



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA - Small, non-farm businesses in 24 California counties and 3 Nevada counties 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 adverse weather conditions in the primary counties, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply for working capital loans to offset economic losses that are attributable to the impact of the following weather conditions on the incident dates in each disaster:

EIDL	Primary Counties	Neighboring Counties	Incident Type	Incident Date	Deadline
11356	Sacramento	Amador, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Placer, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter and Yolo	Drought & Unseasonable Frost	1/1/08 through 5/31/08	03/30/09
11359	Placer	El Dorado, Nevada, Sacramento, Sutter and Yuba in California and Carson City, Douglas and Washoe in Nevada	Drought	3/1/08 through 6/1/08	03/30/09
11360	Shasta	Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity	Drought	2/10/08 & continuing	03/30/09
11362	Contra Costa	Alameda, Sacramento, San Joaquin and Solano	Drought	1/1/08 & continuing	3/30/09
11363	Madera	Fresno, Mariposa, Merced, Mono and Tuolumne	Drought	10/1/07 through 5/31/08	3/30/09

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 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 Ed Schafer declared these disasters at the request of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

(more)

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. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Information and application forms are available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling **(800) 659-2955**, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

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

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