



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

RECOVERY OVERSIGHT ADVISORY

A Critical Point Evaluation Product





RECOVERY OVERSIGHT OFFICE

Washington, DC 20240

FEB 25 2010

To: Karla Smiley
Bureau Procurement Chief for Bureau of Reclamation

From: Robert A. Knox
Assistant Inspector General for Recovery Oversight

Subject: Recovery Oversight Advisory - Weber Siphon Project, Solicitation number 09SP101727 (ROO-ROA-BOR-4001-2010)

The Recovery Oversight Office received an allegation that Mowat Construction Company, prime contractor for the Installation of Second Barrels of the Weber Branch Siphon, Columbia Basin Project, Washington, Solicitation Number: 09SP101727, intends to purchase plastic waterstops rather than rubber waterstops. This memorandum details our efforts with no findings.

Our review was part of our oversight efforts under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). Congress provided us with funding to oversee and ensure accountability of the \$3 billion appropriated to the Department of the Interior (DOI) under the Recovery Act. To help safeguard these taxpayer dollars, we are focused on: preventing fraud, waste, and mismanagement of recovery and reinvestment dollars; reducing the impact of misuse when it does occur through early detection; and ensuring transparency in our oversight efforts. The solicitation we reviewed was designated to be funded with Recovery Act appropriations.

We interviewed the contracting officer, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, ID, who stated that he is aware of the contract specifications call for rubber waterstops and will ensure that the contractor provides submittals and product that fit these requirements. The contracting officer further related that the contractor stated that he intends on supplying rubber waterstops, which meet the contract specifications.

We closed this matter in this office since we did not identify any significant problems with the solicitation. We will continue to provide oversight of Recovery Act projects as they progress to completion, and we may review this and/or other projects in the future.

cc: Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Economic Recovery and Stimulus
Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget
Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management
Acting Director, Office of Financial Management
Departmental GAO/OIG Audit Liaison
Audit Liaison, Bureau of Reclamation
Recovery Coordinator, Bureau of Reclamation

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