



At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has significantly increased its funding of environmental programs in American Samoa, from approximately \$798,000 in 2006 to \$8.4 million in 2013. We conducted this review to determine whether the EPA:

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

During the course of our audit, we decided to focus on consolidated cooperative agreements, as they involved the most funding.

This report addresses the following EPA goals or cross-agency strategies:

- *Protecting America's waters.*
- *Launching a new era of state, tribal, and local partnerships.*

Send all inquiries to our public affairs office at (202) 566-2391 or visit www.epa.gov/oig.

[Listing of OIG reports.](#)

EPA Region 9 Needs to Improve Oversight Over American Samoa Consolidated Cooperative Agreements

What We Found

The internal controls of the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) and American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) over assistance agreements need improvement, as well as the EPA Region 9's oversight of American Samoa's consolidated cooperative agreements. We identified the following areas of concern:

- AS-EPA and ASPA consolidated cooperative agreements have inconsistent terms and conditions on agreement payment.
- AS-EPA and ASPA inconsistently reported in-kind and interagency agreement costs.
- Region 9 project files were not readily available to third parties.

EPA needs to enhance its internal controls over the more than \$68 million in consolidated cooperative agreement funds for American Samoa.

Recipients are required to comply with consolidated cooperative agreement terms and conditions, as well as the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) in 2 CFR Part 225 and 40 CFR Part 31. The EPA and American Samoa agencies need to enhance their internal controls over the more than \$68 million in consolidated cooperative agreement funds for American Samoa.

Recommendations and Planned Agency Corrective Actions

We made various recommendations to EPA Region 9 regarding oversight and the need for other improvements, including:

- Using appropriate grant payment methods and level of Project Officer review.
- Improving in-kind and interagency agreement expenditure reporting.
- Improving maintenance of Region 9 project officer files.

Region 9 concurred with all of the recommendations and plans to complete the corrective actions by September 30, 2016.