



## REGION 6 ADMINISTRATOR

DALLAS, TX 75270

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Helena Moreno  
Mayor of New Orleans  
1300 Perdido Street  
2nd Floor East  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Dear Mayor Moreno:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 received your letter of March 26, 2026, requesting a one-year, no-cost time extension amendment to fund the education and outreach and solid waste master plan portions of the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant for New Orleans. At this time, this request has been denied for the following reasons:

1. The [2023 SWIFR for Political Subdivisions Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/EPA-I-OLEM-ORCR-23-03.pdf) for this grant competition, which can be referenced at the following link: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/EPA-I-OLEM-ORCR-23-03.pdf>, states that these grants must specifically address mandatory objectives. See NOFO Section G, Scope of Work, on pages 9 and 10. The no-cost time extension request would prohibit the project's ability to "establish, increase, expand, or optimize collection and improve materials management infrastructure" which is one of the grant's primary mandatory objectives. Because the extension request only funds education and outreach activities and the creation of a solid waste master plan, and eliminates the purchase of recycling carts, the project would no longer address any of the mandatory objectives that made it eligible under the SWIFR grant competition. Education and outreach activities and planning documents alone are not eligible for funding under the SWIFR for Political Subdivisions NOFO unless they are accompanied by tangible infrastructure improvements. The City of New Orleans' request is not allowable because the extension of the grant would only complete the education and outreach activities and solid waste master plan and would no longer address any mandatory objectives for the grant award.
2. The [EPA Grants Policy Issuance \(GPI\) 11-01](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/documents/gpi-11-01-managing-unliquidated-obligations.pdf), which can be referenced at the following link: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/documents/gpi-11-01-managing-unliquidated-obligations.pdf>, prohibits no-cost amendments if their purpose is to make material changes to the function, purpose, or nature of the project. Since the City of New Orleans is proposing to only complete two of the grant project objectives and has stated that the City of New Orleans will not purchase any recycling carts, this would be a significant change

to the purpose and nature of the grant project. The City of New Orleans' descoping of the grant therefore invalidates the request for a no-cost time extension amendment.

3. While the City of New Orleans has maintained its Grant-Specific Programmatic Terms and Conditions as outlined in the grant award, the City of New Orleans is not meeting the standards in the [EPA General Terms and Conditions](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-10/fy_2026_epa_general_terms_and_conditions_effective_october_1_2025_or_later.pdf) for grants under Section 28 of the Programmatic General Terms and Conditions titled Sufficient Progress, which can be referenced at the following link: [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-10/fy\\_2026\\_epa\\_general\\_terms\\_and\\_conditions\\_effective\\_october\\_1\\_2025\\_or\\_later.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-10/fy_2026_epa_general_terms_and_conditions_effective_october_1_2025_or_later.pdf). The text of this term and condition is provided below:

"EPA will measure sufficient progress by examining the performance required under the workplan in conjunction with the milestone schedule, the time remaining for performance within the project period and/or the availability of funds necessary to complete the project. EPA may terminate the assistance agreement for failure to ensure reasonable completion of the project within the project period."

The City of New Orleans' SWIFR grant-funded project has not met all its established milestones, and several issues have contributed to delays in the overall grant performance. Additionally, the timeline in Section D, page 4 of the current City of New Orleans SWIFR project narrative has not been met. To date, progress remains insufficient to ensure reasonable completion within the project period.

If you have any questions, please contact Cary Martindale, State and Local Government Liaison, at (214) 665-8147 or via email at [martindale.cary@epa.gov](mailto:martindale.cary@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Scott Mason IV  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 6 Administrator