

Department of Homeland Security **Office of Inspector General**

The City of Macon, Georgia, Successfully Managed
FEMA Public Assistance Funds Awarded for Severe
Storms in May 2008
FEMA Disaster Number 1761-DR-GA



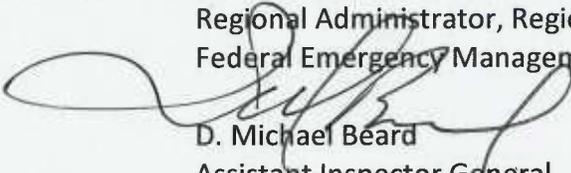


OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

APR 4 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major P. (Phil) May
Regional Administrator, Region IV
Federal Emergency Management Agency

FROM: 
D. Michael Beard
Assistant Inspector General
Office of Emergency Management Oversight

SUBJECT: *The City of Macon, Georgia, Successfully Managed
FEMA Public Assistance Funds Awarded for Severe
Storms in May 2008*
FEMA Disaster Number 1761-DR-GA
Audit Report Number DA-13-14

We audited Public Assistance funds awarded to the City of Macon, Georgia (City) (FIPS Code 021-49000-00). Our audit objective was to determine whether the City accounted for and expended Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funds according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines.

The City received a Public Assistance award of \$3.9 million from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (State), a FEMA grantee, for damages resulting from severe storms and tornadoes, which occurred in May 2008. The award provided 75 percent FEMA funding for debris removal activities and emergency protective measures. The award consisted of 5 large projects and 17 small projects.¹

We audited three large projects with awards totaling \$3.5 million as shown in table 1. The audit covered the period May 11, 2008, to August 2, 2012, during which the City claimed \$3.5 million under the projects included in our scope. At the time of our audit, the City had completed work on all large projects, but had not submitted a final claim to the state.

¹ Federal regulations in effect at the time of the disaster set the large project threshold at \$60,900.



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Table 1. Schedule of Projects Audited

Project Number	Amount Awarded	Amount Claimed
8	\$ 2,727,897	\$ 2,727,897
217	466,265	466,265
284	332,598	332,598
Total	\$ 3,526,760	\$ 3,526,760

We conducted this performance audit between August 2012 and February 2013 pursuant to the *Inspector General Act of 1978*, as amended, and according to generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based upon our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based upon our audit objective. To conduct this audit, we applied the statutes, regulations, and FEMA policies and guidelines in effect at the time of the disaster.

We judgmentally selected project costs (generally based on dollar value); interviewed City, State, and FEMA personnel; reviewed the City's procurement policies and procedures; reviewed applicable Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines; and performed other procedures considered necessary to accomplish our audit objective. We did not assess the adequacy of the City's internal controls applicable to its grant activities because it was not necessary to accomplish our audit objective. However, we gained an understanding of the City's method of accounting for disaster-related costs and its policies and procedures for administering the activities provided for under the FEMA award.

RESULTS OF AUDIT

The City successfully managed Public Assistance grant funds for the three projects included in our review. City officials generally accounted for and expended FEMA funds according to Federal grant regulations and FEMA guidelines.

DISCUSSION WITH MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT FOLLOWUP

We discussed the results of our audit with City, FEMA, and Region officials on February 4, 2013. Because the audit did not identify issues requiring further action from FEMA, we consider this audit closed.



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Consistent with our responsibility under the Inspector General Act, we are providing copies of our report to appropriate congressional committees with oversight and appropriation responsibility over the Department of Homeland Security. We will post the report on our website for public dissemination.

Major contributors to this report are David Kimble, Eastern Region Audit Director; William (John) Johnson, Audit Manager; and Calbert Flowers, Auditor.

Please call me with any questions at (202) 254-4100, or you staff may contact David Kimble, Eastern Region Audit Director, at (404) 832-6702.



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Appendix

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