



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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Contact: Richard Jenkins
Phone: (916) 735-1500

SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to California Residents and Businesses Affected by the June 2008 Dry Lightning Wildfires

SACRAMENTO – Sandy K. Baruah, Acting Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that low-interest disaster loans are now available to residents and business owners who were affected by the June 2008 wildfires caused by dry lightning, drought and high winds in Butte, Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. These wildfires began June 8 through June 23, and continued through August 20, 2008. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to a request from the state following the October 23 denial of the state’s appeal for a major disaster declaration.

By declaring a disaster, Acting Administrator Baruah’s action makes SBA assistance available. The declaration covers the California counties of **Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kings, Monterey, Plumas, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba.**

“We look forward to working with California and the people affected by the wildfires and making SBA disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses,” said Acting Administrator Baruah.

“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 Bruce C. Thompson, SBA’s Regional Administrator. “SBA customer service representatives will be on hand beginning **Monday, November 3** at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application,” Thompson continued. The centers will be located in the following communities and will be open on the days and time indicated. An additional outreach center will be announced to serve disaster victims in Santa Cruz County.

BUTTE COUNTY

Public Works/Development Service
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA

Opens Monday, November 3 at 8 am

Mondays through Fridays, 8 am to 5 pm
Until further notice

MONTEREY COUNTY

Barnyard Shopping Village Carmel
Santa Cruz Barn D-41 - 3rd Floor
3618 The Barnyard
Carmel, CA

Opens Monday, November 3 at 9 am

Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays 9 am to 6 pm
Until further notice

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)

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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.

Individuals and business owners unable to visit SBA's Disaster Loan Outreach Center may contact SBA's Customer Service Center by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955 or by emailing SBA at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339 or visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Additionally, disaster victims may now go online to file an SBA application for disaster loan assistance. The Electronic Loan Application (ELA) is accessible via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **December 29, 2008**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **July 28, 2009**.

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

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SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841