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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES

Form 10-K

March 06, 2009

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

[X] ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008

or

[ ] TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File No. 0-31525

AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

California
State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization

68-0352144
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

3100 Zinfandel Drive, Rancho Cordova, California

95670

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code 916-851-0123

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class Name of Each Exchange On Which Registered
Common Stock, no par value NASDAQ Global Select Market

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes [ ] No [X]

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes [ ] No [X]

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of

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1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (ss.229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company   
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No

State the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold, or the average bid and asked price of such common equity, as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter. \$49,157,000.

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

As of March 5, 2009, the registrant's no par value Common Stock totaled 5,797,533 shares outstanding.

### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents are incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K: Part III, Items 10 through 14 from Registrant's definitive proxy statement for the 2009 annual meeting of shareholders.

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### AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES

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### PART I

#### Item 1. Business.

##### Cautionary Statements Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain matters discussed or incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K including, but not limited to, matters described in "Item 7 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and subject to the safe-harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements may contain words related to future projections including, but not limited to, words such as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "may," "will," "should," "could," "would," and variations of those words and similar words that are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ significantly from those projected. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) the duration of financial and economic volatility and actions taken by the United States Congress and governmental agencies, including the

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United States Department of the Treasury, to deal with challenges to the U.S. financial system; (2) variances in the actual versus projected growth in assets and return on assets; (3) loan and lease losses; (4) expenses; (5) changes in the interest rate environment including interest rates charged on loans, earned on securities investments and paid on deposits and other borrowed funds; (6) competition effects; (7) fee and other noninterest income earned; (8) general economic conditions nationally, regionally, and in the operating market areas of the Company and its subsidiaries; (9) changes in the regulatory environment including government intervention in the U.S. financial system; (10) changes in business conditions and inflation; (11) changes in securities markets, public debt markets, and other capital markets; (12) data processing and other operational systems failures or fraud; (13) a decline in real estate values in the Company's operating market areas; (14) the effects of uncontrollable events such as terrorism, the threat of terrorism or the impact of the current military conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and the conduct of the war on terrorism by the United States and its allies, worsening financial and economic conditions, natural disasters, and disruption of power supplies and communications; and (15) changes in accounting standards, tax laws or regulations and interpretations of such standards, laws or regulations, as well as other factors. The factors set forth under "Item 1A-Risk Factors" in this report and other cautionary statements and information set forth in this report should be carefully considered and understood as being applicable to all related forward-looking statements contained in this report, when evaluating the business prospects of the Company and its subsidiaries.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of performance. By their nature, they involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. The future results and shareholder values may differ significantly from those expressed in these forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to put undue reliance on any forward-looking statement. Any such statement speaks only as of the date of this report, and in the case of any documents that may be incorporated by reference, as of the date of those documents. We do not undertake any obligation to update or release any revisions to any forward-looking statements, to report any new information, future event or other circumstances after the date of this report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as required by law. However, your attention is directed to any further disclosures made on related subjects in our subsequent reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K.

### Introduction

American River Bankshares (the "Company") is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. The Company was incorporated under the laws of the State of California in 1995. As a bank holding company, the Company is authorized to engage in the activities permitted under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, and regulations thereunder. Its principal office is located at 3100 Zinfandel Drive, Suite 450, Rancho Cordova, California 95670 and its telephone number is (916) 851-0123.

The Company owns 100% of the issued and outstanding common shares of its banking subsidiary, American River Bank, and American River Financial, a California corporation which has been inactive since its incorporation in 2003.

American River Bank was incorporated and commenced business in Fair Oaks, California, in 1983 and thereafter moved its headquarters to Sacramento, California in 1985. American River Bank operates five full service offices and one convenience office in Sacramento and Placer Counties including the main office located at 1545 River Park Drive, Suite 107, Sacramento and branch offices located at 520 Capitol Mall, Suite 100, Sacramento; 9750 Business Park

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Drive, Sacramento; 10123 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks and 2240 Douglas Boulevard, Roseville. The convenience office (limited service office) is located at 3100 Zinfandel Drive, Suite 450, Rancho Cordova. American River Bank also operates three full service offices in Sonoma County located at 412 Center Street, Healdsburg; 8733 Lakewood Drive, Windsor and 90 South E Street, Suite 110, Santa Rosa, operated under the name "North Coast Bank, a division of American River Bank." North Coast Bank was incorporated and commenced business in 1990 as Windsor Oaks National Bank in Windsor, California. In 1997, the name was changed to North Coast Bank. In 2000, North Coast Bank was acquired by the Company as a separate bank subsidiary. Effective December 31, 2003, North Coast Bank was merged with and into American River Bank.

On December 3, 2004, the Company acquired Bank of Amador located in Jackson, California. Bank of Amador was merged with and into American River Bank and now operates three full service banking offices as "Bank of Amador, a division of American River Bank" within its primary service area of Amador County, in the cities of Jackson, Pioneer and Ione.

American River Bank's deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") up to applicable legal limits. American River Bank is also participating in the FDIC Transaction Account Guarantee Program ("TAGP"). Under that program, through December 31, 2009, all noninterest-bearing transaction accounts are fully guaranteed by the FDIC for the entire amount in the account. Coverage under the TAGP is in addition to and separate from the coverage available under the FDIC's general deposit insurance rules. American River Bank does not offer trust services or international banking services and does not plan to do so in the near future. American River Bank's primary business is serving the commercial banking needs of small to mid-sized businesses within those counties listed above. American River Bank accepts checking and savings deposits, offers money market deposit accounts and certificates of deposit, makes secured and unsecured commercial, secured real estate, and other installment and term loans and offers other customary banking services. American River Bank also conducts lease financing for most types of business equipment, from computer software to heavy earth-moving equipment. American River Bank owns 100% of two inactive companies, ARBCO and American River Mortgage. ARBCO was formed in 1984 to conduct real estate development and has been inactive since 1995. American River Mortgage has been inactive since its formation in 1994.

During 2008, the Company conducted no significant activities other than holding the shares of its subsidiaries. However, it is authorized, with the prior approval of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Board of Governors"), the Company's principal regulator, to engage in a variety of activities which are deemed closely related to the business of banking.

The common stock of the Company is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and is listed and traded on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol "AMRB."

At December 31, 2008, the Company had consolidated assets of \$563 million, deposits of \$437 million and shareholders' equity of \$63 million.

### General

The Company is a community-oriented bank holding company headquartered in Sacramento, California. The principal communities served are located in Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Sonoma, and Amador counties. The Company generates most of its revenue by providing a wide range of products and services to small and middle-market businesses and individuals. The Company's principal source of revenue comes from interest income. Interest income is derived from: (i) interest and fees on loans and leases; (ii) interest on investments

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(principally government securities); and (iii) interest on Federal funds sold (funds loaned on a short-term basis to other banks). For the year ended December 31, 2008, these sources comprised 85.0%, 15.0%, and 0.0%, respectively, of the Company's interest income.

American River Bank's deposits are not received from a single depositor or group of affiliated depositors, the loss of any one of which would have a materially adverse effect on the business of the Company. A material portion of American River Bank's deposits are not concentrated within a single industry or group of related industries.

As of December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007, American River Bank held \$29,000,000 and \$21,500,000, respectively, in certificates of deposit for the State of California. In connection with these deposits, American River Bank is

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generally required to pledge securities to secure such deposits, except for the first \$250,000 on December 31, 2008 and \$100,000 on December 31, 2007, which were insured by the FDIC.

American River Bank competes with approximately 40 other banking or savings institutions in Sacramento County and 32 in Placer County. American River Bank's market share of FDIC insured deposits in the service areas of Sacramento County and Placer County was approximately 1.3% in each year (based upon the most recent information made available by the FDIC through June 30, 2008). North Coast Bank, a division of American River Bank, competes with approximately 22 other banking or savings institutions in its service areas and its market share of FDIC insured deposits in the service area of Sonoma County was approximately .6% (based upon the most recent information made available by the FDIC through June 30, 2008). Bank of Amador, a division of American River Bank competes with approximately 6 other banking or savings institutions in its service areas and its market share of FDIC insured deposits in the service area of Amador County was approximately 14.0% (based upon the most recent information made available by the FDIC through June 30, 2008).

### Employees

At December 31, 2008, the Company and its subsidiaries employed 122 persons on a full-time equivalent basis. The Company believes its employee relations are good.

### Website Access

The Company maintains a website where certain information about the Company is posted. Through the website, its annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments thereto, as well as Section 16 Reports and amendments thereto, are available as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. These reports are free of charge and can be accessed through the address [www.amrb.com](http://www.amrb.com) by selecting the SEC Filings link located at that address. Once you have selected the SEC Filings link you will have the option to access the Section 16 Reports or the reports filed on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K by the Company by selecting the appropriate link.

### Supervision and Regulation

#### General

The common stock of the Company is subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the qualification

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requirements of the California Corporate Securities Law of 1968, as amended. The Company is also subject to the periodic reporting requirements of Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which include, but are not limited to, annual, quarterly and other current reports with the SEC.

American River Bank is licensed by the California Commissioner of Financial Institutions (the "Commissioner"), its deposits are insured by the FDIC up to the applicable legal limits, and, through December 31, 2009, American River Bank is participating in the FDIC Transaction Account Guarantee Program which guarantees 100% of the amount of all noninterest-bearing transaction accounts. American River Bank has chosen not to become a member of the Federal Reserve System. Consequently, American River Bank is subject to the supervision of, and is regularly examined by, the Commissioner and the FDIC. The supervision and regulation includes comprehensive reviews of all major aspects of American River Bank's business and condition, including its capital ratios, allowance for possible loan and lease losses and other factors. However, no inference should be drawn that such authorities have approved any such factors. American River Bankshares and American River Bank are required to file reports with the Board of Governors, the Commissioner, and the FDIC and provide the additional information that the Board of Governors, the Commissioner, and the FDIC may require.

American River Bankshares is a bank holding company within the meaning of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the "Bank Holding Company Act"), and is registered as such with, and subject to the supervision of, the Board of Governors. The Company is required to obtain the approval of the Board of Governors before it may acquire all or substantially all of the assets of any bank, or ownership or control of the voting shares of any bank if, after giving effect to such acquisition of shares, the Company would own or control more than 5% of the voting shares of such bank. The Bank Holding Company Act prohibits the Company from acquiring any voting shares of, or interest in, all or substantially all of the assets of, a bank located outside the State of California unless such an acquisition is specifically authorized by the laws of the state in which such bank is located. Any such interstate acquisition is also subject to the California law implementing certain provisions of prior federal law.

The Company, and any subsidiaries which it may acquire or organize, are deemed to be "affiliates" within the meaning of that term as defined in the Federal Reserve Act. This means, for example, that there are limitations (a) on

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loans by American River Bank to affiliates, and (b) on investments by American River Bank in affiliates' stock as collateral for loans to any borrower. The Company and its subsidiaries are also subject to certain restrictions with respect to engaging in the underwriting, public sale and distribution of securities.

In addition, regulations of the Board of Governors under the Federal Reserve Act require that reserves be maintained by American River Bank in conjunction with any liability of the Company under any obligation (promissory note, acknowledgement of advance, banker's acceptance or similar obligation) with a weighted average maturity of less than seven (7) years to the extent that the proceeds of such obligations are used for the purpose of supplying funds to American River Bank for use in its banking business, or to maintain the availability of such funds.

### Capital Standards

The Board of Governors and the FDIC have adopted risk-based capital

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guidelines for evaluating the capital adequacy of bank holding companies and banks. The guidelines are designed to make capital requirements sensitive to differences in risk profiles among banking organizations, to take into account off-balance sheet exposures and to aid in making the definition of bank capital uniform internationally. Under the guidelines, American River Bankshares and American River Bank are required to maintain capital equal to at least 8.0% of its assets and commitments to extend credit, weighted by risk, of which at least 4.0% must consist primarily of common equity (including retained earnings) and the remainder may consist of subordinated debt, cumulative preferred stock, or a limited amount of loan and lease loss reserves.

Assets, commitments to extend credit, and off-balance sheet items are categorized according to risk and certain assets considered to present less risk than others permit maintenance of capital at less than the 8% ratio. For example, most home mortgage loans are placed in a 50% risk category and therefore require maintenance of capital equal to 4% of those loans, while commercial loans are placed in a 100% risk category and therefore require maintenance of capital equal to 8% of those loans.

Under the risk-based capital guidelines, assets reported on an institution's balance sheet and certain off-balance sheet items are assigned to risk categories, each of which has an assigned risk weight. Capital ratios are calculated by dividing the institution's qualifying capital by its period-end risk-weighted assets. The guidelines establish two categories of qualifying capital: Tier 1 capital (defined to include common shareholders' equity and noncumulative perpetual preferred stock) and Tier 2 capital which includes, among other items, limited life (and in the case of banks, cumulative) preferred stock, mandatory convertible securities, subordinated debt and a limited amount of reserve for credit losses. Tier 2 capital may also include up to 45% of the pretax net unrealized gains on certain available-for-sale equity securities having readily determinable fair values (i.e., the excess, if any, of fair market value over the book value or historical cost of the investment security). The Federal regulatory agencies reserve the right to exclude all or a portion of the unrealized gains upon a determination that the equity securities are not prudently valued. Unrealized gains and losses on other types of assets, such as bank premises and available-for-sale debt securities, are not included in Tier 2 capital, but may be taken into account in the evaluation of overall capital adequacy and net unrealized losses on available-for-sale equity securities will continue to be deducted from Tier 1 capital as a cushion against risk. Each institution is required to maintain a minimum risk-based capital ratio (including Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital) of 8%, of which at least half must be Tier 1 capital.

A leverage capital standard was adopted as a supplement to the risk-weighted capital guidelines. Under the leverage capital standard, an institution is required to maintain a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to the sum of its quarterly average total assets and quarterly average reserve for loan losses, less intangible assets not included in Tier 1 capital. Period-end assets may be used in place of quarterly average total assets on a case-by-case basis. The Board of Governors and the FDIC have also adopted a minimum leverage ratio for bank holding companies as a supplement to the risk-weighted capital guidelines. The leverage ratio establishes a minimum Tier 1 ratio of 3% (Tier 1 capital to total assets) for the highest rated bank holding companies or those that have implemented the risk-based capital market risk measure. All other bank holding companies must maintain a minimum Tier 1 leverage ratio of 4% with higher leverage capital ratios required for bank holding companies that have significant financial and/or operational weakness, a high risk profile, or are undergoing or anticipating rapid growth.

At December 31, 2008, American River Bankshares and American River Bank were in compliance with the risk-weighted capital and leverage ratio guidelines.



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### Prompt Corrective Action

The Board of Governors and the FDIC have adopted regulations implementing a system of prompt corrective action pursuant to Section 38 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and Section 131 of the FDIC Improvement Act of

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1991 ("FDICIA"). The regulations establish five capital categories with the following characteristics: (1) "Well capitalized" - consisting of institutions with a total risk-based capital ratio of 10% or greater, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 6% or greater and a leverage ratio of 5% or greater, and the institution is not subject to an order, written agreement, capital directive or prompt corrective action directive; (2) "Adequately capitalized" - consisting of institutions with a total risk-based capital ratio of 8% or greater, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 4% or greater and a leverage ratio of 4% or greater, and the institution does not meet the definition of a "well capitalized" institution; (3) "Undercapitalized" - consisting of institutions with a total risk-based capital ratio less than 8%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of less than 4%, or a leverage ratio of less than 4%; (4) "Significantly undercapitalized" - consisting of institutions with a total risk-based capital ratio of less than 6%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of less than 3%, or a leverage ratio of less than 3%; (5) "Critically undercapitalized" - consisting of an institution with a ratio of tangible equity to total assets that is equal to or less than 2%.

The regulations established procedures for classification of financial institutions within the capital categories, filing and reviewing capital restoration plans required under the regulations and procedures for issuance of directives by the appropriate regulatory agency, among other matters. The regulations impose restrictions upon all institutions to refrain from certain actions which would cause an institution to be classified within any one of the three "undercapitalized" categories, such as declaration of dividends or other capital distributions or payment of management fees, if following the distribution or payment the institution would be classified within one of the "undercapitalized" categories. In addition, institutions which are classified in one of the three "undercapitalized" categories are subject to certain mandatory and discretionary supervisory actions. Mandatory supervisory actions include (1) increased monitoring and review by the appropriate federal banking agency; (2) implementation of a capital restoration plan; (3) total asset growth restrictions; and (4) limitations upon acquisitions, branch expansion, and new business activities without prior approval of the appropriate federal banking agency. Discretionary supervisory actions may include (1) requirements to augment capital; (2) restrictions upon affiliate transactions; (3) restrictions upon deposit gathering activities and interest rates paid; (4) replacement of senior executive officers and directors; (5) restrictions upon activities of the institution and its affiliates; (6) requiring divestiture or sale of the institution; and (7) any other supervisory action that the appropriate federal banking agency determines is necessary to further the purposes of the regulations. Further, the federal banking agencies may not accept a capital restoration plan without determining, among other things, that the plan is based on realistic assumptions and is likely to succeed in restoring the depository institution's capital. In addition, for a capital restoration plan to be acceptable, the depository institution's parent holding company must guarantee that the institution will comply with such capital restoration plan. The aggregate liability of the parent holding company under the guaranty is limited to the lesser of (i) an amount equal to 5 percent of the depository institution's total assets at the time it became undercapitalized, and (ii) the amount that is necessary (or would have been necessary) to bring the institution into compliance with all capital standards applicable with respect to such institution as of the time it fails to comply with the plan. If a depository

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institution fails to submit an acceptable plan, it is treated as if it were "significantly undercapitalized." FDICIA also restricts the solicitation and acceptance of and interest rates payable on brokered deposits by insured depository institutions that are not "well capitalized." An "undercapitalized" institution is not allowed to solicit deposits by offering rates of interest that are significantly higher than the prevailing rates of interest on insured deposits in the particular institution's normal market areas or in the market areas in which such deposits would otherwise be accepted.

Any financial institution which is classified as "critically undercapitalized" must be placed in conservatorship or receivership within 90 days of such determination unless it is also determined that some other course of action would better serve the purposes of the regulations. Critically undercapitalized institutions are also prohibited from making (but not accruing) any payment of principal or interest on subordinated debt without prior regulatory approval and regulators must prohibit a critically undercapitalized institution from taking certain other actions without prior approval, including (1) entering into any material transaction other than in the usual course of business, including investment expansion, acquisition, sale of assets or other similar actions; (2) extending credit for any highly leveraged transaction; (3) amending articles or bylaws unless required to do so to comply with any law, regulation or order; (4) making any material change in accounting methods; (5) engaging in certain affiliate transactions; (6) paying excessive compensation or bonuses; and (7) paying interest on new or renewed liabilities at rates which would increase the weighted average costs of funds beyond prevailing rates in the institution's normal market areas.

### Additional Regulations

Under the FDICIA, the federal financial institution agencies have adopted regulations which require institutions to establish and maintain comprehensive written real estate policies which address certain lending

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considerations, including loan-to-value limits, loan administrative policies, portfolio diversification standards, and documentation, approval and reporting requirements. The FDICIA further generally prohibits an insured state bank from engaging as a principal in any activity that is impermissible for a national bank, absent FDIC determination that the activity would not pose a significant risk to the Bank Insurance Fund, and that the bank is, and will continue to be, within applicable capital standards.

The Federal Financial Institution Examination Counsel ("FFIEC") utilizes the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System ("UFIRS") commonly referred to as "CAMELS" to classify and evaluate the soundness of financial institutions. Bank examiners use the CAMELS measurements to evaluate capital adequacy, asset quality, management, earnings, liquidity and sensitivity to market risk. Effective January 1, 2005, bank holding companies such as the Company, were subject to evaluation and examination under a revised bank holding company rating system. The so-called BOPEC rating system implemented in 1979 was primarily focused on financial condition, consolidated capital and consolidated earnings. The rating system reflects the change toward analysis of risk management (as reflected in bank examination under the CAMELS measurements), in addition to financial factors and the potential impact of nondepository subsidiaries upon depository institution subsidiaries.

The federal financial institution agencies have established bases for analysis and standards for assessing a financial institution's capital adequacy in conjunction with the risk-based capital guidelines including analysis of interest rate risk, concentrations of credit risk, risk posed by non-traditional

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activities, and factors affecting overall safety and soundness. The safety and soundness standards for insured financial institutions include analysis of (1) internal controls, information systems and internal audit systems; (2) loan documentation; (3) credit underwriting; (4) interest rate exposure; (5) asset growth; (6) compensation, fees and benefits; and (7) excessive compensation for executive officers, directors or principal shareholders which could lead to material financial loss. If an agency determines that an institution fails to meet any standard, the agency may require the financial institution to submit to the agency an acceptable plan to achieve compliance with the standard. If the agency requires submission of a compliance plan and the institution fails to timely submit an acceptable plan or to implement an accepted plan, the agency must require the institution to correct the deficiency. The agencies may elect to initiate enforcement action in certain cases rather than rely on an existing plan particularly where failure to meet one or more of the standards could threaten the safe and sound operation of the institution.

Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA") regulations evaluate banks' lending to low and moderate income individuals and businesses across a four-point scale from "outstanding" to "substantial noncompliance," and are a factor in regulatory review of applications to merge, establish new branches or form bank holding companies. In addition, any bank rated in "substantial noncompliance" with the CRA regulations may be subject to enforcement proceedings. In its most recent exam for CRA compliance, American River Bank has a rating of "satisfactory."

### Limitations on Dividends

The Company's ability to pay cash dividends is subject to restrictions set forth in the California General Corporation Law. Funds for payment of any cash dividends by the Company would be obtained from its investments as well as dividends and/or management fees from its subsidiaries. The payment of cash dividends and/or management fees by American River Bank is subject to restrictions set forth in the California Financial Code, as well as restrictions established by the FDIC. See Item 5. "Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities" for more information regarding cash dividends.

### Competition

#### Competitive Data

American River Bank. At June 30, 2008, based on the most recent "Data Book Summary of Deposits in FDIC Insured Commercial and Savings Banks" report at that date, the competing commercial and savings banks had 199 offices in the cities of Fair Oaks, Rancho Cordova, Roseville and Sacramento, California, where American River Bank has its 6 Sacramento area offices, 61 offices in the cities of Healdsburg, Santa Rosa and Windsor, California, where American River Bank has its 3 Sonoma County offices, and 3 offices in the cities of Jackson, Pioneer and Ione, California, where American River Bank has its 3 Amador County offices. Additionally, American River Bank competes with thrifts and, to a lesser extent, credit unions, finance companies and other financial service providers for deposit and loan customers.

Larger banks may have a competitive advantage because of higher lending limits and major advertising and marketing campaigns. They also perform services, such as trust services, international banking, discount brokerage and insurance services, which American River Bank is not authorized nor prepared to offer currently. American River Bank has made arrangements with its correspondent banks and with others to provide some of these services for its

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customers. For borrowers requiring loans in excess of American River Bank's legal lending limits, American River Bank has offered, and intends to offer in the future, such loans on a participating basis with its correspondent banks and with other community banks, retaining the portion of such loans which is within its lending limits. As of December 31, 2008, American River Bank's aggregate legal lending limits to a single borrower and such borrower's related parties were \$10,467,000 on an unsecured basis and \$17,444,000 on a fully secured basis based on capital and allowable reserves of \$69,777,000.

American River Bank's business is concentrated in its service area, which primarily encompasses Sacramento County, South Western Placer County, Sonoma County, and Amador County. The economy of American River Bank's service area is dependent upon government, manufacturing, tourism, retail sales, agriculture, population growth and smaller service oriented businesses.

