

1 CHAPTER 62S-8  
2 STATEWIDE FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCE PLAN

3 62S-8.001 Purpose.

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5 62S-8.003 Project Scoring Criteria.

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7 **62S-8.001 Purpose.**

8 The purpose of Chapter 62S-8, F.A.C., is to establish project scoring criteria that, pursuant to Section 380.093, F.S., shall be  
9 used in the Department’s evaluation and ranking of implementation project grant proposals submitted for inclusion in the  
10 Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan.

11  
12 Rulemaking Authority 380.093, FS. Law Implemented 380.093 FS. History- New - -2022

13  
14 **62S-8.002 Definitions.**

15 (1) “Adaptation plan” means a plan that develops goals, priorities, strategies, and actions to best minimize impacts of  
16 flooding, sea level rise, or other threats and vulnerabilities, as applicable, and establishes a process to implement those actions.

17 (2) “Compound flooding” is flooding caused by complex interactions between two or more oceanographic, hydrological,  
18 or meteorological processes such as the combination of pluvial (rainfall-induced flooding, such as flash, surface water, drain,  
19 and sewer floods), fluvial (riverine floods), coastal (sea level rise, tides, waves, storm surge, and nuisance floods), or  
20 groundwater flooding.

21 (3) “Comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise assessment” is an assessment to be completed by  
22 July 1, 2023, that identifies inland and coastal infrastructure, geographic areas, and communities in Florida that are vulnerable  
23 to flooding and sea level rise and the associated risks.

24 (4) “Comprehensive vulnerability assessment” is an evaluation that identifies risks to a community, including flooding  
25 and sea level rise, as applicable; meets all the required statutory elements for vulnerability assessments listed in paragraphs  
26 380.093(3)(c) through (d), F.S.; and includes, but is not limited to, any supplemental plans, assessments, documents, reports,  
27 strategies, maps, or electronic databases that identify or address risks of flooding and sea level rise to critical or regionally  
28 significant assets.

29 (5) “Critical asset class” means the distinct groupings of critical assets as defined in subparagraphs 380.093(2)(a)1.  
30 through 4., F.S.

31 (6) “Department” means the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

32 (7) “Eligible entity” means those entities specifically identified in paragraph 380.093(5)(d), F.S., as eligible to submit  
33 proposed projects for inclusion in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan.

34 (8) “Financially disadvantaged small community” is as defined in paragraph 380.093(5)(e), F.S.

35 (9) “Flooding” means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally  
36 dry land area or of two or more real properties or parcels containing a majority of normally dry land.

37 (10) “Natural system restoration” is a process that creates, improves, or restores ecological functions in the environment.

38 (11) “Nature-based solutions” are actions to protect, restore, and sustainably manage ecosystems, as well as solutions that  
39 address socio-environmental challenges using natural resources and processes.

40 (12) “Partial design” means a preliminary design that is between 30 to 90 percent complete and prepared by a qualified  
41 professional in the relevant field, which provides enough information and design criteria to make informed decisions, such as  
42 identifying impacts, benefits, costs, and other challenges with project implementation.

43 (13) “Project impact area” means the discrete area the project encompasses as well as the delineated area that will be  
44 directly benefitted by a mitigation project (such as a watershed or hydrologic basin for flood mitigation projects, a service or  
45 sub-service area for a utility, a neighborhood, a natural area, or a shoreline).

46  
47 Rulemaking Authority 380.093, FS. Law Implemented 380.093 FS. History- New - -2022

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49 **62S-8.003 Project Scoring Criteria.**

50 (1) All projects eligible for inclusion in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan by meeting the  
51 requirements in subsection 380.093(3), F.S., will be reviewed by the Department. Each eligible project will be allocated points  
52 based on the tiered structure outlined in this rule and consistent with paragraph 380.093(5)(h), F.S. Total points awarded will  
53 determine the project rank. If an applicant fails to demonstrate it meets a specific scoring criteria by failing to satisfy all relevant  
54 requirements for that criteria set for in this rule, that criteria will receive a score of zero.

55 (2) The maximum number of points that may be awarded for Tier 1 criteria is 40 points.

