

THOMAS FIRE DISASTER RESPONSE AND BUSINESS RECOVERY SUMMARY

OBJECTIVE- The purpose of this report is to highlight the economic injury of businesses affected by the Thomas Fire and subsequent Montecito mudflow and summarize previous and ongoing outreach and recovery efforts made by the SBDC. We are the Small Business Development Center for Santa Barbara and Ventura County as designated by the SBA. Our mission is to outreach for the specific purpose of engaging small businesses with free one on one technical assistance and provide lending of public and private capital for economic growth.

INTRODUCTION - As our community continues to recover from the effects and aftermath of the Thomas Fire, we want to take a moment and thank all of the individuals and organizations that have been helping with response and recovery. This summary of our response and results has been made possible because of the collaborative effort of many organizations and individuals that have stepped up during this time to offer guidance and support to our business community at large. We have met with Chamber directors, state officials, business owners, local government officials and community leaders who all share a similar goal and continue to collaborate in order to bring the best resources and guidance to businesses that have suffered economic injury. The collaboration and willingness by all is something worth noting as it demonstrates the generosity of spirit that our community embodies.

infrastructure and sales. In Ojai, the leisure and hospitality sector was all but closed for 5

VENTURA COUNTY

VENTURA

Massage Therapist reported revenue loss of over 6K
Antique store reported revenue loss of over 40K
Pilates studio reported revenue loss of 25K
Downtown restaurant reported revenue loss of over 40K
Car dealership reported sales loss of approximately 40% in December

OJAI

Rancher reported loss of 6 acres of avocado and citrus. Lost 635 trees representing a replacement cost of \$19,000. Additional loss in water supply system of approximately \$60,000.
Restaurant reported revenue loss was greater than \$21,000
Restaurant reported revenue loss of approximately \$100,000. Requested \$200,000 in loan support
Downtown Hotel reported closure due to smoke damage after Thomas Fire. Estimated open date March 2018. Reported layoff of 150 employees.

SUMMARY OF SBDC OUTREACH AND RESPONSE

Since the fire and subsequent mud flow we have been actively working to bring direct response and assistance to the business community at large. At this time our goal is to assist in the short and long term recovery effort and help businesses reengage with a world that looks different than it did before Dec 4th. We have met with business owners who have lost 15K in revenue to over 100K but in the midst of the tremendous need and response for assistance we have seen a resilient business community that still practices generosity by serving food to first responders or sharing resources with their neighbor. We are hopeful for a strong recovery and are honored to participate in the process.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT - In direct response to financial need and in addition to our traditional loan offerings, the EDC-VC created a Disaster Recovery Micro Loan for businesses up to \$15,000 @ 4% interest for those businesses that had lost revenue or inventory as a result of disaster. Post disaster, the SBDC has received over 1.9 million in capital requests to assist in business recovery. This number includes requests from EDC-VC and SBA loan programs.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As the recovery process goes on, the assistance numbers continue to grow. As of today:

We have worked closely with the SBA and resources partners to co-sponsor local business recovery and resource events to ensure that business owners are aware of what is available to them at this time.

We created and distributed a *Disaster Recovery Guide* through our business partners including local chambers, downtown organizations and non traditional business organizations to over 4,400 business and 7,760 individuals and businesses through our SBDC network.

As a center, we have logged over 400 hours of direct engagement with businesses including technical advising and direct door to door ouingand 7,760 indiviBTtse

CONCLUSION

As partners in recovery we want to thank you again for the work you have been doing to support impacted businesses at this time. If you would like the SBDC to know more about your efforts in economic recovery post disaster, please reach out so that we may work together on behalf of the greater community.



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