Based upon the most recent "Data Book Summary of Deposits in FDIC Insured Commercial and Savings Banks" report dated June 30, 2008, there were 239 operating commercial and savings bank offices in Sacramento County with total deposits of \$19,551,184,000. This was an increase of \$1,255,518,000 over the June 30, 2007 balances. American River Bank held a total of \$245,861,000 in deposits, representing approximately 1.3% of total commercial and savings banks deposits in Sacramento County as of June 30, 2008.

Based upon the most recent "Data Book Summary of Deposits in FDIC Insured Commercial and Savings Banks" report dated June 30, 2008, there were 121 operating commercial and savings bank offices in Placer County with total deposits of \$5,928,875,000. This was an increase of \$209,273,000 over the June 30, 2007 balances. American River Bank held a total of \$67,803,000 in deposits, representing approximately 1.1% of total commercial and savings banks deposits in Placer County as of June 30, 2008.

Based upon the most recent "Data Book Summary of Deposits in FDIC Insured Commercial and Savings Banks" report dated June 30, 2008, there were 130 operating commercial and savings bank offices in Sonoma County with total deposits of \$9,782,120,000. This was an increase of \$320,888,000 over the June 30, 2007 balances. American River Bank held a total of \$60,399,000 in deposits, representing approximately 0.6% of total commercial and savings banks deposits in Sonoma County as of June 30, 2008.

Based upon the most recent "Data Book Summary of Deposits in FDIC Insured Commercial and Savings Banks" report dated June 30, 2008, there were 13 operating commercial and savings bank offices in Amador County with total deposits of \$618,282,000. This was a decrease of \$18,713,000 over the June 30, 2007 balances. American River Bank held a total of \$86,766,000 in deposits, representing approximately 14.0% of total commercial and savings bank deposits in Amador County as of June 30, 2008.

### FDIC Insurance

In 1996, pursuant to Congressional mandate, the FDIC reduced bank deposit insurance assessment rates to a range from \$0 to \$0.27 per \$100 of deposits, dependent upon a bank's risk. In 2005, Congress adopted the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005 (the "Reform Act"), which had the effect of merging the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund into a new Deposit Insurance Fund ("DIF"). The FDIC released final regulations under the Reform Act on November 2, 2006 that established a revised risk-based deposit insurance assessment rate system for members of the DIF to insure, among other matters, that there will be sufficient assessment income for repayment of DIF obligations and to further refine the differentiation of risk profiles among institutions as a basis for assessments. Under the new assessment rate system, the FDIC set the assessment rates that became effective January 1, 2007 for most institutions from \$0.05 to \$0.07 per \$100 of insured deposits and established a

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Designated Reserve Ratio ("DRR") for the DIF during 2007 of 1.25% of insured deposits. The Reform Act required the FDIC to implement a restoration plan to restore the DRR to not less than 1.15 percent of insured deposits within five years. The Reform Act also provided a one-time assessment credit to be allocated among institutions. American River Bank's allocated portion of such credit was \$290,000, which was applied to reduce its insurance premium assessments. The credit was exhausted as of September 30, 2008.

The new assessment rate system consolidates the nine categories of the prior assessment system into four categories (Risk Categories I, II, III and IV) and three Supervisory Groups (A, B and C) based upon institution's capital levels and supervisory ratings. Risk Category I includes all well capitalized institutions with the highest supervisory ratings. Risk Category II includes

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adequately capitalized institutions that are assigned to Supervisory Groups A and B. Risk Category III includes all undercapitalized institutions that are assigned to Supervisory Groups A and B and institutions assigned to Supervisory Group C that are not undercapitalized but have a low supervisory rating. Risk Category IV includes all undercapitalized institutions that are assigned to Supervisory Group C.

On October 3, 2008, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the "EESA") was signed into law. The EESA temporarily raised the limit on federal deposit insurance coverage provided by the FDIC from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per depositor.

On October 14, 2008, the FDIC implemented the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (the "TLGP") to strengthen confidence and encourage liquidity in the financial system. The TLGP includes the Transaction Account Guarantee Program (the "TAGP"). The TAGP offers full guarantee for noninterest-bearing transaction accounts held at FDIC-insured depository institutions. The unlimited deposit coverage was voluntary for eligible institutions and was in addition to the \$250,000 FDIC deposit insurance per account that was included as part of the EESA. The insured deposit limits are currently scheduled to return to \$100,000 on January 1, 2010, except for certain retirement accounts. The TAGP coverage became effective on October 14, 2008 and is scheduled to continue for participating institutions until December 31, 2009. In addition to the existing risk-based deposit insurance premium assessed on such deposits, TAGP participants will be assessed, on a quarterly basis, an annualized 10 basis point fee on balances in noninterest-bearing transaction accounts that exceed the existing deposit insurance limit of \$250,000. American River Bank has opted to participate in the TAGP.

On December 16, 2008, the FDIC approved an earlier proposed seven basis point rate increase for the first quarter 2009 assessment period effective January 1, 2009 as part of the DIF restoration plan to achieve a minimum DRR of 1.15 percent within five years.

On February 27, 2009, the FDIC issued a press release with attached final rule dated February 26, 2009, which established increased assessment rates effective as of April 1, 2009 and included adjustments to improve differentiation of risk profiles among institutions. The FDIC concurrently proposed an interim rule that imposes a 20 basis point emergency special assessment effective June 30, 2009, to be collected from all insured depository institutions on September 30, 2009, in addition to the imposition of an emergency special assessment of up to 10 basis points at the end of any calendar quarter after June 30, 2009 if the FDIC determines the DIF reserve ratio will fall to a level that would adversely affect public confidence, among other factors. The proposed changes to differentiate risk profiles will require

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riskier institutions to pay higher assessment rates based on classification into one of four risk categories. Within each category, the FDIC will be able to assess higher rates to institutions with a significant reliance on secured liabilities, which generally raises the FDIC's loss in the event of failure without providing additional assessment revenue. The proposal also would assess higher rates for institutions with a significant reliance on brokered deposits but, for well-managed and well-capitalized institutions, only when accompanied by rapid asset growth. The proposal also would provide incentives in the form of a reduction in assessment rates for institutions to hold long-term unsecured debt and, for smaller institutions, high levels of Tier 1 capital. Together, the changes would improve the way the system differentiates risk among insured institutions and help ensure that a minimum DRR of at least 1.15 percent by the end of 2013.

Based upon the announced increase in assessments for insured financial institutions in 2009 as described above and the continuing adverse economic conditions impacting financial institutions generally which may necessitate further increases in assessments, the Company anticipates that such assessments will have a significantly greater impact upon operating expenses in 2009 compared to 2008.

### General Competitive Factors

In order to compete with the major financial institutions in its primary service areas, American River Bank uses to the fullest extent possible the flexibility which is accorded by their community banks status. This includes an emphasis on specialized services, local promotional activity, and personal contacts by their respective officers, directors and employees. American River Bank also seeks to provide special services and programs for individuals in their primary service area who are employed in the agricultural, professional and business fields, such as loans for equipment, furniture, tools of the trade or expansion of practices or businesses. In the event there are customers whose loan demands exceed their respective lending limits, they seek to arrange for such loans on a participation basis with other financial institutions. Furthermore, American River Bank also assists those customers requiring services not offered by either bank to obtain such services from correspondent banks.

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Commercial banks compete with savings and loan associations, credit unions, other financial institutions and other entities for funds. For instance, yields on corporate and government debt securities and other commercial paper affect the ability of commercial banks to attract and hold deposits. Commercial banks also compete for loans with savings and loan associations, credit unions, consumer finance companies, mortgage companies and other lending institutions.

Banking is a business that depends on interest rate differentials. In general, the difference between the interest rate paid by a bank to obtain their deposits and other borrowings and the interest rate received by a bank on loans extended to customers and on securities held in a bank's portfolio comprise the major portion of a bank's revenues.

The interest rate differentials of a bank, and therefore their revenues, are affected not only by general economic conditions, both domestic and foreign, but also by the monetary and fiscal policies of the United States as set by statutes and as implemented by federal agencies, particularly the Federal Reserve Board. The Federal Reserve Board can and does implement national monetary policy, such as seeking to curb inflation and combat recession, by its open market operations in United States government securities, adjustments in the amount of interest free reserves that banks and other financial institutions are required to maintain, and adjustments to the discount rates applicable to

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borrowing by banks from the Federal Reserve Board. These activities influence the growth of bank loans, investments and deposits and also affect interest rates charged on loans and paid on deposits. The nature and timing of any future changes in monetary policies and their impact on American River Bank is not predictable.

### Impact of Legislative and Regulatory Proposals

Since 1996, California law implementing certain provisions of prior federal law has (1) permitted interstate merger transactions; (2) prohibited interstate branching through the acquisition of a branch business unit located in California without acquisition of the whole business unit of the California bank; and (3) prohibited interstate branching through de novo establishment of California branch offices. Initial entry into California by an out-of-state institution must be accomplished by acquisition of or merger with an existing whole bank which has been in existence for at least five years.

The federal financial institution agencies, especially the Board of Governors, have taken steps to increase the types of activities in which bank holding companies can engage, and to make it easier to engage in such activities.

Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act . In 1999, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (the "GLB Act") was signed into law. The GLB Act eliminates most of the remaining depression-era "firewalls" between banks, securities firms and insurance companies which was established by The Banking Act of 1933, also known as the Glass-Steagall Act ("Glass-Steagall"). Glass-Steagall sought to insulate banks as depository institutions from the perceived risks of securities dealing and underwriting, and related activities. The GLB Act repealed Section 20 of Glass-Steagall which prohibited banks from affiliating with securities firms. Bank holding companies that can qualify as "financial holding companies" can now acquire securities firms or create them as subsidiaries, and securities firms can now acquire banks or start banking activities through a financial holding company. The GLB Act includes provisions which permit national banks to conduct financial activities through a subsidiary that are permissible for a national bank to engage in directly, as well as certain activities authorized by statute, or that are financial in nature or incidental to financial activities to the same extent as permitted to a "financial holding company" or its affiliates. This liberalization of United States banking and financial services regulation applies both to domestic institutions and foreign institutions conducting business in the United States. Consequently, the common ownership of banks, securities firms and insurance firms is now possible, as is the conduct of commercial banking, merchant banking, investment management, securities underwriting and insurance within a single financial institution using a "financial holding company" structure authorized by the GLB Act.

Prior to the GLB Act, significant restrictions existed on the affiliation of banks with securities firms and on the direct conduct by banks of securities dealing and underwriting and related securities activities. Banks were also (with minor exceptions) prohibited from engaging in insurance activities or affiliating with insurers. The GLB Act removed these restrictions and substantially eliminated the prohibitions under the Bank Holding Company Act on affiliations between banks and insurance companies. Bank holding companies which qualify as financial holding companies can now insure, guarantee, or indemnify against loss, harm, damage, illness, disability, or death; issue annuities; and act as a principal, agent, or broker regarding such insurance services.

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an insurance company pursuant to the GLB Act, its bank holding company must qualify as a financial holding company. A bank holding company will qualify if (i) its banking subsidiaries are "well capitalized" and "well managed" and (ii) it files with the Board of Governors a certification to such effect and a declaration that it elects to become a financial holding company. The amendment of the Bank Holding Company Act now permits financial holding companies to engage in activities, and acquire companies engaged in activities, that are financial in nature or incidental to such financial activities. Financial holding companies are also permitted to engage in activities that are complementary to financial activities if the Board of Governors determines that the activity does not pose a substantial risk to the safety or soundness of depository institutions or the financial system in general. These standards expand upon the list of activities "closely related to banking" which have to date defined the permissible activities of bank holding companies under the Bank Holding Company Act.

One further effect of the GLB Act is to require that federal financial institution and securities regulatory agencies prescribe regulations to implement the policy that financial institutions must respect the privacy of their customers and protect the security and confidentiality of customers' non-public personal information. These regulations require, in general, that financial institutions (1) may not disclose non-public personal information of customers to non-affiliated third parties without notice to their customers, who must have the opportunity to direct that such information not be disclosed; (2) may not disclose customer account numbers except to consumer reporting agencies; and (3) must give prior disclosure of their privacy policies before establishing new customer relationships.

Neither American River Bankshares or American River Bank have determined whether or when they may seek to acquire and exercise powers or activities under the GLB Act, and the extent to which competition will change among financial institutions affected by the GLB Act has not yet become clear.

Patriot Act. On October 26, 2001, President Bush signed the USA Patriot Act (the "Patriot Act"), which includes provisions pertaining to domestic security, surveillance procedures, border protection, and terrorism laws to be administered by the Secretary of the Treasury. Title III of the Patriot Act entitled, "International Money Laundering Abatement and Anti-Terrorist Financing Act of 2001" includes amendments to the Bank Secrecy Act which expand the responsibilities of financial institutions in regard to anti-money laundering activities with particular emphasis upon international money laundering and terrorism financing activities through designated correspondent and private banking accounts.

Effective December 25, 2001, Section 313(a) of the Patriot Act prohibits any insured financial institution such as American River Bank, from providing correspondent accounts to foreign banks which do not have a physical presence in any country (designated as "shell banks"), subject to certain exceptions for regulated affiliates of foreign banks. Section 313(a) also requires financial institutions to take reasonable steps to ensure that foreign bank correspondent accounts are not being used to indirectly provide banking services to foreign shell banks, and Section 319(b) requires financial institutions to maintain records of the owners and agent for service of process of any such foreign banks with whom correspondent accounts have been established.

Effective July 23, 2002, Section 312 of the Patriot Act created a requirement for special due diligence for correspondent accounts and private banking accounts. Under Section 312, each financial institution that establishes, maintains, administers, or manages a private banking account or a correspondent account in the United States for a non-United States person, including a foreign individual visiting the United States, or a representative



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of a non-United States person shall establish appropriate, specific, and, where necessary, enhanced, due diligence policies, procedures, and controls that are reasonably designed to detect and record instances of money laundering through those accounts.

The Patriot Act contains various provisions in addition to Sections 313(a) and 312 that affect the operations of financial institutions by encouraging cooperation among financial institutions, regulatory authorities and law enforcement authorities with respect to individuals, entities and organizations engaged in, or reasonably suspected of engaging in, terrorist acts or money laundering activities. The Company and American River Bank are not currently aware of any account relationships between American River Bank and any foreign bank or other person or entity as described above under Sections 313(a) or 312 of the Patriot Act.

Certain surveillance provisions of the Patriot Act were scheduled to expire on December 31, 2005, and actions to restrict the use of the Patriot Act surveillance provisions were filed by the ACLU and other organizations. On March 9, 2006, after temporary extensions of the Patriot Act, President Bush signed the "USA Patriot Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005" and the "USA Patriot Act Additional Reauthorizing Amendments Act of 2006," which reauthorized

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all expiring provisions of the Patriot Act by making permanent 14 of the 16 provisions and imposed a four-year expiration date on December 31, 2009 on the other two provisions related to "roving surveillance" and production of business records.

The effects which the Patriot Act and any additional legislation enacted by Congress may have upon financial institutions is uncertain; however, such legislation could increase compliance costs and thereby potentially may have an adverse effect upon the Company's results of operations.

Sarbanes-Oxley Act. On July 30, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the "Act") which responds to recent issues in corporate governance and accountability. Among other matters, key provisions of the Act and rules promulgated by the SEC pursuant to the Act include the following:

- o Expanded oversight of the accounting profession by creating a new independent public company oversight board to be monitored by the SEC.
- o Revised rules on auditor independence to restrict the nature of non-audit services provided to audit clients and to require such services to be pre-approved by the audit committee.
- o Improved corporate responsibility through mandatory listing standards relating to audit committees, certifications of periodic reports by the CEO and CFO and making issuer interference with an audit a crime.
- o Enhanced financial disclosures, including periodic reviews for largest issuers and real time disclosure of material company information.
- o Enhanced criminal penalties for a broad array of white collar crimes and increases in the statute of limitations for securities fraud lawsuits.
- o Disclosure of whether a company has adopted a code of ethics that applies to the company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, and disclosure of any amendments or waivers to such code of ethics.
- o Disclosure of whether a company's audit committee of its board of directors has a member of the audit committee who qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert."

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- o A prohibition on insider trading during pension plan black-out periods.
- o Disclosure of off-balance sheet transactions.
- o A prohibition on personal loans to directors and officers.
- o Conditions on the use of non-GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) financial measures.
- o Standards on professional conduct for attorneys requiring attorneys having an attorney-client relationship with a company, among other matters, to report "up the ladder" to the audit committee, another board committee or the entire board of directors certain material violations.
- o Expedited filing requirements for Form 4 reports of changes in beneficial ownership of securities reducing the filing deadline to within 2 business days of the date a transaction triggers an obligation to report.
- o Accelerated filing requirements for Forms 10-K and 10-Q by public companies which qualify as "accelerated filers" to a phased-in reduction of the filing deadline for Form 10-K reports and Form 10-Q reports.
- o Disclosure concerning website access to reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K, and any amendments to those reports, by "accelerated filers" as soon as reasonably practicable after such reports and material are filed with or furnished to the SEC.
- o Rules requiring national securities exchanges and national securities associations to prohibit the listing of any security whose issuer does not meet audit committee standards established pursuant to the Act.

The Company's securities are listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market. Consequently, in addition to the rules promulgated by the SEC pursuant to the Act, the Company must also comply with the listing standards applicable to Nasdaq listed companies. The Nasdaq listing standards applicable to the Company include standards related to (i) director independence, (ii) executive session meetings of the board, (iii) requirements for audit, nominating and compensation committee charters, membership qualifications and procedures, (iv) shareholder approval of equity compensation arrangements, and (v) code of conduct requirements that comply with the code of ethics under the Act.

The effect of the Act upon the Company is uncertain; however, the Company has incurred and it is anticipated that it will continue to incur increased costs to comply with the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act by the SEC, Nasdaq and other regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the Company or the issuance and listing of its securities. The

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Company does not currently anticipate, however, that compliance with the Act and such rules and regulations will have a material adverse effect upon its financial position or results of its operations or its cash flows. The Company is required to report on internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of the Act. The Company's reporting status changed for 2008 from an accelerated filer to a non-accelerated filer under the Act with the result that an attestation report from the Company's independent registered public accountants is not required for the year ended December 31, 2008. However, this is not anticipated to significantly reduce the Company's accounting expenses.

Corporate Disclosure Act. Effective January 1, 2003, the California Corporate Disclosure Act (the "CCD Act") required publicly traded corporations incorporated or qualified to do business in California to disclose information about their past history, auditors, directors and officers. Effective September 28, 2004, the CCD Act, as currently in effect and codified at California Corporations Code Section 1502.1, requires the Company to file with the

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California Secretary of State and disclose within 150 days after the end of its fiscal year certain information including the following:

- o The name of the a company's independent auditor and a description of services, if any, performed for a company during the previous two fiscal years and the period from the end of the most recent fiscal year to the date of filing;
- o The annual compensation paid to each director and the five most highly compensated non-director executive officers (including the CEO) during the most recent fiscal year, including all plan and non-plan compensation for all services rendered to a company as specified in Item 402 of Regulation S-K such as grants, awards or issuance of stock, stock options and similar equity-based compensation;
- o A description of any loans made to a director at a "preferential" loan rate during the company's two most recent fiscal years, including the amount and terms of the loans;
- o Whether any bankruptcy was filed by a company or any of its directors or executive officers within the previous 10 years;
- o Whether any director or executive officer of a company has been convicted of fraud during the previous 10 years; and
- o A description of any material pending legal proceedings other than ordinary routine litigation as specified in Item 103 of Regulation S-K and a description of such litigation where the company was found legally liable by a final judgment or order.

The Company does not currently anticipate that compliance with the CCD Act will have a material adverse effect upon its financial position or results of its operations or its cash flows.

Check Clearing Act. The Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act (commonly referred to as "Check 21") was signed into law in 2003 and became effective on October 28, 2004. The law facilitates check truncation by creating a new negotiable instrument called a "substitute check" which permits banks to truncate original checks, to process check information electronically and to deliver "substitute checks" to banks that want to continue receiving paper checks. Check 21 is intended to reduce the dependence of the check payment system on physical transportation networks (which can be disrupted by terrorist attacks of the type which occurred on September 11, 2001) and to streamline the collection and return process. The law does not require banks to accept checks in electronic form nor does it require banks to use the new authority granted by the Act to create "substitute checks." The Company does not currently anticipate that compliance with the Act will have a material effect upon its financial position or results of its operations or its cash flows.

Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act. The Board of Governors, the FDIC, the other federal financial institution regulatory agencies, and the Federal Trade Commission issued a joint press release on October 31, 2007 and final rules and guidelines effective January 1, 2008, subject to mandatory compliance as of November 1, 2008, implementing sections 114 and 315 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 to require financial institutions and other creditors to develop and implement a written identity theft prevention program. The program must include reasonable policies and procedures for detecting, preventing, and mitigating identity theft in connection with certain new and existing covered accounts. Covered accounts are defined as (i) an account primarily for personal, family, or household purposes (i.e., consumer accounts), or (ii) any other account for which there is a reasonably foreseeable risk to customers or the safety and soundness of the financial institution or creditor from identity theft. The program must be appropriate to the size and complexity of the financial institution or creditor and the nature and scope of its activities and should be designed to:

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- o identify relevant patterns, practices, and specific forms of activity that are "red flags" of possible identity theft and incorporate those red flags into the program;
- o detect the occurrence of red flags incorporated into the program;
- o respond appropriately to any red flags that are detected to prevent and mitigate identity theft; and
- o ensure that the program is updated periodically to reflect changes in risks to customers or to the safety and soundness of the financial institution or creditor from identity theft.

The regulations include guidelines that each financial institution must consider and, to the extent appropriate, include in its program and steps that must be taken to administer the program including (i) obtaining approval of the program by the board of directors or a committee of the board, (ii) ensuring oversight of the development, implementation and administration of the program, (iii) training staff, and (iv) overseeing service provider arrangements. The guidelines contemplate that existing fraud prevention procedures may be incorporated into the program.

### Recent Regulatory Developments

In response to global credit and liquidity issues involving a number of financial institutions, the United States government, particularly the United States Department of the Treasury (the "U.S. Treasury") and the Federal financial institution regulatory agencies, have taken a variety of extraordinary measures designed to restore confidence in the financial markets and to strengthen financial institutions, including capital injections, guarantees of bank liabilities and the acquisition of illiquid assets from banks.

Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. On October 3, 2008, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the "EESA") was signed into law. Pursuant to the EESA, the U.S. Treasury was granted the authority to take a range of actions for the purpose of stabilizing and providing liquidity to the U.S. financial markets and has implemented several programs, including the purchase by the U.S. Treasury of certain troubled assets from financial institutions under the Troubled Asset Relief Program" (the "TARP") and the direct purchase by the U.S. Treasury of equity securities of financial institutions under the Capital Purchase Program (the "CPP"). The EESA also temporarily raised the limit on federal deposit insurance coverage provided by the FDIC from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per depositor.

