Accounting Office except on the basis of specific approval by the Office of Congressional Relations,

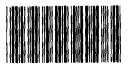
UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

RELEASED

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

B-125035

NOVEMBER 5, 1979



The Honorable Jesse, Helms United States Senate

Dear Senator Helms:

SUBJECT: The Costs of Replacing Fire Hydrants and Lighting Fixtures at the National Mall, Washington, D.C., Following the American Farmers' Demonstration 7 (CED-80-21).

In a June 26, 1979, letter, you asked us to evaluate the reasonableness of some of the bills submitted to the National Park Service for repair work done at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., following the American farmers' demonstration. You were particularly concerned about the cost to replace three damaged fire hydrants. Generally, the costs we investigated were adequately documented and seemed reasonable. As agreed, however, the following information is provided concerning two of the cost items we investigated--the replacement of three fire hydrants and certain lighting fixtures.

REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED FIRE HYDRANTS

Three damaged fire hydrants had to be replaced at the National Mall following the American farmers' demonstration.
The National Park Service, through a March 6, 1979, letter authorized the Department of Environmental Services, District of Columbia government, to replace the three hydrants at a cost of about \$3,000. However, the final bill, dated May 29, 1979, was for about \$9,900, some \$6,900 more than the original estimate. The charges by the District, excluding \$900 in indirect costs, included about \$5,900 in employee labor and benefits, \$1,400 in equipment use, and \$1,700 in materials. (See encs., I, II, and III.)

District officials said the hydrant work exceeded the original cost estimate because:

-- The \$3,000 estimate by the District was given without an onsite inspection. The estimate did not envision the extent of the damage which had occurred and thus was substantially understated.

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-- Considerable production time was lost while performing the work at the Mall. District officials reported the following estimated lost time: (1) April 9, 1979--65 percent of the day was lost because of rain, (2) April 13, 1979--the entire day was lost because a scheduled shutdown of the water main by the Park Service had to be postponed due to a concessioner being tapped to the main, (3) April 16, 1979--35 percent of the day was lost to perform work previously done. This additional work was required as a result of a faulty valve which caused the flooding and eventual collapse of a trench, and (4) April 6, 10 to 12, and 17, 1979--about 25 to 32 percent of each day was lost because work at the Mall could not proceed until rush hour traffic was over.

-The Water Services Division, Water Resources Manage- DLG03251
ment Administration, which normally replaces Manage-DLG03251 Management Division, Engineering and Construction Administration, subsequently did the hydronic This Division. pairs hydrants in the District, was unable to do the This Division's work is normally geared toward heavy construction work of longer duration, and it uses larger crews and heavier equipment.

We conclude that the charges the District government submitted were, for the most part, adequately documented, although greater than what normally would have been charged had the above circumstances not occurred. For example, we estimate that between \$2,600 to \$2,800 of the charges for employee labor and benefits and equipment represent costs associated with nonproductive time. (See enc. IV.)

District officials told us that because of the heavy work backlog in the Water Services Division, the Construction Management Division has become increasingly involved in minor repair work. The officials stated that because of this increasing involvement, they have recently decided to set up a smaller crew within the Construction Management Division to handle such work in the future. District officials stated that the need for a smaller construction crew to handle this type of work has been under consideration for some time and that the inquiry into the hydrant work reinforced the final approval for the crew's formation.

LIGHTING FIXTURES

46030306 The Park Service replaced 1 damaged light pole and 20 globes following the farmers' demonstration. The cost of the

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light pole was \$2,400 and the cost of the globes was about \$2,107.

Park Service records show that two firms were contacted for the manufacture of the ornamental cast iron light poles. Because one of the firms declined to bid, the contract was awarded to the remaining firm. This firm was the original supplier of the cast iron light poles for the Mall. The Park Service purchased three light poles at \$2,400 each. Two of the three poles are for future use.

Talks with officials of the two firms and the Park Service revealed that the light poles were not standard items but were designed from specific patterns developed in 1975 for the restoration of the National Mall. The firm which declined to bid on the poles did so because it does not do that type of work. An official of this firm, however, stated that \$2,400 for each light pole seemed to be a reasonable price because of the intricacy of the pattern.

The Park Service replaced 20 globes at the National Mall at about \$105 each. The globes were purchased from the only known supplier. Officials of the firm stated that the globes were specifically designed for the light pole fixtures and are sold exclusively to the Park Service for the National Mall.

We did not request formal agency comments; however, we apprised agency officials of the results of our work and they generally agreed with the information contained in the report. We are sending copies of this report to the Secretary of the Interior; the Mayor of the District of Columbia; the Director, Office of Management and Budget; and to the appropriate House and Senate legislative and appropriations committees. We will make copies available to other interested parties.

