

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE

Governor  
STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111

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Media Contact: Governor's Communications Office

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Phone: 360-902-4136

Gov. Gregoire requests federal financial help for businesses affected by landslide

Gregoire asks Obama Administration for more time to review damages and submit request for Presidential disaster declaration

OLYMPIA – Gov. Chris Gregoire today requested that the U.S. Small Business Administration declare an economic disaster for Yakima County and provide financial assistance to small business owners affected by a recent landslide and flooding of the Naches River.

“Several small business owners have suffered substantial losses as a result of the landslide and flooding,” Gregoire said. “By declaring this emergency, business owners have access to low-interest loans to help them get back on their feet, and move money through the economy again.”

On October 11, a massive landslide closed off state Highway 410 near the community of Nile, and changed the course of the Naches River. The landslide destroyed a few homes and businesses, and the rechanneling of the river caused minor flooding in areas.

Gregoire also requested a 30-day extension from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine the appropriateness of a Presidential disaster declaration. Gregoire has asked the state's Emergency Management Division to review and verify damage claims to ensure the damages meet the federal threshold for assistance.

To read the letter Gregoire sent to FEMA, visit: [http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/20091106\\_fugate.pdf](http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/20091106_fugate.pdf)

To read the letter Gregoire sent to the U.S. Small Business Association, visit:

[http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/20091105\\_sba.pdf](http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/20091105_sba.pdf)

To read the letter Gregoire sent to Yakima County Commissioners, visit:

[http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/20091106\\_nile.pdf](http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/20091106_nile.pdf)

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