Capital Purchase Program. On October 24, 2008, the U.S. Treasury announced plans to direct \$250 billion of the TARP funding into the CPP to acquire preferred stock investments in bank holding companies and banks. Requirements for bank holding companies and banks eligible to participate as a Qualifying Financial Institution ("QFI") in the CPP include:

- o Submission of an application prior to November 14, 2008 to the QFI's Federal banking regulator to obtain preliminary approval to participate in the CPP;
- o If the QFI receives preliminary approval, it will have 30 days within which to submit final documentation and fulfill any outstanding requirements;
- o The minimum amount of capital eligible for purchase by the U.S. Treasury under the CPP is 1 percent of the Total Risk-Weighted Assets of the QFI and the maximum is the lesser of (i) an amount equal to 3 percent of the Total Risk-Weighted Assets of the QFI or (ii) \$25 billion;
- o Capital acquired by a QFI under the CPP will be accorded Tier 1 capital treatment;

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- o The preferred stock issued to the U.S. Treasury will be non-voting (except in the case of class votes), senior perpetual preferred stock that ranks senior to common stock and pari passu with existing preferred stock (except junior preferred stock);
- o In addition to the preferred stock, the U.S. Treasury will be issued warrants to acquire shares of the QFI's common stock equal in value to 15 percent of the amount of capital purchased by the QFI;
- o Dividends are payable to the U.S. Treasury at the rate of 5% per annum for the first 5 years and 9% per annum thereafter;
- o Subject to certain exceptions and other requirements, no redemption of the preferred stock is permitted during the first 3 years;
- o Certain restrictions on the payment of dividends to shareholders of the QFI shall remain in effect while the preferred stock purchased by the U.S. Treasury is outstanding;
- o Repurchase of the QFI's stock requires consent of the U.S. Treasury, subject to certain exceptions;

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- o The preferred shares are not subject to any contractual restrictions on transfer by the U.S. Treasury; and
- o The QFI must agree to be bound by certain executive compensation and corporate governance requirements and senior executive officers must agree to certain compensation restrictions.

Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program. Among other programs and actions taken by the U.S. Treasury and other regulatory agencies, the FDIC implemented the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (the "TLGP") to strengthen confidence and encourage liquidity in the financial system. The TLGP is comprised of the Debt Guarantee Program (the "DGP") and the Transaction Account Guarantee Program (the "TAGP"). The DGP guarantees all newly issued senior unsecured debt (e.g., promissory notes, unsubordinated unsecured notes and commercial paper) up to prescribed limits issued by participating entities beginning on October 14, 2008 and continuing through October 31, 2009. For eligible debt issued by that date, the FDIC will provide the guarantee coverage until the earlier of the maturity date of the debt or June 30, 2012. The TAGP offers full guarantee for noninterest-bearing transaction accounts held at FDIC-insured depository institutions. The unlimited deposit coverage was voluntary for eligible institutions and was in addition to the \$250,000 FDIC deposit insurance per account that was included as part of the EESA. The insured deposit limits are currently scheduled to return to \$100,000 on January 1, 2010, except for certain retirement accounts. The TAGP coverage became effective on October 14, 2008 and is scheduled to continue for participating institutions until December 31, 2009. American River Bank opted to participate in the TAGP.

Initially, the TLGP programs, the DGP and TAGP, were provided at no cost for the first 30 days. On November 3, 2008, the FDIC extended the opt-out period to December 5, 2008 to provide eligible institutions additional time to consider the terms before making a final decision regarding participation in the program. Participants in the DGP are charged an annualized fee ranging from 50 basis points to 100 basis points (depending on the maturity of the debt issued) multiplied by the amount of debt issued, and calculated for the maturity period of that debt, or through June 30, 2012, whichever is earlier. American River Bank is authorized to participate in the DGP and can issue approximately \$10,260,000 of qualifying senior debt securities covered by the DGP. As of December 31, 2008, American River Bank has no senior unsecured debt outstanding.

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The Company has not determined whether to issue qualifying senior debt securities under the DGP as part of its liquidity planning for 2009 or thereafter. In addition to the existing risk-based deposit insurance premium paid on such deposits, TAGP participants will be assessed, on a quarterly basis, an annualized 10 basis points fee on balances in noninterest-bearing transaction accounts that exceed the existing deposit insurance limit of \$250,000.

Financial Stability Plan. On February 10, 2009, the U.S. Treasury announced a Financial Stability Plan (the "FSP") as a comprehensive approach to strengthening the financial system and credit crisis. The Plan includes a Capital Assistance Program (the "CAP") that is intended to serve as a bridge to raising private capital and to ensure sufficient capital to preserve or increase lending in a worse-than-expected economic deterioration. Eligibility to participate in the CAP will be consistent with the criteria for QFI's under the CPP. Eligible institutions with consolidated assets in excess of \$100 billion will be able to obtain capital under the CAP, subject to a supervisory review process and comprehensive stress test assessment of the losses that could occur over a two year period in the future across a range of economic scenarios, including conditions more severe than anticipated or as typically used in capital planning processes. Eligible institutions with consolidated assets below \$100 billion will be able to obtain capital under the CAP after a supervisory review. As announced, the CAP includes issuance of a convertible preferred security to the U.S. Treasury at a discount to the participating institution's stock price as of February 9, 2009, subject to a dividend to be determined. The security instrument will be designed to incentivize institutions to replace the CAP capital with private capital or redeem it. Institutions participating in the CPP under TARP may also be permitted to exchange their CPP preferred stock for the convertible preferred CAP security. Among the other elements of the FSP, is a temporary extension by the FDIC of the TLGP for enhancing financial institution liquidity to October 31, 2009. On February 25, 2009, the FDIC and other regulatory agencies jointly announced the commencement of the stress test assessment with the intention to complete the process of assessment not later than April 2009.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "ARRA") was signed into law. Section 7001 of the ARRA amended Section 111 of the EESA in its entirety. While the U.S. Treasury must promulgate regulations to implement the restrictions and standards set forth in Section 7001, the ARRA, among other things, significantly expands the executive compensation restrictions previously imposed by the EESA. Such restrictions apply to any entity that has received or will receive financial assistance under the TARP, and shall generally continue to apply for as long as any obligation arising from financial assistance provided under the

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TARP, including preferred stock issued under the CPP, remains outstanding. These ARRA restrictions do not apply to any TARP recipient during such time when the federal government (i) only holds any warrants to purchase common stock of such recipient or (ii) holds no preferred stock or warrants to purchase common stock of such recipient. Since the Company determined not to participate in the CPP, the restrictions and standards set forth in Section 7001 of the ARRA are not applicable to the Company.

Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility. On March 3, 2009, the U.S. Treasury and the Board of Governors announced the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (the "TALF"). The TALF is one of the programs under the Financial Stability Plan announced by the U.S. Treasury on February 10, 2009. The TALF is intended to help stimulate the economy by facilitating securitization activities which allow lenders to increase the availability of credit to consumers and businesses. Under the TALF, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York ("FRBNY") will

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lend up to \$200 billion to provide financing to investors as support for purchases of certain AAA-rated asset-backed securities ("ABS") initially for newly and recently originated auto loans, credit card loans, student loans, and SBA-guaranteed small business loans anticipated to be funded on March 25, 2009, and rental, commercial, and government vehicle fleet leases, small ticket equipment, heavy equipment, and agricultural equipment loans and leases proposed to be funded in April.

ABS fundings will be held monthly beginning on March 25, 2009 through December 2009, or longer if the TALF is extended. The loan asset classes may be expanded in the future to include commercial mortgages, non-Agency residential mortgages, and/or other asset classes. Credit extensions under the TALF will be non-recourse loans to eligible borrowers secured by eligible collateral for a three-year term with interest paid monthly. Any U.S. company that owns eligible collateral may borrow from the TALF, provided the company maintains an account with a primary dealer who will act as agent for the borrower and deliver eligible collateral to the FRBNY custodian in connection with the loan funding. The FRBYN will create a special purpose vehicle ("SPV") to purchase and manage any assets received by the FRBYN in connection with the TALF loans.

The U.S. Treasury will provide \$20 billion of credit protection to the FRBNY in connection with the TALF through the Troubled Assets Relief Program (the "TARP") by purchasing subordinated debt issued by the SPV to finance the first \$20 billion of asset purchases. If more than \$20 billion in assets are purchased by the SPV, the FRBNY will lend additional funds to the SPV to finance such additional purchases. The FRBNY's loan to the SPV will be senior to the TARP subordinated loan and secured by all of the assets of the SPV.

### Future Legislation

In addition to legislative changes, the various Federal and state financial institution regulatory agencies frequently propose rules and regulations to implement and enforce already existing legislation. It cannot be predicted whether or in what form any such rules or regulations will be enacted or the effect that such regulations may have on American River Bankshares or American River Bank. However, in light of the current conditions in the U.S. financial markets and economy, Congress and regulators have increased their focus on the regulation of the financial services industry. The Company anticipates that additional regulations will likely increase the Company's expenses, which may adversely impact the Company's results of operations, financial condition, future prospects, profitability, and stock price.

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### Item 1A. Risk Factors.

The Company and its subsidiary, American River Bank, conduct business in an environment that includes certain risks described below which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, results of operations, financial condition, future prospects and stock price. You are also referred to the matters described under the heading "Cautionary Statements Regarding Forward-Looking Statements," in Part I, Item 1 and Part II, Item 7 of this report on Form 10-K for additional information regarding factors that may affect the Company's business.

- o American River Bankshares' business is subject to interest rate risk, and variations in interest rates may negatively affect its financial performance.

Changes in the interest rate environment may reduce the Company's net interest income. It is expected that the Company will continue to realize income

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from the differential or "spread" between the interest earned on loans, securities and other interest-earning assets, and interest paid on deposits, borrowings and other interest-bearing liabilities. Net interest spreads are affected by the difference between the maturities and repricing characteristics of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities. In addition, loan volume and yields are affected by market interest rates on loans, and rising interest rates generally are associated with a lower volume of loan originations. We cannot assure you that we can minimize the Company's interest rate risk. In addition, an increase in the general level of interest rates may adversely affect the ability of certain borrowers to pay the interest on and principal of their obligations. Accordingly, changes in levels of market interest rates could materially and adversely affect the Company's net interest spread, asset quality, loan origination volume and overall profitability.

- o Governmental monetary policies and intervention to stabilize the U.S. financial system affect American River Bankshares' business and are beyond the control of the Company.

The business of banking is affected significantly by the fiscal and monetary policies of the Federal government and its agencies. Such policies are beyond the control of the Company. The Company is particularly affected by the policies established by the Board of Governors in relation to the supply of money and credit in the United States. The instruments of monetary policy available to the Board of Governors can be used in varying degrees and combinations to directly affect the availability of bank loans and deposits, as well as the interest rates charged on loans and paid on deposits, and this can and does have a material effect on the Company's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Recent legislation including the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the "EESA"), signed into law by President Bush on October 3, 2008, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "ARRA"), signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009, each include programs that are intended to help stabilize the U.S. financial system. However, it is uncertain whether such legislation will sufficiently resolve the volatility of capital and credit markets or improve capital and liquidity problems confronting the financial system. The failure of the EESA or ARRA to mitigate or eliminate such volatility and problems affecting the financial markets and a continuation or worsening of current financial market conditions could limit the Company's access to capital or sources of liquidity in amounts and at times necessary to conduct operations in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements which could have a material adverse affect on the Company's business, financial condition, results of operations, future prospects, and stock price.

- o American River Bankshares' subsidiary, American River Bank, faces strong competition from banks, financial service companies and other companies that offer banking services, which can hurt American River Bankshares' business.

Increased competition in the market of the Company's subsidiary, American River Bank, may result in reduced loans and deposits. Ultimately, it may not be able to compete successfully against current and future competitors. Many competitors offer the banking services that are offered by American River Bank in its service area. These competitors include national and super-regional banks, finance companies, investment banking and brokerage firms, credit unions, government-assisted farm credit programs, other community banks and technology-oriented financial institutions offering online services. In particular, American River Bank's competitors include several major financial companies whose greater resources may afford them a marketplace advantage by enabling them to maintain numerous banking locations and mount extensive promotional and advertising campaigns. Additionally, banks and other financial institutions with larger capitalization and financial intermediaries not subject



to bank regulatory restrictions have larger lending limits and are thereby able to serve the credit needs of larger customers. Areas of competition include interest rates for loans and deposits, efforts to obtain deposits, and range and quality of products and services provided, including new technology-driven products and services. Technological innovation continues to contribute to greater competition in domestic and international financial services markets as technological advances, such as Internet-based banking services that cross traditional geographic bounds, enable more companies to provide financial services. If American River Bank is unable to attract and retain banking customers, it may be unable to continue its loan growth and level of deposits, which may adversely affect its and the Company's results of operations, financial condition and future prospects.

- o Worsening economic conditions could adversely affect American River Bankshares' business.

The economic conditions in the United States, California and in the Company's operating markets continue to deteriorate. Unemployment nationwide and in California has increased significantly recently and is anticipated to increase for the foreseeable future. Availability of credit and consumer spending, real estate values, and consumer confidence have declined markedly. The volatility of the capital markets and the credit, capital and liquidity problems confronting the U.S. financial system have not been resolved despite massive government expenditures and legislative efforts to stabilize the U.S. financial system. There is no assurance that such conditions will improve or be resolved in the foreseeable future.

The Company's subsidiary, American River Bank, conducts banking operations principally in Northern California. As a result, the Company's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows are subject to changes in the economic conditions in Northern California. The Company's business results are dependent in large part upon the business activity, population, income levels, deposits and real estate activity in Northern California, and adverse economic conditions could have material adverse effects upon the Company. The State of California is currently experiencing significant budgetary and fiscal difficulties.

The Company can provide no assurance that conditions in the United States and California economies will not further deteriorate or that such deterioration will not materially and adversely affect the Company. A further deterioration in economic conditions locally, regionally or nationally, could result in a further economic downturn in Northern California and prolong the following consequences, any of which could further adversely affect the Company's business:

- o loan delinquencies and defaults may increase;
  - o problem assets and foreclosures may increase;
  - o demand for the Company's products and services may decline;
  - o low cost or non-interest bearing deposits may decrease;
  - o collateral for loans may decline in value, in turn reducing customers' borrowing power, and reducing the value of assets and collateral as sources of repayment of existing loans; and
  - o volatile securities market conditions could adversely affect valuations of investment portfolio assets.
- o American River Bankshares has a concentration risk in real estate related loans.

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At December 31, 2008, approximately 72.0% of the Company's loan and lease portfolio consisted of real estate related loans. Substantially all of the Company's real property collateral is located in its operating markets in Northern California. The continuing trend of deteriorating economic conditions in California and in the Company's operating markets has contributed to an overall decline in real estate values. A continuing substantial decline in real estate values in the Company's primary market areas could occur as a result of worsening economic conditions, or other events including natural disasters such as earthquakes, fires, and floods. Such a decline in values could have an adverse impact on the Company by limiting repayment of defaulted loans through sale of the real estate collateral and by likely increasing the number of defaulted loans to the extent that the financial condition of its borrowers is adversely affected by such a decline in values. At December 31, 2008, residential construction loans, including land acquisition and development, totaled \$34.2 million or 8.2% of the Company's total loan portfolio. This was comprised of 37.0% owner-occupied and 63.0% speculative construction and land loans. Construction, land acquisition and development lending involve additional risks because funds are advanced on the security of the project, which is of uncertain value prior to its completion. Because of the uncertainties inherent in estimating construction costs, as well as the market value of the completed project and the effects of governmental regulation on real property, it is relatively difficult to evaluate accurately the total funds required to complete a project and the related loan-to-value ratio. As a result, speculative

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construction loans often involve the disbursement of substantial funds with repayment dependent, in part, on the completion of the project and the ability of the borrower to sell the property, rather than the ability of the borrower or the guarantor to repay the principal and interest. If our appraisal of the value of the completed project proves to be overstated, we may have inadequate security for the repayment of the loan upon completion of construction of the project. If we are forced to foreclose on a project prior to or at completion due to a default, there can be no assurance that we will be able to recover all of the unpaid balance of, and accrued interest on, the loan, as well as related foreclosure and holding costs. In addition, we may be required to fund additional amounts to complete the project and may have to hold the property for an unspecified period of time. The adverse effects of the foregoing matters upon the Company's real estate portfolio could necessitate a material increase in the provision for loan and lease losses which could adversely affect the Company's results of operations, financial condition, and future prospects.

- o American River Bankshares is subject to extensive regulation, which could adversely affect its business.

The Company's operations are subject to extensive regulation by Federal, state and local governmental authorities and are subject to various laws and judicial and administrative decisions imposing requirements and restrictions on part or all of its operations. The Company believes that it is in substantial compliance in all material respects with laws, rules and regulations applicable to the conduct of its business. Because the Company's business is highly regulated, the laws, rules and regulations applicable to it are subject to regular modification and change. There can be no assurance that these laws, rules and regulations, or any other laws, rules or regulations, will not be adopted in the future, which could make compliance much more difficult or expensive, restrict the Company's ability to originate, broker or sell loans, further limit or restrict the amount of commissions, interest or other charges earned on loans originated or sold by the Company, or otherwise adversely affect the Company's results of operations, financial condition, or future prospects.

- o American River Bank's allowance for loan and lease losses may not be

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adequate to cover actual losses.

Like all financial institutions, American River Bank maintains an allowance for loan and lease losses to provide for loan defaults and non-performance, but its allowance for loan and lease losses may not be adequate to cover actual loan and lease losses. In addition, future provisions for loan and lease losses could materially and adversely affect American River Bank's and therefore the Company's operating results. American River Bank's allowance for loan and lease losses is based on prior experience, as well as an evaluation of the risks in the current portfolio. The amount of future losses is susceptible to changes in economic, operating and other conditions, including changes in the local and California real estate market and interest rates that may be beyond American River Bank's control, and these losses may exceed current estimates. Federal regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination process, review American River Bank's loans and leases and allowance for loan and lease losses. Although we believe that American River Bank's allowance for loan and lease losses is adequate to cover current losses, we cannot assure you that American River Bank will not further increase the allowance for loan and lease losses or that regulatory agencies will not require an increase to this allowance including as a result of the effects of continued deterioration of economic conditions nationally and in the operating markets in which American River Bank conducts business. Any of these occurrences could materially and adversely affect the Company's earnings.

- o American River Bankshares' and American River Bank's operations are dependent upon key personnel.

The future prospects of the Company will be highly dependent on its directors, executive officers and other key personnel. The success of the Company will, to some extent, depend on the continued service of its directors and continued employment of the executive officers, in addition to the Company's ability to attract and retain experienced banking professionals to serve the Company and the Bank in other key positions. The unexpected loss of the services of any of these individuals could have a detrimental effect on the Company and American River Bank.

- o Technology implementation problems or computer system failures could adversely affect American River Bankshares and American River Bank.

The Company's future prospects will be highly dependent on the ability of American River Bank to implement changes in technology that affect the delivery of banking services such as the increased demand for computer access to

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bank accounts and the availability to perform banking transactions electronically. The Bank's ability to compete will depend upon its ability to continue to adapt technology on a timely and cost-effective basis to meet such demands. In addition, the business and operations of the Company and the Bank will be susceptible to adverse effects from computer failures, communication and energy disruption, and the activities including fraud of unethical individuals with the technological ability to cause disruptions or failures of the Bank's data processing system.

- o Information security breach or other technology difficulties could adversely affect American River Bankshares and American River Bank.

The Company and the Bank cannot be certain that implementation of safeguards will eliminate the risk of vulnerability to technological difficulties or failures or ensure the absence of a breach of information security. The Bank will rely on the services of various vendors who provide data

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processing and communication services to the banking industry. Nonetheless, if information security is compromised or other technology difficulties or failures occur, information may be lost or misappropriated, services and operations may be interrupted and the Company and Bank could be exposed to claims from its customers as a result. The occurrence of any of these events could adversely affect the Company's results of operations, financial condition, prospects, and stock price.

- o The Company's controls over financial reporting and its related governance procedures may fail or be circumvented.

Management regularly reviews and updates the Company's internal control over financial reporting, disclosure controls and procedures, and corporate governance policies and procedures. The Company maintains controls and procedures to mitigate risks such as processing system failures and errors, and customer or employee fraud, and maintains insurance coverage for certain of these risks. Any system of controls and procedures, however well designed and operated, is based in part on certain assumptions and can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurances that the objectives of the system are met. Events could occur which are not prevented or detected by the Company's internal controls or are not insured against or are in excess of the Company's insurance limits. Any failure or circumvention of the Company's controls and procedures or failure to comply with regulations related to controls and procedures could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, results of operations and financial condition.

- o The effects of legislation in response to current credit conditions may adversely affect the Company.

Legislation that has or may be passed at the Federal level and/or by California in response to current conditions affecting credit markets could cause the Company to experience higher credit losses if such legislation reduces the amount that the Bank's borrowers are otherwise contractually required to pay under existing loan contracts. Such legislation could also result in the imposition of limitations upon the Bank's ability to foreclose on property or other collateral or make foreclosure less economically feasible. Such events could result in increased loan losses and require a material increase in the allowance for loan losses and thereby adversely affect the Company's results of operations, financial condition, future prospects, profitability and stock price.

- o The effects of changes to FDIC insurance coverage limits are uncertain and increased premiums may adversely affect the Company.

The FDIC charges insured financial institutions premiums to maintain the Deposit Insurance Fund. Current economic conditions have increased expectations for bank failures. In such event, the FDIC would take control of failed banks and guarantee payment of deposits up to applicable insured limits from the Deposit Insurance Fund. Insurance premium assessments to insured financial institutions may increase as necessary to maintain adequate funding of the Deposit Insurance Fund.

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 included a provision for an increase in the amount of deposits insured by the FDIC to \$250,000. On October 14, 2008, the FDIC announced the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program, which includes the Transaction Account Guarantee Program (the "TAGP"). The TAGP provides unlimited deposit insurance on funds in noninterest-bearing transaction deposit accounts not otherwise covered by the existing deposit insurance limit of \$250,000. All eligible institutions were covered under the TAGP for the first

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30 days without incurring any costs. After the initial period, participating institutions are assessed a 10 basis point surcharge on the additional insured deposits through the scheduled end of the program, currently December 31, 2009. American River Bank opted to participate in the TAGP. As a result, increased premiums will impact the Company's earnings.

It is not clear how depositors will respond regarding the increase in insurance coverage. Despite the increase, some depositors may reduce the amount of deposits held at the Bank if concerns regarding bank failures persist, which could affect the level and composition of the Bank's deposit portfolio and thereby directly impact the Bank's funding costs and net interest margin. The Bank's funding costs may also be adversely affected in the event that the activities of the Federal Reserve Board and the U.S. Treasury to provide liquidity for the banking system and improvement in capital markets are curtailed or unsuccessful. Such events could reduce liquidity in the markets, thereby increasing funding costs to the Bank or reducing the availability of funds to the Bank to finance its existing operations and thereby adversely affect the Company's results of operations, financial condition, future prospects, profitability and stock price.

- o The effects of terrorism and other events beyond the Company's control may adversely affect its results of operations.

The terrorist actions on September 11, 2001 and thereafter, as well as, the current military conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq have had significant adverse effects upon the United States economy. Whether the terrorist activities in the future and the actions of the United States and its allies in combating terrorism on a worldwide basis will adversely impact the Company and the extent of such impact is uncertain. Similar events beyond the control of the Company including, but not limited to, financial and economic volatility and governmental actions in response, natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, fires, and similar adverse weather occurrences, disruption of power supplies and communications equipment such as telephones, cellular phones, computers, and other forms of electronic equipment or media, and widespread, adverse public health occurrences, may adversely affect the Company's future results of operations by, among other matters, disrupting the conduct of the Company's operations and those of its customers, which could result in a reduction in the demand for loans and other products and services offered by the Company, increase non-performing loans and the amounts reserved for loan and lease losses, and thereby adversely affect the Company's results of operations, financial condition, future prospects, profitability and stock price.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.

