July 10, 2026

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Planned Corrective Actions for Office of Inspector General Report No. 26-P-0017, *Audit of the EPA's Grants Workforce Planning*, issued March 11, 2026

FROM: Nicole N. Murley, Deputy Inspector General performing the duties of the Inspector General Nicole N. Murley

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

Thank you for the memorandum dated April 21, 2026, which outlines the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's planned corrective actions and estimated milestone dates for two of the four recommendations issued in the subject Office of Inspector General report. Based on the information provided in your response memorandum, we agree that the planned corrective actions for Recommendation 2 meet the intent of our recommendation. Your office should track implementation of the corrective actions in the Agency's audit tracking system until all actions are completed.

However, we do not agree with the planned corrective actions for Recommendation 1. The planned corrective actions' focus is solely on grant workforce planning for grant specialists, but should include project officers. EPA project officers serve a significant role in the technical oversight of grants, including managing grant work plans, conducting monitoring, and ensuring that grant recipients meet their programmatic requirements. Including project officers in the grants workforce plan will assist the Agency in its preparation and ability to accomplish its grant workload benchmarks and reduce the risk of improperly managed grants. Since the planned corrective actions only partially address the recommendation, we consider this recommendation unresolved. EPA Manual 2750, *Audit Management Procedures*, requires that recommendations be resolved promptly.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epa.gov/oig.

cc: Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Audit Liaison
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