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PRESS RELEASE – Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan Information available for Businesses Impacted by Hwy 133 Closure - Local Businesses encouraged to complete Disaster Injury Worksheet

Delta, CO - May 26, 2023

Delta and Gunnison County Emergency Management in partnership with the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) encourage businesses with financial losses caused by the CO Highway 133 closure which began on May 2, 2023 to complete the estimated economic damage impact worksheet from the Small Business Administration (SBA).

DHSEM is gathering information from businesses in Delta, Gunnison, Pitkin and Garfield Counties which have been impacted by the highway closure and may be interested in applying for low-interest economic disaster recovery loans from the Small Business Administration. **Time is of the essence for this disaster loan program** – State Emergency Management has 120-days from May 2nd to receive information from impacted businesses, submit forms to the Small Business Administration for review and determine if the threshold has been met for Governor Polis to request a Small Business Disaster Declaration to enable businesses to apply for low-interest loans.

The first step in this process is for businesses with economic losses from the highway closure to complete the estimated economic impact worksheet. Businesses should understand that by filling out the worksheet and submitting to DHSEM, it is NOT a guarantee for funding assistance and this is a LOAN program, not a grant. If a SBA Disaster Declaration is issued, there are additional steps required to be approved for the low-interest loan.

Note – Agriculture producers, businesses and local wineries are not eligible for SBA Economic Impact Disaster Loans and must apply through the US Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency for agricultural disaster relief support.

For more information and links to the Worksheet and Farm Services Resources for agriculture producers/businesses, please visit: DeltaCountyCO.gov/Flooding. Additional information from the Small Business Administration and the Economic Impact Disaster Loan Program can be obtained at SBA.gov

Steps to Completing the Estimated Disaster Economic Injury Worksheet:

- Download the Small Business Association - Estimated Disaster Economic Injury Worksheet for Businesses (PDF) from the Delta County Website at DeltaCountyCO.gov/Flooding
- Fill out the Worksheet.
- Save the completed worksheet and email to CO Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management - West Service Area Field Manager Bobbie Lucero at bobbie.lucero@state.co.us
- DHSEM staff will contact you with any questions about the worksheet or for any revisions necessary.
- Once at least five (5) businesses in Delta and/or Gunnison Counties report losses and interest in SBA loans, the Governor/State will work to request a SBA Disaster Declaration
- Once a SBA Disaster Declaration is issued, businesses with losses will be allowed to apply for a SBA EIDL Loan through the SBA.