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FEMA

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Disaster News

SANTA BARBARA DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER TRANSITIONS TO SBA DISASTER LOAN OUTREACH CENTER

PASADENA, Calif. – Alberto Alvarado, district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Los Angeles, Calif. office, announced the federal-state Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Santa Barbara will move to a new location and become an SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2008.

The Santa Barbara DRC at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina Street closes Friday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m. The SBA DLOC opens Saturday, December 13, at the Santa Barbara County Administration Building, 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, Calif. The DLOC will be open Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and next week, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It will be closed Saturday, December 20, and reopen on Monday, January 12, 2009.

The California Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), along with SBA, opened the DRC to provide personal assistance and disaster information to individuals and businesses that suffered damage in the California wildfires of November 13 through November 28.

“At this stage of the recovery, the assistance emphasis is on the long-term needs of survivors. We believe the transition of the Santa Barbara DRC to an SBA DLOC will meet those needs,” said Alvarado.

SBA customer service representatives will continue to be available at the DRC until it closes and at the DLOC to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process, help each individual complete his or her application, and close his or her approved disaster loan. FEMA will have an Individual Assistance program specialist at the DLOC, too.

Low-interest SBA disaster loans are offered to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations to repair or replace property damaged or destroyed by the disaster. So far, SBA has approved more than **\$5.7 million** in low-interest disaster loans to residents and businesses hurt by the November wildfires.

SBA 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 nonprofit 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 also can lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of damage from future like-disasters.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private nonprofit organizations of all sizes, 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.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, survivors should first call the FEMA registration number **1-800-621-3362 (FEMA)** (TTY 1-800-462-7585) or go online at www.fema.gov.

For additional SBA disaster assistance information, call SBA's Customer Service Center at **(800) 659-2955**, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

The SBA filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **January 21, 2009**. The EIDL deadline is **August 18, 2009**.

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FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates overall state agency response to major disasters in support of local government. OES maintains the State Emergency Plan, which outlines the organizational structure for state management of the response to natural and manmade disasters. OES assists local governments and their state agencies in developing their own emergency preparedness and response plans in accordance with the Standardized Emergency Management System and the State Emergency Plan.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For information about SBA programs, applicants may call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY 1-800-977-8339.)