

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 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 DHS. The OIG examines, evaluates and, where necessary, critiques these operations and activities, recommending ways for DHS to carry out its responsibilities in the most effective, efficient, and economical manner possible.

Management Response

County and California Emergency Management Agency (grantee) officials partially concurred with our findings and recommendations.

FEMA officials withheld comment.

For Further Information:

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

Unneeded Funding and Management Challenges Associated with the FEMA Grant Awarded to Los Angeles County, California

What We Determined

We audited Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) grant funds awarded to Los Angeles County, California (County), for Disaster Number 1577-DR-CA.

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

We identified \$2,441,506 in unneeded funding that should be put to better use, as well as various grant administration and management challenges, including: (1) untimely cost accounting and claims; and (2) inconsistent monitoring and assurance of compliance with applicable Federal requirements.

What We Recommend

We recommended that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IX: (1) deobligate \$2,441,506 (Federal share \$1,831,130) in unneeded funding associated with 21 projects and put those Federal funds to better use; (2) require Cal EMA, as the grantee, to ensure that subgrantee costs are timely accounted for, and claimed, upon project completion; (3) review costs, for eligibility and support, which could not be audited during our fieldwork because the subgrantee had not yet accounted for those costs; (4) work with Cal EMA to finalize the State Administrative Plan for the year of the disaster; (5) ensure that the State Administrative Plan, once finalized, is disseminated—and easily accessible—to each relevant stakeholder; and (6) require Cal EMA, as the grantee, to develop and implement policies, procedures, and training to better manage its responsibilities under PA grants, to ensure that (1) grant and subgrant financial and project status reports are accurately reported, (2) expenditures can be traced to a level that ensures that funds have not been used in violation of applicable statutes, and (3) Cal EMA and its subgrantees adhere to the specific provisions of applicable Federal regulations and FEMA policy when administering the grants.

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.