



January 2007 Freeze Facts

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Rev. 7/10/2007 - 1:46:16 PM

Page 1 of 12

Quick Facts:

As of June 29, 2007:

- **31,411** people have used One-Stop Centers
 - **9,614** Unemployment Insurance claims filed
 - **3,235** Disaster Unemployment Assistance claims filed
 - **More than \$ 1.4 billion** reported agriculture losses
 - **Nearly \$4.5 million** in funding to food banks
 - Estimated **264,000 people** served at food banks in hardest hit counties.
 - **152 truckloads of food** have been distributed to 15 counties.
 - **\$3.25 million** in funding for emergency rent, mortgage and utility payments
 - La Cooperativa has served **8,635 households** and provided more than **\$3 million** in mortgage/rental and utility assistance to families in Fresno, Kern, Tulare, Riverside and Ventura counties.
 - Approximately **\$1 million** in Public Assistance (local government) applications filed
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Governor Schwarzenegger directed state government to prepare for extremely cold temperatures and put additional warming centers on standby

On January 10, 2007, prior to the forecasted freezing temperatures, Gov. Schwarzenegger directed state agencies to activate the extreme temperature protocols established last year to assist the most vulnerable populations in the state and asked local governments and the people of California to take common sense precautions in the unseasonably cold weather.

What this did:

- The Department of Health Services made contact with its licensed facilities and local health departments to ensure that they were aware of the cold weather event and to inform them of protocols to protect the health and safety of the vulnerable populations in their care.
- The Department of Social Services contacted County Welfare Directors to ensure that they were aware of the cold weather event and ensure that In Home Supportive Service (IHSS) workers were notified.
- The California National Guard and the California Department of Food and Agriculture made armories and fairgrounds available as warming centers throughout the state.
- The Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Health Services reached out to media outlets to provide information to the public on how to protect themselves from the extreme cold weather.

Governor issued a proclamation of a state of emergency for all 58 counties prior to the arrival of extreme cold weather.

On January 12, 2007, the Governor issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency for all 58 counties in California as a result of extreme low temperatures and freezing conditions beginning on January 11, 2007, and continuing.

What this did:

- Activated the extreme temperature protocols to assist the most vulnerable populations in the state
- California National Guard opened armories across the state as warming centers.
- Made state financial assistance available to local governments, including counties, cities and special districts, under the California Disaster Assistance Act. Local governments that have incurred costs or damage related to the freeze event must submit an application to OES for reimbursement of eligible costs.

Governor issued additional proclamation for counties with high agricultural losses or with local emergency proclamations.

After damage from the freeze was evident, on January 16, 19, 20, 25, and 26, the Governor issued additional proclamations for 18 counties: El Dorado, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Tulare, Ventura, and Yuba.

What this did:

- The Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture began touring affected counties statewide to assess crop damage from the freeze.
- OES began expediting the requests for federal assistance to address the actual impact to crops, the people that support the agricultural industry, or other businesses impacted by agricultural losses.

Governor Mobilized One-Stop Centers to Assist Unemployed Workers Due to Recent Cold Front

To date the State has mobilized 20 One-Stop Centers in 18 counties to assist victims of the 2007 Freeze. These centers are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

What this did:

Provided information in one location on the following programs and services, including appropriate application assistance

- Job services
- Unemployment Insurance assistance
- Food Stamps
- CalWORKS assistance
- Medi-Cal information
- Locations of food banks
- Low-income energy assistance programs
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) referral services
- Locations of primary care clinics
- Information about shelter locations
- Information on community-based organizations providing food, emergency shelter, blankets and other needs

Governor asked U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to declare 20 counties disaster areas (granted)

The Governor asked the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to declare 20 counties disaster areas. This request was granted on January 24, 2007. The eligible counties include both the 20 in the Governor's request and the 20 contiguous counties for a total of 40 counties: Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura and Yolo.

What this did:

- Made Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to businesses in the declared counties and 20 other contiguous counties for a total of 40 counties.

Governor requested the U.S. Department of Agriculture to designate 21 counties disaster areas.

The Governor asked the USDA to designate the following 21 counties as disaster areas: Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Yolo and Yuba. Other requests for designation will be submitted as crop loss information is identified and tabulated.

On January 31, the USDA designated the following 18 counties as primary natural disaster areas: El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Yolo and Yuba.

In addition, the following 29 counties were named as contiguous disaster counties: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Mendocino, Mono, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, San Benito, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Solano, Tehama, Tuolumne, and Ventura.

Additional Requests:

On March 7, 2007, additional requests for USDA designation were approved for Los Angeles, Ventura, Marin and Solano counties.

Sonoma, San Diego, and Mendocino were also approved.

On March 28, a request for a USDA designation for San Benito County was sent. This request is still pending.

What this did:

- Made farm operators in the primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met.

Governor waived the one-week waiting period for filing unemployment claims.

