



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

FEMA officials told us that they will withhold their comments on our findings until after they review their records and those documents associated with the Department's final claimed costs.

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (grantee) and County officials partially concurred with our findings.

For Further Information:

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

Los Angeles County, California, Did Not Properly Account for or Expend About \$14,000 in FEMA Grant Funds

What We Determined

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

Our audit objective is to determine whether the County accounted for and expended FEMA Public Assistance Program grant funds according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines.

This report focuses exclusively on force account costs the County claimed for two large projects (2890 and 2940). The County claimed about \$5.3 million in total for the two projects, which included force account costs of \$410,914—the amount we reviewed.

We determined that of the \$410,914, County officials did not account for or expend \$13,543 according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. Therefore, we question \$13,543, which includes \$7,482 ineligible costs and \$6,061 unsupported costs.

What We Recommend

We recommend that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IX: (1) disallow \$7,482 (Federal share \$5,612) in ineligible (duplicate) equipment maintenance costs for Project 2940 (\$4,377) and Project 2890 (\$3,105); (2) disallow \$6,061 (Federal share \$4,546) in unsupported costs the County claimed for Project 2940, unless the County can provide adequate documentation to support these costs; and (3) review the entirety of the County's FEMA-funded projects to determine sufficient support for those force account costs that the County claimed for Federal reimbursement, and disallow those costs if the County cannot provide sufficient support.

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.