None.

Item 2. Properties.

The Company and American River Bank lease ten and own two of their respective premises. The Company's headquarters is located at 3100 Zinfandel Drive, Suite 450, Rancho Cordova, California. The office space is located in a six-story office building. The location also houses a convenience office of American River Bank that performs limited branch related transactions and business development. The lease term is ninety-one (91) months and expires on May 6, 2013. The premises consist of 7,378 square feet on the fourth floor of the building. The space is leased from PGOCC, LLC, successor to One Capital Center.

American River Bank's main office is located at 1545 River Park Drive, Suite 107, Sacramento, California, in a modern, five-story building which has off-street parking for its clients. American River Bank leases premises in the

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building from EOP-Point West, LLC. The lease term is ten (10) years and expires on March 31, 2010. The premises consist of 9,498 square feet on the ground floor.

American River Bank leases premises at 9750 Business Park Drive, Sacramento, California. The premises are leased from Bradshaw Plaza Group, which is owned in part by Charles D. Fite, a director of the Company. The lease term is ten (10) years and expires on November 30, 2016. The premises consist of 3,711 square feet on the ground floor.

American River Bank leases premises at 10123 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, California. The premises are leased from Marjorie Taylor, a former director of the Company. The lease term was twelve (12) years and expired on March 1, 2009. Management is currently in negotiations to extend the lease term. The premises consist of 2,380 square feet on the ground floor.

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American River Bank leases premises at 2240 Douglas Boulevard, Roseville, California. The premises are leased from Twin Tree Land Company. The lease term is ten (10) years and expires on November 30, 2016. The premises consist of 3,790 square feet on the ground floor.

American River Bank leases premises at 520 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, California. The premises are leased from 520 Capitol Mall, Inc. The lease term is ten (10) years and expires on June 1, 2014. The premises consist of 4,010 square feet on the ground floor.

North Coast Bank, a division of American River Bank, leases premises at 8733 Lakewood Drive, Windsor, California. The premises are leased from R. and R. Partners. The lease term is one (1) year and expires on December 31, 2009. The premises consist of 2,200 square feet on the ground floor.

North Coast Bank, a division of American River Bank, owns premises at 412 Center Street, Healdsburg, California. The premises were purchased June 1, 1993. The purchase price for the land and building was \$343,849. The building consists of 2,620 square feet. The land consists of 10,835 square feet.

North Coast Bank, a division of American River Bank, leases premises at 90 South E Street, Santa Rosa, California. The premises are subleased from Chicago Title Company until November 11, 2011 and then will be leased from 90 E Street, LLC until January 31, 2019. The combined sublease and lease term is ten (10) years and expires on January 31, 2019. The premises consist of 3,600 square feet on the ground floor.

Bank of Amador, a division of American River Bank, leases premises at 422 Sutter Street, Jackson, California. The premises are leased from the United States Postal Service. The lease term is five (5) years and expires on May 31, 2011. The premises consist of 6,400 square feet on the ground floor and second floor.

Bank of Amador, a division of American River Bank, leases land at 26395 Buckhorn Ridge Road, Pioneer, California. The premises are leased from Joseph T. Bellamy, Trustee of the Joseph T. Bellamy 2005 Trust. The lease term is ten (10) years and expires on October 31, 2017. The premises consist of 1,757 square feet of office space on the ground floor, an attached garage consisting of approximately 400 square feet and 1,223 feet of office space on the second floor.

Bank of Amador, a division of American River Bank, owns premises at 66 Main Street, Ione, California. The premises were purchased April 1, 1995. The

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purchase price for the land and building was \$167,500. The building consists of 2,576 square feet. The land consists of 9,700 square feet.

Bank of Amador, a division of American River Bank, leases the parking lot at 276 North Main Street, Jackson, California. The parking lot is leased from Wilhelmina Petkovich. The lease term is on a month-to-month basis.

The leases on the premises located at 1545 River Park Drive, 9750 Business Park Drive, 90 South E Street, 26395 Buckhorn Ridge Road, and 3100 Zinfandel Drive, contain options to extend for five years. Included in the above are two facilities leased from current or former directors of the Company at terms and conditions which management believes are consistent with the commercial lease market. The foregoing summary descriptions of leased premises are qualified in their entirety by reference to the lease agreements listed as exhibits in Part IV, Item 15 of this Form 10-K report.

### Item 3. Legal Proceedings.

There are no material legal proceedings adverse to the Company and its subsidiaries to which any director, officer, affiliate of the Company, or 5% shareholder of the Company or its subsidiaries, or any associate of any such director, officer, affiliate or 5% shareholder of the Company or its subsidiaries are a party, and none of the above persons has a material interest adverse to the Company or its subsidiaries.

From time to time, the Company and/or its subsidiaries may be a party to claims and legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. The Company's management is not aware of any pending legal proceedings to which either it or its subsidiaries may be a party or has recently been a party, which will have a material adverse effect on the financial condition or results of operations of the Company or its subsidiaries.

### Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

There were no matters submitted to a vote of the shareholders during the fourth quarter of 2008.

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## PART II

### Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.

#### Market Information

The Company's common stock began trading on the NASDAQ National Stock Market ("Nasdaq") under the symbol "AMRB" on October 26, 2000. Effective July 3, 2006, the Company's common stock became listed and traded on the Nasdaq Global Select Market. The following table shows the high and the low prices for the common stock, for each quarter during 2008 and 2007, as reported by Nasdaq. The prices have been adjusted to reflect 5% stock dividends declared in 2008 and in 2007.

2008	High	Low
First quarter	\$ 17.34	\$ 14.29
Second quarter	15.67	9.29
Third quarter	11.33	7.17
Fourth quarter	13.33	8.01

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2007	High	Low
First quarter	\$ 24.03	\$ 21.33
Second quarter	22.22	21.19
Third quarter	21.68	19.56
Fourth quarter	20.41	15.05

The closing price for the Company's common stock on March 5, 2009 was \$7.25.

### Holders

As of March 2, 2009, there were approximately 2,680 shareholders of record of the Company's common stock.

### Dividends

The Company has paid quarterly cash dividends on its common stock since the first quarter of 2004; prior to that, the Company paid cash dividends twice a year since 1992. It is currently the intention of the Board of Directors of the Company to continue payment of cash dividends on a quarterly basis, subject to the factors described below. In 2008 and 2007, the Company declared cash dividends in the amount of \$0.57 and \$0.55, respectively, per common share. The amounts have been adjusted to reflect 5% stock dividends declared in 2008 and in 2007. There is no assurance, however, that any dividends will be paid in the future since they are subject to regulatory restrictions, and dependent upon earnings, financial condition and capital requirements of the Company and its subsidiaries.

The California General Corporation Law (the "Corporation Law") provides that a corporation may make a distribution to its shareholders if the corporation's retained earnings equal at least the amount of the proposed distribution. The Corporation Law further provides that, in the event that sufficient retained earnings are not available for the proposed distribution, a corporation may nevertheless make a distribution to its shareholders if it meets two conditions, which generally stated are as follows: (1) the corporation's assets equal at least 1-1/4 times its liabilities; and (2) the corporation's current assets equal at least its current liabilities or, if the average of the corporation's earnings before taxes on income and before interest expenses for the two preceding fiscal years was less than the average of the corporation's interest expenses for such fiscal years, then the corporation's current assets must equal at least 1-1/4 times its current liabilities.

The Board of Governors generally prohibits a bank holding company from declaring or paying a cash dividend which would impose undue pressure on the capital of subsidiary banks or would be funded only through borrowing or other arrangements that might adversely affect a bank holding company's financial position. The Board of Governors' policy is that a bank holding company should not continue its existing rate of cash dividends on its common stock unless its

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net income is sufficient to fully fund each dividend and its prospective rate of earnings retention appears consistent with its capital needs, asset quality and overall financial condition.

The payment of cash dividends by American River Bank is subject to restrictions set forth in the California Financial Code (the "Financial Code"). The Financial Code provides that a bank may not make a cash distribution to its



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shareholders in excess of the lesser of (a) the bank's retained earnings; or (b) the bank's net income for its last three fiscal years, less the amount of any distributions made by the bank or by any majority-owned subsidiary of the bank to the shareholders of the bank during such period. However, a bank may, with the approval of the Commissioner, make a distribution to its shareholders in an amount not exceeding the greater of (a) its retained earnings; (b) its net income for its last fiscal year; or (c) its net income for its current fiscal year. In the event that the Commissioner determines that the shareholders' equity of a bank is inadequate or that the making of a distribution by the bank would be unsafe or unsound, the Commissioner may order the bank to refrain from making a proposed distribution.

The FDIC may also restrict the payment of dividends by a subsidiary bank if such payment would be deemed unsafe or unsound or if after the payment of such dividends, the bank would be included in one of the "undercapitalized" categories for capital adequacy purposes pursuant to the FDIC Improvement Act of 1991.

### Stock Repurchases

On January 16, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Company authorized a stock repurchase program which allows for the repurchase of up to six and one half percent (6.5%) annually of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock. Each year the Company may repurchase up to 6.5% of the shares outstanding (adjusted for stock splits or stock dividends). The number of shares reported in column (d) of the table as shares that may be repurchased under the plan represent shares eligible for the calendar year 2008. The repurchases under this plan can be made from time to time in the open market as conditions allow and will be structured to comply with Commission Rule 10b-18. Management reports monthly to the Board of Directors on the status of the repurchase program. The Board of Directors has reserved the right to suspend, terminate, modify or cancel the repurchase program at any time for any reason. The 6.5% program announced in 2008, replaced a program announced in 2001 whereby the Company had the ability to repurchase of up to five percent (5.0%) annually of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock. The following table lists shares repurchased during the quarter ended December 31, 2008 and the maximum amount available to repurchase under the repurchase plan.

Period	(a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased	(b) Average Price Paid Per Share (or Unit)	(c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Max Approxim Shares Yet Be Pl
Month #1 October 1 through October 31, 2008	5,040	\$9.67	5,040	
Month #2 November 1 through November 30, 2008	None	N/A	None	
Month #3 December 1 through December 31, 2008	None	N/A	None	
Total	5,040	\$9.67	5,040	

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The Company repurchased 115,815 shares in 2008, 426,668 shares in 2007, 299,410 shares in 2006, 92,986 shares in 2005, 11,869 shares in 2004, 1,915 shares in 2003 and 83,747 shares in 2002. Share amounts have been adjusted for stock dividends and/or splits.

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### Item 6. Selected Financial Data.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY-The following table presents certain consolidated financial information concerning the business of the Company and its subsidiaries. This information should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements, the notes thereto, and Management's Discussion and Analysis included in this report. All per share data has been retroactively restated to reflect stock dividends and stock splits. In December 2004, the Company completed a merger with Bank of Amador. The merger transaction was accounted for using the purchase method of accounting and accordingly the results of their operations are included in the table below.

As of and for the Years Ended December 31,  
(In thousands, except per share amounts and ratios)

	2008	2007	2006
	-----	-----	-----
<b>STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS DATA:</b>			
Net interest income	\$ 25,925	\$ 26,402	\$ 27,06
Provision for loan and lease losses	1,743	450	32
Other income	2,168	2,599	2,44
Other expenses	14,201	14,833	14,38
Income before income taxes	12,149	13,718	14,80
Income taxes	4,578	5,240	5,73
Net income	\$ 7,571	\$ 8,478	\$ 9,06
Earnings per share - basic	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.4
Earnings per share - diluted	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.3
Cash dividends per share	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.5
Book value per share	\$ 10.95	\$ 10.22	\$ 10.0
Tangible book value per share	\$ 7.98	\$ 7.23	\$ 7.1
<b>BALANCE SHEET DATA:</b>			
Balance sheet totals-end of period:			
Assets	\$ 563,157	\$ 573,685	\$ 604,00
Loans and leases, net	412,356	394,975	382,99
Deposits	437,061	455,645	493,87
Shareholders' equity	63,447	59,973	62,37
Average balance sheet amounts:			
Assets	\$ 575,046	\$ 575,225	\$ 603,04
Loans and leases	410,293	390,488	381,46
Earning assets	522,566	524,365	544,79
Deposits	448,168	479,344	488,02
Shareholders' equity	61,084	60,533	62,57

### SELECTED RATIOS:

For the year:

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Return on average equity	12.39%	14.01%	14.4
Return on average assets	1.32%	1.47%	1.5
Efficiency ratio *	48.92%	49.49%	47.1
Net interest margin *	5.03%	5.10%	5.0
Net charge-offs to average loans & leases	0.42%	0.11%	0.0
At December 31:			
Average equity to average assets	10.62%	10.52%	10.3
Leverage capital ratio	8.32%	7.72%	7.8
Allowance for loan and leases losses to total loans and leases	1.41%	1.47%	1.5
* fully taxable equivalent			

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### Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following is American River Bankshares management's discussion and analysis of the significant changes in income and expense accounts for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006.

#### Cautionary Statements Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain matters discussed or incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K including, but not limited to, matters described in "Item 7 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and subject to the safe-harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements may contain words related to future projections including, but not limited to, words such as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "may," "will," "should," "could," "would," and variations of those words and similar words that are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) the duration of financial and economic volatility and actions taken by the United States Congress and governmental agencies, including the United States Department of the Treasury, to deal with challenges to the U.S. financial system; (2) variances in the actual versus projected growth in assets and return on assets; (3) loan and lease losses; (4) expenses; (5) changes in the interest rate environment including interest rates charged on loans, earned on securities investments and paid on deposits and other borrowed funds; (6) competition effects; (7) fee and other noninterest income earned; (8) general economic conditions nationally, regionally, and in the operating market areas of the Company and its subsidiaries; (9) changes in the regulatory environment including government intervention in the U.S. financial system; (10) changes in business conditions and inflation; (11) changes in securities markets, public debt markets, and other capital markets; (12) data processing and other operational systems failures or fraud; (13) a decline in real estate values in the Company's operating market areas; (14) the effects of uncontrollable events such as terrorism, the threat of terrorism or the impact of the current military conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and the conduct of the war on terrorism by the United States and its allies, worsening financial and economic conditions, natural disasters, and disruption of power supplies and communications; and (15) changes in accounting standards, tax laws or regulations and interpretations of such standards, laws or regulations, as well as other factors. The factors set forth under "Item 1A - Risk Factors" in this report and other cautionary statements and information set forth in this report should be carefully

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considered and understood as being applicable to all related forward-looking statements contained in this report, when evaluating the business prospects of the Company and its subsidiaries.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of performance. By their nature, they involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. The future results and shareholder values may differ significantly from those expressed in these forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to put undue reliance on any forward-looking statement. Any such statement speaks only as of the date of this report, and in the case of any documents that may be incorporated by reference, as of the date of those documents. We do not undertake any obligation to update or release any revisions to any forward-looking statements, to report any new information, future event or other circumstances after the date of this report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as required by law. However, your attention is directed to any further disclosures made on related subjects in our subsequent reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K.

### Critical Accounting Policies

#### General

The Company's financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). The financial information contained within our statements is, to a significant extent, financial information that is based on measures of the financial effects of transactions and events that have already occurred. We use historical loss data, peer group experience and the economic environment as factors, among others, in determining the inherent loss that may be present in our loan and lease portfolio. Actual losses could differ significantly from the historical factors that we use. Other estimates that we use are related to the expected useful lives of our depreciable assets. In addition, GAAP itself may change from one previously acceptable method to another method. Although the economics of our transactions would be the same, the timing of events that would impact our transactions could change.

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#### Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses

The allowance for loan and lease losses is an estimate of the credit loss risk in our loan and lease portfolio. The allowance is based on two basic principles of accounting: (1) Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 5 "Accounting for Contingencies," which requires that losses be accrued when it is probable that a loss has occurred at the balance sheet date and such loss can be reasonably estimated; and (2) SFAS No. 114, "Accounting by Creditors for Impairment of a Loan," which requires that losses be accrued on impaired loans based on the differences between the value of collateral, present value of future cash flows or values that are observable in the secondary market and the loan balance.

The allowance for loan and lease losses is determined based upon estimates that can and do change when the actual risk, loss events, or changes in other factors, occur. The analysis of the allowance uses a historical loss view as one indicator of future losses and as a result could differ from the loss incurred in the future. If the allowance for loan and lease losses falls below that deemed adequate (by reason of loan and lease growth, actual losses, the effect of changes in risk ratings, or some combination of these factors), the Company has a strategy for supplementing the allowance for loan and lease losses, over the short term. For further information regarding our allowance for loan and lease losses, see "Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses Activity"

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discussion later in this Item 7.

### Stock-Based Compensation

The Company recognizes compensation expense in an amount equal to the fair value of all share-based payments which consist of stock options granted to directors and employees. The fair value of each option is estimated on the date of grant and amortized over the service period using a Black-Scholes-Merton based option valuation model that requires the use of assumptions. Critical assumptions that affect the estimated fair value of each option include expected stock price volatility, dividend yields, option life and the risk-free interest rate.

### Goodwill

Business combinations involving the Company's acquisition of the equity interests or net assets of another enterprise or the assumption of net liabilities in an acquisition of branches constituting a business may give rise to goodwill. Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of an acquired entity over the net of the amounts assigned to assets acquired and liabilities assumed in transactions accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. The value of goodwill is ultimately derived from the Company's ability to generate net earnings after the acquisition. A decline in net earnings could be indicative of a decline in the fair value of goodwill and result in impairment. For that reason, goodwill is assessed for impairment at a reporting unit level at least annually following the year of acquisition. The Company performed an evaluation of the goodwill, recorded as a result of the Bank of Amador acquisition, during the fourth quarter of 2008 and determined that there was no impairment. While the Company believes all assumptions utilized in its assessment of goodwill for impairment are reasonable and appropriate, changes in earnings, the effective tax rate, historical earnings multiples and the cost of capital could all cause different results for the calculation of the present value of future cash flows.

### Income Taxes

The Company files its income taxes on a consolidated basis with its subsidiaries. The allocation of income tax expense (benefit) represents each entity's proportionate share of the consolidated provision for income taxes.

The Company accounts for income taxes using the balance sheet method, under which deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the tax consequences of temporary differences between the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and their tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are adjusted for the effects of changes in tax laws and rates on the date of enactment. On the consolidated balance sheet, net deferred tax assets are included in accrued interest receivable and other assets.

Since January 1, 2007 the Company has accounted for uncertainty in income taxes under Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") Interpretation No. 48, "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes" ("FIN 48"). Under the provisions of FIN 48, only tax positions that met the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold on January 1, 2007 were recognized or continue to be recognized. The benefit of a tax position is recognized in the financial statements in the period during which, based on all available evidence, management believes it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained upon examination, including the resolution of appeals or litigation processes, if any. Tax positions taken are not offset or aggregated with other positions. Tax positions that meet the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold are measured as the largest amount of tax benefit that is more than 50 percent likely of being realized upon settlement with the applicable taxing authority. The portion of the benefits associated with tax positions taken that

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exceeds the amount measured as described above is reflected as a liability for unrecognized tax benefits in the accompanying balance sheet along with any associated interest and penalties that would be payable to the taxing authorities upon examination. The election has been made to record interest expense related to tax exposures in tax expense, if applicable, and the exposure for penalties related to tax exposures in tax expense, if applicable.

### Overview

The Company recorded its 100th consecutive profitable quarter for the quarter ended December 31, 2008. Net income in 2008 decreased 10.7% to \$7,571,000 versus \$8,478,000 in 2007. Diluted earnings per share for 2008 were \$1.30, a decrease of \$0.09 or 6.5% from the \$1.39 recorded in 2007. For 2008, the Company realized a return on average equity of 12.39% and a return on average assets of 1.32%, as compared to 14.01% and 1.47% for 2007.

Net income for 2007 was \$584,000 (6.4%) lower than the \$9,062,000 recorded in 2006. Diluted earnings per share in 2006 were \$1.39, return on average assets was 1.50% and return on average equity was 14.48%. Table One below provides a summary of the components of net income for the years indicated:

Table One: Components of Net Income

For the years ended: (dollars in thousands)	2008	2007	2006
Net interest income*	\$ 26,277	\$ 26,749	\$ 27,396
Provision for loan and lease losses	(1,743)	(450)	(320)
Noninterest income	2,168	2,599	2,443
Noninterest expense	(14,201)	(14,833)	(14,388)
Provision for income taxes	(4,578)	(5,240)	(5,739)
Tax equivalent adjustment	(352)	(347)	(330)
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$ 7,571</b>	<b>\$ 8,478</b>	<b>\$ 9,062</b>
Average total assets	\$ 575,046	\$ 575,225	\$ 603,040
Net income as a percentage of average total assets	1.32%	1.47%	1.50%

\* Fully taxable equivalent basis (FTE)

All share and per share data for 2008, 2007 and 2006 have been adjusted for 5% stock dividends distributed on December 18, 2008, December 20, 2007, and December 22, 2006.

During 2008, total assets of the Company decreased \$10,528,000 (1.8%) to a total of \$563,157,000 at year-end. At December 31, 2008, net loans totaled \$412,356,000, up \$17,381,000 (4.4%) from the ending balances on December 31, 2007. Deposits decreased 4.1% during 2008 resulting in ending deposit balances of \$437,061,000. The Company ended 2008 with a Tier 1 capital ratio of 10.2% and a total risk-based capital ratio of 11.5%.

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### Results of Operations

#### Net Interest Income and Net Interest Margin

Net interest income represents the excess of interest and fees earned on interest earning assets (loans, securities, Federal funds sold and interest-bearing depots in other banks) over the interest paid on deposits and borrowed funds. Net interest margin is net interest income expressed as a percentage of average earning assets.

The Company's fully taxable equivalent net interest margin was 5.03% in 2008 and 5.10% in 2007. The fully taxable equivalent net interest income was down \$472,000 (1.8%) in 2008 compared to 2007.

The fully taxable equivalent interest income component decreased from \$37,825,000 in 2007 to \$33,905,000 in 2008, representing a 10.4% decrease. The decrease in the fully taxable equivalent interest income for 2008 compared to the same period in 2007 is comprised of two components - rate (down \$4,523,000) and volume (up \$603,000). The decline in rates can be attributed to decreases implemented by the Company on the loans and leases during the latter part of

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2007 and 2008 in response to the Federal Reserve Board (the "FRB") decreases in the Federal funds and discount rates. Decreases by the FRB have resulted in ten rate reductions totaling 500 basis points since September 2007. In addition, an increased level of nonaccrual loans resulted in foregone interest income of approximately \$647,000 during 2008 as compared to \$305,000 in 2007. The overall decreasing interest rate environment and the negative effect of the nonaccrual loans resulted in a 74 basis point decrease in the yield on average earning assets from 7.21% for 2007 to 6.47% for 2008. The volume increase occurred despite a slight \$1,799,000 (0.3%) decrease in average earning assets from \$524,365,000 during 2007 to \$522,566,000 during 2008 as a result of a shift in balances from lower earning investments to higher earning loans. The change in the mix of average earning assets resulted from the Company's decision to use the proceeds from principal reductions and maturing investment securities to provide funding for loan growth. This strategy has reduced the average balances on investment securities by \$21,289,000 or 16.6% from \$128,238,000 during 2007 to \$106,949,000 during 2008, while average loan balances increased \$19,805,000 or 5.1% from \$390,488,000 during 2007 to \$410,293,000 during 2008. The Company's ability to increase its average loans is the result of its continued concentrated focus on business lending and the purchase of a \$7,255,000 pool of loans secured by properties located in the Company's market area from another bank.

