



U.S. Small Business Administration

# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

**Release Date:** May 22, 2009  
**Release Number:** CA 11759-01

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## ***Disaster Assistance Available for Agricultural-Dependent Small Businesses***

**Sacramento, CA** – Small, non-farm businesses in **Madera** County and the neighboring counties of: **Fresno, Mono, Mariposa, Merced and Tuolumne** are eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). “These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by the freeze that occurred from March 9 through March 11, 2009,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. “Eligibility for these 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 available to small businesses and most private, non-profits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Ed Schaffer 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.

Information and application forms are available from SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA’s Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

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

The deadline to apply is **January 19, 2010**.

*For more information visit SBA’s Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).*

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