

Comptroller of the Currency
Administrator of National Banks

Washington, DC 20219

For:
IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OCC OUTLINES MEASURES TO ASSIST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) today outlined measures to assist areas of the Pacific Northwest affected by floods.

The OCC encourages national banks to work with borrowers in communities affected by such disasters. OCC policy as stated in OCC banking issuance 95-65 encourages national banks to consider various alternatives that may include:

- . extending the terms of loan repayments;
- . restructuring a borrower's debt obligations;
- . easing loan documentation or credit-extension terms for new loans to certain borrowers, consistent with prudent banking practice.

The OCC notes that these measures could help borrowers recover their financial strength and enable them to be in a better position to repay their debts. These recovery efforts can contribute to the health of the local community and the long-term interests of the national bank.

It is OCC policy for examiners not to criticize prudent efforts to adjust or alter loan repayment terms or extend new loans to borrowers affected by a natural disaster.

The OCC will also use accelerated procedures to approve temporary banking facilities for a national bank with destroyed or severely damaged branches that wants to serve customers affected by the floods.

The OCC district office in San Francisco at (415) 545-5900 is the point of contact for national banks in need of assistance in dealing with customers affected by the floods in the Pacific Northwest.

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