



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 18, 2025

Mr. Jeffrey D. Lusk  
Director  
Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience  
Field Operations Center – West  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
6501 Sylvan Road  
Citrus Heights, California 95610

Dear Mr. Lusk:

Under provisions of 13 C.F.R. Part 123.3, I respectfully request that the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) implement an Administrative Declaration to provide assistance in the form of SBA disaster loans for San Patricio County as a result of the Welder Wildfire that occurred on March 4 through March 9, 2025.

On March 4, 2025, the Welder wildfire ignited in Texas covering 70 acres. The fire was fully contained by March 9, 2025, following intensive perimeter patrols and mop-up operations to extinguish hotspots and secure the area.

On March 11, 2025, through the 12th, damage assessments were conducted by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), San Patricio County, and impacted municipalities to determine the extent and type of disaster assistance necessary to assist with recovery efforts. The damage survey indicates that at least (23) homes and (6) businesses in San Patricio County sustained major damage and suffered an uninsured loss of more than 40 percent.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact the Governor's Authorized Representative, Chief Nim Kidd at (512) 424-2443.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Governor

GA:smd