U.S. Small Business Administration

Region VI Disaster News

Disaster News

SBA STANDS READY TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF SEVERE STORMS AND TORNADOES IN MAVERICK, MOORE AND SWISHER COUNTIES, TEXAS

SACRAMENTO –Steven C. Preston, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced that SBA will make low-interest disaster loans available to Texas residents and businesses. These SBA disaster loans are now available because of President Bush's Federal disaster declaration.

The declaration covers **Maverick, Moore** and **Swisher** Counties following the severe storms and tornadoes that occurred April 21 through April 24, 2007.

"We look forward to working with the State of Texas to make our loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes who were affected by the severe storms and tornadoes," said Administrator Preston. "We will be swift in our efforts, along with our partners at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to help

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Texas disaster victims rebuild their homes and businesses. Once local recovery facilities are identified in the declared areas, SBA officials will provide one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants."

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 $1.5 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 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 only, 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 2.875 percent for homeowners and renters and 4 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based upon each applicant's financial condition.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, victims must first call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at (800) 621-3362. Additional details on the location of assistance centers can be obtained by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at **(800) 659-2955**.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **July 2, 2007.** The EIDL deadline is **February 1, 2008**.