



At a Glance

Catalyst for Improving the Environment

Why We Did This Review

A complainant expressed concern regarding activities on the Office of Research and Development Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program cooperative agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno. This review addresses issues based on the complainant's concerns.

Background

The Office of Research and Development of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded a \$400,000 cooperative agreement to the University of Nevada, Reno (the University). The agreement created a biological baseline for the Humboldt watershed and devised bioassessment protocols for the State that can effectively assess the biological conditions of perennial streams and rivers.

For further information, Contact our Office of Congressional and Public Liaison at (202) 566-2391.

To view the full report, click on the following link:

www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2006/20051228-2006-P-00008.pdf

Review of Complaint on the University of Nevada, Reno, Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program Cooperative Agreement CR 826293-01

What We Found

Did the recipient complete the project with the required final products?

The recipient has not submitted a complete report.

Did recipient personnel work on other grants while charging to EPA funds?

Recipient personnel were working on other Federal grant projects while paid from EPA funds.

Did the recipient properly record revenues and expenses?

The recipient did not allocate expenses to the appropriate Federal grant or cooperative agreement.

Did EPA require the recipient to submit work plans, status reports, and progress reports?

The project officer did not require the recipient to complete work plans, progress reports, and status reports. In the absence of compliance reports, the project officer could not determine the status of the project or guarantee its success.

What We Recommend

We recommend that EPA

- require the recipient to submit a complete report,
- require the recipient to repay \$21,260 in unallowable costs,
- require the University to establish better control over the recipient's accounting practices to make sure University policies and practices are followed, and
- emphasize to this project officer the importance of carrying out his duties and responsibilities in the most effective and efficient manner and establish a process for measuring his accountability and performance.