The fully taxable equivalent interest income component decreased from \$38,284,000 in 2006 to \$37,825,000 in 2007, representing a 1.2% decrease. The decrease in the fully taxable equivalent interest income for 2007 compared to the same period in 2006 is broken down by rate (up \$67,000) and volume (down \$526,000). The rate increase can be attributed to an increase in the yield on the investment portfolio from 4.41% in 2006 to 4.72% in 2007. The increase in yield results from matured short-term securities with lower yields being redirected to reduce borrowings and fund the growth in loans and leaving the investment portfolio with longer maturity higher yielding investments, thus an overall higher average yield on the existing portfolio. The volume decrease was the result of a 3.7% decrease in average earning assets. The Company made a decision to use the proceeds from principal reductions and maturing investment securities to reduce the level of outstanding borrowings and provide funding for loan growth. This strategy reduced the average balances on investment securities by 18.3% from \$162,970,000 during 2006 to \$133,187,000 during 2007. Average

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balances of other borrowings were down \$17,010,000 (36.4%) and average loan balances were up \$9,023,000 (2.4%) during the same time period. The increase in average loans is the result of concentrated focus on business lending.

Interest expense decreased \$3,448,000 (31.1%) in 2008 compared to 2007. The average balances of interest-bearing liabilities were \$17,366,000 (4.8%) higher in the 2008 compared to 2007. The higher balances accounted for a \$1,224,000 increase in interest expense. Average borrowings were up \$29,880,000 (100.7%) as the Company used borrowings as a funding source for the increased loan balances as average deposit balances declined. Average deposit balances decreased \$31,176,000 (6.5%) from \$479,344,000 during 2007 to \$448,168,000 during 2008. Although the number of deposit relationships and accounts remains relatively stable, the average balances in those accounts have experienced a decrease over the past twelve months. As a result of the lower overall interest rate environment the decrease in rates accounted for a \$4,672,000 reduction in interest expense in 2008. Rates paid on interest-bearing liabilities decreased 105 basis points from 2007 to 2008 from 3.04% to 1.99%. The rate on average borrowings dropped 221 basis points during that same time period from 5.11% to 2.90%.

Interest expense increased \$188,000 (1.7%) in 2007 compared to 2006. The increase in rates paid on interest bearing liabilities resulted in an increase of \$1,097,000 in interest expense. The rates paid on interest bearing liabilities increased 16 basis points on a year-over-year basis and was a result of the higher overall interest rate environment. A drop in average balances reduced much of this increase due to higher rates. The average balances on interest bearing liabilities were \$14,447,000 (3.8%) lower in 2007 versus 2006. The lower balances accounted for a \$909,000 decrease in interest expense. In 2007, average interest bearing deposits were up \$2,563,000 (0.8%) but other borrowings were down \$17,010,000 (36.4%) creating the overall drop in interest bearing balances. In 2007, the Company focused on reducing the higher cost borrowings; the decrease in other borrowings accounting for \$806,000 in reduced interest costs from volume compared to 2006. The Company also focused on bringing in additional checking, money market, and savings accounts, and reducing higher priced time deposits and as a result, the average balances on interest checking, money market and savings accounts were up \$8,033,000 (4.0%) adding \$119,000 to interest expense attributable to the increased volume, while the average time deposit balances were down \$5,470,000 (4.2%) reducing the expense by \$222,000.

Table Two, Analysis of Net Interest Margin on Earning Assets, and Table Three, Analysis of Volume and Rate Changes on Net Interest Income and Expenses, are provided to enable the reader to understand the components and past trends

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of the Company's interest income and expenses. Table Two provides an analysis of net interest margin on earning assets setting forth average assets, liabilities and shareholders' equity; interest income earned and interest expense paid and average rates earned and paid; and the net interest margin on earning assets. Table Three sets forth a summary of the changes in interest income and interest expense from changes in average asset and liability balances (volume), computed on a daily average basis, and changes in average interest rates.

Table Two: Analysis of Net Interest Margin on Earning Assets

Year Ended December 31,	2008	2007
-------------------------	------	------



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(Taxable Equivalent Basis) (dollars in thousands)	Avg Balance	Interest	Avg Yield	Avg Balance	Interest	Avg Yield
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Assets:</b>						
<b>Earning assets</b>						
Loans and leases (1)	\$ 410,293	\$ 28,512	6.95%	\$ 390,488	\$ 31,508	8.07%
Taxable investment securities	79,675	3,711	4.66%	100,086	4,544	4.54%
Tax-exempt investment securities (2)	27,102	1,428	5.27%	27,745	1,436	5.18%
Corporate stock	172	22	12.79%	407	32	7.86%
Federal funds sold	486	10	2.06%	690	34	4.93%
Interest bearing deposits in other banks	4,838	222	4.59%	4,949	271	5.48%
	-----	-----		-----	-----	
<b>Total earning assets</b>	<b>522,566</b>	<b>33,905</b>	<b>6.47%</b>	<b>524,365</b>	<b>37,825</b>	<b>7.21%</b>
	-----	-----		-----	-----	
Cash & due from banks	19,260			17,263		
Other assets	39,330			39,529		
Allowance for loan & lease losses	(6,110)			(5,932)		
	-----			-----		
	\$ 575,046			\$ 575,225		
	=====			=====		
<b>Liabilities &amp; Shareholders' Equity:</b>						
<b>Interest bearing liabilities:</b>						
NOW & MMDA	\$ 164,531	1,929	1.17%	\$ 173,382	3,781	2.18%
Savings	36,033	324	0.90%	37,690	546	1.45%
Time deposits	121,479	3,648	3.00%	123,485	5,233	4.24%
Other borrowings	59,560	1,727	2.90%	29,680	1,516	5.11%
	-----	-----		-----	-----	
<b>Total interest bearing Liabilities</b>	<b>381,603</b>	<b>7,628</b>	<b>1.99%</b>		<b>11,076</b>	<b>3.04%</b>
	-----	-----		-----	-----	
Demand deposits	126,125			144,787		
Other liabilities	6,234			5,668		
	-----			-----		
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>513,962</b>			<b>514,692</b>		
Shareholders' equity	61,084			60,533		
	-----			-----		
	\$ 575,046			\$ 575,225		
	=====			=====		
<b>Net interest income &amp; Margin (3)</b>		<b>\$ 26,277</b>	<b>5.03%</b>		<b>\$ 26,749</b>	<b>5.10%</b>
		=====	=====		=====	=====

- (1) Loan and lease interest includes loan and lease fees of \$250,000, \$529,000 and \$873,000 in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.
- (2) Includes taxable-equivalent adjustments that primarily relate to income on certain securities that is exempt from Federal income taxes. The effective Federal statutory tax rate was 35% in 2008, 2007 and 2006.
- (3) Net interest margin is computed by dividing net interest income by total average earning assets.

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Table Three: Analysis of Volume and Rate Changes on Net Interest Income and Expenses

Year ended December 31, 2008 over 2007 (dollars in thousands)

Increase (decrease) due to change in:

	Volume	Rate (4)	Net Change
	-----	-----	-----
<b>Interest-earning assets:</b>			
Net loans and leases (1) (2)	\$ 1,597	\$ (4,593)	\$ (2,996)
Taxable investment securities	(927)	94	(833)
Tax-exempt investment securities (3)	(33)	25	(8)
Corporate stock	(18)	8	(10)
Federal funds sold & other	(10)	(14)	(24)
Interest bearing deposits in other banks	(6)	(43)	(49)
	-----	-----	-----
Total	603	(4,523)	(3,920)
	-----	-----	-----
<b>Interest-bearing liabilities:</b>			
Demand deposits	(193)	(1,659)	(1,852)
Savings deposits	(24)	(198)	(222)
Time deposits	(85)	(1,500)	(1,585)
Other borrowings	1,526	(1,315)	211
	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,224	(4,672)	(3,448)
	-----	-----	-----
Interest differential	\$ (621)	\$ 149	\$ (472)
	=====	=====	=====

Year Ended December 31, 2007 over 2006 (dollars in thousands)

Increase (decrease) due to change in:

	Volume	Rate (4)	Net Change
	-----	-----	-----
<b>Interest-earning assets:</b>			
Net loans and leases (1) (2)	\$ 735	\$ (309)	\$ 426
Taxable investment securities	(1,263)	262	(1,001)
Tax-exempt investment securities (3)	(7)	88	81
Corporate stock	(11)	1	(10)
Federal funds sold & other	18	(3)	15
Interest bearing deposits in other banks	2	28	30
	-----	-----	-----
Total	(526)	67	(459)
	-----	-----	-----
<b>Interest-bearing liabilities:</b>			
Demand deposits	100	477	577
Savings deposits	19	285	304
Time deposits	(222)	224	2
Other borrowings	(806)	111	(695)
	-----	-----	-----
Total	(909)	1,097	188
	-----	-----	-----
Interest differential	\$ 383	\$ (1,030)	\$ (647)
	=====	=====	=====

(1) The average balance of non-accruing loans and leases is immaterial as a

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percentage of total loans and leases and, as such, has been included in net loans and leases.

- (2) Loan and lease fees of \$250,000, \$529,000 and \$873,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively, have been included in the interest income computation.
- (3) Includes taxable-equivalent adjustments that primarily relate to income on certain securities that is exempt from Federal income taxes. The effective Federal statutory tax rate was 35% in 2008, 2007 and 2006.
- (4) The rate/volume variance has been included in the rate variance.

### Provision for Loan and Lease Losses

The Company provided \$1,743,000 for loan and lease losses in 2008 as compared to \$450,000 for 2007. Net loan charge-offs for 2008 were \$1,708,000 as compared to \$441,000 in 2007. In 2008, net loan charge-offs as a percentage of average loans outstanding were .42% compared to .11% in 2007. In 2006, the Company provided \$320,000 for loan and lease losses and net charge-offs were \$125,000. For further information please see "Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses Activity."

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### Service Charges and Fees and Other Income

Table Four below provides a summary of the components of noninterest income for the periods indicated (dollars in thousands):

Table Four: Components of Noninterest Income

	Year Ended December 31	
	2008	2007
Service charges on deposit accounts	\$ 741	\$ 743
Merchant fee income	482	544
Earnings on Bank owned life insurance	395	404
Income from residential lending division	283	401
Accounts receivable servicing fees	170	244
(Loss) gain on sale, call and impairment of securities	(119)	11
Other	216	252
	\$ 2,168	\$ 2,599
	=====	=====

Noninterest income was down \$431,000 (16.6%) to \$2,168,000 in 2008 from the 2007 level. The decrease from 2007 to 2008 was primarily related to lower income from fees on residential lending (down \$118,000 or 29.4%), lower fees on accounts receivable servicing (down \$74,000 or 32.5%), lower merchant fees (down \$62,000 or 11.4%) and an impairment charge of \$245,000 on the Company's investment in Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") preferred stock. On September 7, 2008, the U.S. Government placed FNMA into conservatorship and as a result the market value of the shares experienced a significant decline. The par value of the shares is \$250,000 and the Company has written down the balance by \$245,000 to \$5,000. The decrease in fees from residential lending resulted from the lower number of loan closings due to the slowdown in the residential real estate market. The decrease in fees on accounts receivable servicing and merchant fees is due to lower activity levels in 2008 compared to 2007.

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Noninterest income was up \$156,000 (6.4%) to \$2,599,000 in 2007 from the 2006 level. The increase in noninterest income can be attributed to increases in earnings on bank owned life insurance (up \$149,000 or 58.2%) and residential lending fee income (up \$209,000 or 108.9%). The Company experienced a decrease in accounts receivable servicing fees (down \$128,000 or 34.4%). The increase in income from bank owned life insurance was the result of the Company purchasing additional policies near the end of the fourth quarter of 2006. The increase in fees from residential lending relates to the Company's decision to expand its Residential Lending Division by adding four (4) mortgage specialists. These increases were offset by a reduction of fees from accounts receivable servicing which resulted from lower overall volume.

### Salaries and Benefits

Salaries and benefits, which include commissions, were \$7,687,000 (down \$709,000 or 8.4%) for 2008 as compared to \$8,396,000 in 2007. The decrease in salary and benefit expense is primarily related to a decrease in the average full time equivalent employees ("FTE") and lower incentive compensation. The average FTE's decreased from 129 in 2007 to 123 during 2008 and, at the end of 2008, the full-time equivalent staff was 122, down 2 from 124 at the end of 2007. The incentive compensation expense decreased \$474,000 (79.0%) from \$600,000 in 2007 to \$126,000 in 2008 as no performance related incentive was earned as the Company did not hit its performance goals.

Salaries and benefits were \$8,396,000 (up \$580,000 or 7.4%) for 2007 as compared to \$7,816,000 in 2006. The salary and benefit expense related to the expanded Residential Lending Division added \$259,000 (or 44.7% of the increase). Payroll taxes (up \$34,000), stock option expense (up \$57,000) group health insurance (up \$106,000), and retirement costs (up \$43,000) also added to the increased expense. At the end of 2007, the full-time equivalent staff was 124, down 5 from the 129 at the end of 2006.

### Occupancy, Furniture and Equipment

Occupancy expense increased \$97,000 (6.9%) during 2008 to \$1,495,000, up from \$1,398,000 in 2007. The majority of the increase relates to normal rent increases and higher utilities in the Company's leased facilities as well as depreciation expense related to recent branch remodels. Furniture and equipment expense was \$774,000 in 2008 compared to \$691,000 in 2007, representing an \$83,000 (12.0%) increase. The increase in furniture and equipment expense relates primarily to higher technology related maintenance.

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Occupancy expense increased \$14,000 (1.0%) during 2007 to \$1,398,000, up from \$1,384,000 in 2006. The majority of the increase relates to normal rent increases in the Company's leased facilities. Furniture and equipment expense was \$691,000 in 2007 compared to \$812,000 in 2006, representing a \$121,000 (14.9%) decrease. The decrease in furniture and equipment expense relates to less amortization of technology related equipment. Although still being used, certain equipment has reached its fully depreciated life.

### Other Expenses

Table Five below provides a summary of the components of the other noninterest expenses for the periods indicated (dollars in thousands):

Year Ended December 31,

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	2008	2007	2006
Professional fees	\$ 936	\$ 832	\$ 778
Telephone and postage	403	420	411
Directors' expense	321	378	311
Outsourced item processing	391	374	495
Advertising and promotion	339	338	357
Stationery and supplies	274	322	335
Amortization of intangible assets	286	308	330
Donations	56	62	88
Other operating expenses	1,239	1,314	1,271
	\$ 4,245	\$ 4,348	\$ 4,376
	=====	=====	=====

Other expenses were \$4,245,000 (down \$103,000 or 2.4%) for 2008 as compared to \$4,348,000 for 2007. Professional fees increased \$104,000 (12.5%) due in part to higher legal, accounting, and other professional services to comply with changes in the regulatory environment and to resolve problem loans. This increase was offset by reductions in several other expense related items as the Company continued to focus on reducing expenses and services. The overhead efficiency ratio on a taxable equivalent basis for 2008 was 48.9% as compared to 49.5% in 2007.

Other expenses were \$4,348,000 (down \$28,000 or 0.6%) for 2007 as compared to \$4,376,000 for 2006. Professional fees increased \$54,000 (6.9%) and directors' expense increased \$67,000 (21.5%). These increases were offset by reductions in outsourced item processing (down \$121,000 or 24.4%) and advertising, promotion and donations (down \$45,000 or 10.1%). The increase in professional fees relates to higher legal and other professional services to comply with changes in the regulatory environment and to resolve problem loans. Directors' expense increased due to higher overall fees paid to the Company directors and higher expense related to stock options accounted for under FAS 123 (R). Item processing expense was lower in 2007 as the Company settled a pricing issue with its vendor. The overhead efficiency ratio on a taxable equivalent basis for 2007 was 49.5% as compared to 47.1% in 2006.

### Provision for Taxes

The effective tax rate on income was 37.7%, 38.2% and 38.8% in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The effective tax rate was greater than the Federal statutory tax rate due to state tax expense (net of Federal tax effect) of \$802,000, \$919,000 and \$1,006,000 in these years. Tax-exempt income of \$1,415,000, \$1,410,000 and \$1,211,000 from investment securities and bank owned life insurance in these years helped to reduce the effective tax rate.

### Balance Sheet Analysis

The Company's total assets were \$563,157,000 at December 31, 2008 as compared to \$573,685,000 at December 31, 2007, representing a decrease of \$10,528,000 (1.8%). The average balances of total assets during 2008 were \$575,046,000 which is consistent with the 2007 total of \$575,225,000.

### Investment Securities

The Company classifies its investment securities as trading,

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held-to-maturity or available-for-sale. The Company's intent is to hold all securities classified as held-to-maturity until maturity and management believes that it has the ability to do so. Securities available-for-sale may be sold to implement asset/liability management strategies; as part of our contingency funding plan; and in response to changes in interest rates, prepayment rates and similar factors. Table Six below summarizes the values of the Company's investment securities held on December 31 of the years indicated.

Table Six: Investment Securities Composition

(dollars in thousands)

Available-for-sale (at fair value)	2008	2007	2006
<b>Debt securities:</b>			
U.S. Government agencies	\$ --	\$ 16,506	\$ 28,123
Mortgage-backed securities	32,232	31,066	33,236
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	31,012	31,111	41,224
Corporate debt securities	--	--	1,003
<b>Equity securities:</b>			
Corporate stock	90	287	623
<b>Total available-for-sale investment securities</b>	<b>\$ 63,334</b>	<b>\$ 78,970</b>	<b>\$ 104,209</b>
<b>Held-to-maturity (at amortized cost)</b>			
<b>Debt securities:</b>			
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 24,365	\$ 34,754	\$ 44,031
<b>Total held-to-maturity investment securities</b>	<b>\$ 24,365</b>	<b>\$ 34,754</b>	<b>\$ 44,031</b>

See Table Fifteen for a breakdown of the investment securities by maturity and the corresponding weighted average yields.

### Loans and Leases

The Company concentrates its lending activities in the following principal areas: (1) commercial; (2) commercial real estate; (3) multi-family real estate; (4) real estate construction (both commercial and residential); (5) residential real estate; (6) lease financing receivable; (7) agriculture; and (8) consumer loans. At December 31, 2008, these categories accounted for approximately 22%, 52%, 2%, 12%, 6%, 1%, 2% and 3%, respectively, of the Company's loan portfolio. This mix was relatively unchanged compared to 24%, 48%, 1%, 16%, 5%, 1%, 2% and 3% at December 31, 2007. Continuing focus in the Company's market area, new borrowers developed through the Company's marketing efforts, and credit extensions expanded to existing borrowers resulted in the Company originating over \$125 million in new loans in 2008. The Company reported net increases in balances for commercial real estate (\$26,852,000 or 14.0%), multi-family real estate (\$3,108,000 or 53.3%), residential real estate (\$4,486,000 or 22.8%), lease financing receivable (\$405,000 or 10.0%), and consumer loans (\$4,046,000 or 37.6%) and the Company experienced a decrease in commercial (\$4,007,000 or 4.2%), real estate construction (\$17,358,000 or 26.3%), and agriculture (\$162,000 or 2.0%) primarily as a result of paydowns. Table Seven below summarizes the composition of the loan and lease portfolio for the past five years as of December 31.

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Table Seven: Loan and Lease Portfolio Composition

(dollars in thousands)	December 31,				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	
Commercial	\$ 90,625	\$ 94,632	\$ 85,859	\$ 77,971	\$
Real estate:					
Commercial	218,626	191,774	175,643	154,500	
Multi-family	8,938	5,830	3,618	3,767	
Construction	48,664	66,022	90,314	103,048	
Residential	24,706	20,120	8,689	4,680	
Lease financing receivable	4,475	4,070	6,375	7,967	
Agriculture	8,015	8,177	7,362	8,129	
Consumer	14,796	10,750	11,712	11,900	
	418,845	401,375	389,572	371,962	
Deferred loan fees, net	(571)	(517)	(705)	(712)	
Allowance for loan and lease losses	(5,918)	(5,883)	(5,874)	(5,679)	
Total net loans and leases	\$ 412,356	\$ 394,975	\$ 382,993	\$ 365,571	\$

A significant portion of the Company's loans and leases are direct loans and leases made to individuals and local businesses. The Company relies substantially on local promotional activity and personal contacts by American River Bank officers, directors and employees to compete with other financial institutions. The Company makes loans and leases to borrowers whose applications include a sound purpose and a viable primary repayment source, generally supported by a secondary source of repayment. Commercial loans consist of credit lines for operating needs, loans for equipment purchases, working capital, and various other business loan products. Consumer loans include a range of traditional consumer loan products such as personal lines of credit and loans to finance purchases of autos, boats, recreational vehicles, mobile homes and various other consumer items. Construction loans are generally comprised of commitments to customers within the Company's service area for construction of commercial properties, multi-family properties and custom and semi-custom single-family residences. Other real estate loans consist primarily of loans secured by first trust deeds on commercial and residential properties typically with maturities from 3 to 10 years and original loan-to-value ratios generally from 65% to 75%. Agriculture loans consist primarily of vineyard loans and development loans to plant vineyards. In general, except in the case of loans under SBA programs or Farm Services Agency guarantees, the Company does not make long-term mortgage loans; however, in 2008, American River Bank had a residential lending division to assist customers in securing most forms of longer term single-family mortgage financing. American River Bank acted as a broker between American River Bank's clients and the loan wholesalers. American River Bank received an origination fee for loans closed.

Subprime loans generally refer to residential mortgages made to higher-risk borrowers with lower credit and/or income histories. Many of these subprime loans were made with adjustable interest rates that reset upward after an introductory period. Such subprime loans coupled with declines in housing

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prices have led to an increase in default rates resulting in many instances of increased foreclosure rates as the adjustable interest rates reset to higher levels. The Company does not have any "subprime" loans on its books at December 31, 2008.

Average net loans and leases in 2008 were \$410,293,000 which represents an increase of \$19,805,000 (5.1%) over the average in 2007. Average net loans and leases in 2007 were \$390,488,000 which represents an increase of \$9,023,000 (2.4%) over the average in 2006. Loan growth in 2008 and 2007 resulted from the continued concentrated effort to increase commercial relationships, the addition of new borrowers developed through the Company's marketing efforts, and credit extensions expanded to existing borrowers.

### Risk Elements

The Company assesses and manages credit risk on an ongoing basis through a total credit culture that emphasizes excellent credit quality, extensive internal monitoring and established formal lending policies. Additionally, the Company contracts with an outside loan review consultant to periodically review the existing loan and lease portfolio. Management believes its ability to identify and assess risk and return characteristics of the Company's loan and lease portfolio is critical for profitability and growth. Management strives to continue its emphasis on credit quality in the loan and lease approval process, through active credit administration and regular monitoring. With this in mind, management has designed and implemented a

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comprehensive loan and lease review and grading system that functions to continually assess the credit risk inherent in the loan and lease portfolio. In addition, the Company has taken actions to further strengthen its lending compliance management system in accordance with recommendations in connection with its 2008 compliance examination including, among other matters, enhancement of existing procedures for internal control of loan compliance functions such as maintenance of required levels of compliance training, increased monitoring of the compliance program, and identification of any compliance weaknesses.

Ultimately, underlying trends in economic and business cycles may influence credit quality. American River Bank's business is concentrated in the Sacramento Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is a diversified economy, but with a large State of California government presence and employment base, in Sonoma County, through North Coast Bank, a division of American River Bank, whose business is focused on businesses within the three communities in which it has offices (Santa Rosa, Windsor, and Healdsburg) and in Amador County, through Bank of Amador, a division of American River Bank, whose business is focused on businesses and consumers within the three communities in which it has offices (Jackson, Pioneer, and Ione) as well as a diversified residential construction loan business in numerous Northern California counties. The economy of Sonoma County is diversified with professional services, manufacturing, agriculture and real estate investment and construction, while the economy of Amador County is reliant upon government, services, retail trade, manufacturing industries and Indian gaming.

