

Governor Rick Scott late Monday requested the U.S. Small Business Administration issue an Economic Injury Disaster Declaration to help Florida businesses that are being impacted by algal blooms caused by federal water releases from Lake Okeechobee. The declaration will provide small businesses with low-interest loans so they can recover from the harm caused by these blooms. The Governor requested this declaration for Lee and Martin counties. Once the SBA has approved these counties, the state will quickly work to include other areas that have been impacted.

Click [HERE](#) to view the request.

Information is being collected to submit to the SBA so similar relief can be provided to businesses affected by naturally-occurring red tide. Last week, Governor Scott issued an [Emergency Order for red tide](#), and last month, Governor Scott issued an [Emergency Order for blue-green algae](#). For more information about the SBA disaster assistance loans, please visit <https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/oda>