



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 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

Department officials partially concurred with our findings and recommendations.

FEMA and California Emergency Management Agency (Grantee) officials generally stated that they will withhold comment until issuance of our report.

For Further Information:

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

The California Department of Parks and Recreation Did Not Properly Account for or Expend \$1.8 Million in FEMA Grant Funds

What We Determined

We audited Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) grant funds awarded to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department), for Disaster Number 1628-DR-CA.

Our audit objective was to determine whether the Department accounted for and expended FEMA PA grant funds according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines.

We determined that Department officials did not account for or expend \$1,252,823, of the \$2,688,919 we audited, according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines, and have \$527,426 in unneeded funding that can be deobligated and put to better use.

This occurred as a result of: (1) unneeded funding that was not yet deobligated; (2) improper procurement; (3) unsupported project costs; (4) ineligible improvement costs; (5) ineligible costs related to a facility not in active use at the time of the disaster; and (6) work performed outside of the FEMA-approved scope of work.

What We Recommend

We recommended that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IX: (1) deobligate a total of \$527,426 (\$395,570 Federal share) in unneeded funds associated with Projects 1703, 1903, 3391, and 3481, and timely put such funds to better use; (2) disallow the total contract cost of \$373,331 (\$279,998 Federal share) for Project 2404 as ineligible based on the Department officials' noncompliance with mandatory procurement requirements unless FEMA grants the Department an exception for all or part of the costs; (3) disallow a total of \$353,357 (\$265,018 Federal share) charged to Projects 218, 1903, and 3481 as unsupported because of insufficient documentation, unless Department officials can provide adequate documentation to support these costs; (4) disallow \$301,534 (\$226,151 Federal share) in ineligible costs charged to Project 3480 because Department officials did not limit their charges to the FEMA-estimated cost for restoring the bridge to its predisaster condition, as required; (5) disallow \$203,151 (\$152,363 Federal share) in ineligible charges for Project 3073 as a result of Department officials' noncompliance with applicable criteria related to a facility that was not in active use at the time of the disaster; and (6) disallow a total of \$21,450 (\$16,088 Federal share) in ineligible project costs charged to Project 3481 and 3488 that were outside of the FEMA-approved scope of work.

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.