



Why This Matters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides public assistance to state, tribal, and local government, and certain types of private nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. We perform audits of FEMA grantees and subgrantees to determine whether cost claimed under the awards are eligible and allowable under Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. The South Florida Water Management District (District) received an award of \$13.4 million for damages resulting from Hurricane Frances that occurred in September 2004.

DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

FEMA Public Assistance Grant Funds Awarded to South Florida Water Management District Under Hurricane Frances

What We Determined

The District did not account for project expenditures on a project-by-project basis as required by Federal regulations. We also determined that the District was awarded \$10,002,344 for repairs to flood control facilities that were ineligible for FEMA assistance that should be deobligated and put to better use. In addition, the District's claim included \$185,359 of questioned costs that should be disallowed. This consisted of \$88,351 of ineligible small project costs, \$61,462 of excess equipment costs, \$20,086 of ineligible repair costs, and \$15,460 of unreasonable labor costs.

What We Recommend

We recommended that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IV:

- 1) Instruct the Florida Division of Emergency Management to reemphasize to the District its need to account for FEMA project expenditures on a project-by-project basis as required by Federal regulations.
- 2) Deobligate and put to better use the \$10.0 million of ineligible project funding awarded under the flood control projects.
- 3) Disallow the \$185,359 of questioned costs.

For Further Information:

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