



For immediate release
September 30, 2008

Contact: Pahl Shipley
(505) 476-2282

Governor Bill Richardson Announces SBA Will Offer Assistance for Flood Damaged NM Counties

FEMA denies NM request for Individual Assistance

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today was notified that in response to a request from the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the US Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared a disaster in Lincoln County due to damage caused by severe flooding during July and August. The SBA declaration also applies to surrounding counties affected by the flooding, including Otero, Chaves, Torrance, De Baca, Sierra, Guadalupe, and Socorro. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently rejected a request for individual assistance for residents in the affected areas.

“I am grateful for the SBA declaration which will help people in the flooded areas repair the damage to their homes and businesses and provide a much needed boost to the local economy,” said Governor Richardson. “I am disappointed by FEMA’s rejection of our application for individual assistance, and we will continue to explore every possibility for additional financial help.”

The SBA disaster declaration gives residents whose home, business, or property was damaged or destroyed by flooding to apply for low interest loans with flexible repayment terms. Those who are renting homes are also eligible.

This afternoon the SBA will open a Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Ruidoso, located at Eastern New Mexico University, 709 Mechem Drive, Suite 200.

Individuals and business owners unable to visit SBA’s Disaster Loan Outreach Center may contact SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955 or by emailing the SBA at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

###