Sincerely yours.

Henry Eschwege

Director

Enclosures - 4

LABOR AND BENEFIT CHARGES BY THE

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT FOR

THE REPLACEMENT OF THREE FIRE HYDRANTS

Date of work/ employee occupation	Hourly rate (note a)	Number hours	Total wages	Total benefits	Total
April 6, 1979:					
Surveyor	\$ 8.93	4	\$ 35.72	\$ 9.75	\$ 45.47
Surveyor	6.47	4	25.88	7.07	32.95
Backhoe operator	10.04	8	80.32	21.21	101.53
Truck driver	8.67	8	69.36	18.21	87.57
Laborer	8.21	8	65.68	17.21	82.89
Laborer	7.93	8	63.44	16.60	80.04
Laborer	9.00	8	72.00	18.94	90.94
Laborer	7.65	8 .	61.20	15.99	77.19
Foreman	10.445	8	83.56	22.45	106.01
Laborer	8.69	8 _8	69.52	18.26	87.78
Total		72	626.68	165.69	792.37
April 9, 1979:					
Backhoe operator	10.04	8	80.32	21.21	101.53
Truck driver	8.67	8	69.36	18.21	87.57
Laborer	7.93	8	63.44	16.60	80.04
Laborer	9.00	8	72.00	18.94	90.94
Laborer	7.65	8	61.20	15.99	77.19
Foreman	10.445	8	83.56	22.45	106.01
Laborer	8.69	_8	69.52	18.26	87.78
Total		56	: 499.40	131.66	631.06

Date of work/ employee occupation	Hourly rate (<u>note a</u>)	Number hours	Total wages	Total benefits	<u>Total</u>
April 10, 1979:					
Surveyor	\$ 6.47	4	\$ 25.88	\$ 7.07	\$ 32.95
Fuel truck driver	8.21	4	32.84	8.60	41.44
Backhoe operator	10.04	8	80.32	21.21	101.53
Truck driver	8.67	8.	69.36	18.21	87.57
Laborer	6.80	8	54.40	14.13	68.53
Laborer	7.93	8	63.44	16.60	80.04
Laborer	9.00	8 8 2 8	72.00	18.94	90.94
Laborer	7.65	2	15.30	4.00	19.30
Foreman	10.445		83.56	22.45	106.01
Laborer	8.69	_8	69.52	18.26	87.78
Total		<u>66</u>	566.62	149.47	716.09
April 11, 1979:					
Truck driver	8.21	8	65.68	17.21	82.89
Backhoe operator	10.04	8	80.32	21.21	101.53
Truck driver	8.67	8	69.36	18.21	87.57
Laborer	7.93	8	63.44	16.60	80.04
Laborer	9.00	8	72.00	18.94	90.94
Foreman	10.445	8	83.56	22.45	106.01
Laborer	8.69	8	69.52	18.26	87.78
Total		<u>56</u>	503.88	132.88	636.76

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Date of work/ employee occupation	Hourly rate (<u>note a</u>)	Number hours	Total wages	Total benefits	<u>Total</u>
April 12, 1979:					
Surveyor	\$ 8.93	4	\$ 35.72	\$ 9.75	\$ 45.47
Surveyor	6.47	4	25.88	7.07	32.95
Truck driver	8.21	8	65.68	17.21	82.89
Backhoe operator	10.04	8	80.32	21.21	101.53
Laborer	7.93	8	63.44	16.60	80.04
Laborer	9.00	8	72.00	18.94	90.94
Foreman	10.445	8	83.56	22.45	106.01
Laborer	8.69	8	69.52	18.26	87.78
Journeyman mechanic	8.505	2	17.01	4.55	21.56
Journeyman mechanic	9.415	2	18.83	5.05	23.88
Journeyman mechanic	8.34	4	33.36	9.11	42.47
Journeyman mechanic	9.415	4	<u>37.66</u>	10.10	47.76
Total		<u>68</u>	602.98	160.30	763.28
April 13, 1979:					
Surveyor	8.93	4	35.72	9.75	45.47
Surveyor	6.47	4	25.88	7.07	32.95
Backhoe operator	10.04	8	80.32	21.21	101.53
Truck driver	8.67	8	69.36	18.21	87.57
Laborer	7.93	8	63.44	16.60	80.04
Laborer	9.00	8	72.00	18.94	90.94
Foreman	10.445	8	83.56	22.45	106.01
Laborer	8.69	8	69.52	18.26	87.78
Journeyman mechanic	8.505	4	34.02	9.11	43.13
Journeyman mechanic	9.415	_4	37.66	10.10	47.76
Total		<u>64</u>	571.48	151.70	723.18

