



News Release

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SBA Hurricane Loans Exceed \$2.5 Billion; Record Pace For Disaster Loan Approvals Continues

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration continues to approve recovery and rebuilding loans for residents and businesses in the Gulf Coast region at a record pace over the first 10 days of January, surpassing \$2.5 billion on Tuesday (1/10).

Loan approvals reached the \$2 billion mark on Dec. 30 as the SBA continues to approve loans at a daily average of more than \$52 million. Approvals Tuesday alone amounted to a daily record of more than \$84.6 million on almost 1,200 loans. Almost \$1.4 billion of the loans are for Louisiana, and just over \$1 billion are in Mississippi.

“Day after day, we are approving loans at an ever-increasing pace,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “The SBA continues to accelerate our efforts to deliver long-term relief to affected homeowners and small businesses of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Florida. This is the fastest disaster response the SBA has ever given to any disaster in our 52-year history and I am proud of our dedicated staff, which is working with urgency and compassion to help rebuild the Gulf Coast.”

Through Jan. 10, the SBA has approved 36,917 disaster recovery loans worth \$2.564 billion. Only one other disaster in the nation’s history has exceeded the \$2.5 billion mark for SBA loans – the Northridge Earthquake of 1994, at \$4 billion in approved loans over a period of 12 months. The Florida hurricanes of 2004 topped out at \$1.86 billion after more than nine months. The agency continues to receive new loan applications, bringing the current total to over 350,000, more than 100,000 more than were received after the Northridge Earthquake.

“The SBA disaster staff has grown more than four times larger than it was before Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on August 29. We have processed 92 percent of the business working capital applications, disbursements have been made on almost a third of the approved loans, we have performed more than 147,000 site inspections, and we have processed more than 152,100 applications in less than four months,” Barreto said.

For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Assistance loan programs, visit the SBA Web site at http://www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/hurricanes/.

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