56 (a) Up to 10 points will be awarded for the degree to which the project addresses the risks posed by flooding and sea level  
57 rise. These points will be allocated in the following manner:

58 1. Five points will be awarded if the project addresses risks posed by flooding or sea level rise to critical assets either  
59 specifically identified in an existing comprehensive vulnerability assessment that shall be submitted to the Department with the  
60 proposal, or in the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise assessment, once available, which the  
61 Department is required to develop under paragraph 380.093(4)(b), F.S.; and

62 2. Five points will be awarded if the project addresses risks posed by compound flooding, as identified in a comprehensive  
63 vulnerability assessment that shall be submitted to the Department with the proposal, to critical assets specifically identified  
64 either in a comprehensive vulnerability assessment or the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise  
65 assessment, once completed.

66 (b) Ten points will be awarded if the project reduces one or more risks to a regionally significant asset, as defined in  
67 paragraph 380.093(2)(d), F.S., or if the project adapts a regionally significant asset, as defined in paragraph 380.093(2)(d), F.S.,  
68 to help avoid such risk. For the purpose of this paragraph, adaptation of a regionally significant asset to avoid risk may include  
69 relocation.

70 (c) Up to 10 points will be awarded for reducing risk located in areas with a higher percentage of critical assets considered  
71 to be vulnerable, as described by this paragraph. Points will be allocated in the following manner:

72 1. Up to six points will be awarded for projects adapting to the anticipated flooding of critical assets in the project impact  
73 area, as identified in any applicable scenario outlined in paragraph 380.093(3)(d), F.S., as having medium or high vulnerability  
74 in the exposure analysis of a comprehensive vulnerability assessment, which shall be submitted to the Department with the  
75 proposal. Higher frequency storm events analyzed that are beyond the requirements of paragraph 380.093(3)(d), F.S., shall not  
76 be used to establish the percentages in these criteria.

77 a. For projects adapting flooding of critical assets identified in a comprehensive vulnerability assessment, points will be  
78 allocated in the following manner:

79 (I) Zero points will be awarded if no critical assets within the project impact area are identified as medium or high  
80 vulnerability;

81 (II) Two points will be awarded if at least one critical asset but less than twenty-five percent (25%) of total critical assets  
82 within the project impact area are identified as medium or high vulnerability;

83 (III) Four points will be awarded if twenty-five percent (25%) or more, but less than fifty percent (50%), of total critical  
84 assets within the project impact area are identified as medium or high vulnerability; or

85 (IV) Six points will be awarded if fifty percent (50%) or more of total critical assets within the project impact area are  
86 identified as medium or high vulnerability.

87 b. Prior to August 31, 2024, in lieu of the requirements of sub-subparagraph (c)1.a. above, applicants without a  
88 comprehensive vulnerability assessment shall receive points based on critical assets in the project impact area at risk of flooding  
89 based on an assessment, report, evaluation, or other documentation of risk that addresses flooding or sea level rise in the project  
90 impact area. The documentation used to support this criterion shall be submitted with the proposal. Points will be allocated in  
91 the following manner:

92 (I) Zero points will be awarded if no critical assets within the project impact area are at risk of flooding based on best  
93 available data;

94 (II) Two points will be awarded if at least one critical asset but less than twenty-five percent (25%) of total critical assets  
95 within the project impact area are at risk of flooding based on best available data;

96 (III) Four points will be awarded if twenty-five percent (25%) or more, but less than fifty percent (50%), of total critical  
97 assets within the project impact area are at risk of flooding based on best available data; or

98 (IV) Six points will be awarded if fifty percent (50%) or more of total critical assets within the project impact area are at  
99 risk of flooding based on best available data.

100 2. A maximum of four points will be awarded for the total number of critical assets served by the project as demonstrated  
101 by the proposal. For the purpose of this paragraph, a critical asset is “served” when a project eliminates or alleviates a current  
102 or future risk of adverse impacts from flooding or erosion as demonstrated by a comprehensive vulnerability assessment, if  
103 available, or the proposal.

104 a. One points will be awarded if one critical asset is served;

105 b. Two points will be awarded if two critical assets are served; or

106 c. Four points will be awarded if three or more critical assets are served.

107 (d) Up to 10 points will be awarded for contributing to existing flood mitigation projects that reduce upland flood damage  
108 costs in one of the ways identified below. Points will be allocated in the following manner:

109 1. Six points will be awarded if the project contributes by incorporating new or enhanced structures;

110 2. Six points will be awarded if the project contributes by incorporating natural system restoration and revegetation; or

111 3. 10 points will be awarded if the project contributes by incorporating both new or enhanced structures and natural system  
112 restoration or revegetation.

