



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

SEP - 7 2005

**Office of the Chief  
Information Officer**

1400 Independence  
Avenue SW

Washington, DC  
20250

TO: Agency Heads

FROM: David M. Combs  
Acting Chief Information Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Combs".

SUBJECT: Emergency Blanket Waiver Approval for Hurricane Related Information  
Technology Acquisitions (#1323)

The Office of the Chief Information Officer is establishing a blanket waiver to procure Information Technology (IT) hardware, software and IT contractor support services in the wake of the recent hurricane. The blanket waiver approval applies to all affected USDA agencies. Acquisitions covered under this waiver include those IT purchases that are made to respond to the emergency. The emergency waiver will have an overall cap of \$25,000,000 for FY 2005 and FY 2006.

- Provide this office a copy of the contract within thirty days of execution along with the contract related data as shown in the attachment.
- Consistent with Executive Order 13360-Providing Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran Businesses (SDVB) To Increase Their Federal Contracting and Subcontracting, the agency should consult the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to identify opportunities to direct this acquisition towards a SDVB. The point of contact is Janet Baylor at 202-720-7117.

An electronic version of the attachment can be obtained by request. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 720-8833 or have a member of your staff call Alesia Webster at (202) 720-6898.

Attachment

Table with 15 columns: Waiver #, Mission Area/Agency, Project Name, USDA Work/Lenz Project ID #, Contract Awardee, Amount of the Contract, Length of Contract, Contract Start Date, Contract End Date, Actual Cost FY 2003, Actual/Planned Cost FY 2004, Actual Cost FY 2004, Actual/Planned Costs FY 2005, Purpose, Object Class. The table is currently blank.