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FEMA

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Disaster News

ORANGE COUNTY ASSISTANCE CENTER TRANSITIONS TO SBA CENTER

PASADENA, Calif. — The Local Assistance Center at the One Stop Center strip mall, 125 Technology Way in Irvine will transition to a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) on Tuesday, Nov. 6. Hours will be Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

SBA Customer Service Representatives at the DLOC will be available to issue and accept loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process, and help each individual complete their application.

SBA offers low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations. These loans are to repair or replace homes, businesses, and private personal property damaged by the Southern California wildfires.

This center will also have a FEMA representative on hand to answer questions on federal disaster assistance available for individuals and households.

Businesses or individuals unable to visit the DLOC may obtain information by calling toll-free: **1-800-659-2955** (TTY 1-800-877-8339) or visit SBA at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

Attached is a list of assistance service centers that are currently open to serve Southern California wildfire victims.

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 is also responsible for maintaining the State Emergency Plan and coordinating the California's preparedness, mitigation and recovery efforts.

Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are available to homeowners and renters, businesses of all sizes, and nonprofit organizations to repair or replace disaster-damaged property not fully covered by insurance.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.

Temporary housing assistance from FEMA does not require that an applicant file for an SBA loan. However, an applicant must complete an SBA loan application to be eligible for additional assistance under the part of the Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses. There are other ONA grants such as public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses that do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan to be eligible. FEMA will process applications for housing assistance regardless of whether the applicant has applied for an SBA loan, and eligibility determinations for applicants requesting FEMA's temporary housing assistance will not be held up because the applicant has or has not filled out an SBA application.