



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small businesses in 47 California counties (plus neighboring counties in Arizona and Nevada) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by the extremely low temperatures and freezing conditions from January 6, 2007 through January 19, 2007 that occurred in the following 18 primary California counties, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary California counties:

El Dorado	Fresno	Glenn	Imperial	Kern
Madera	Merced	Monterey	Riverside	Sacramento
San Bernardino	San Luis Obispo	Santa Barbara	Stanislaus	Sutter
Tulare	Yolo	Yuba		

Neighboring California counties:

Alameda	Alpine	Amador	Butte	Calaveras
Colusa	Contra Costa	Inyo	Kings	Lake
Los Angeles	Mariposa	Mendocino	Mono	Napa
Nevada	Orange	Placer	Plumas	San Benito
San Diego	San Joaquin	Santa Clara	Santa Cruz	Sierra
Solano	Tehama	Tuolumne	Ventura	

Neighboring Arizona counties:

La Paz	Mohave	Yuma
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Neighboring Nevada counties:

Clark	Douglas
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Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. “Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual 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,” Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration.

For information and application forms, call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. The deadline to apply for these loans is October 1, 2007.

For more information visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance

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