

**Review of Weld County,
Colorado FEMA Grant Award
Disaster No. 4145-DR-CO,
Applicant No. 123-99123-00**





OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Department of Homeland Security

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

February 21, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lee dePalo
Regional Administrator, Region VIII
Federal Emergency Management Agency

FROM: Sondra F. McCauley 
Assistant Inspector General for Audits

SUBJECT: *Review of Weld County, Colorado FEMA Grant Award
Disaster No. 4145-DR-CO, Applicant No. 123-99123-00*

We completed our *Review of Weld County, Colorado FEMA Grant Award, Disaster No. 4145-DR-CO, Applicant No. 123-99123-00*. Our objective was to determine whether Weld County, Colorado (County) accounted for and expended Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funds according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. We conducted this review between February 6, 2017, and February 7, 2018, pursuant to the *Inspector General Act of 1978*, as amended.

We determined the County did not always follow Federal procurement standards in awarding contracts for disaster work. We identified and discussed with FEMA various areas where it should review and adjust for cost reasonableness the funding amounts a project and program management contractor charged related to Weld County.

In response to our analysis, FEMA agreed to review the costs for reasonableness, unless FEMA disallowed all of the costs for procurement violations. We subsequently reviewed FEMA's cost analysis documentation for Weld County project closeouts related to this disaster. We found FEMA appropriately reduced final project amounts due to improper procurements and cost reasonableness concerns, including unreasonable contractor hourly rates. Consequently, we are making no recommendations.

We thank FEMA, Colorado, and Weld County personnel for their cooperation with this review. Consistent with our responsibility under the *Inspector General Act*, we provide copies of our report to congressional committees with oversight and appropriation responsibility over the Department of Homeland Security. We also post the report on our website for public dissemination.



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The Office of Audits major contributors to this report were Vonda Batts, Director; Robert Greene, Director; Paige Hamrick, Director (Retired); John Polledo, Audit Manager; Jeffrey Campora, Auditor-In-Charge; Dana Smith, Auditor; Jacqueline Lim, Auditor; Audrey Van, Independent Reference Reviewer; and Kelly Herberger, Communications Analyst.

Please call me with any questions, or your staff may contact Katherine Trimble, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits at (202) 981-6000.

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Office of Inspector General, Mail Stop 0305
Attention: Hotline
245 Murray Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20528-0305