



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

**Release Date:** January 16, 2007  
**Release Number:** LA 10701-06

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## **SBA DISASTER LOAN ASSISTANCE TOPS \$5 MILLION FOR VICTIMS OF LOUISIANA STORMS AND FLOODING**

**Sacramento, CA** – Eugene Cornelius, Jr., District Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) New Orleans District Office, announced today that SBA has approved more than \$5 million in low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes whose property was damaged by the severe storms and flooding that occurred from October 16 through November 8, 2006.

SBA is the federal government’s primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. SBA disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

“So far SBA has approved 174 loans for more than \$5 million to homeowners, renters and businesses who sustained damage from the disaster,” said Cornelius.

“SBA is still accepting applications for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) from small businesses that sustained economic losses due to the severe storms and flooding,” Cornelius said. “EIDLs of up to \$1.5 million are available to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred,” he continued.

Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship. The deadline to return Economic Injury Disaster Loan applications is **August 2, 2007**.

SBA Customer Service Representatives continue to be available to answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan programs by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Individuals and business owners may also obtain information by visiting SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).