What this did:

- Allows eligible applicants who are unemployed due to the freeze to get Unemployment Insurance immediately without having to wait the customary one-week waiting period.

Governor authorized \$2 million in emergency food assistance for food banks in the affected counties.

What this did:

- Provided additional funding to DSS's Emergency Food Assistance Program. These funds are distributed to local food banks to purchase food for families who are out of work due to the freeze.

- On January 30, \$150,000 in emergency food assistance grants was distributed to six counties affected by the freeze. The \$25,000 grants were distributed to Fresno, Kern, Tulare, Merced, Kings, and Ventura counties. In addition, emergency food shipments were provided to Tulare, Ventura, Fresno and Madera counties.
- On February 2, 2007, the Governor announced nearly \$800,000 in additional funding to assist families in seven counties that have been affected by the recent freeze. Food banks in seven affected counties – Fresno, Tulare, San Diego, Kings, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and El Dorado received checks on February 5.

Governor requested Presidential Disaster Designation for 31 counties due to the freeze

On February 2, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger sent a letter to President Bush requesting the declaration of a major disaster for 31 California counties that suffered catastrophic losses due to the extreme cold weather in January, 2007. The counties are Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Solano, Stanislaus, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo and Yuba.

On March 5 Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Dianne Feinstein sent a letter to President Bush asking him to immediately grant a federal disaster declaration in counties that were devastated by the January agricultural freeze.

The Governor's request was for the following:

- Food Commodities
- Disaster Food Coupons (food stamps)
- Crisis Counseling
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance

President Responds to Governor's Disaster Declaration Request

On March 13 the President declared a major disaster exists in 12 counties in California and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe freeze.

On April 20, the President added the counties of Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus to the disaster declaration.

What this does:

- The President's action makes Disaster Unemployment Assistance and Food Commodities available to affected individuals in:
 - Fresno
 - Imperial
 - Kern
 - Kings
 - Los Angeles
 - Madera
 - Merced
 - Monterey
 - Riverside
 - San Bernardino
 - San Diego
 - San Luis Obispo
 - Santa Barbara
 - Stanislaus
 - Tulare
 - Ventura

- Under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program, the President is authorized to provide assistance for up to 26 weeks to those who have lost employment because of the cold weather event and are not covered under regular unemployment insurance including those who are self-employed, or individuals that have exhausted their regular unemployment insurance. Such assistance for a week of unemployment cannot exceed the maximum weekly amount authorized under the California unemployment compensation law.

- Applications for Unemployment Assistance are being taken through the Employment Development Department (EDD).

- Under the Food Commodities Program, the President will assure that adequate stocks of food will be ready and conveniently available for emergency mass feeding or distribution in the disaster area. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is authorized by the President to use funds to purchase food commodities necessary to provide adequate supplies for the affected area of California.

- These food commodities will help to increase to the regular Emergency Food Assistance Program that is currently available through local food banks and administered through the California Department of Social Services.

- Because this disaster has been declared by the president, the Franchise Tax Board may suspend tax billing notices to individuals in zip codes identified as heavily damaged by a disaster. In certain cases they may have individuals apply disaster losses to prior year taxes so they don't have to wait until the following year to claim casualty losses.

Governor urges U.S. Congress to support emergency funding for California counties affected by freeze

On February 8, Governor Schwarzenegger sent a letter to Congressional leaders urging them to support the Emergency Farm Assistance Act of 2007, for California counties impacted by January's freeze.

Rev. 7/10/2007 - 1:46:16 PM

If approved:

- The act would provide \$1.7 billion to help farmers and workers hurt by natural disasters, including last month's freeze.

Governor Schwarzenegger authorizes funds to help freeze victims with rent, mortgage and utility payments

On February 9, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger authorized \$1.75 million in emergency funding to help freeze victims in Tulare, Fresno, Kern, Riverside and Ventura counties.

What this did:

- The funding was provided as a grant to the community-based organization La Cooperativa to provide financial assistance for victims to make rent, mortgage and utility payments for the months of February and March. The grant funds are available for the following: \$1.5 million (\$750,000 per month) for rental and mortgage assistance in the form of vouchers and \$250,000 (\$125,000 per month) for utility assistance vouchers.

Governor works to free up \$85 million to help Freeze victims with housing, calls for opening of housing centers, and appropriates \$100,000 to UFW Foundation for outreach services

On February 13, Governor Schwarzenegger authorized an expansive effort to help workers and families to recover from the January freeze.

What this does:

- Provides guidance to local jurisdictions most affected by the freeze about how to redirect up to \$50 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and up to \$35 million in federal HOME funds to help victims with rental assistance and freeze-related home repairs. The redirection of CDBG funds requires city or county as well as State approval while HOME funds can be redirected for rental assistance with approval of just the city or county.
- Helps counties determine the need to open Office of Migrant Services (OMS) farmworker housing centers for immediate shelters for anyone who has become homeless due to the freeze. There are 13 OMS centers in Kern, Merced, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Monterey, and Madera Counties. One OMS facility has already been opened in Shafter, in Kern County.