The Company has significant extensions of credit and commitments to extend credit that are secured by real estate. The ultimate repayment of these loans is generally dependent on personal or business cash flows or the sale or refinancing of the real estate. The Company monitors the effects of current and expected market conditions and other factors on the collectability of real estate loans. The more significant factors management considers involve the following: lease rate and terms, vacancy rates, absorption and sale rates; real estate values, supply and demand factors, and rates of return; operating



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expenses; inflation; and sufficiency of repayment sources independent of the real estate including, in some instances, personal guarantees. In extending credit and commitments to borrowers, the Company generally requires collateral and/or guarantees as security. The repayment of such loans is expected to come from cash flow or from proceeds from the sale of selected assets of the borrowers. The Company's requirement for collateral and/or guarantees is determined on a case-by-case basis in connection with management's evaluation of the creditworthiness of the borrower. Collateral held varies but may include accounts receivable, inventory, property, plant and equipment, income-producing properties, residences and other real property. The Company secures its collateral by perfecting its security interest in business assets, obtaining deeds of trust, or outright possession among other means.

In management's judgment, a concentration exists in real estate loans which represented approximately 71.8% of the Company's loan and lease portfolio at December 31, 2008, up from 70.7% at December 31, 2007. Management believes that the residential land and residential construction portion of the Company's loan portfolio carries more than the normal credit risk it has seen in the past several years, due primarily to severely curtailed demand for new and resale residential property, a large supply of unsold residential land and new and resale homes, and observed reductions in values throughout the Company's market area. Management has responded by evaluating loans that it considers to carry any significant risk above the normal risk of collectability, and taking actions where possible to reduce credit risk exposure by methods that include, but are not limited to, seeking liquidation of the loan by the borrower, seeking additional tangible collateral or other repayment support, converting the property through judicial or non-judicial foreclosure proceedings, and other collection techniques. Management currently believes that it maintains its allowance for loan and lease loss at levels adequate to reflect the loss risk inherent in its total loan portfolio.

Although management believes the Company's real estate concentration to have no more than the normal risk of collectability, a continued substantial further decline in the economy in general, or a continued additional decline in real estate values in the Company's primary market areas in particular, could have an adverse impact on the collectability of these loans and require an increase in the provision for loan and lease losses which could adversely affect the Company's future prospects, results of operations, profitability and stock price. Management believes that its lending policies and underwriting standards will tend to minimize losses in an economic downturn; however, there is no assurance that losses will not occur under such circumstances. The Company's loan policies and underwriting standards include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) maintaining a thorough understanding of the Company's service area and originating a significant majority of its loans within that area, (2) maintaining a thorough understanding of borrowers' knowledge, capacity, and market position in their field of expertise, (3) basing real estate loan

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approvals not only on market demand for the project, but also on the borrowers' capacity to support the project financially in the event it does not perform to expectations (whether sale or income performance), and (4) maintaining conforming and prudent loan-to-value and loan-to-cost ratios based on independent outside appraisals and ongoing inspection and analysis by the Company's lending officers or contracted third-party professionals.

### Nonaccrual, Past Due and Restructured Loans and Leases

Management generally places loans and leases on nonaccrual status when they become 90 days past due, unless the loan or lease is well secured and in the process of collection. Loans and leases are charged off when, in the opinion

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of management, collection appears unlikely.

The recorded investments in nonaccrual loans and leases and loans and leases that were 90 days or more past due and on accrual totaled \$6,241,000 and \$7,440,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Of the \$6,241,000 in non-performing loans and leases at December 31, 2008, there were sixteen real estate loans totaling \$5,931,000; three commercial loans totaling \$261,000; three leases totaled \$41,000; and one consumer loan totaling \$8,000.

Interest due but excluded from interest income on nonaccrual loans and leases was \$647,000 during 2008, \$305,000 during 2007, and not significant during 2006. In 2008, 2007 and 2006, interest income recognized from payments received on nonaccrual loans and leases was not significant.

Table Eight below sets forth nonaccrual loans and leases and loans and leases past due 90 days or more and on accrual as of year-end for the past five years.

Table Eight: Non-Performing Loans and Leases

(dollars in thousands)	December 31,			
	2008	2007	2006	2005
<b>Past due 90 days or more and still accruing:</b>				
Commercial	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --
Real estate	444	455	13	
Lease financing receivable	22	--	--	
Consumer and other	8	--	--	
<b>Nonaccrual:</b>				
Commercial	261	148	--	
Real estate	5,487	6,787	12	
Lease financing receivable	19	50	53	
Consumer and other	--	--	--	
<b>Total non-performing loans and leases</b>	<b>\$ 6,241</b>	<b>\$ 7,440</b>	<b>\$ 78</b>	<b>\$ --</b>

There were no loan or lease concentrations in excess of 10% of total loans and leases not otherwise disclosed as a category of loans and leases as of December 31, 2008. Management is not aware of any potential problem loans or leases, which were accruing and current at December 31, 2008, where serious doubt exists as to the ability of the borrower to comply with the present repayment terms.

### Impaired Loans

The Company considers a loan to be impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that it will be unable to collect all amounts due (principal and interest) according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. The measurement of impairment may be based on (i) the present value of the expected cash flows of the impaired loan discounted at the loan's original effective interest rate, (ii) the observable market price of the impaired loan, or (iii) the fair value of the collateral of a collateral-dependent loan. The Company does not apply this definition to smaller-balance loans that are collectively evaluated for credit risk. In assessing impairment, the Company reviews all loans graded substandard or lower with outstanding principal balances in excess of \$250,000. The recorded

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investment in loans and leases that were considered to be impaired totaled \$6,083,000 at December 31, 2008 and had a related valuation allowance of \$788,000. The average recorded investment in impaired loans and leases during 2008 was approximately \$8,291,000. As of December 31, 2007, the recorded investment in loans and leases that were considered to be impaired totaled \$6,637,000 and had a related valuation allowance of \$764,000. The average

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recorded investment in impaired loans and leases during 2007 was approximately \$407,000. There were no loans or leases considered to be impaired at December 31, 2006.

### Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses Activity

The Company maintains an allowance for loan and lease losses ("ALLL") to cover probable losses inherent in the loan and lease portfolio, which is based upon management's estimated range of those losses. The ALLL is established through a provision for loan and lease losses and is increased by provisions charged against current earnings and recoveries and reduced by charge-offs. Actual losses for loans and leases can vary significantly from this estimate. The methodology and assumptions used to calculate the allowance are continually reviewed as to their appropriateness given the most recent losses realized and other factors that influence the estimation process. The model assumptions and resulting allowance level are adjusted accordingly as these factors change.

The adequacy of the ALLL and the level of the related provision for loan and lease losses is determined based on management's judgment after consideration of numerous factors including but not limited to: (i) local and regional economic conditions, (ii) the financial condition of the borrowers, (iii) loan impairment and the related level of expected charge-offs, (iv) evaluation of industry trends, (v) industry and other concentrations, (vi) loans and leases which are contractually current as to payment terms but demonstrate a higher degree of risk as identified by management, (vii) continuing evaluations of the performing loan portfolio, (viii) ongoing review and evaluation of problem loans identified as having loss potential, (ix) quarterly review by the Board of Directors, and (x) assessments by banking regulators and other third parties. Management and the Board of Directors evaluate the ALLL and determine its appropriate level considering objective and subjective measures, such as knowledge of the borrowers' business, valuation of collateral, the determination of impaired loans or leases and exposure to potential losses.

The allowance for loan and lease losses totaled \$5,918,000 or 1.41% of total loans and leases at December 31, 2008, \$5,883,000 or 1.47% of total loans and leases at December 31, 2007, and \$5,874,000 or 1.51% at December 31, 2006. The Company establishes general reserves in accordance with Statement of Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 5, "Accounting for Contingencies," and specific reserves in accordance with SFAS No. 114, "Accounting by Creditors for Impairment of a Loan." The ALLL is maintained by categories of the loan and lease portfolio based on loan type and loan rating; however, the entire allowance is available to cover actual loan and lease losses. While management uses available information to recognize possible losses on loans and leases, future additions to the allowance may be necessary, based on changes in economic conditions and other matters. In addition, various regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination process, periodically review the Company's ALLL. Such agencies may require the Company to provide additions to the allowance based on their judgment of information available to them at the time of their examination.

It is the policy of management to maintain the allowance for loan and lease losses at a level believed to be adequate for known and inherent risks in

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the portfolio. Our methodology incorporates a variety of risk considerations, both quantitative and qualitative, in establishing an allowance for loan and lease losses that management believes is appropriate at each reporting date. Based on information currently available to analyze inherent credit risk, including economic factors, overall credit quality, historical delinquencies and a history of actual charge-offs, management believes that the provision for loan and lease losses and the allowance for loan and lease losses are prudent and adequate. Adjustments may be made based on differences from estimated loan and lease growth, the types of loans constituting this growth, changes in risk ratings within the portfolio, and general economic conditions. However, no prediction of the ultimate level of loans and leases charged off in future periods can be made with any certainty.

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Table Nine below summarizes, for the periods indicated, the activity in the ALLL.

Table Nine: Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses

(dollars in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2008	2007	2006	2005
Average loans and leases outstanding	\$ 410,293	\$ 390,488	\$ 381,465	\$ 360,3
Allowance for loan & lease losses at beginning of period	\$ 5,883	\$ 5,874	\$ 5,679	\$ 5,4
Loans and leases charged off:				
Commercial	422	301	71	
Real estate	1,114	72	--	
Consumer	139	105	1	
Lease financing receivable	59	70	78	1
Total	1,734	548	150	2
Recoveries of loans and leases previously charged off:				
Commercial	12	41	6	
Real estate	--	--	--	
Consumer	--	--	9	
Lease financing receivable	14	66	10	
Total	26	107	25	
Net loans and leases charged off	1,708	441	125	1
Allowance acquired in merger	--	--	--	
Additions to allowance charged to operating expenses	1,743	450	320	3
Allowance for loan and lease losses at end of period	\$ 5,918	\$ 5,883	\$ 5,874	\$ 5,6
Ratio of net charge-offs to average loans and leases outstanding	.42%	.11%	.03%	.

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Provision for loan and lease losses to average loans and leases outstanding	.42%	.12%	.08%	.
Allowance for loan and lease losses to loans and leases, net of deferred fees, at end of period	1.41%	1.47%	1.51%	1.

As part of its loan review process, management has allocated the overall allowance based on specific identified problem loans and leases, qualitative factors, uncertainty inherent in the estimation process and historical loss data. A risk exists that future losses cannot be precisely quantified or attributed to particular loans or leases or classes of loans and leases. Management continues to evaluate the loan and lease portfolio and assesses current economic conditions that will affect management's conclusion as to future allowance levels. Table Ten below summarizes the allocation of the allowance for loan and lease losses for the five years ended December 31, 2008.

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Table Ten: Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses by Loan Category

(dollars in thousands)

	December 31, 2008		December 31, 2007	
	Amount	Percent of loans in each category to total loans	Amount	Percent of loans in each category to total loans
Commercial	\$ 1,644	21.6%	\$ 1,369	23.6%
Real estate	4,030	71.8%	4,314	70.7%
Agriculture	8	1.9%	8	2.0%
Consumer	170	3.5%	108	2.7%
Lease financing receivable	66	1.2%	84	1.0%
Total allocated	\$ 5,918	100.0%	\$ 5,883	100.0%

	December 31, 2005		December 31, 2004	
	Amount	Percent of loans in each category to total loans	Amount	Percent of loans in each category to total loans
Commercial	\$ 1,056	21.0%	\$ 1,028	18.6%
Real estate	3,948	71.5%	3,825	73.7%
Agriculture	213	2.2%	110	2.3%
Consumer	246	3.2%	220	2.6%
Lease financing receivable	216	2.1%	313	2.8%
Total allocated	\$ 5,679	100.0%	\$ 5,496	100.0%

The allocation presented should not be interpreted as an indication that charges to the allowance for loan and lease losses will be incurred in

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these amounts or proportions, or that the portion of the allowance allocated to each loan and lease category represents the total amounts available for charge-offs that may occur within these categories.

### Other Real Estate

During 2008, the Company received \$61,000 from the proceeds from the sale of other real estate with no gain recognized on the sale. There was \$2,158,000 and \$61,000 with no valuation allowance in other real estate at December 31, 2008 and 2007. The balance in 2008 consists of three properties acquired through foreclosure.

### Deposits

At December 31, 2008, total deposits were \$437,061,000 representing a decrease of \$18,584,000 (4.1%) compared to the December 31, 2007 balance of \$455,645,000. The Company's deposit growth plan for 2008 was to concentrate its efforts on increasing noninterest-bearing demand, interest-bearing money market and NOW accounts, and savings accounts. However, due to the competitive rate environment and the overall weak economy that resulted in depositors holding lower overall balances in their account, the Company experienced decreases in noninterest bearing (\$13,523,000 or 10.2%), savings (\$2,201,000 or 6.2%), and money market (\$21,478,000 or 16.9%), but did have a slight increase in NOW accounts (\$2,004,000 or 4.6%). In addition, the Company did experience an increase in time deposits ("CD's") of \$16,604,000 (14.3%) during 2008, due in part to the addition of \$10,074,000 in brokered CD's late in the year.

### Other Borrowed Funds

Other borrowings outstanding as of December 31, 2008 consist of advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank (the "FHLB"). The following table summarizes these borrowings (dollars in thousands):

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	2008		2007	
	Amount	Rate	Amount	Rate
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				
Short-term borrowings:				
FHLB advances	\$ 43,231	1.83%	\$ 51,603	3.
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				
Long-term borrowings:				
FHLB advances	\$ 14,000	3.19%	\$	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				

The maximum amount of short-term borrowings at any month-end during 2008, 2007 and 2006, was \$59,000,000, \$51,603,000, and \$64,489,000, respectively. The FHLB advances are collateralized by loans and securities pledged to the FHLB. The following is a breakdown of rates and maturities on FHLB advances (dollars in thousands):

	Short Term	Long Term
Amount	\$ 42,231	\$ 14,000
Maturity	2009	2010 to 2011
Average rates	1.83%	3.19%

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The Company has also been issued a total of \$2,500,000 as of December 31, 2008 and \$3,750,000 as of December 31, 2007 in letters of credit by the FHLB which have been pledged to secure Local Agency Deposits. The letters of credit act as a guarantee of payment to certain third parties in accordance with specified terms and conditions. The letters of credit were not drawn upon in 2008 or 2007 and management does not expect to draw upon these lines in the future.

### Capital Resources

The current and projected capital position of the Company and the impact of capital plans and long-term strategies is reviewed regularly by management. The Company's capital position represents the level of capital available to support continuing operations and expansion.

The Company, through a Board of Directors authorized plan, may repurchase, as conditions warrant, up to 6.5% annually of the Company's common stock. The repurchases are to be made from time to time in the open market as conditions allow and will be structured to comply with SEC Rule 10b-18. Management reports monthly to the Board of Directors on the status of the repurchase program. The Board of Directors has reserved the right to suspend, terminate, modify or cancel the repurchase program at any time for any reason. The Company repurchased 115,815 shares in 2008, 426,668 shares in 2007, 299,410 shares in 2006, 92,986 shares in 2005, 11,869 shares in 2004, 1,915 shares in 2003 and 83,747 shares in 2002. Share amounts have been adjusted for stock dividends and/or splits. See "Stock Repurchases" under Item 5 on page 26 for more information regarding the stock repurchase plan.

The Company and American River Bank are subject to certain regulatory capital requirements administered by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Failure to meet these minimum capital requirements can initiate certain mandatory, and possibly additional discretionary, actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, banks must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of their assets, liabilities and certain off-balance-sheet items as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. The Company's and American River Bank's capital amounts and classification are also subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk weightings and other factors. At December 31, 2008, shareholders' equity was \$63,447,000, representing an increase of \$3,474,000 (5.8%) from \$59,973,000 at December 31, 2007. This increase was attributable principally to the retention of earnings offset by the payment of cash dividends and the repurchase of Company stock. In 2007, shareholders' equity decreased \$2,398,000 (3.8%) from 2006. The ratio of total risk-based capital to risk adjusted assets was 11.5% at December 31, 2008 compared to 10.7% at December 31, 2007. Tier 1 risk-based capital to risk-adjusted assets was 10.2% at December 31, 2008 and 9.5% at December 31, 2007.

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Table Eleven below lists the Company's actual capital ratios at December 31, 2008 and 2007 as well as the minimum capital ratios for capital adequacy.

Table Eleven: Capital Ratios

	At December 31,	Minimum Regulatory	
	2008	2007	Capital Requirements
Capital to Risk-Adjusted Assets			

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Leverage ratio	8.3%	7.7%	4.00%
Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital	10.2%	9.5%	4.00%
Total Risk-Based Capital	11.5%	10.7%	8.00%

Capital ratios are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that capital exceeds the prescribed regulatory minimums and is adequate to meet future needs. American River Bank's ratios are in excess of the regulatory definition of "well capitalized."

The Company filed an application with the U.S. Treasury to preserve its opportunity to participate in the Capital Purchase Program ("CPP") and received approval of its application on November 21, 2008. However, the Board of Directors subsequently determined that participation in the CPP was not in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders after evaluation of the CPP and due diligence reviews of the CPP agreements and documentation including restrictions imposed upon the Company under the investment agreement and related documentation which could reduce investment returns to shareholders of participating bank holding companies and banks by restricting dividends to common shareholders, diluting existing shareholders' interests, and restricting capital management practices, and consideration of various other factors including, but not limited to, capital raising alternatives and the condition of capital markets, the current and projected economic conditions in the Company's market areas and the United States generally, the condition of the Company's loan and investment portfolios and other financial factors, and with advice of such advisors as the Company's Board of Directors deemed appropriate. The Company gave notice to the U.S. Treasury on January 20, 2009 of its intention not to participate in the CPP. See "Capital Purchase Program" at page 16 for more information about the CPP.

Management believes that the Company's capital is adequate to support current operations and anticipated growth, cash dividends and future capital requirements of the Company and its subsidiaries.

### Market Risk Management

Overview. Market risk is the risk of loss from adverse changes in market prices and rates. The Company's market risk arises primarily from interest rate risk inherent in its loan and deposit functions. The goal for managing the assets and liabilities of the Company is to maximize shareholder value and earnings while maintaining a high quality balance sheet without exposing the Company to undue interest rate risk. The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the interest rate risk management policies. The Company has a Risk Management Committee that establishes and monitors guidelines to control the sensitivity of earnings to changes in interest rates.

Asset/Liability Management. Activities involved in asset/liability management include, but are not limited to, lending, accepting and placing deposits and investing in securities. Interest rate risk is the primary market risk associated with asset/liability management. Sensitivity of earnings to interest rate changes arises when yields on assets change in a different time period or in a different amount from that of interest costs on liabilities. To mitigate interest rate risk, the structure of the consolidated balance sheet is managed with the goal that movements of interest rates on assets and liabilities are correlated and contribute to earnings even in periods of volatile interest rates. The asset/liability management policy sets limits on the acceptable amount of variance in net interest margin and market value of equity under changing interest environments. The Company uses simulation models to forecast



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earnings, net interest margin and market value of equity.

Simulation of earnings is the primary tool used to measure the sensitivity of earnings to interest rate changes. Using computer-modeling techniques, the Company is able to estimate the potential impact of changing interest rates on earnings. A balance sheet forecast is prepared quarterly using inputs of actual loans and leases, securities and interest bearing liabilities (i.e. deposits/borrowings) positions as the beginning base. The forecast balance sheet is processed against three interest rate scenarios. The scenarios include a 200 basis point rising rate forecast, a flat rate forecast and a 200 basis point falling rate forecast which take place within a one year time frame. The net interest income is measured during the year assuming a gradual change in rates over the twelve-month horizon. The simulation modeling indicated below attempts to estimate changes in the Company's net interest income utilizing a

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forecast balance sheet projected from year-end balances. Table Twelve below summarizes the effect on net interest income (NII) of a +/-200 basis point change in interest rates as measured against a constant rate (no change) scenario.

Table Twelve: Interest Rate Risk Simulation of Net Interest as of December 31, 2008

(dollars in thousands)	\$ Change in NII from Current 12 Month Horizon
Variation from a constant rate scenario	
+200bp	\$ (264)
-200bp	\$ 467

The simulations of earnings do not incorporate any management actions, which might moderate the negative consequences of interest rate deviations. Therefore, they do not reflect likely actual results, but serve as reasonable estimates of interest rate risk.

### Interest Rate Sensitivity Analysis

Interest rate sensitivity is a function of the repricing characteristics of the portfolio of assets and liabilities. These repricing characteristics are the time frames within which the interest-bearing assets and liabilities are subject to change in interest rates either at replacement, repricing or maturity. Interest rate sensitivity management focuses on the maturity of assets and liabilities and their repricing during periods of changes in market interest rates. Interest rate sensitivity is measured as the difference between the volumes of assets and liabilities in the current portfolio that are subject to repricing at various time horizons. The differences are known as interest sensitivity gaps. A positive cumulative gap may be equated to an asset sensitive position. An asset sensitive position in a rising interest rate environment will cause a bank's interest rate margin to expand. This results as floating or variable rate loans reprice more rapidly than fixed rate certificates of deposit that reprice as they mature over time. Conversely, a declining interest rate environment will cause the opposite effect. A negative cumulative gap may be equated to a liability sensitive position. A liability sensitive position in a rising interest rate environment will cause a bank's interest rate margin to contract, while a declining interest

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rate environment will have the opposite effect.

### Inflation

The impact of inflation on a financial institution differs significantly from that exerted on manufacturing, or other commercial concerns, primarily because its assets and liabilities are largely monetary. In general, inflation primarily affects the Company through its effect on market rates of interest, which affects the Company's ability to attract loan customers. Inflation affects the growth of total assets by increasing the level of loan demand, and potentially adversely affects capital adequacy because loan growth in inflationary periods can increase at rates higher than the rate that capital grows through retention of earnings which may be generated in the future. In addition to its effects on interest rates, inflation increases overall operating expenses. Inflation has not had a material effect upon the results of operations of the Company during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

### Liquidity

Liquidity management refers to the Company's ability to provide funds on an ongoing basis to meet fluctuations in deposit levels as well as the credit needs and requirements of its clients. Both assets and liabilities contribute to the Company's liquidity position. Federal funds lines, short-term investments and securities, and loan and lease repayments contribute to liquidity, along with deposit increases, while loan and lease funding and deposit withdrawals decrease liquidity. The Company assesses the likelihood of projected funding requirements by reviewing historical funding patterns, current and forecasted economic conditions and individual client funding needs. Commitments to fund loans and outstanding standby letters of credit at December 31, 2008 were approximately \$76,937,000 and \$3,798,000, respectively. Such loan commitments relate primarily to revolving lines of credit and other commercial loans and to real estate construction loans. Since some of the commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

The Company's sources of liquidity consist of cash and due from correspondent banks, overnight funds sold to correspondent banks, unpledged marketable investments and loans held for sale. On December 31, 2008, consolidated liquid assets totaled \$30.8 million or 7.3% of total assets compared to \$47.1 million or 8.2% of total assets on December 31, 2007. In

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addition to liquid assets, the Company maintains short-term lines of credit in the amount of \$37,000,000 with correspondent banks. At December 31, 2008, the Company had \$37,000,000 available under these credit lines. Additionally, American River Bank is a member of the FHLB. At December 31, 2008, American River Bank could have arranged for up to \$119,743,000 in secured borrowings from the FHLB. These borrowings are secured by pledged mortgage loans and investment securities. At December 31, 2008, the Company had \$60,112,000 available under these secured borrowing arrangements. American River Bank also has a secured borrowing arrangement with the Federal Reserve Bank. The borrowing can be secured by pledging selected loans and investment securities. At December 31, 2008, the collateral value at the Federal Reserve Bank was \$935,000. American River Bank also has informal agreements with various other banks to sell participations in loans, if necessary. Furthermore, American River Bank has access to multiple wholesale funding sources.

