek, Hickey Creek, Cypress Creek, Imperial River, L-28, Old Ingraham Highway, C-40 and C-38.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
South Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaisons	
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Southwest Florida Water Management District

SWFWMD mission is to protect water resources, minimize flood risks, and ensure the public's water needs are met. This is achieved by focusing on the four core mission areas: water supply, water quality, natural systems protection, and flood protection.

The Environmental Resource Permitting Program, per § 373.403 – 373.468, Fla. Stat. (2020), is responsible for permitting construction and operation of surface water management systems. This permitting effort mitigates risks associated with stormwater runoff, flash floods, inland flooding, and coastal flooding. Additionally, SWFWMD administers a Water Use Permitting Program, per § 373.403 – 373.468, Fla. Stat. (2020), which regulates the consumptive use of water for public supply, agriculture, commercial, industrial, and recreational uses. This permitting effort mitigates risks associated with drought. Similarly, SWFWMD administers a Water Shortage Plan, per § 373.246, Fla. Stat. (2020), which protects waters of the District from serious harm, prevents undue hardship, and ensures equitable distribution of available water resources during times of shortages. This plan contributes to mitigation of risks from drought.

The District has adopted a process to create and maintain an Asset Management Program consisting of four main components: Capital Improvements and Planning (CIP), Maintenance Management, Life Cycle Management, and Breakdown & Repair Management for its flood control structures. This strategy will mitigate flood risks associated with these facilities and ensure they continue to function and protect life and property, as designed. SWFWMD has four dam facilities classified by the Florida Dam Safety Program of the DEP as High-Hazard Potential Dams. As a result, the District has and maintains Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) to mitigate flood risk associated with these facilities. SWFWMD maintains all its dams, levees, and canals to state and federal standards to mitigate flood risks associated with these facilities and ensures they continue to function to protect life and property, as designed. The District's four High-Hazard Potential Dams are the Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area/Tampa Bypass Canal, Medard Reservoir, Inglis Main Dam and Bypass Spillway, and G-90.

SWFWMD, along with the US Army Corps of Engineers, continues to evaluate, and maintain water control manuals for 13 flood control structures. Additionally, the District has 7 Operational Guidelines for 28 water conservation structures. These documents provide general guidelines for the routine operation of the structures to ensure the environmental health, recreational and aesthetic value of the lakes, and response to specific weather events or conditions. Operational guidelines are updated every 10 years and include input from the public and other agencies and municipalities.

SWFWMD has a proactive prescribed burning program that applies fire to over 30,000 acres of conservation land annually. This land management approach is an efficient and effective way to maintain and restore natural systems, but also contributes significantly to the mitigation of wildfire risks.

The District takes a watershed approach to managing water and related resources through the Watershed Management Program. The program evaluates the capacity of the watershed to protect, enhance, and restore water quality and natural systems, while also achieving flood protection. The Cooperative Funding Initiative program works with local governments to

implement flood protection and water quality projects to reduce the risk of flooding and improve water quality.

SWFWMD partners with FEMA to provide information to update federal floodplain maps through the RiskMAP program.

The Minimum Flows and Levels program establishes minimum flows and levels to prevent damage to water resources, including effects of saltwater intrusion. SWFWMD has a minimum aquifer level in the most impacted area, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota counties, of the Southern Water Use Caution Area specifically to slow down the rate of saltwater intrusion that has been observed in this region.

The Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program focuses on water quality and natural systems restoration projects. Many SWIM projects restore natural shorelines, such as Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration Project, which restored more than sixteen miles of Tampa Bay Shoreline along with creating artificial reefs, intertidal marshes and tidal channels and lagoons. These coastal restoration projects contribute to mitigating risks associated with sea level change, high tides, storm surge, and flooding.

2022 Update

Nine Watershed Management Plans (WMP) are completed and have been taken to the SWFWMD Governing Board for approval. Those watersheds include Pearce Drain and Bowlees Creek in Manatee County, the Plant City, Upper Hillsborough River/Tampa Bypass Canal, East Lake, Silver/Twin Lake and Pemberton/Baker Canal in Hillsborough County, Nichols Pond in Sumter County, and Haines City in Polk County.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Southwest Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Tim Fallon Hydrogeologist & ECO Southwest Florida WMD 813-343-1836 Tim.Fallon@swfwmd.state.fl.us	Jerry Mallams Operations Bureau Chief & Emergency Manager Southwest Florida WMD 727-457-1628 Jerry.Mallams@swfwmd.state.fl.us

St. Johns River Water Management District

The mission of SJRWMD is to protect natural resources and support Florida's growth by ensuring sustainable use of Florida's water for the benefit of the people of the District and the State. To meet that mission statement, the District's work is focused on four core missions: water quality, water supply, flood protection, and natural systems protection. In addition, the also district implements core business process to support its core missions, programs, and regional priorities.