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Date of work/ employee occupation	Hourly rate (<u>note</u> a)	Number hours	Total wages	Total benefits	Total
April 16, 1979:					
Surveyor	\$ 8.93	4	\$ 35.72	\$ 9.75	\$ 45.47
Loader operator	9.25	8	74.00	19.48	93.48
Truck driver	8.67	8	69.36	18.21	87.57
Laborer	7.23	8	57.84	15.07	72.91
Foreman	10.445	8	83.56	22.45	106.01
Laborer	8.21	8	65.68	17.21	82.89
Laborer	6.60	8	52.80	13.69	66.49
Journeyman mechanic	8.505	2	17.01	4.55	21.56
Journeyman mechanic	9.415		18.83	5.05	23.88
Total		<u>56</u>	474.80	125.46	600.26
April 17, 1979:					
Fuel truck driver	8.21	4	32.84	8.60	41.44
Loader operator	9.25	8	74.00	19.48	93.48
Truck driver	8.67	8	69.36	18.21	87.57
Compressor operator	8.21	8	65.68	17.21	82.89
Laborer	6.80	7	47.60	12.36	59.96
Laborer	7.23	8	57.84	15.07	72.91
Laborer	9.00	8	72.00	18.94	90.94
Laborer	7.65	8	61.20	15.99	77.19
Foreman	10.445	8	83.56	22.45	106.01
Laborer	8.21	8	65.68	17.21	82.89
Laborer	6.60	8	52.80	13.69	66.49
Journeyman mechanic	8.505	4	34.02	9.11	43.13
Journeyman mechanic	9.415		37.66	10.10	47.76
Journeyman mechanic	8.34	2	16.68	4.55	21.23
Journeyman mechanic	9.415	4 2 2	18.83	5.05	23.88
Total		<u>95</u>	789.75	208.02	997.77

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a/Includes for most employees \$0.33 per hour of environmental pay for working in less than desirable conditions.

EQUIPMENT-USE CHARGES BY THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT FOR THE REPLACEMENT

OF THREE FIRE HYDRANTS

		Hourly	rate for	Number	Maintenance	Replacement	
	Vehicle	Maintenance	Replacement	hours	cost	cost	<u>Total</u>
	April 6, 1979:						
	Carryall	\$0.93	\$0.84	4	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.36	\$ 7.08
	Pickup, 1/2 ton	0.93	0.86	8	7.44	6.88	14.32
	Dump, 6 cu. yd.	3.47	5.16	8	27.76	41.28	69.04
	Backhoe	1.14	6.63	8 _8	9.12	53.04	62.16
						304.55	150 60
	Total			<u>28</u>	48.04	104.56	152.60
	April 9, 1979:						
9	-	3.47	5.16	8	27.76	41.28	69.04
	Dump, 6 cu. yd.	1.14	6.63	8	9.12	53.04	62.16
	Backhoe	1.14	6.03		3.12	33.04	02.10
	Total			<u>16</u>	36.88	94.32	131.20
	10041			<u> </u>	and the second s		
	April 10, 1979:						
	Carryall	0.93	0.84	4	3.72	3.36	7.08
	Pickup, 3/4 ton	0.41	1.16	8	3.28	9.28	12.56
	Dump, 6 cu. yd.		5.16	8	27.76	41.28	69.04
	Fuel truck	3.47	2.86	4	13.88	11.44	25.32
	Backhoe	1.14	6.63	_8	9.12	53.04	62.16
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	Total			<u>32</u>	<u>57.76</u>	118.40	176.16
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ENCLOSURE II

<u>Vehicle</u>		rate for Replacement	Number hours	Maintenance cost	Replacement cost	<u>Total</u>
April 11, 1979:	0 0 45	0.5.16	0	4 47 76	A A 3 A 0	<i>ـ</i> د د د د د د
Dump, 6 cu. yd.	\$ 3.47	\$ 5.16	8	\$ 27.76	\$ 41.28	\$ 69.04
Dump, 4 cu. yd.	2.00	1.13	8	16.00	9.04	25.04
Backhoe	1.14	6.63	_8	9.12	53.04	62.16
Total			24	52.88	103.36	156.24
April 12, 1979:						
Carryall	0.93	0.84	4	3.72	3.36	7.08
Dump, $2-1/2$ cu.	vd. 1.88	0.98	8	15.04	7.84	22.88
Backhoe	1.14	6.63	8	9.12	53.04	62.16
Utility truck	1.13	8.21	4	4.52	32.84	37.36
Utility truck	1.13	8.21	_2	2.26	16.42	18.68
√ Total			<u>26</u>	34.66	113.50	148.16
April 13, 1979:						
Carryall	0.93	0.84	4	3.72	3.36	7.08
Pickup, 1/2 ton	0.93	0.86	8	7.44	6.88	14.32
Dump, 6 cu. yd.	3.47	5.16	8	27.76	41.28	69.04
Backhoe	1.14	6.63	8	9.12	53.04	62.16
Utility truck	1.13	8.21	_4	4.52	32.84	37.36
Total			<u>32</u>	52.56	137.40	189.96

