



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Small Businesses Financially Hurt by Wildfires

Sacramento, CA – Sandy K. Baruah, Acting Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced that the SBA is making low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small businesses that suffered economic impact from the dry lightning wildfires that occurred from June 8, 2008 to August 20, 2008.

The declaration covers the primary counties of **Mariposa, Mendocino, Santa Barbara, Shasta** and **Trinity** and the neighboring counties of **Glenn, Humboldt, Kern, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Merced, Modoc, Plumas, San Luis Obispo, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tuolumne** and **Ventura**.

SBA’s disaster declaration immediately makes these low-interest loans available to help small businesses to meet financial needs caused by the disaster. “The SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to help small businesses get back on their feet again,” said Acting Administrator Baruah. “It is our highest priority at SBA.”

Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West, said SBA acted under its own authority to declare these areas a disaster. Baruah’s action responded to a request received on November 17, 2008 from Henry Renteria, Director of the California Office of Emergency Services, on behalf of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The deadline to apply for these loans is **August 18, 2009**.

Small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may apply for working capital loans of up to \$2 million at an interest rate of 4 percent with terms up to 30 years. “These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. These loans can provide vital economic assistance to small businesses affected by the wildfires to help overcome the temporary financial impacts they are experiencing,” said Judd.

“SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following locations on the days and times indicated to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, explain the application process and help each business owner complete their application,” continued Judd.

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Mariposa

Visitors Center Building
5158 Highway 140
Corner of Highway 140 & Jones Street
Mariposa, CA

Mondays through Thursdays, 1 pm to 5 pm
Opens Monday, December 1 at 1 pm
Closes Thursday, December 11

MENDOCINO COUNTY

Ukiah

Mendocino Works
631 South Orchard Avenue
Across from the Best Western
Ukiah, CA

Mondays through Thursdays, 1 pm to 5 pm
Opens Monday, December 1 at 1 pm
Closes Thursday, December 11

SHASTA COUNTY

Redding

County Administration Building
1450 Court Street, Suite # 332
Corner of Tehama Street, Next to Court House
Redding, CA

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 am to 5 pm

Fridays, 8 am to 1 pm

Opens Wednesday, December 3 at 8 am

Closes Friday, December 12

In addition, in a separate action, SBA declared **Trinity** County and the neighboring counties of **Humboldt, Mendocino, Shasta, Siskiyou** and **Tehama** in response to a disaster declaration by U. S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer. The Secretary's action made USDA assistance available to agricultural businesses suffering losses as a result of sub-freezing temperatures and heavy smoke from fires that occurred in Trinity County beginning June 2, 2008. SBA's declaration makes SBA disaster loans available to help small non-farm businesses offset economic losses because of the agricultural production losses declared by the Secretary. The deadline for this declaration is July 6, 2009.

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**, emailing SBA at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339.

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 website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

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

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