Dear Central Coast Agriculture Community Member,

The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act passed Congress and was signed into law by the President on April 24, 2020. That coronavirus emergency response legislation replenished critical funding for the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL). Traditionally, those in agriculture were not eligible for the SBA EIDL program. However, Congress worked hard and advocated to ensure that through that emergency legislation, farmers and ranchers now can apply for grants and low-interest, long-term loans through the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL).

The SBA is now accepting EIDL applications from agricultural businesses who are newly eligible for funding.

For agricultural businesses that submitted an EIDL loan application through the streamlined application portal prior to the legislative change, SBA will move forward and process these applications without the need for re-applying. All other EIDL loan applications that were submitted before the portal stopped accepting new applications on April 15 will be processed on a first-in, first-out basis.

There is one exception to the rule limiting new applications to agricultural businesses. Businesses that applied in the early rounds of EIDL applications and received an application number starting with "2" (i.e., prior to March 30 when the EIDL application platform was unstable) should re-apply now to have their previously submitted applications recognized and processed in the order submitted.

Eligible businesses can apply here: https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/.

If you own an agricultural enterprise and have questions about EIDL eligibility or the application process, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 831-424-2229.

Sincerely,