

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

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Why This Matters

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) serves as an independent body to deter, identify, and address fraud, abuse, mismanagement, and waste in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) programs and operations. To this end, the OIG is responsible for conducting and supervising audits, investigations, and inspections relating to the programs and operations of the Department. The OIG examines, evaluates and, where necessary, critiques these operations and activities, recommending ways for the Department to carry out its responsibilities in the most effective, efficient, and economical manner possible.

DHS Response

Within 90 days of the date of the grant audit report, Management should provide our office with a written response that includes their (1) agreement or disagreement, (2) corrective action plan, and (3) target completion date for each recommendation.

FEMA Public Assistance Grant Funds Awarded to the County of El Dorado, California

What We Determined

We audited Public Assistance (PA) grant funds awarded to the County of El Dorado, California (County), Public Assistance Identification Number 017-99017-00.

Our audit objective was to determine whether the County accounted for and expended Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funds according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines.

Of the \$3.3 million we reviewed, the County did not comply with Federal grant regulations and FEMA guidelines to award a contract totaling \$2.2 million, nor did it ensure the reasonableness of the contract price. Additionally, the County can improve record keeping for procurement activities.

What We Recommend

We recommended that the FEMA Region IX Administrator (1) disallow \$2,183,613 (Federal share \$1,637,710) in ineligible Project 34 costs that were not procured in accordance with Federal procurement requirements, unless FEMA decides to grant an exception for all or part of the costs as provided for in 44 CFR 13.6(c) and Section 705(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, (2) instruct Cal EMA to provide the additional guidance emphasizing that subgrantees must follow Federal procurement standards at 44 CFR 13.36 when procuring contracts for FEMA projects, or risk losing Federal funding, and (3) instruct Cal EMA to provide additional guidance emphasizing that subgrantees need to take the steps necessary to ensure that procurements funded by FEMA PA grant awards are supported with sufficient documentation that outlines compliance with Federal procurement regulations.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@dhs.gov