Water Quality: The district works to address water quality issues through a variety of activities, including cost-share projects with local governments, aquatic systems restoration and protection projects; permitting; land acquisition and management activities. Strategies to protect and restore water quality include a commitment to comprehensive monitoring to guide impairment determinations, manage restoration projects and evaluate effectiveness. These efforts are closely coordinated with many partners, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's total maximum daily load (TMDL) and basin management action plan (BMAP) programs.

Water Supply: The district works with the state's other water management districts, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, local governments and stakeholders to address water supply on a regional basis. Using detailed hydrologic data, the district sets minimum flows and levels for rivers, lakes and springs to ensure that water use does not cause significant harm to these important resources. The district and partners investigate, develop and implement supplemental (alternative) water supply projects. The district's planning process is ongoing, and plans are continually updated to reflect current and projected conditions, such as changes in anticipated population growth or decline that may result in changes to how much water a region will need and where the water may come from to meet those needs. Water conservation is a key component of ensuring an adequate water supply.

Flood Protection: The district employs both structural and non-structural techniques to provide flood protection. Structural flood protection includes constructed levees, water control structures and pump stations to physically hold back potential floodwaters from downstream areas and control the water levels in the areas behind these structures. A key element in the district's structural flood protection is our role as local sponsor of two federal flood control projects: The Upper St. Johns River Basin Project and the Ocklawaha River Basin portion of the Four River Basins, Florida Project. Non-structural flood protection is achieved through management of water control structures to ensure compliance with regulation schedules and to minimize upstream and downstream flooding, implementation of stormwater management rules, purchase and conservation of floodplain wetlands to provide floodwater storage, and the collection and dissemination of hydrologic data to guide flood preparedness and responses.

Natural Systems: The district's stewardship of natural systems is divided between lands it has acquired as well as the natural lands and waters within its boundaries. Most of the natural systems benefits to the lands not owned by the district come from effective permitting, water quality improvement projects, minimum flows and levels and cost-share projects. The district is the lead manager of more than 425,000 acres of public land it has purchased, while it manages another 335,000 acres through a variety of partnerships with numerous agencies and local governments. Important activities include hydrologic restoration of altered drainage, invasive species management, use of prescribed fire for restoration and wildfire prevention, and providing resource-based recreation opportunities.

The SJRWMD Division of Regulatory Services works to protect and manage water resources by permitting in a manner that will prevent adverse flooding, manage surface water, and protect water quality, wetlands, and other surface waters. SJRWMD partners with FDOT to develop the annual FDOT Mitigation Plan, pursuant to F.S. 373.4137(4), for wetland impacts associated with FDOT roadway projects.

The Office of Real Estate Services acquires lands for flood control, water quality protection, and natural resource conservation. Similarly, the Bureau of Land Resources provides oversight for many district lands for water resource protection. Important activities include hydrologic restoration of altered drainage, protection of floodplains, and the use of prescribed fire for restoration and wildfire prevention.

The Division of Projects has oversight for district-led and partnership projects that help to meet the core missions. For example, the Division is responsible for operating and maintaining nearly 100 major and minor flood control structures, 15 weirs, three navigational locks, approximately 300 miles of levees, and 12 pump stations. The Division is also responsible for the construction of projects aimed at protecting water supplies, improving water quality, and restoring natural systems, as well as providing flood protection through practices such as improved stormwater drainage or storage.

2022 Update

Land Management: Mitigation of wildfire risk through 28 prescribed burns totaling approximately 12,000 acres on 14 conservation areas.

Flood Protection Partnerships: Flood protection is one of the District's four core missions and the District has assisted local governments with cost-share funding towards the construction of beneficial flood protection projects. In fiscal year 2021-2022, the District awarded \$1 million in funding for three projects; partnering with Brevard, Flagler, and Marion counties to improve stormwater retention and flood protection in their communities. These projects included stormwater control structures, increased stormwater treatment capacity, and stormwater outfall improvements.

Flood control structure improvements: Rehabilitated the deteriorated concrete, steel wingwalls and roller gates at S-96, replaced the hydraulic hoists at S-96 and S-157 with a more reliable drum and cable lift system, replaced the hydraulic hoist at Moss Bluff with a more reliable drum and cable system, refurbished the gates at the Harris Bayou water control structure (Lake Harris Conservation Area), upgraded the gate position indicators at all major water control structures, slip lined deteriorated culverts at CS-1 (Fellsmere Grade), graded and stabilized several miles of L-512, L-75 and L-78 levee slopes, refurbished airboat cross-over at L-74W and S-96B Tieback, removed several miles of woody vegetation on multiple federal levees, completed minor repairs to several minor water control structures in the Upper Basin and replaced a wooden bridge in the Lake Norris Conservation Area and two wooden bridges in the Pellicer Creek Conservation Area with aluminum box culverts..

Water supply planning: Water supply is one of the District's four core missions. As part of the District's work to ensure adequate and sustainable water supplies are available to meet future needs while protecting the environment, the District prepares regional water supply plans (RWSPs). RWSPs include assessments of waterbodies with minimum flows and minimum levels

(MFLs), wetlands, and saltwater intrusion and methods to mitigate impacts. The District completed the Central Springs/East Coast RWSP in February 2022. In addition, the District, in partnership with others, continues to work on the development of the 2022 North Florida RWSP and the 2025 Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) RWSP.