113 (3) The maximum number of points that may be awarded for Tier 2 criteria is 30 points.

114 (a) Up to 7.5 points will be awarded based on the degree to which flooding and erosion currently affect the condition of  
115 the project impact area. Justification for methods used to estimate or determine extent and frequency of flooding or erosion  
116 must be provided. Points will be allocated in the following manner:

117 1. Up to 3.75 points will be awarded based on the current frequency of flooding or erosion in the project impact area. Points  
118 will be allocated in the following manner:

119 a. Zero points will be awarded if the proposal does not demonstrate the current frequency of flooding or erosion in the  
120 project impact area;

121 b. Two points will be awarded if the proposal describes how the project impact area has experienced flooding or erosion  
122 in the last three years; or

123 c. A total of 3.75 points will be awarded if the applicant provides documentation to the Department showing the project  
124 impact area has been flooded more than three times within the last five years or is experiencing ongoing erosion. Documentation  
125 may include, but is not limited to, reports of flooding or erosion recorded by the jurisdiction(s) in which the project impact area  
126 is located, local news reports or source(s), documentation by a local official such as recorded high-water marks or inspection  
127 results, or any other similar document or report.

128 2. Up to 3.75 points will be awarded based on the severity of flooding or erosion in the project impact area. Points will be  
129 allocated in the following manner:

130 a. Zero points will be awarded if the proposal does not demonstrate the current extent of flooding or erosion in the project  
131 impact area;

132 b. Two points will be awarded if the proposal describes how the project impact area experienced flooding estimated greater  
133 than 3 inches in the last three years or has ever experienced unmitigated erosion; or

134 c. A total of 3.75 points will be awarded if the applicant provides documentation to the Department showing the project  
135 impact area has been flooded to an estimated depth greater than one foot within the last five years, has been estimated to be  
136 inundated more than three inches but less than one foot at least one time in the current and in each of the most recent three  
137 calendar years, has had at least one instance of sustained flooding for a duration of- seven or more consecutive days, or is  
138 experiencing erosion that the applicant demonstrates is critical erosion for the critical asset class. Documentation may include,  
139 but is not limited to, reports of flooding or erosion recorded by the jurisdiction(s) in which the project impact area is located,  
140 local news reports or source(s), documentation by a local official such as recorded high-water marks or inspection results, or  
141 any other similar document or report.

142 (b) Up to 7.5 points will be awarded for readiness of the project to proceed in a timely manner, as defined by subparagraphs  
143 62S-8,003(3)(b)1. through 3., F.A.C., below.

144 1. Up to 3.75 points will be awarded based on the status of project design. Points will be allocated in the following manner:

145 a. Zero points will be awarded if no design documentation is provided;

146 b. One point will be awarded if a partial design or other site-specific environmental or geotechnical report that demonstrates  
147 the furtherance of a readiness to proceed is submitted; or

148 c. 3.75 points will be awarded if drawings or plans that are properly certified (e.g., engineer's certification, signed and  
149 sealed by registered professional, etc.) by a professional in the relevant field are submitted.

150 2. Up to 2.75 points will be awarded based on the project's permitting status and the status of any needed easements. Points  
151 will be allocated in the following manner:

152 a. One point will be awarded for providing a list of all permits and easements necessary for completion of the project, if  
153 applicable;

154 b. A total of 1.5 points will be awarded if proof of application for necessary permits or approval from at least one authority  
155 having legal jurisdiction over such permitting is submitted with the proposed project; or

156 c. A total of 2.75 points will be awarded if all necessary permit(s) and easement(s) have been authorized or obtained or if  
157 permitting or easement(s) are not required.

158 3. One point will be awarded if local funding sources are committed as cost share, as demonstrated by relevant  
159 documentation including, but not limited to, an approved and adopted capital improvement plan, a signed letter from the Chief  
160 Executive Officer (or equivalent) of the eligible entity, a draft resolution or agenda item to be presented to the governing board  
161 committing funding to the project if selected, or any other comparable document showing availability of funds. One point will  
162 be awarded to financially disadvantaged small communities.

163 (c) Up to 7.5 points will be awarded for environmental habitat enhancement or nature-based solutions for resilience.

164 1. A total of 3.75 points will be awarded if the project enhances environmental habitat or includes nature-based solutions;  
165 and

166 2. A total of 3.75 points will be awarded if the project impact area extends into an area that is identified as a state or federal  
167 critical habitat for threatened or endangered species at the time the applicant submits its proposal to the Department.

