



Tony Babauta &lt;tony.babauta@guam.gov&gt;

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**This week for War Claims**

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**Tony Babauta** <tony.babauta@guam.gov>

Mon, Aug 19, 2019 at 6:26 PM

To: "Paul G. Wolfeich" &lt;Paul.Wolfeich@fiscal.treasury.gov&gt;

Cc: Doug Hoelscher - DC &lt;douglas.l.hoelscher@who.eop.gov&gt;, "Horning, Daniel M. EOP/WHO" &lt;Daniel.M.Horning@who.eop.gov&gt;, "Domenech, Douglas" &lt;douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov&gt;, nikolao\_pula &lt;nikolao\_pula@ios.doi.gov&gt;

Hafa adai, Paul. Our Guam Legislature will be taking up the local legislation tomorrow.

Just wanted to follow up on earlier email regarding the suggested change to the first letter from Treasury to a claimant seeking their permission to release their information to the Government of Guam.

Also looking forward to the other instruments Treasury suggests that we use to reach out to a claimant in order to make the award and assign their claim to the Government of Guam.

Lastly, do we need the manner in which Govguam reports the awards made and the assigned claims within the MOA? Or is that a process we agree to within the MOA but unnecessary to spell out. We want to give confidence to the legislature that there is no possibility of a double payment that could be made from Treasury to a claimant we have awarded.

Look forward to hearing from you and reviewing the draft letters.



Tony Babauta &lt;tony.babauta@guam.gov&gt;

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**This week for War Claims**

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**Domenech, Douglas** <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Aug 21, 2019 at 3:12 AM

To: "Paul G. Wolfeich" &lt;Paul.Wolfeich@fiscal.treasury.gov&gt;

Cc: Tony Babauta &lt;tony.babauta@guam.gov&gt;, Doug Hoelscher - DC &lt;douglas.i.hoelscher@who.eop.gov&gt;, "Horning, Daniel M. EOP/WHO" &lt;Daniel.M.Horning@who.eop.gov&gt;, nikolao\_pula &lt;nikolao\_pula@ios.doi.gov&gt;, "Caitlin M. Gehring" &lt;caitlin.gehring@fiscal.treasury.gov&gt;, "Rebecca M. Saltiel" &lt;Rebecca.Saltiel@fiscal.treasury.gov&gt;

Paul - It seems like the Guam Congressman is questioning the overall plan. He is saying he has a letter from Treasury saying Guam's plan won't work. I am not aware of this letter. Are we on track to make this work?

As I understand it, Guam is moving forward to pass a bill to allow them to use their own money (\$7.5M) to start the payments focused primarily on survivors. In the meantime, we are supporting Del. San Nicholas' bill to permanently fix the technical problems with the initial bill.

I believe Guam is not specifically looking for "reimbursement" figuring once all the adjudication and payments are made, then the balance in the "lock box" will come to them to make them whole.

Is this roughly correct?

Doug

*Doug Domenech  
Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs  
Oceans, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program  
Natural and Cultural Resource Hurricane Recovery USVI/Puerto Rico  
US Department of the Interior*

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

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Tony Babauta &lt;tony.babauta@guam.gov&gt;

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**This week for War Claims**

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**Paul G. Wolfeich** <Paul.Wolfeich@fiscal.treasury.gov>

Wed, Aug 21, 2019 at 4:09 AM

To: "Domenech, Douglas" &lt;douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov&gt;

Cc: Tony Babauta &lt;tony.babauta@guam.gov&gt;, Doug Hoelscher - DC &lt;douglas.l.hoelscher@who.eop.gov&gt;, "Horning, Daniel M. EOP/WHO" &lt;Daniel.M.Horning@who.eop.gov&gt;, nikolao\_pula &lt;nikolao\_pula@ios.doi.gov&gt;, "Caitlin M. Gehring" &lt;caitlin.gehring@fiscal.treasury.gov&gt;, "Rebecca M. Saltiel" &lt;Rebecca.Saltiel@fiscal.treasury.gov&gt;, "Steven.Laughton@treasury.gov" &lt;Steven.Laughton@treasury.gov&gt;

Doug,

I don't know what letter the Guam Congressman is referring to. Treasury is still working with Guam to make this happen. The plan we've discussed with Guam on the telephone and in our emails generally looks like this:

1. When Guam is ready, Treasury contacts people with approved claims to notify them about Guam's payment proposal, and seeks the claimants' permission to disclose information about their claims to Guam. When we have their consent, we will send that information to Guam.
2. Guam will contact the claimants with its payment offer. The offer is essentially this: In return for a payment from Guam, the claimant assigns his or her claim against the federal government to Guam.
3. When a claimant accepts Guam's offer, Guam pays the claimant and receives in return an assignment of the claim against Treasury.
4. When Congress appropriates funds, Guam submits the assigned claims to Treasury for payment. Without an appropriation, Treasury cannot pay funds to claimants or Guam.

There are many operational details to be worked out, as you can see from the email below. An important detail is how Guam will distribute its limited funds, given that the amount owed to victims is greater than the amount Guam has available.

I'd be happy to discuss this on the telephone, if that would be easier.

Regards,

Paul

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