- Authorizes a \$100,000 grant to the United Farm Workers Foundation (UFW Foundation) for outreach services to vulnerable populations. The UFW Foundation will use the funds to connect impacted workers with available services.

Governor Schwarzenegger Provides \$14.2 Million in Disaster Loan Guarantees for Farmers and Small Businesses

On February 14, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger directed the State's Small Business Disaster Assistance Loan Guarantee Program to be activated to guarantee \$14.2 million in loans for farms, agriculture-related businesses, and businesses in farming communities that suffered damage or significant economic loss as a result of the January 2007 freeze.

What this did:

- The loan guarantee program helps businesses which may not qualify for federal aid by providing 'bridge' funding while they await federal assistance.
- The guarantees to local lenders prevent business insolvencies and loss of employment in areas affected by a state of emergency.
- The state will utilize \$1.2 million in existing funds to provide up to \$14.2 million in loan guarantees to small business impacted by the January freeze.

Gov. Schwarzenegger Authorizes Additional Funding to Assist Food Banks in Areas Affected by Extreme Weather

On February 21, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger authorized an additional \$438,000 in emergency funding for food banks to help workers and families who have been impacted by the January freeze.

What this did:

- On Feb. 21, Riverside County received a check for \$250,000 for emergency food assistance.
- \$375,963 was allocated to replenish statewide food stores to meet future need through the California Emergency Foodlink.

Gov. Schwarzenegger Authorizes \$2 Million in Rental and Mortgage Assistance for Freeze Victims

On March 7, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger authorized \$2 million in state funding to help victims of the January 2007 freeze with rental assistance.

What this did:

- Authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide grants under the HOME fund program in increments of up to \$250,000 per jurisdiction to eight counties and 79 cities on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Select cities in the following counties are eligible: El Dorado, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Tulare, Ventura and Yuba counties.

Governor Schwarzenegger Announces \$4 Million in Community Development Block Grant Funds for Freeze Victims

On March 16, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger authorized the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to make \$4 million in Community Development Block Grant funds available to eligible cities and counties to assist victims of the January 2007 freeze.

What this did:

- Authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development to make available \$4 million dollars to eligible cities and counties, which can apply for Community Development Block Grants of up to \$300,000.
- The funds will be allocated for public services including child care; health care; job training, recreation programs; education; public safety; services for senior citizens; services for homeless persons; drug and alcohol abuse counseling and testing; transportation services; nutrition services; food bank services; and mortgage, rental and utility assistance.
- Additionally, the funds can be used for Working Capital Loans to businesses that were affected by the freeze, in particular businesses that support and provide services to the agriculture industry.

Governor Schwarzenegger Authorizes Additional Funding for Freeze Victims

On March 20, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger authorized additional funding to food banks and for rent, mortgage and utility payments for freeze victims.

What this did:

- Provided an additional \$2.2 million for food banks
- Provided an additional \$1.5 million in financial assistance for freeze victims to make rent, mortgage and utility payments.

OES Asks That 4 Additional Counties be Added to the Presidential Disaster Declaration and Ask for 30-day Extension to Apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance

On April 6, OES Director Henry Renteria sent a letter to FEMA's Federal Coordinating Officer requesting that four additional counties (Kings, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus) be added to the declaration and that the deadline for filing Disaster Unemployment Assistance applications be extended 30 days.

DOL Approved an Extension for Applying for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

On April 16, the Department of Labor approved the request for an extension of the DUA deadline.

What this will do:

- Allows those who lost work due to the freeze to have more time (through May 25th) to apply for DUA.

FEMA Approved Four Additional Counties to Disaster

On April 20, FEMA approved the counties of Kings, Madera, and Merced be added to the federal disaster declaration for both DUA and Food Commodities and Stanislaus for DUA.

What this will do:

- Allows those who lost work due to the freeze in these four additional counties more time to apply for DUA.
- Expands the counties eligible to receive food commodities to include Kings, Madera, and Merced.

Governor Schwarzenegger Announces \$2.5 Million Grant for Tulare County Farmworkers Affected by January 2007 Freeze

On May 10, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger announced a \$2.5 million Workforce Investment Act grant awarded to the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to assist 780 laid-off seasonal farmworkers and other affected workers facing layoffs due to January 2007 freeze damage in the fields.

What this will do:

- Tulare County WIB will provide services including job search assistance and training. Forty-five percent of these affected workers will also receive occupational skills training for in-demand jobs in industries such as manufacturing, maintenance mechanics, customer service, logistics and transportation.

President Bush Approves \$16 million in Emergency Grants to Assist Low Income Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers

On May 25, 2007, the President signed the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill which provides \$16 million nationwide for Emergency Grants to Assist Low Income Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers. This program, which is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, may provide financial assistance to farmworkers adversely affected by the January freeze.