62.16 18.68

37.36

Total

7.08

69.04

62.16

18.68

156.96

14.32

25.32

88.64 69.04

41.28

315.52 173.66

3.36 7.08

3.36 7.08

Replacement

\$ 3.36 \$

41.28

53.04

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114.10

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cost

3.72

\$1,433.88 226 \$471.22 \$962.66

Maintenance

3.72

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Numbers

8

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hours

Hourly rate for

Replacement

\$0.84

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1.47

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Maintenance

\$0.93

3.47

1.14

1.13

0.93

1.14

1.13

1.13

3.47

9.61

3.47

0.93

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Vehicle

April 16, 1979: Carryall

Backhoe

April 17, 1979:

Backhoe

Fuel truck

Compressor

April 18, 1979:

Total

Carryall

Dump, 6 cu. yd.

Utility Truck

Total

Pickup, 1/2 ton

Dump, 6 cu. yd.

Total

Total

Utility truck

Utility truck

# MATERIAL CHARGES BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THREE FIRE HYDRANTS

<u>Item</u>	Quanity	Unit cost	Total
Fire hydrant, mechanical joint, 6" boot	3	\$348.52	\$1,045.56
Less: salvage of old hydrants	3	50.00	150.00
Net cost of hydrants	<u>3</u>	\$298.52	\$ <u>895.56</u>
Offset, mechanical joint, 8" X 12"	1	\$182.05	\$182.05
Bend, mechanical joint, 8" 1/8 bend	2	83.50	167.00
Crushed stone (CR6)	21.14 tons	5.07	107.17
Reducer, concentric, 8" X 6", S/S	2	45.98	91.96
Reducer, mechanical joint, 8" X 6"	1	73.00	73.00
Pipe ductile, tyton joint, 6"	18 ft.	4.01	72.18
Sleeve, mechanical joint, 8"	1	65.80	65.80

AND AND SOL

Total

20.40

6.60

5.22

4.32

3.90

3.18

2.60

Unit cost

\$6.80

3.30

0.87

1.44

3.90

1.06

1.30

0.48

Quanity

3

6

3

1

3

2

3 rolls

2 bags

\$1,702.38

Total

Item

Plug concrete, 15"

Plastic drain, 3/4"

Folding ruler, 6 ft.

Orange ribbon flagging

First aid kit

Pipe fibre, 15"

Cement

Gloves

2000 Pelling

AND SAFER

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### ESTIMATED COSTS OF NONPRODUCTIVE TIME CHARGES FOR

# EMPLOYEE LABOR AND BENEFITS AND EQUIPMENT USE BY THE

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THREE FIRE HYDRANTS

		Costs		
		Labor & benefits	Equipment	<u>Total</u>
April 9, 1979	Officials estimate that about 65 per-cent of the day was lost because of rain.	\$410	\$ 85	\$ 495
April 13, 1979	Scheduled shutdown of water main had to be postponed to April 16, 1979, because a concessioner was tapped on the main. Officials estimate the entire day was lost.	645	190	835
April 16, 1979	Crew found ditch had been flooded and had collapsed because of a faulty valve Water had to be pumped from ditch and excavated again. Officials estimat 35 percent of the day was lost to perform work done previously.	e	48	226

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Company and the second of the

		Costs			
<u>Date</u>	Remarks	Labor & benefits	Equipment	Total	
April 6, 10 to 12, and 17, 1979	Based on officials' esti- mate that between 25 to 32 percent of the day w lost due to traffic con gestion.	) Jās	\$191 to 239	\$1,012 to 1,265	ENCLOSURE IV
Total		\$2,054 to \$2,259	\$514 to \$ <u>562</u>	\$2,568 to \$2,821	

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	TOTAL QUANTITY TO BE PREPARED	296	1					
APPROVED	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  Larry Turman	ON CONTACT:						
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