168 (d) A total of 7.5 points will be awarded if a statement is provided to the Department with the proposal that demonstrates  
169 the project is cost-effective. The basis for cost effectiveness shall be provided by the applicant. A statement demonstrating cost-  
170 effectiveness provided for this criterion must address one or more of the following:

171 1. A comparison of contingencies and the estimated total project cost;  
172 2. Costs of alternative approaches or explanation of why there are no feasible alternative approaches;  
173 3. Avoided economic loss due to failure or inability to operate due to flooding or sea level rise, the project costs compared  
174 to costs to repair damage from flooding or erosion, or other reasonably foreseeable losses using industry standard economic  
175 models; and  
176 4. Future costs and benefits calculated using the relevant discount rate, net present value, or other metrics measuring future  
177 costs and benefits to support the proposal.  
178 (4) The maximum number of points that may be awarded for Tier 3 criteria is 20 points.  
179 (a) Up to 6.5 points will be awarded for available local, state, or federal cost share. Points will be allocated in the following  
180 manner:  
181 1. Zero points will be awarded if the proposal does not demonstrate that a source for the required 50% cost share; has been  
182 specifically identified unless the community is a financially disadvantaged small community; or  
183 2. A total of 3.25 points will be awarded if the project proposal includes specifically identified local, state, or federal cost  
184 share, but the funds have not been appropriated or released at the time the applicant submits its proposal to the Department; or  
185 3. A total of 6.5 points will be awarded if the project proposal provides documentation that 50% cost share is available or  
186 if the community is a financially disadvantaged small community. Available cost share can be demonstrated by providing an  
187 approved and adopted capital improvement plan, a letter from the Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent) of the eligible entity  
188 committing funding, a resolution from the governing board committing funding to the project if selected, or any other  
189 comparable document showing availability of funds.  
190 (b) A total of 6.5 points will be awarded if verification of state funding previously awarded to the project is provided to  
191 the Department with the proposal. Verification must include previously funded phases, amount of prior state funding, and  
192 previous partial appropriations, and must be submitted in a format that is verifiable by the participating agency. Points will be  
193 allocated in the following manner:  
194 1. One point will be awarded if the applicant provides verification of previous state funding awarded for preconstruction  
195 activities, as defined in paragraph 380.093(2)(c), F.S., except for those preconstruction activities involving the design of or  
196 permitting for the project;  
197 2. 1.5 points will be awarded if the applicant provides verification of previous state funding awarded for design of the  
198 project;

199 3. 1.5 points will be awarded if the applicant provides verification of previous state funding awarded for permitting for the  
200 project; and

201 4. 2.5 points will be awarded if the applicant provides verification of state funding awarded for earlier phases of the  
202 project's total construction.

203 (c) Up to seven points will be awarded for any exceedance of the flood-resistant requirements in the Florida Building  
204 Codes Act, as adopted by the State of Florida pursuant to Part IV, Chapter 553, F.S., and administered by the Florida Department  
205 of Business and Professional Regulation as the Florida Building Code, or local floodplain management regulations, whichever  
206 is more restrictive.

207 1. A total of 3.5 points will be awarded if the project will exceed Florida Building Code flood-resistant requirements or  
208 local floodplain management regulations, whichever is more restrictive, and the proposal outlines the specific requirements and  
209 details relating to how the design exceeds the criteria;

210 2. Seven points will be awarded if the project will exceed Florida Building Code requirements and local floodplain  
211 management regulations, so long as the proposal references the specific requirements and design criteria to be exceeded in its  
212 project proposal; or

213 3. Seven points will be awarded if the proposal states that no Florida Building Code flood-resistant requirements or local  
214 floodplain management regulations apply to the project.

215 (5) The maximum number of points that may be awarded for Tier 4 criteria is 10 points.

216 (a) Five points will be awarded if the Department determines that the project proposal includes innovative technologies  
217 designed to reduce project costs and provide regional collaboration. The proposal must demonstrate which specific technologies  
218 will be used and explain why they are innovative as well as how they will reduce cost and provide regional collaboration; and

219 (b) Five points will be awarded if the proposal demonstrates that the critical asset or the project impact area is located in a  
220 financially disadvantaged community.

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222 Rulemaking Authority 380.093, FS. Law Implemented 380.093 FS. History- New - -2022