



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

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## **TWO WEEKS LEFT TO APPLY FOR SBA DISASTER LOANS**

**Sacramento, CA** – Carlos G. Mendoza, Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Fresno District Office, announced today that small businesses have until **April 23, 2007** to apply for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). “These EIDLs are available to small businesses for working capital needs as a result of the Ferguson Rockslide that occurred on Highway 140 on April 29, 2006 in Mariposa County,” Mendoza said.

“So far, SBA has approved more than \$1 million in low-interest loans to help small businesses impacted by the rockslide,” he added.

EIDLs are working capital loans and are available to small businesses in Mariposa County as well as the neighboring counties of Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tuolumne to meet financial obligations that the business could have paid if the rockslide and subsequent road closure had not occurred.

“Small businesses may qualify for EIDLs of up to \$1.5 million to help pay their fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate on these loans is 4 percent, with a maturity up to 30 years,” Mendoza continued.

Business owners may obtain information and loan applications by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955**, or by visiting SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to return EIDL applications is **April 23, 2007**.