



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 11, 2014

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Oversight of Guam, American Samoa and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Support Grants
Project No. OA-FY14-0035

FROM: Richard Eyermann, Acting Assistant Inspector General
Office of Audit

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Eyermann".

TO: Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator
EPA Region 9

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) plans to begin preliminary research on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) assistance agreements with the South Pacific Territories of Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Our preliminary research objectives are to determine whether the EPA:

- Has controls and processes in place to ensure proper oversight of Guam, American Samoa and CNMI assistance agreements.
- Is ensuring that the assistance agreements effectively and efficiently protect human health and the environment.

We plan to conduct this research in Region 9's Pacific Islands Office and the EPA's Office of Water, as well as in the South Pacific Territories. At the end of the preliminary research phase, we will determine whether additional work is warranted and, if so, whether the objectives should be modified.

We will contact your office to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss this assignment. We would like to hold the kickoff meeting by March 24, 2014. We will answer any questions you may have about the assignment process, reporting procedures, methods we will use to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the course of this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Davis, Director, Efficiency Audits, at (513) 487-2363 or davis.michael@epa.gov; or Heather Layne, Project Manager, at (617) 918-1486 or layne.heather@epa.gov.

cc: Alexis Strauss, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 9
Nancy Ryerson, Chief of Staff, Region 9
Thomas McCullough, Assistant Regional Administrator, Region 9
Carolyn Truong, Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator, Region 9
Jane Diamond, Director, Water Division, Region 9
Jeff Scott, Director, Communities and Ecosystems Division, Region 9
Kelly Zito, Director, Office of Public Affairs, Region 9
Magdalen Mak, Audit Follow-up Coordinator, Region 9
Marilyn Ramos, Audit Follow-up Coordinator, Office of Water
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General
Aracely Nunez-Mattocks, Chief of Staff, OIG
Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Patricia Hill, Assistant Inspector General for Mission Systems
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Kevin Christensen, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Michael D. Davis, Director, Efficiency Audits, OIG
Heather Layne, Project Manager, Efficiency Audits, OIG