Resilience: The District continues to emphasize and support resiliency efforts that incorporate multiple core missions, especially flood protection and water supply. In 2022, the District named its first ever Chief Resilience Officer to develop resilience goals across the District.

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
St. Johns River Water Management District	3	3	3	9
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Dave Dickens Office of Transportation, Facilities, and Safety Services Director – ECO St. Johns River WMD 386-643-1914 DDickens@sjrwmd.com	Brian Emanuel Bureau of Land Resources Chief – Alt. ECO St. Johns River WMD 386-329-4377 BEmanuel@sjrwmd.com

Suwannee River Water Management District

SRWMD manages water and related natural resources in North Central Florida, as set forth in Section 373, F.S., with four core missions: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection, and Natural Systems. These missions are the responsibilities of the District's Outreach and Operations Division, Resource Management Division and Water Resources Division.

The Outreach and Operations Division includes the Office of Land Management. Staff in this office follow an approved land management plan where District lands are managed under a multiple-use policy that emphasizes water resource protection, maintenance and restoration of the land's natural state and condition, and provisions for public access and recreation.

The Business and Community Services Division includes the Office of Engineering/ERP and Environmental Compliance. Staff in this office protect and manage water resources through permitting in a manner that will prevent adverse flooding, manage surface water runoff, and protect water quality, wetlands, and other surface waters. Staff in this office also partner with FDOT and communities to develop annual FDOT Mitigation plans for wetland impacts associated with FDOT roadway projects, pursuant to subsection 373.4137(4), F.S., and additionally partners with FDOT to implement the ETAT program.

The Water Resources Division includes the Office of Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels, the Office of Water Supply, and the Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects. Staff in the Office of Minimum Flows and Minimum levels ensure water availability and prevent significant harm to the area's natural resources by setting Minimum Water Levels. Staff in the Office of Water Supply prepare water use estimates, project future water demands, and prepare water use assessments and plans. Staff in the Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects have oversight for projects, whether District-led or through partnerships, that help protect water supplies, improve water quality, and restore natural systems, as well as providing flood protection through practices such as improved stormwater drainage or storage.

2022 Update

District staff have been working diligently to complete projects this year, including two land acquisition projects, two sediment reduction projects, one feasibility study for alternative water supply project, and one alternative water supply construction project. Work continues on two septic-to-sewer projects, three water conservation projects, one land acquisition project; and three flood protection/stormwater treatment projects. In addition, individual contracts under the agricultural programs continue to support reductions in nutrients and groundwater pumping.

As a FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP), the District has been actively implementing the Risk MAP program through mapping and outreach activities and attending FEMA meetings such as the Partners in Emergency Management conference, the CTP Community of Practice bi-annual meeting, the CTP Virtual Roundtable meeting, and the Florida-FEMA Mitigation Program Consultation.

District staff has also attended meetings such as Mitigate Florida, Silver Jackets, Florida Interagency Review Team, Resilient Florida, Florida Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting, Inter-District meetings for conservation and reuse and the Statewide Watershed Master

Plan Initiative Meeting during the past year. Other meetings and conferences SRWMD staff hosted or attended include:

- Upper and Lower Suwannee FEMA Flood Map revision Kick-off Meetings (2), December 2021
- Florida Silver Jackets Coastal Resilience Workshop, April 2022
- Florida NRCS Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program Meeting, April 2022
- Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference, May 2022
- Aucilla Watershed FEMA Flood map revision Flood Risk Review Meeting, July 2022
- Econfina -Steinhatchee watershed FEMA Flood Map revisions Discovery Meeting, July 2022

Below are the natural hazards projects that were completed during the year:

Project Name	Mission	Hazard Mitigation Risk
Telford Springs	Natural Systems	Water Resources
Mill Creek Sink	Flood Protection and Water Quality	Stormwater Runoff Inland Flooding
Ruth Springs	Water Quality	Water Resources
Lake Frances Sediment Control	Water Quality	Water Resources
Bee Haven Bay WRD	Water Supply	Drought

SRWMD staff continue to provide project management services for active FEMA grants, which are in various stages of completion (see map below).

Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described in the beginning of this section on page 8.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Mitigation Score
Suwannee River Water Management District	3	3	3	9
Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional				

Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Leroy Marshall, P.E., PMP, CFM Chief Professional Engineer Suwannee River WMD 386-647-3124 Leroy.Marshall@srwmd.org	Tim Alexander Deputy Executive Director Suwannee River WMD 386-647-3127 Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org

CONCLUSION

In 2023, DEM will host four meetings in accordance with 252.3655, Florida Statutes and the workgroup coordinator will focus on increasing and maintaining attendance rates of the statutorily required state agencies, as well as other partners. DEM and other state agencies will continue ongoing mitigation efforts listed earlier in this report, including updating the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with 44 CFR Part 201.5.