The Company serves primarily a business and professional customer base and, as such, its deposit base is susceptible to economic fluctuations. Accordingly, management strives to maintain a balanced position of liquid assets

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to volatile and cyclical deposits.

Liquidity is also affected by portfolio maturities and the effect of interest rate fluctuations on the marketability of both assets and liabilities. The Company can sell any of its unpledged securities held in the available-for-sale category to meet liquidity needs. These securities are also available to pledge as collateral for borrowings if the need should arise. American River Bank can also pledge securities to borrow from the Federal Reserve Bank and the FHLB.

Among other programs and actions taken by the U.S. Treasury and other regulatory agencies, the FDIC implemented the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (the "TLGP") to strengthen confidence and encourage liquidity in the financial system. The TLGP includes the Debt Guarantee Program (the "DGP"). The DGP guarantees all newly issued senior unsecured debt (e.g., promissory notes, unsubordinated unsecured notes and commercial paper) up to prescribed limits issued by participating entities beginning on October 14, 2008 and continuing through June 30, 2009. For eligible debt issued by that date, the FDIC will provide the guarantee coverage until the earlier of the maturity date of the debt or June 30, 2012. American River Bank is authorized to participate in the DGP and can issue approximately \$10,260,000 of qualifying senior debt securities covered by the DGP. As of December 31, 2008, American River Bank has no senior unsecured debt outstanding. The Company has not determined whether to issue qualifying senior debt securities under the DGP as part of its liquidity planning for 2009 or thereafter.

The principal cash requirements of the Company are for expenses incurred in the support of administration and operations. For nonbanking functions, the Company is dependent upon the payment of cash dividends from its subsidiaries to service its commitments. The Company expects that the cash dividends paid by American River Bank to the Company will be sufficient to meet this payment schedule. The maturity distribution of certificates of deposit is set forth in Table Thirteen below for the periods presented. These deposits are generally more rate sensitive than other deposits and, therefore, are more likely to be withdrawn to obtain higher yields elsewhere if available.

Table Thirteen: Certificates of Deposit Maturities  
December 31, 2008

(dollars in thousands)	Less than \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Three months or less	\$ 13,263	\$ 44,392
Over three months through six months	8,712	29,892
Over six months through twelve months	9,280	12,604
Over twelve months	6,564	8,273
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 37,819</b>	<b>\$ 95,161</b>

Loan and lease demand also affects the Company's liquidity position. Table Fourteen below presents the maturities of loans and leases for the period indicated.

Table Fourteen: Loan and Lease Maturities (Gross Loans and Leases)

December 31, 2008

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(dollars in thousands)	One year or less	One year through five years	Over five years	Total
Commercial	\$ 46,396	\$ 30,421	\$ 13,808	\$ 90,625
Real estate	59,902	69,329	171,703	300,934
Agriculture	1,525	5,865	625	8,015
Consumer	1,265	3,841	9,690	14,796
Leases	331	3,424	720	4,475
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 109,419</b>	<b>\$ 112,880</b>	<b>\$ 196,546</b>	<b>\$ 418,845</b>

Loans and leases shown above with maturities greater than one year include \$233,036,000 of floating interest rate loans and \$76,390,000 of fixed rate loans and leases.

The carrying amount, maturity distribution and weighted average yield of the Company's investment securities available-for-sale and held-to-maturity portfolios are presented in Table Fifteen below. The yields on tax-exempt obligations have been computed on a tax equivalent basis. Table Fifteen does not include FHLB Stock, which does not have stated maturity dates or readily available market values. The balance in FHLB Stock at December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 was \$3,922,000, \$2,800,000 and \$3,071,000, respectively.

Table Fifteen: Securities Maturities and Weighted Average Yields  
December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

(Taxable Equivalent Basis)

(dollars in thousands)	2008		2007	
	Carrying Amount	Weighted Average Yield	Carrying Amount	Weighted Average Yield
Available-for-sale securities:				
U.S. Treasury and agency securities				
Maturing within 1 year	--	--	\$ 13,072	
Maturing after 1 year but within 5 years	--	--	3,434	
State & political subdivisions				
Maturing within 1 year	\$ 2,055	4.42%	2,363	
Maturing after 1 year but within 5 years	12,228	5.42%	11,561	
Maturing after 5 years but within 10 years	11,782	6.08%	9,810	
Maturing after 10 years	4,948	5.77%	7,377	
Mortgage-backed securities	32,232	4.89%	31,066	
Other				
Maturing within 1 year	--	--	--	
Non maturing	89	0.00%	287	
<b>Total investment securities</b>	<b>\$ 63,334</b>	<b>5.26%</b>	<b>\$ 78,970</b>	
Held-to-maturity securities:				
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 24,365	4.89%	\$ 34,754	
<b>Total investment securities</b>	<b>\$ 24,365</b>	<b>4.89%</b>	<b>\$ 34,754</b>	

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The carrying values of available-for-sale securities include net unrealized gains (losses) of \$673,000, \$171,000 and (\$957,000) at December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The carrying values of held-to-maturity securities do not include unrealized gains or losses, however, the net unrealized gains (losses) at December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 were \$524,000, \$101,000 and (\$311,000), respectively.

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### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

The Company is a party to financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk in the normal course of business in order to meet the financing needs of its customers and to reduce its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates. These financial instruments consist of commitments to extend credit and letters of credit. These instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amount recognized on the balance sheet.

As of December 31, 2008, commitments to extend credit and letters of credit were the only financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk. The Company has not entered into any contracts for financial derivative instruments such as futures, swaps, options or similar instruments. Real estate commitments are generally secured by property with a loan-to-value ratio of 65% to 75%. In addition, the majority of the Company's commitments have variable interest rates.

The Company's exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party for commitments to extend credit and letters of credit is represented by the contractual amount of those instruments. The Company uses the same credit policies in making commitments and letters of credit as it does for loans included on the consolidated balance sheet. The following financial instruments represent off-balance-sheet credit:

	December 31,	
	2008	2007
Commitments to extend credit (dollars in thousands):		
Revolving lines of credit secured by		
1-4 family residences	\$ 7,396	\$ 8,252
Commercial real estate, construction and land		
development commitments secured by real estate	17,076	31,881
Other unused commitments, principally commercial loans	52,465	72,500
	\$ 76,937	\$ 112,633
	\$ 76,937	\$ 112,633
Letters of credit	\$ 3,798	\$ 7,537
	\$ 3,798	\$ 7,537

Certain financial institutions have elected to use special purpose vehicles ("SPV") to dispose of problem assets. The SPV is typically a subsidiary company with an asset and liability structure and legal status that makes its obligations secure even if the parent corporation goes bankrupt. Under certain

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circumstances, these financial institutions may exclude the problem assets from their reported impaired and non-performing assets. The Company does not use those vehicles or any other structures to dispose of problem assets.

### Contractual Obligations

The Company leases certain facilities at which it conducts its operations. Future minimum lease commitments under non-cancelable operating leases are noted in Table Sixteen below. Table Sixteen below presents certain of the Company's contractual obligations as of December 31, 2008. Included in the table are amounts payable under the Company's Deferred Compensation and Deferred Fees Plans and are listed in the "Other Long-Term Liabilities..." category. At December 31, 2008, these amounts represented \$2,023,000 and are anticipated to be primarily payable at least five years in the future.

Table Sixteen: Contractual Obligations

(dollars in thousands)

	Payments due by period			
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5
Long-Term Debt	\$ 14,000	\$ --	\$ 14,000	\$ --
Capital Lease Obligations	--	--	--	--
Operating Leases	5,056	952	1,412	--
Purchase Obligations	--	--	--	--
Other Long-Term Liabilities Reflected on the Company's Balance Sheet under GAAP	2,023	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,079</b>	<b>\$ 952</b>	<b>\$ 15,412</b>	<b>\$ --</b>

### Accounting Pronouncements

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 141 (revised 2007), "Business Combinations" ("SFAS No. 141R"). SFAS No. 141(R), among other things, establishes principles and requirements for how the acquirer in a business combination (i) recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquired business, (ii) recognizes and measures the goodwill acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase, and (iii) determines what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. The Company is required to adopt SFAS No. 141(R) for all business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after January 1, 2009. Earlier adoption is prohibited. This standard will change the accounting treatment for business combinations on a prospective basis.

In May 2008, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 162, "The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles" ("SFAS No. 162"). This standard identifies a consistent framework, or hierarchy, for selecting accounting principles to be used in preparing financial statements that are presented in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for nongovernmental entities. It establishes that the GAAP hierarchy should be directed to entities because it is the entity (not the auditor) that

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is responsible for selecting accounting principles for financial statements that are presented in conformity with GAAP. SFAS 162 is effective 60 days following the SEC's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board auditing amendments to AU Section 411, "The Meaning of Present Fairly in Conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles". The adoption of SFAS 162 did not have a significant impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In December 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position ("FSP") Financial Accounting Standard No. 132R-1, "Employers' Disclosures about Postretirement Benefit Plan Assets" ("FSP 132(R)-1"). This standard provides guidance on an employer's disclosures about plan assets of a defined benefit pension or other postretirement plan. The objectives of the disclosures about plan assets in an employer's defined benefit pension or other postretirement plan are to provide users of financial statements with an understanding of how investment allocation decisions are made, including the factors that are pertinent to an understanding of investment policies and strategies, the major categories of plan assets, the inputs and valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of plan assets, the effect of fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) on changes in plan assets for the period, and significant concentrations of risk within plan assets. The disclosures about plan assets required by this FSP are effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2009. Early adoption is permitted. The adoption of FSP 132(R)-1 is not expected to have a significant impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

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### Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

The information required by Item 7A of Form 10-K is contained in the "Market Risk Management" section of Item 7-"Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" on pages 44-45.

### Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

#### INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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All schedules have been omitted since the required information is not present in amounts sufficient to require submission of the schedule or because the information required is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or notes thereto.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM  
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The Shareholders and Board of Directors  
American River Bankshares

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheet of American River Bankshares and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of American River Bankshares and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the consolidated results of their operations and their consolidated cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

/s/ Perry-Smith LLP

Sacramento, California  
March 5, 2009

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET  
December 31, 2008 and 2007  
(Dollars in thousands)

	2008	2007
	-----	-----
ASSETS		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 15,170	\$ 15,170
Federal funds sold		
	-----	-----
Total cash and cash equivalents	15,170	15,170
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	4,248	4,248



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Investment securities:		
Available for sale, at fair value	63,334	7
Held to maturity, at amortized cost	24,365	3
Loans and leases, less allowance for loan and lease losses of \$5,918 in 2008 and \$5,883 in 2007	412,356	39
Premises and equipment, net	2,115	
Federal Home Loan Bank stock	3,922	
Accounts receivable servicing receivables, net	1,236	
Goodwill	16,321	1
Intangible assets	907	
Accrued interest receivable and other assets	19,183	1
	-----	-----
	\$ 563,157	\$ 57
	=====	=====

LIABILITIES AND  
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

Deposits:		
Noninterest bearing	\$ 119,143	\$ 13
Interest bearing	317,918	32
	-----	-----
Total deposits	437,061	45
Short-term borrowings	43,231	5
Long-term borrowings	14,000	
Accrued interest payable and other liabilities	5,418	
	-----	-----
Total liabilities	499,710	51
	-----	-----
Commitments and contingencies (Note 12)		
Shareholders' equity:		
Common stock - no par value; 20,000,000 shares authorized; issued and outstanding - 5,792,283 shares in 2008 and 5,590,277 shares in 2007	47,433	4
Retained earnings	15,617	1
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of taxes	397	
	-----	-----
Total shareholders' equity	63,447	5
	-----	-----
	\$ 563,157	\$ 57
	=====	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

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For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006  
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)

	2008	2007	2006
Interest income:			
Interest and fees on loans and leases	\$ 28,512	\$ 31,508	\$ 31,508
Interest on Federal funds sold	10	34	34
Interest on deposits in banks	222	271	271
Interest and dividends on investment securities:			
Taxable	3,711	4,544	4,544
Exempt from Federal income taxes	1,080	1,095	1,095
Dividends	18	26	26
Total interest income	33,553	37,478	37,478
Interest expense:			
Interest on deposits	5,901	9,560	9,560
Interest on borrowings	1,727	1,516	1,516
Total interest expense	7,628	11,076	11,076
Net interest income	25,925	26,402	26,402
Provision for loan and lease losses	1,743	450	450
Net interest income after provision for loan and lease losses	24,182	25,952	25,952
Noninterest income:			
Service charges	741	743	743
(Loss) gain on sale, call and impairment of investment securities	(119)	11	11
Other income	1,546	1,845	1,845
Total noninterest income	2,168	2,599	2,599
Noninterest expense:			
Salaries and employee benefits	7,687	8,396	8,396
Occupancy	1,495	1,398	1,398
Furniture and equipment	774	691	691
Other expense	4,245	4,348	4,348
Total noninterest expense	14,201	14,833	14,833
Income before provision for income taxes	12,149	13,718	13,718
Provision for income taxes	4,578	5,240	5,240
Net income	\$ 7,571	\$ 8,478	\$ 8,478
Basic earnings per share	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.40

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Diluted earnings per share	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.39	\$
Cash dividends per share of issued and outstanding common stock, adjusted for stock dividends	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.55	\$

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006  
(Dollars in thousands)

	Common Stock		Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Net of Tax)
	Shares	Amount		
Balance, January 1, 2006	5,604,479	\$ 47,474	\$ 16,029	\$
Cumulative effect of adopting Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 108, net of taxes			(214)	
Comprehensive income:				
Net income			9,062	
Other comprehensive income, net of tax:				
Net change in unrealized losses on available-for-sale investment securities				
Total comprehensive income				
Cash dividend (\$0.53 per share)			(3,332)	
Fractional shares redeemed for stock dividend			(21)	
5% stock dividend	268,346	6,834	(6,834)	
Stock options exercised	43,162	441		
Stock option compensation		221		
Retirement of common stock	(258,641)	(6,724)		
Balance, December 31, 2006	5,657,346	48,246	14,690	
Comprehensive income:				
Net income			8,478	
Other comprehensive income, net of tax:				
Net change in unrealized gains on available-for-sale investment securities				

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Total comprehensive income

Cash dividend (\$0.55 per share)			(3,319)
Fractional shares redeemed for stock dividend	(6)	(9)	
5% stock dividend	265,683	5,645	(5,645)
Stock options exercised	54,569	679	
Stock option compensation		301	
Retirement of common stock	(387,315)	(9,194)	
	-----	-----	-----

Balance, December 31, 2007 5,590,277 45,668 14,204

Comprehensive income:

Net income			7,571
Other comprehensive income, net of tax:			
Net change in unrealized gains on available-for-sale investment securities			

Total comprehensive income

Cash dividend (\$0.57 per share)			(3,317)
Fractional shares redeemed for stock dividend		(10)	
5% stock dividend	275,048	2,841	(2,841)
Stock options exercised	37,258	354	
Stock option compensation		290	
Retirement of common stock	(110,300)	(1,710)	
	-----	-----	-----

Balance, December 31, 2008 5,792,283 \$ 47,433 \$ 15,617 \$

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006  
(Dollars in thousands)

	2008	2007
	-----	-----
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 7,571	\$ 8,478
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Provision for loan and lease losses	1,743	450
Increase (decrease) in deferred loan and lease origination fees, net	54	(188)

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Depreciation and amortization	822	840
Amortization of investment security premiums and discounts, net	137	254
Provision for accounts receivable servicing receivable allowance for losses		(3)
Loss (gain) on sale, call and impairment of investment securities	119	(11)
Increase in cash surrender value of life insurance policies	(395)	(404)
Provision for deferred income taxes	(446)	(240)
Stock option compensation expense	290	301
Tax benefit from exercise of stock options	(85)	(236)
Decrease (increase) in accrued interest receivable and other assets	1,762	(501)
(Decrease) increase in accrued interest payable and other liabilities	(1,035)	986
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by operating activities	10,537	9,726
	-----	-----
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Proceeds from the sale of investment securities	24,225	6,506
Proceeds from called available-for-sale investment securities	1,455	1,170
Proceeds from matured available-for-sale investment securities	11,615	17,485
Purchases of available-for-sale investment securities	(29,629)	
Purchases of held-to-maturity investment securities		(967)
Proceeds from principal repayments for available-for-sale mortgage-backed securities	8,137	2,711
Proceeds from principal repayments for held-to-maturity mortgage-backed securities	10,469	8,496
Net decrease (increase) in interest-bearing deposits in banks	703	
Net increase in loans and leases	(21,335)	(12,302)
Net decrease (increase) in accounts receivable servicing receivables	430	918
Proceeds from sale of other real estate	61	
Purchases of equipment	(670)	(672)
Purchase of single premium life insurance policies		
Net (increase) decrease in FHLB stock	(1,122)	271
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	4,339	23,616
	-----	-----

(Continued)

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
(Continued)

For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006  
(Dollars in thousands)

2008

2007

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Cash flows from financing activities:		
Net decrease in demand, interest-bearing and savings deposits	\$ (35,198)	\$ (22,767)
Net increase (decrease) in time deposits	16,614	(15,463)
Increase (decrease) in long-term borrowings	14,000	(5,000)
(Decrease) increase in short-term borrowings	(8,372)	14,333
Exercise of stock options	269	443
Tax benefit from exercise of stock options	85	236
Cash paid to repurchase common stock	(1,710)	(9,194)
Payment of cash dividends	(3,329)	(3,328)
Cash paid for fractional shares	(10)	(9)
	-----	-----
Net cash used in financing activities	(17,651)	(40,749)
	-----	-----
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(2,775)	(7,407)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	17,945	25,352
	-----	-----
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 15,170	\$ 17,945
	=====	=====
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash paid during the year for:		
Interest expense	\$ 7,913	\$ 11,197
Income taxes	\$ 5,010	\$ 5,403
Non-cash investing activities:		
Real estate acquired through foreclosure	\$ 2,158	\$ 61
Net change in unrealized gain on available-for-sale investment securities	\$ 502	\$ 1,128
Non-cash financing activities:		
Dividends declared and unpaid	\$ 828	\$ 839
Cumulative effect of adopting SAB 108, net of taxes		
Tax benefit from exercise of stock options	\$ 85	\$ 236

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. THE BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY

American River Bankshares (the "Company") was incorporated under the laws of the State of California in 1995 under the name of American River Holdings and changed its name in 2004 to American River Bankshares. As a bank holding company, the Company is authorized to engage in the activities permitted under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, and regulations thereunder. As a community oriented bank holding company, the principal communities served are located in Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Amador, and Sonoma

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counties.

The Company owns 100% of the issued and outstanding common shares of its banking subsidiary, American River Bank ("ARB"). ARB was incorporated in 1983. ARB accepts checking and savings deposits, offers money market deposit accounts and certificates of deposit, makes secured and unsecured commercial, secured real estate, and other installment and term loans and offers other customary banking services. ARB operates six banking offices in Sacramento and Placer counties, three banking offices in Sonoma County under the name North Coast Bank, a division of ARB, and three banking offices in Amador County under the name Bank of Amador, a division of ARB.

The Company also owns one inactive subsidiary, American River Financial.

ARB does not offer trust services or international banking services and does not plan to do so in the near future. The deposits of ARB are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC") up to applicable legal limits.

ARB is participating in the FDIC Transaction Account Guarantee Program. Under that program, through December 31, 2009, all noninterest-bearing transaction accounts are fully guaranteed by the FDIC for the entire amount in the account. Coverage under the Transaction Account Guarantee Program is in addition to and separate from the coverage available under the FDIC's general deposit insurance rules.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### General

-----

The accounting and reporting policies of the Company and its subsidiaries conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and prevailing practices within the financial services industry.

#### Reclassifications

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Certain reclassifications have been made to prior years' balances to conform to classifications used in 2008.

#### Principles of Consolidation

-----

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All material intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated in consolidation.

#### Use of Estimates

-----

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Cash and Cash Equivalents  
-----

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and due from banks and Federal funds sold are considered to be cash equivalents. Generally, Federal funds are sold for one-day periods.

Investment Securities  
-----

Investments are classified into the following categories:

- o Available-for-sale securities, reported at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses excluded from earnings and reported, net of taxes, as accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) within shareholders' equity.
- o Held-to-maturity securities, which management has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity, reported at amortized cost, adjusted for the accretion of discounts and amortization of premiums.

Management determines the appropriate classification of its investments at the time of purchase and may only change the classification in certain limited circumstances. All transfers between categories are accounted for at fair value. There were no transfers in the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company did not have any trading securities.

Gains or losses on the sale of investment securities are computed on the specific identification method. Interest earned on investment securities is reported in interest income, net of applicable adjustments for accretion of discounts and amortization of premiums.

Investment securities are evaluated for impairment on at least a quarterly basis and more frequently when economic or market conditions warrant such an evaluation to determine whether a decline in their value is other than temporary. Management utilizes criteria such as the magnitude and duration of the decline and the intent and ability of the Company to retain its investment in the securities for a period of time sufficient to allow for an anticipated recovery in fair value, in addition to the reasons underlying the decline, to determine whether the loss in value is other than temporary. The term "other than temporary" is not intended to indicate that the decline is permanent, but indicates that the prospects for a near-term recovery of value is not necessarily favorable, or that there is a lack of evidence to support a realizable value equal to or greater than the carrying value of the investment. Once a decline in value is determined to be other than temporary, the value of the security is reduced and a corresponding charge to earnings is recognized.



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### Federal Home Loan Bank Stock -----

Investments in Federal Home Loan Bank (the "FHLB") stock are carried at cost and are redeemable at par with certain restrictions. Investments in FHLB stock are necessary to participate in FHLB programs.

### Loans and Leases -----

Loans and leases are reported at the principal amounts outstanding, adjusted for unearned income, deferred loan origination fees and costs, purchase premiums and discounts, write-downs and the allowance for loan and lease losses. Loan and lease origination fees, net of certain deferred origination costs, and purchase premiums and discounts are recognized as an adjustment to the yield of the related loans and leases.

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### AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

##### Loans and Leases (Continued) -----

The accrual of interest on loans and leases is discontinued when, in the opinion of management, there is an indication that the borrower may be unable to meet payment requirements within an acceptable time frame relative to the terms stated in the loan agreement. Upon such discontinuance, all unpaid accrued interest is reversed against current income unless the loan or lease is well secured and in the process of collection. Interest received on nonaccrual loans and leases is either applied against principal or reported as interest income, according to management's judgment as to the collectibility of principal. Generally, loans and leases are restored to accrual status when the obligation is brought current and has performed in accordance with the contractual terms for a reasonable period of time and the ultimate collectibility of the total contractual principal and interest is no longer in doubt.

