



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

October 22, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Notification:  
Audit of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act-Funded Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program Grant Recipient IRL Council  
Project No. OA-FY25-0027

**FROM:** Elizabeth Schubert, Director  
Special Drinking Water Projects Directorate  
Office of Audit

**TO:** Jeaneanne Gettle  
Acting Regional Administrator  
EPA Region 4

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of the grants awarded to the IRL Council for the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program grant program funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This audit is expected to be in the OIG's oversight plan for fiscal year 2025. This audit also addresses the following fiscal year 2024 top [management challenge](#) for the Agency: managing grants, contracts, and data systems.

Our objectives are to determine whether costs claimed by the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program grant recipient, IRL Council, were allowable, reasonable, and allocable, and in accordance with grant terms and conditions for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 and to determine whether the grantee demonstrated progress toward achieving program goals and objectives. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Grants and Debarment in the Office of Mission Support and the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds in the Office of Water. We plan to conduct work at the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program in Florida in EPA Region 4. We will use applicable generally accepted government auditing standards to conduct our audit. The anticipated benefits of this audit include ensuring the grant recipient and subrecipients are adhering to the requirements outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations and the grant terms and conditions.

We will contact you 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 following information within two weeks after receiving this notification memorandum:

- Policies, procedures, and guidance documents from October 2022 through September 2024 on managing the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary grant program.
- Any investigations or legal proceedings significant to the audit objective that have been initiated or are in process.
- Any previous engagements or other studies that directly relate to the audit objective and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- Any reports to Congress and EPA leadership on the timeliness and progress of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary grant program.
- Organizational structure, budget, and staffing information pursuant to this grant program for the IRL Council.

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. Similarly, EPA Manual 6500, *Functions and Activities of the Office of Inspector General* (1994), requires that each EPA employee cooperate with and fully disclose information to the OIG. Additionally, Administrator Michael S. Regan, in a June 17, 2024 email to EPA employees, stated that “it is the duty of all EPA personnel to cooperate fully with the OIG and to provide information the office needs to fulfill its oversight responsibilities.” He also indicated that the “OIG’s independent oversight of our agency makes it an indispensable partner in our efforts to protect public health and the environment.” 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 post this memorandum on our public website at [www.epaoig.gov](http://www.epaoig.gov). Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this audit should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

cc: Jane Nishida, Acting Deputy Administrator

Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator

Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Management, Office of the Administrator

Kimberly Patrick, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Mission Support

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