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Cost Overruns Pervasive for CBP Housing

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) vastly overpaid for an overly elaborate employee housing project in remote Ajo, Arizona, a new Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, report has found.

OIG Report No. OIG 14-131, "CBP Did Not Effectively Plan and Manage Employee Housing in Ajo, Arizona," found that CBP paid an average of \$680,000 each to build 21 single-family homes in Ajo, where home prices average \$86,500. The units are for CBP employees stationed on and near the U.S.-Mexico border.

Specifically, the OIG found that CBP:

- Paid a premium price for land;
- Built two- and three-bedroom family-style houses rather than the recommended one-bedroom apartment-style housing; and
- Included nonessential items and amenities in the project without adequate justification.

"This is a classic example of inadequate planning and management leading to wasteful spending," said Inspector General John Roth. "This project could have been completed at much less cost to the taxpayers."

[Read Report: OIG 14-131- CBP Did Not Effectively Plan and Manage Employee Housing in Ajo, Arizona](#)

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