



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

February 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Audit of Selected Contracts Used in the 2025 Southern California Wildfires Cleanup
Project No. OA-FY26-0041

FROM: Katherine Trimble, Assistant Inspector General
Office of Audit *Katherine Trimble*

TO: Paige Hanson, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer
Office of Finance and Administration

Mike Martucci, Acting Regional Administrator
EPA Region 9

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of selected contracts used in the EPA's hazardous materials cleanup after the 2025 Southern California wildfires. This audit is the result of internal OIG planning to help ensure effective and efficient use of federal emergency response funds. The project number is OA-FY26-0041.

Our objective is to determine whether the EPA contractors, Environmental Quality Management Inc. and Weston Solutions Inc., complied with applicable federal requirements and adhered to contract terms and conditions related to the 2025 Southern California wildfires cleanup. The subject contracts for this audit will be Contract Number 68HE0924D0002 and respective tasks orders assigned to Environmental Quality Management Inc. and Contract Number 68HE0919D0002 and respective tasks orders assigned to Weston Solutions Inc. related to the 2025 Southern California wildfires.

We plan to conduct work at the EPA Region 9 headquarters office in San Francisco, California, as well as the areas that were affected by the wildfires. We also plan to conduct work at the offices of Environmental Quality Management Inc. and Weston Solutions Inc., where government records are maintained. We will use applicable generally accepted government auditing standards to conduct our audit. The anticipated benefits of this audit include ensuring that EPA contractors that perform services during national emergencies and disasters are adhering to requirements outlined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the EPA Acquisition Regulation as well as applicable contract terms and conditions so that federal funds are appropriately spent and work is completed as agreed to.

Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement should contact the OIG Hotline via OIG.Hotline@epa.gov, 888-546-8740, or our [online form](#).

We will contact your offices to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective. At that time, we can discuss any concerns that you may have and answer any questions about the audit process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the audit. Throughout the audit, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

To expedite our audit, please be ready to provide the requested items listed in the appendix to this memorandum as soon as possible, but no later than the date of the entrance conference, which we will be contacting your offices to schedule soon.

We respectfully note that the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, authorizes the OIG to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete our objectives. Additionally, Administrator Lee Zeldin, in an email to EPA employees dated February 7, 2025, said that “the OIG requires information and assistance from EPA managers and staff on a regular basis” and outlined his expectation that EPA employees “report waste, fraud, and abuse to the OIG.” He explained that this “responsibility to report appropriate activity to the OIG is one of the most important and successful means the OIG has for identifying and stopping wrongdoing” and that review and oversight enable the Agency to be more effective in achieving its mission. If an Agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested materials to the OIG or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG, we will request that you immediately resolve the situation. Consistent with the Inspector General Act, we may report unresolved access matters to the administrator and to Congress.

We will send similar notification memorandums to the government points of contact for both contractors included in the audit scope. We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epa.gov/oig. Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this audit should contact the OIG Hotline at OIG.Hotline@epa.gov or 888-546-8740 or via our [online form](#).

cc: David Fotouhi, Deputy Administrator
Travis Voyles, Associate Deputy Administrator
Eric Amidon, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
Gregg Trembl, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance and Administration
Lek Kadeli, Associate Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance and Administration
Angel Robinson, Acting Deputy Associate Chief Financial Officer,
Office of Finance and Administration
Cheree Peterson, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 9
Michael Montgomery, Director, Superfund and Emergency Management Division, Region 9
Meshell Jones-Peeler, Controller, Office of Finance and Administration
Greg Luebbering, Acting Deputy Controller, Office of Finance and Administration
Brian Webb, Director, Policy & Accountability Division, Office of Finance and Administration

Charles Widener, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of the Administrator
Susan Perkins, Chief, Oversight and Engagement Branch, Office of Finance and Administration
Marcia Kargbo, Public Liaison Specialist, Office of Finance and Administration
Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
José Kercado, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Shay Bracey, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Alana Maye, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Brittany Wilson, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Molly Vaseliou, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Terrence Jackson, Director, Office of Administrative and Executive Services,
Office of the Administrator
Audit Follow-Up Coordinators
Nicole N. Murley, Deputy Inspector General performing the duties of the Inspector General
Erica Kavanagh, Associate Deputy Inspector General

Appendix – Requested Items

- Investigative or legal proceedings initiated or in-process that are significant to the objective.
- Any previous engagements or other studies that directly relate to the objective of this audit, as well as the status of any resultant recommendations from those previous engagements or studies.
- Agency points of contact tasked with managing the 2025 Southern California wildfires cleanup and the two subject contracts, including but not limited to the contract officer, the contract officer representative, Region 9 management, assigned project officers, and the on-scene coordinator.
- Addresses of the two subject contractor offices, where government records are maintained, so that we can arrange for onsite fieldwork.
- Listing of all databases used by both headquarters and Region 9 for managing and monitoring the subject contracts and read-only access to the databases for the OIG audit team. The names of the team members will be provided via email.
- For the two subject contracts and respective task orders related to the 2025 Southern California wildfires, a summary of all financial transactions to date.
- For the two subject contracts and respective task orders, complete contract file information, including award documentation, base contract, correspondences, and modifications to the contract or task order.
- Contractor site work plans.
- For the two subject contracts, the following information related to the contractors' performance:
 - Contractor performance assessment reports and/or other annual performance documents.
 - EPA monitoring reports.
 - EPA inspection records.
 - Contractor status and monthly progress reports.
 - Correspondence between the contractor and the Agency.
 - Quality assurance surveillance plans.
 - Any additional documentation that demonstrates how the contractors are performing on the relevant EPA contracts.