



### Why This Matters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides assistance to State, tribal, and local governments, and certain types of private nonprofit organizations to implement measures designed to reduce the loss of life and property from future natural disasters. Comal County, Texas, received a \$16.3 million award from the Texas Division of Emergency Management, a FEMA grantee, for a mitigation project following Hurricane Rita in 2005.

### DHS Response

FEMA officials withheld comment to our finding and recommendation until after we issue the report. FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

## Comal County Understated Project Cost In Its HMGP Project Application

### What We Determined

Comal County, Texas, submitted an unsupported and understated project cost estimate that FEMA relied on in approving the project and awarded Comal County grant funding that it was not entitled to receive.

### What We Recommend

We recommend that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region VI, fully implement the recommendation that we made in our June 2012 report (DD-12-13) to disallow all funds awarded to Comal County for an ineligible Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project.

### For Further Information:

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