



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to California Residents and Businesses Affected by the Jesusita Fire

Sacramento, CA – U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Karen G. Mills today announced that low-interest disaster loans are now available to residents and business owners affected by the Jesusita fire that began May 5 in Santa Barbara County. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to a May 18, 2009 request from Matthew R. Bettenhausen, Acting Secretary of the California Emergency Management Agency, on behalf of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in **Santa Barbara** County and the neighboring counties of **Kern, San Luis Obispo** and **Ventura**.

“The U.S. Small Business Administration is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist California residents and businesses with federal disaster loans,” said Mills. “Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

“Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the disaster,” said Alberto G. Alvarado, SBA’s Los Angeles District Director. “Beginning Friday, May 22 at 1 pm, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application,” Alvarado continued. The center will be open on the days and times indicated. No appointment is necessary.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

County of Santa Barbara Administration Building
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 102
Santa Barbara, CA

Mondays through Fridays, 8 am to 5 pm

Opens Friday, May 22 at 1 pm
Closes Thursday, June 11

The center will be closed on Memorial Day, May 25

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

(more)

Businesses of any size and private, non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to homeowners and businesses to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **July 20, 2009**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **February 22, 2010**.

For more information visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov.

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