Release Date: June 25, 2008   **Contact:** Richard Jenkins
Release Number: CA 11300-01   **Phone:** (916) 735-1500

SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to California
Residents and Businesses Affected by the Humboldt and Ophir Fires

SACRAMENTO – Jovita Carranza, Acting Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced that low-interest disaster loans are now available to residents and businesses affected by the Humboldt and Ophir Fires that began June 10 and 11 in Butte County.

By declaring a disaster, Acting Administrator Carranza's action makes SBA assistance available. Carranza's action responded to a June 20 request from Henry Renteria, Director of California's Office of Emergency Services, on behalf of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The declaration covers the California counties of **Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Plumas, Sutter, Tehama** and **Yuba**.

"We look forward to working with California and the people affected by this disaster to make SBA disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses," said Acting Administrator Carranza.

"Historically in fire disasters SBA has found that most property owners have insurance coverage. However, SBA has found that for many property owners their insurance does not cover the full loss. SBA's disaster loans are available to cover the gap between the cost of rebuilding and the amount of insurance settlements. It is not necessary to wait for insurance settlements before applying to SBA," said Jim O'Neal, SBA's Sacramento District Director.

"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 fires," continued O'Neal. "SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following Local Assistance Center and SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers on the days and times indicated. These SBA representatives will issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," he added.

Butte County	**Butte County**	**Butte County**
Local Assistance Center	Disaster Loan Outreach Center	Disaster Loan Outreach Center
Paradise Intermediate School Gym	Butte Community Employment Center	Family Resource Center
5657 Recreation Drive	78 Table Mountain Boulevard	6249 Skyway
Paradise, CA	Oroville, CA	Paradise, CA
		8 am – 5 pm
10 am – 7 pm	8 am – 5 pm	Wednesdays through Fridays
Wednesday, June 25	Mondays and Tuesdays	July 2 through July 11
through Friday, June 27	June 30 through July 15	Closed Friday, July 4th Holiday

(more)

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

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to $1.5 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 help homeowners and business owners 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 only, 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, or not.

Individuals and business owners may also obtain information by calling SBA's Customer Service Center at (**800) 659-2955,** emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may contact SBA at (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **August 25, 2008**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **March 23, 2009**.