



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

January 13, 2024

Honorable Nikolao Pula
Governor of American Samoa
Executive Office Building
Third Floor, Utulie
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Governor Pula:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an evaluation to examine the EPA's oversight of American Samoa's drinking water program. The project number for this evaluation is Project No. [OSRE-FY25-0031](#).

Our objective is to determine whether the EPA's oversight of the Public Water System Supervision program in American Samoa meets the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. We plan to conduct work within EPA Region 9 and the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency. We will conduct the evaluation using *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

We will contact the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective and the logistics for our visit. At that time, we can discuss any concerns and answer any questions about the evaluation process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and expectations during the evaluation.

We respectfully note that the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 404(a)(1), authorizes the OIG "to conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations" of the EPA. In addition, American Samoa is the recipient of federal award funds, including from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.337(a) provides that "Inspectors General ... must have the right of access to any documents, papers, or other records of the non-Federal entity which are pertinent to the Federal Award, in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts." This right "also includes timely and reasonable access to the non-Federal entity's personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents."

We have sent a similar [notification](#) to Martha Guzman, regional administrator for EPA Region 9. We will post this notification on our public website at www.epaoig.gov. Anyone with knowledge of

potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this evaluation should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an [electronic form](#) on the "OIG Hotline" webpage.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gilbride

Patrick D. Gilbride, Director
Implementation, Execution, and Enforcement
Directorate
Office of Special Review and Evaluation

cc: Fa'amao Asalele, Director, American Samoa EPA
William Sili, Deputy Director, American Samoa EPA
Christianera Tuitele, Water Program Manager, American Samoa Water Quality Branch, American Samoa EPA
Wallon Young, Executive Director, American Samoa Power Authority
Martha Guzman, Regional Administrator, Region 9
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