

# County of San Luis Obispo

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**JIM GRANT**  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FROM THE COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Federal Disaster Declaration for Public Agencies**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA, January 26, 2011** – President Obama has declared a major disaster declaration for certain counties in California, including San Luis Obispo County, due to damages from the recent series of storms. Unfortunately, this particular disaster declaration is for public agencies to recover costs related to, responding to, and recovering from the storms, and does not include assistance to individuals or businesses.

Information received by County OES from the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) states that disaster assistance for individuals and businesses remains under review. As a result, unfortunately today's declaration by President Obama provides for disaster recovery assistance to local government agencies and certain non-profits but does not provide disaster assistance programs for individuals or businesses.

County OES continues to remain in contact with Cal EMA and also the Small Business Administration in the hope of hearing that perhaps at least low interest loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA) to assist with home repairs and lost property due to the storms may be made available. The SBA has programs that offer low-interest loans to businesses, homeowners, renters and/or personal-property owners to recover from a disaster. County officials are urging residents to stay tuned to local media so if these loans do become available, they can gain information on how to apply.

If any financial disaster assistance becomes available, including SBA loans, the County Office of Emergency Services will utilize local media and community partners to publicize information.

County OES says there could be misunderstandings related to the names of the federal disaster assistance programs. The programs to provide assistance to public agencies – that is government agencies and certain non-profits – are titled Public Assistance; programs to provide assistance to individuals and businesses are titled Individual Assistance.

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