

# **EXHIBIT A**

**Robert Benincasa**

---

**From:** Robert Benincasa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2014 9:41 AM  
**To:** 'FEMA-FOIA@dhs.gov'  
**Subject:** FOIA request from NPR

Sept. 9, 2014 Freedom Of Information Act Request

FEMA FOIA Office  
Records Management/Disclosure Branch  
Mailstop 3172  
500 C Street, SW,  
Washington, D.C. 20472  
Via e-mail: [FEMA-FOIA@dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-FOIA@dhs.gov)

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of electronic database tables containing the data in the possession and/or control of FEMA in association with property acquisitions under the Hazard Mitigation Grant program or similar program(s).

FEMA has released some fields from this dataset at:

<http://www.fema.gov/data-feeds/openfema-dataset-hazard-mitigation-grant-program-property-acquisitions-v1>

However, the dataset as released is incomplete. Specifically, it lacks basic public information about the property acquisitions, such as the address of the properties acquired, the sellers' names, the amount paid for the property and the GIS coordinates of the properties.

I am requesting complete data, which would include the above fields, and any other data fields present in the dataset, covering all activity of the program since its inception.

I would also like any documentation or meta-data associated with any and all data tables related to the dataset named above. This documentation would include but not be limited to any coding manuals, record layouts, relational models and data dictionaries, including all references to any fields withheld by FEMA in response this request.

I request that you release these data to me in a standard, machine-readable electronic format such as Excel, Access, ASCII, CSV, etc.

In the event that any of the records are exempt from disclosure, I ask that you segregate those portions that are not exempt from disclosure and release them to me.

I agree to pay reasonable duplication fees for the processing of this request, but I ask for a waiver of fees because the information as used by National Public Radio is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me via e-mail or telephone, rather than by postal mail, if you have questions regarding this request.

I may be reached at 202-513-2218 or [rbenincasa@npr.org](mailto:rbenincasa@npr.org). My attorney, Ashley Messenger, may be reached at 202-513-2054 or [amessenger@npr.org](mailto:amessenger@npr.org). I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert Benincasa  
Producer, Computer-Assisted Reporting  
NPR News