



# DISASTER NEWS

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

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## **SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to California Residents and Businesses Affected by Flooding, Debris Flows, Mudslides and Heavy Snow**

**Sacramento, CA** – Low-interest federal disaster loans are now available in California for residents and business owners affected by the severe winter storms which generated heavy rain, snow and high winds causing flooding, debris flows and mudslides beginning January 17, U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Karen G. Mills said today. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to a request received from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on February 11.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in the counties of **Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino** and **Ventura**.

“The U. S. Small Business Administration is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist California residents and businesses with federal disaster loans,” said Mills. “Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

“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 Alberto G. Alvarado, SBA’s Acting Regional Administrator. “Beginning Thursday, February 18, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following SBA 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,” Alvarado continued. The centers will be open on the days and times indicated. No appointment is necessary. Additional centers will be announced to serve disaster victims in Los Angeles County.

**San Bernardino County**  
SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center  
City of Big Bear Lake City Hall  
39707 Big Bear Boulevard  
Big Bear Lake, CA

**Opens Thursday, February 18 at 8:30 am**

Mondays through Fridays,  
From 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

*Open Until further notice*

**San Bernardino County**  
SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center  
Hesperia City Hall  
9700 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hesperia, CA

**Opens Thursday, February 18 at 9:00 am**

Mondays through Thursdays,  
From 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Fridays, From 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

*Open 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.

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.

Interest rates can be as low as 2.562 percent for homeowners and 4 percent for business with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **April 19, 2010**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **November 16, 2010**.

*For more information visit SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*

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