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NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

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Nebraska to Request Assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration for Aid in the Wake of June Storms

(Lincoln, Neb.) - Governor Dave Heineman submitted a request Tuesday for disaster assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help Nebraskans in five northeast Nebraska counties who were impacted by the June 14-21 severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding.

The counties are: Cedar, Cuming, Dixon, Stanton and Wayne.

The action comes in the wake of a decision announced yesterday by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that Individual Assistance for Cedar, Cuming, Dixon, Stanton and Wayne counties did not warrant federal disaster assistance. The decision came after a thorough review of all available information, including the results of joint local, state and federal preliminary damage assessments. Level of insurance coverage is one factor that is considered, particularly because federal disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance proceeds or assistance from other sources.

If granted, an SBA disaster declaration would make low-interest loans available to qualified individuals and businesses to help pay long-term recovery costs.

The state of Nebraska did, however, receive its third federal disaster declaration in the last six weeks to help local and state governments pay eligible disaster costs associated with June 1-4 severe storms, tornadoes, straight-winds and flooding that hit various parts of the state. The 12 counties eligible under this new declaration are: Burt, Butler, Cass, Hamilton, Holt, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Rock, Thurston, Valley, and Washington counties.

“We appreciate the continued assistance from FEMA and the federal government to help our local and state entities deal with the public damage we’ve seen from the repetitive storms earlier this summer,” said Bryan Tuma, assistant director of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. “Now, we will focus on trying to secure SBA assistance for individuals and businesses who are also recovering from these storms and may still have unmet needs.”

The Public Assistance program helps pay certain costs to remove storm debris, take emergency protective measures and repair or replace disaster-damaged roads, bridges, public buildings, critical facilities, such as water, sewer and power systems and other public facilities.

Federal funding is also available statewide on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures that will help reduce or prevent the impacts of future disasters.

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