



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**Recommendation for the Report
Titled *Interim Costs Claimed by
Coastal Environmental Group,
Under Contract Nos.
INF13PC00214 and INF13PC00195
With the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service (X-CX-FWS-0002-2014)***



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Memorandum

SEP 21 2020

To: Tonya Johnson
Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Director, Office of Financial Management

From: Chris Stubbs *Chris Stubbs*
Director, Office of Financial and Contract Audits

Subject: Verification Review – Recommendation for the Report Titled *Interim Costs Claimed by Coastal Environmental Group, Under Contract Nos. INF13PC00214 and INF13PC00195 With the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* (Report No. X-CX-FWS-0002-2014)
Report No. 2020-FIN-049

The Office of Inspector General has completed a verification review of the recommendation presented in the subject report. Our objective was to determine whether the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) implemented the recommendation as reported to the Office of Financial Management (PFM), Office of Policy, Management and Budget. The PFM reported to us that it had closed the recommendation. We concur that the recommendation has been resolved and implemented.

Background

Our May 2016 report, *Interim Costs Claimed by Coastal Environmental Group, Under Contract Nos. INF13PC00214 and INF13PC00195 With the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, made one recommendation designed to resolve the total unsupported costs of \$2,009,036.

The FWS partially concurred with the report's recommendation in a response dated January 14, 2016, and detailed steps the agency planned to take to address the recommendation. In a June 23, 2016 memorandum, we referred the recommendation to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget to track its implementation.

Scope and Methodology

We limited the scope of this review to determining whether the FWS implemented the recommendation we reported. To accomplish this, we obtained and reviewed the supporting documentation that FWS officials provided and discussed actions taken related to the recommendation. We did not test internal controls, perform any site visits, or conduct fieldwork to determine whether the FWS had corrected the underlying deficiencies that were initially identified. As a result, this review was not conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States or the

Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Results of Review

We found that the FWS implemented our recommendation.

Recommendation 1: Resolve the total unsupported costs of \$2,009,036.

Action Taken: The FWS sent three demand letters to Coastal Environmental Group, who returned a series of documents used to reduce the total unsupported costs from \$2,009,036 to \$187,961. The FWS completed the action by developing a payment plan for the costs and by establishing a receivable in the Department's accounting system.

We reconciled the total unsupported costs to the FWS demand letters and supporting documentation. In addition, we verified that Coastal Environmental Group is currently on a payment plan of \$5,300 a month to pay off the balance of the bill for collection of \$187,961.

Conclusion

We informed FWS officials of the results of this review on August 21, 2020.

If you have any questions about this verification review, please contact me at 202-208-5745.

cc: Andrea Brandon, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
Chadrick Minnifield, Division Chief, Internal Control and Audit Follow-Up, Office of Financial Management
Alexis Vann, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Liaison
Kathleen Garrity, Audit Liaison Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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