




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

JAN 26 2015

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to January 7, 2015, Memorandum From Region 6 on OIG Report No. 15-P-0003, *EPA Region 6 Mismanaged Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Funds*, Issued October 9, 2014

FROM: Arthur A. Elkins Jr. 

TO: Ron Curry, Regional Administrator
Region 6

Based on your memorandum of January 7, 2015, we acknowledge resolution of all recommendations contained in the subject report. We have reviewed your response and appreciate your efforts to be responsive to our recommendations. We have reached resolution on the language for revised Recommendations 1, 3, 5 and 6. We accept your planned corrective actions and milestone dates for revised Recommendations 1, 3 and 5. For Recommendation 6, you stated that Region 6 completed the corrective actions, but you still need to provide documentation to us so we can determine whether the corrective actions taken satisfy the intent of the recommendation and we can then close the recommendation.

However in your memorandum, you adjusted your planned completion dates from the original agreed-upon dates for corrective actions for Recommendations 2 and 4. We acknowledge that you have informed us that it will take longer than originally planned to complete corrective actions. Nevertheless, we will continue to use the original agreed-upon completion dates to track the completion of these corrective actions.

We strongly encourage Region 6 to take immediate corrective actions on all recommendations to ensure the proper stewardship of Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) funds in accordance with laws, policies and agreements. Specifically, we believe implementing internal control activities is extremely important, as described in Recommendation 4, and should be completed as expeditiously as possible. These corrective actions should not be dependent on the results of future internal reviews. Proper controls to ensure the effective management and stewardship of CWPPRA funds should have been in place during the period that EPA formalized the interagency agreements to work on the CWPPRA program.

We are closing the report in our audit tracking system since we reached resolution on the language of the recommendations and accepted your planned corrective actions. Please track implementation of the corrective actions in the agency Management Audit Tracking System until completed.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, at (202) 566-1007 or christensen.kevin@epa.gov; or Patrick Gilbride, Director, at (303) 312-6969 or gilbride.patrick@epa.gov.