**OFFICE OF GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY AND OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE (OHS-OCD)**
**221-B Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, Guam 96910**
**Tel: (671) 475-9600 / Fax: (671) 477-3727**
**Website: www.ghs.guam.gov**

**Esther J.C. Aguigui**
*Homeland Security Advisor*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
**October 26, 2026**

## FEMA Commends GHS/OCD on Grant Progress; Agency Outlines Steps to Finalize Administrative Alignment

**Agana Heights, Guam** – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 9 has commended the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) for its significant progress in strengthening internal fiscal controls, following an extensive review of federal grant programs.

The monitoring results follow a technical assistance site visit completed on August 29, 2026, which looked at 20 federal awards across eight grant programs.

In a letter dated last week, FEMA specifically recognizes GHS/OCD for successfully implementing new personnel accounting controls. Following a review of timesheets, federal monitors noted that these systems provide strong assurance that payroll charges are accurate and properly allocated.

FEMA also identified zero findings for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, highlighting a key area of administrative success.

“This review highlights the real, measurable progress achieved in bringing financial controls up to federal standards,” said Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, “FEMA's commendation of our updated payroll systems proves that our corrective actions are working.

At the same time, GHS/OCD continues to align its operations with federal standards with the deployment of a dedicated internal team to tasks such as formatting updates for quarterly financial reporting, grant closeout paperwork, document signature protocols, and an update to the island's Emergency Operations Plan.

“We appreciate FEMA's validation of our team's hard work, particularly the praise for our upgraded internal personnel accounting systems,” said Homeland Security Advisor Esther J.C. Aguigui. “Addressing long-term, legacy administrative processes takes structured, sustained effort.”

Aguigui added that Guam Homeland Security values not just the high visibility partnership with FEMA seen in times of disaster and recovery, but the close technical partnership with Region 9 counterparts throughout the year.

GHS/OCD is on track to submit 2025 fourth-quarter performance and financial reports by this week’s federal deadline.

**##**