Direct financing leases are carried net of unearned income. Income from leases is recognized by a method that approximates a level yield on the outstanding net investment in the lease.

##### Loan Sales and Servicing -----

Included in the loan and lease portfolio are Small Business Administration ("SBA") loans and Farmer Mac guaranteed loans that may be sold in the secondary market. At the time the loan is sold, the related right to service the loan is either retained, with the Company earning future servicing income, or released in exchange for a one-time servicing-released premium. A portion of this premium may be required to be refunded if the borrower defaults or the loan prepays within ninety days of the settlement date. There were no sales of loans subject to these recourse provisions at December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006. Loans subsequently transferred to the loan portfolio are

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transferred at the lower of cost or market value at the date of transfer. Any difference between the carrying amount of the loan and its outstanding principal balance is recognized as an adjustment to yield by the interest method. There were no loans held for sale at December 31, 2008 and 2007.

SBA and Farmer Mac loans with unpaid balances of \$567,000 and \$847,000 were being serviced for others as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The Company also serviced loans that are participated with other financial institutions totaling \$6,858,000 and \$7,797,000 as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Servicing rights acquired through 1) a purchase or 2) the origination of loans which are sold or securitized with servicing rights retained are recognized as separate assets or liabilities. Servicing assets or liabilities are recorded at the difference between the contractual servicing fees and adequate compensation for performing the servicing, and are subsequently amortized in proportion to and over the period of the related net servicing income or expense. Servicing assets are periodically evaluated for impairment. Servicing assets were not considered material for disclosure purposes at December 31, 2008 and 2007.

### Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses

-----

The allowance for loan and lease losses is maintained to provide for probable losses related to impaired loans and leases and other probable losses on loans and leases identified by management as doubtful, substandard and special mention, as well as losses that can be expected to occur in the normal course of business related to currently performing loans and leases. The determination of the allowance is based on estimates made by management, to include consideration of the character of the loan and lease portfolio including concentrations, types of lending, specifically identified problem loans and leases, inherent risk of loss in the portfolio taken as a whole and economic conditions in the Company's service areas.

The methodology for evaluating the adequacy of the allowance for loan and lease losses has two basic elements: first, the identification of impaired loans and the measurement of impairment for each individual loan identified; and second, a method for estimating a general allowance for loan and lease losses.

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## AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses (Continued)

-----

A loan or lease is considered impaired when it is probable that all contractual principal and interest payments due will not be collected in accordance with the terms of the loan or lease agreement. Impairment on individually identified loans or leases that are not collateral dependent is measured based on the present value of expected future

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cash flows discounted at each loan or lease's original effective interest rate. For loans that are collateral dependent, impairment is measured based on the fair value of the collateral less estimated selling costs.

In estimating the general allowance for loan and lease losses, the balance of the loan portfolio is grouped into segments that have common characteristics, such as loan type, collateral type or risk rating. Loans typically segregated by risk rating are those that have been assigned ratings (using regulatory definitions) of special mention, substandard and doubtful. Loans graded loss are generally charged off immediately.

For each general allowance portfolio segment, loss factors are applied to calculate the required allowance. These loss factors are based upon historical loss rates adjusted for qualitative factors representing other significant factors affecting loan portfolio including economic factors, credit policy and underwriting, management and staff effectiveness, trends in delinquencies and losses, and concentrations.

The Company's Loan Committee reviews the adequacy of the allowance for loan and lease losses at least quarterly, to include consideration of the relative risks in the portfolio and current economic conditions. The allowance is adjusted based on that review if, in the judgment of the Loan Committee and management, changes are warranted.

The allowance is established through a provision for loan and lease losses which is charged to expense. Additions to the allowance are expected to maintain the adequacy of the total allowance after credit losses and loan and lease growth. Although management believes the allowance for loan and lease losses to be adequate, ultimate losses may vary from their estimates. In addition, the FDIC and California Department of Financial Institutions, as an integral part of their examination process, review the allowance for loan and lease losses. These agencies may require additions to the allowance for loan and lease losses based on their judgment about information available at the time of their examinations.

### Other Real Estate

-----

Other real estate includes real estate acquired in full or partial settlement of loan obligations. When property is acquired, any excess of the recorded investment in the loan balance and accrued interest income over the estimated fair market value of the property less estimated selling costs is charged against the allowance for loan and lease losses. Valuation allowances for losses on other real estate are maintained to provide for temporary declines in value. These allowances are established through a provision for losses on other real estate which is included in other expenses. Subsequent gains or losses on sales or writedowns resulting from permanent impairments are recorded in other income or expense as incurred. During 2008 the Company received \$61,000 from the proceeds from the sale of other real estate with no gain recognized on the sale. There was \$2,158,000 and \$61,000 with no valuation allowance in other real estate at December 31, 2008 and 2007.

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## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### Premises and Equipment -----

Premises and equipment are carried at cost. Depreciation is determined using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. The useful life of the building and improvements is forty years. The useful lives of furniture, fixtures and equipment are estimated to be three to ten years. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the life of the asset or the term of the related lease, whichever is shorter. When assets are sold or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation or amortization are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is recognized in income for the period. The cost of maintenance and repairs is charged to expense as incurred. Impairment of long-lived assets is evaluated by management based upon an event or changes in circumstances surrounding the underlying assets which indicate long-lived assets may be impaired.

#### Goodwill and Intangible Assets -----

Business combinations involving the Company's acquisition of equity interests or net assets of another enterprise or the assumption of net liabilities in an acquisition of branches constituting a business may give rise to goodwill. Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of an acquired entity over the net of the amounts assigned to assets acquired and liabilities assumed in transactions accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. The value of goodwill is ultimately derived from the Company's ability to generate net earnings after the acquisition and is not deductible for tax purposes. A decline in net earnings could be indicative of a decline in the fair value of goodwill and result in impairment. For that reason, goodwill is assessed for impairment at least annually.

Intangible assets are comprised of core deposit intangibles which represent the estimated fair value of the long-term deposit relationships that were assumed when the Company acquired Bank of Amador in December 2004. Core deposit intangibles are amortized using a method that approximates the expected run-off of the deposit base, which, in this case, is eight years. Management evaluates the recoverability and remaining useful life annually to determine whether events or circumstances warrant a revision to the intangible assets or the remaining amortization period.

#### Income Taxes -----

The Company files its income taxes on a consolidated basis with its subsidiaries. The allocation of income tax expense (benefit) represents each entity's proportionate share of the consolidated provision for income taxes.

The Company accounts for income taxes using the balance sheet method, under which deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the tax consequences of temporary differences between the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and their tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are adjusted for the effects of changes in tax laws and

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rates on the date of enactment. On the consolidated balance sheet, net deferred tax assets are included in accrued interest receivable and other assets.

Since January 1, 2007, the Company has accounted for uncertainty in income taxes under Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes ("FIN 48"). Under the provisions of FIN 48, only tax positions that met the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold on January 1, 2007 were recognized or continue to be recognized upon adoption. The Company previously recognized income tax positions based on management's estimate of whether it was reasonably possible that a liability had been incurred for unrecognized income tax benefits by applying FASB Statement No. 5, Accounting for Contingencies. The adoption of FIN 48 did not have a material impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

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### AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

##### Income Taxes (Continued)

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When tax returns are filed, it is highly certain that some positions taken would be sustained upon examination by the taxing authorities, while others are subject to uncertainty about the merits of the position taken or the amount of the position that would be ultimately sustained. The benefit of a tax position is recognized in the financial statements in the period during which, based on all available evidence, management believes it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained upon examination, including the resolution of appeals or litigation processes, if any. Tax positions taken are not offset or aggregated with other positions. Tax positions that meet the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold are measured as the largest amount of tax benefit that is more than 50 percent likely of being realized upon settlement with the applicable taxing authority. The portion of the benefits associated with tax positions taken that exceeds the amount measured as described above is reflected as a liability for unrecognized tax benefits in the accompanying balance sheet along with any associated interest and penalties that would be payable to the taxing authorities upon examination.

Interest expense and penalties associated with unrecognized tax benefits, if any, are classified as income tax expense in the consolidated statement of income.

##### Comprehensive Income

-----

Comprehensive income is reported in addition to net income for all periods presented. Comprehensive income is a more inclusive financial reporting methodology that includes disclosure of other comprehensive income (loss) that historically has not been recognized in the calculation of net income. Unrealized gains and losses on the Company's available-for-sale investment securities are included in other

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comprehensive income (loss), adjusted for realized gains or losses included in net income. Total comprehensive income and the components of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) are presented in the consolidated statement of changes in shareholders' equity.

### Earnings Per Share

-----

Basic earnings per share ("EPS"), which excludes dilution, is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS reflects the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock, such as stock options, result in the issuance of common stock which shares in the earnings of the Company. The treasury stock method has been applied to determine the dilutive effect of stock options in computing diluted EPS. EPS is retroactively adjusted for stock splits and stock dividends for all periods presented.

### Stock-Based Compensation

-----

At December 31, 2008, the Company has one stock-based compensation plan, which is described more fully in Note 13. Compensation expense, net of related tax benefits, recorded in 2008, 2007 and 2006 totaled \$254,000, \$251,000 and \$184,000, or \$0.04, \$0.04 and \$0.03 per diluted share, respectively. Compensation expense is recognized over the vesting period on a straight line accounting basis.

The fair value of each option award is estimated on the date of grant using a Black-Scholes-Merton based option valuation model that uses the assumptions noted in the following table. Because Black-Scholes-Merton based option valuation models incorporate ranges of assumptions for inputs, those ranges are disclosed. Expected volatilities are based on historical volatility of the Company's stock and other factors. The Company uses historical data to estimate option exercise and employee termination within the valuation model. The expected term of options granted represents the period of time that options granted are expected to be outstanding. The risk-free rate for periods within the contractual life of the option is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant.

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## AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

##### Stock-Based Compensation (Continued)

-----

	2008	2007	2006
	-----	-----	-----
Dividend yield	3.53% to 4.62%	2.33%	2.16%
Expected volatility	21.3% to 24.3%	21.6%	29.6%

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Risk-free interest rate	3.38% to 3.45%	4.68%	4.70%
Expected option life in years	7	7	7
Weighted average fair value of options granted during the year	\$2.75	\$5.78	\$7.57

The following is a summary of stock option information as of or for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006:

	2008	2007	2006
	(dollars in thousands)		
Total intrinsic value of options exercised	\$ 285	\$ 832	\$ 791
Aggregate cash received for option exercises	\$ 269	\$ 444	\$ 292
Total fair value of options vested	\$ 254	\$ 263	\$ 154
Total compensation cost	\$ 290	\$ 301	\$ 221
Tax benefit recognized	\$ 36	\$ 50	\$ 37
Net compensation cost	\$ 254	\$ 251	\$ 184
Total compensation cost for nonvested awards not yet recognized	\$ 717	\$ 894	\$ 828
Weighted average years to be recognized	2.9	2.2	2.4

### Cumulative Effect of Adopting Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 108

In September 2006, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") issued Staff Accounting Bulletin ("SAB") No. 108 Considering the Effects of Prior Year Misstatements When Quantifying Misstatements in Current Year Financial Statements, which provides interpretive guidance on how registrants should quantify financial statement misstatements. Under SAB 108 registrants are required to consider both a "rollover" method which focuses primarily on the income statement impact of misstatements and the "iron curtain" method which focuses primarily on the balance sheet impact of misstatements. Historically, the Company evaluated uncorrected differences utilizing the rollover approach and the impact under that approach was not considered material. The transition provisions of SAB 108 permit a registrant to adjust retained earnings for the cumulative effect of immaterial errors relating to prior years. The Company adopted SAB 108 in the fourth quarter of 2006.

Under the iron-curtain method, the cumulative effect of unrecorded compensated absences was considered material to the Company's 2006 financial statements and, therefore, management recorded an adjustment to decrease the opening 2006 retained earnings balance in the amount of \$214,000, increase other liabilities in the amount of \$350,000 and increase deferred tax assets by \$136,000.

AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

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### Impact of New Financial Accounting Standards

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#### Accounting for Business Combinations

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 141 (revised 2007), Business Combinations ("SFAS No. 141R"). SFAS No. 141(R), among other things, establishes principles and requirements for how the acquirer in a business combination (i) recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquired business, (ii) recognizes and measures the goodwill acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase, and (iii) determines what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. The Company is required to adopt SFAS No. 141(R) for all business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after January 1, 2009. Earlier adoption is prohibited. This standard will change the accounting treatment for business combinations on a prospective basis.

#### The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In May 2008, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 162, The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("SFAS No. 162"). This standard identifies a consistent framework, or hierarchy, for selecting accounting principles to be used in preparing financial statements that are presented in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for nongovernmental entities. It establishes that the GAAP hierarchy should be directed to entities because it is the entity (not the auditor) that is responsible for selecting accounting principles for financial statements that are presented in conformity with GAAP. SFAS 162 is effective November 15, 2008. The adoption of this Statement did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

#### Employers' Disclosures about Postretirement Benefit Plan Assets

In December 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position ("FSP") Financial Accounting Standard No. 132R-1, Employers' Disclosures about Postretirement Benefit Plan Assets ("FSP 132(R)-1"). This standard provides guidance on an employer's disclosures about plan assets of a defined benefit pension or other postretirement plan. The objectives of the disclosures about plan assets in an employer's defined benefit pension or other postretirement plan are to provide users of financial statements with an understanding of how investment allocation decisions are made, including the factors that are pertinent to an understanding of investment policies and strategies, the major categories of plan assets, the inputs and valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of plan assets, the effect of fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) on changes in plan assets for the period, and significant concentrations of risk within plan assets. The disclosures about plan assets required by this FSP are effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2009. Early adoption is permitted. The adoption of FSP 132(R)-1 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.



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## AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

#### 3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The carrying amounts and estimated fair values of the Company's financial instruments are as follows (dollars in thousands):

	December 31, 2008		December 31, 2007
	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Amount
<b>Financial assets:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 15,170	\$ 15,170	\$ 17,945
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	4,248	4,249	4,951
Investment securities	87,699	88,223	113,724
Loans and leases, net	412,356	407,725	394,975
FHLB stock	3,922	3,922	2,800
Accounts receivable servicing receivables	1,236	1,236	1,666
Accrued interest receivable	2,265	2,265	2,691
Cash surrender value of life insurance policies	10,496	10,496	10,101
<b>Financial liabilities:</b>			
Deposits	\$ 437,061	\$ 438,160	\$ 455,645
Short-term borrowings	43,231	43,231	51,603
Long-term borrowings	14,000	14,599	
Accrued interest payable	462	462	747

Estimated fair values are disclosed for financial instruments for which it is practicable to estimate fair value. These estimates are made at a specific point in time based on relevant market data and information about the financial instruments. These estimates do not reflect any premium or discount that could result from offering the Company's entire holdings of a particular financial instrument for sale at one time, nor do they attempt to estimate the value of anticipated future business related to the instruments. In addition, the tax ramifications related to the realization of unrealized gains and losses can have a significant effect on fair value estimates and have not been considered in any of these estimates.

Because no market exists for a significant portion of the Company's financial instruments, fair value estimates are based on judgments regarding current economic conditions, risk characteristics of various financial instruments and other factors. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgment and therefore cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could significantly affect the fair values presented.

The following methods and assumptions were used by the Company to estimate the fair value of its financial instruments at December 31, 2008 and 2007:

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Cash and cash equivalents: For cash and cash equivalents, the carrying amount is estimated to be fair value.

Interest-bearing deposits in banks: The fair values of interest-bearing deposits in banks are estimated by discounting their future cash flows using rates at each reporting date for instruments with similar remaining maturities offered by comparable financial institutions.

Investment securities: For investment securities, fair values are based on quoted market prices, where available. If quoted market prices are not available, fair values are estimated using quoted market prices for similar securities and indications of value provided by brokers.

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### AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

#### 3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

Loans and leases: For variable-rate loans and leases that reprice frequently with no significant change in credit risk, fair values are based on carrying values. The fair values for other loans and leases are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, using interest rates being offered at each reporting date for loans and leases with similar terms to borrowers of comparable creditworthiness. The carrying amount of accrued interest receivable approximates its fair value.

FHLB stock: The carrying amount of FHLB stock approximates its fair value. This investment is carried at cost and is redeemable at par with certain restrictions.

Accounts receivable servicing receivables: The carrying amount of accounts receivable servicing receivables approximates their fair value because of the relatively short period of time between the origination of the receivables and their expected collection.

Cash surrender value of life insurance policies: The fair value of life insurance policies are based on cash surrender values at each reporting date as provided by insurers.

Deposits: The fair values for non-maturing deposits are, by definition, equal to the amount payable on demand at the reporting date represented by their carrying amount. Fair values for fixed-rate certificates of deposit are estimated using a discounted cash flow analysis using interest rates offered at each reporting date for certificates with similar remaining maturities. The carrying amount of accrued interest payable approximates its fair value.

Short-term and long-term borrowings: The fair value of short-term borrowings is estimated to be the carrying amount. The fair value of long-term borrowings is estimated using a discounted cash flow analysis using interest rates currently available for similar debt instruments.

Commitments to extend credit: The fair value of commitments are based on fees currently charged to enter into similar agreements, net of origination fees. These fees were not material at December 31, 2008 and 2007.

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On January 1, 2008, the Company adopted FASB Statement No. 157 ("SFAS 157"), Fair Value Measurements. SFAS No. 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value under GAAP, and expands disclosures about fair value measurement. Upon adoption of SFAS No. 157, there was no cumulative effect adjustment to beginning retained earnings and no impact on the financial statements.

In October 2008, the FASB issued FSP FAS 157-3, Determining the Fair Value of a Financial Asset When the Market for That Asset is Not Active. The FSP was effective immediately and clarifies the application of FASB statement No. 157, Fair Value Measurements, in a market that is not active and provides an example to illustrate key considerations in determining the fair value of a financial asset when the market for that financial asset is not active.

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### AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

#### 3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

The following tables present information about the Company's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring and nonrecurring basis as of December 31, 2008. They indicate the fair value hierarchy of the valuation techniques utilized by the Company to determine such fair value. In general, fair values determined by Level 1 inputs utilize quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access. Fair values determined by Level 2 inputs utilize inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, such as interest rates and yield curves that are observable at commonly quoted intervals. Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability, and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability. In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls has been determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. The Company's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, and considers factors specific to the asset or liability.

(dollars in thousands)

		Fair at Dece
Description	Fair Value December 31, 2008	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for for Identical Assets (Level 1)

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Assets and liabilities measured on a recurring basis:			
Available-for-sale securities	\$ 63,334	\$ 84	\$
	=====	=====	=
Assets and liabilities measured on a nonrecurring basis:			
Impaired loans	\$ 6,083		\$
Other real estate	2,158		-
	-----	-----	-
	\$ 8,241	\$ --	\$
	=====	=====	=

Changes in balances of recurring items valued using significant unobservable inputs (level 3) are as follows:

(dollars in thousands)	Balance as of January 1, 2008	Transfers In (Out)	Unrealized Gains (Losses)
	-----	-----	-----
Level 3 available-for-sale securities	\$ --	\$ 2,210	\$ (161)
	=====	=====	=====

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### AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

#### 3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

There were no changes in the valuation techniques used during 2008. The following methods were used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instrument above:

Available-for-sale securities - Fair values for investment securities are based on quoted market prices, if available, or evaluated pricing models that vary by asset class and incorporate available trade, bid and other market information. Pricing applications apply available information, as applicable, through processes such as benchmark curves, benchmarking to like securities, sector groupings and matrix pricing.

Impaired loans - The fair value of impaired loans is based on the fair value of the collateral for all collateral dependent loans and for other impaired loans is estimated using a discounted cash flow model.

Other real estate - Other real estate represents real estate which the Company has taken control of in partial or full satisfaction of loans. The fair value of other real estate is based on the fair value of the real estate less costs to sell.

#### 4. GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

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At December 31, 2008 and 2007, goodwill totaled \$16,321,000. Goodwill is evaluated annually for impairment under the provisions of SFAS No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets, and management determined that no impairment recognition was required for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006. Goodwill is not deductible for tax purposes.

Other intangible assets are comprised of core deposit intangibles totaling \$907,000 and \$1,193,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Amortization of the intangible included in other expense totaled \$286,000, \$308,000 and \$330,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The remaining balance will be amortized over the next 3.9 years and is estimated as follows (dollars in thousands):

Year Ending December 31, -----			
2009	\$	264	
2010		242	
2011		219	
2012		182	
		-----	
	\$	907	
		=====	

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### AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

#### 5. INVESTMENT SECURITIES

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of investment securities at December 31, 2008 and 2007 consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

#### Available-for-Sale

	2008		
	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses
Debt securities:			
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 32,073	\$ 392	\$ (233)
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	30,506	666	(160)
Equity securities:			
Corporate stock	82	11	(3)
	-----	-----	-----
	\$ 62,661	\$ 1,069	\$ (396)
	=====	=====	=====

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	2007		
	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses
Debt securities:			
U.S. Government agencies	\$ 16,539	\$ 8	\$ (41)
Mortgage-backed securities	31,174	13	(121)
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	30,758	452	(99)
Equity securities:			
Corporate stock	328	24	(65)
	<u>\$ 78,799</u>	<u>\$ 497</u>	<u>\$ (326)</u>

Net unrealized gains on available-for-sale investment securities totaling \$673,000 were recorded, net of \$276,000 in tax liabilities, as accumulated other comprehensive income within shareholders' equity at December 31, 2008. Proceeds and gross realized gains from the sale and call of available-for-sale investment securities for the year ended December 31, 2008 totaled \$25,680,000 and \$126,000, respectively. There were no transfers of available-for-sale investment securities during the year ended December 31, 2008.

During 2008, management determined that one equity security (FNMA Preferred Stock) had a loss considered to be other-than-temporary. The Company recorded an impairment charge of \$245,000 with a remaining balance of \$5,000 at December 31, 2008.

Net unrealized gains on available-for-sale investment securities totaling \$171,000 were recorded, net of \$70,000 in tax liabilities, as accumulated other comprehensive income within shareholders' equity at December 31, 2007. Proceeds and gross realized gains from the sale and call of available-for-sale investment securities for the year ended December 31, 2007 totaled \$5,896,000 and \$25,000, respectively. There were no transfers of available-for-sale investment securities during the year ended December 31, 2007.

Proceeds and gross realized gains from the sale and call of available-for-sale investment securities for the year ended December 31, 2006 totaled \$3,660,000 and \$1,000, respectively.

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

5. INVESTMENT SECURITIES (Continued)

Held-to-Maturity



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Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because the issuers of the securities may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.

Investment securities with amortized costs totaling \$54,838,000 and \$64,007,000 and estimated fair values totaling \$55,659,000 and \$63,926,000 were pledged to secure treasury tax and loan accounts, State Treasury funds on deposit, public agency and bankruptcy trustee deposits and borrowing arrangements (see Note 10) at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

5. INVESTMENT SECURITIES (Continued)

Investment securities with unrealized losses at December 31, 2008 and 2007 are summarized and classified according to the duration of the loss period as follows (dollars in thousands):

	2008			
	Less than 12 Months		12 Months or More	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Available-for-Sale				
Debt securities:				
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 8,810	\$ (233)	\$ 2,049	
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	5,628	(118)	724	\$ (42)
Corporate stock	5	(3)		
	<u>\$ 14,443</u>	<u>\$ (354)</u>	<u>\$ 2,773</u>	<u>\$ (42)</u>
Held-to-Maturity				
Debt securities:				
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 633	\$ (1)	\$ 489	\$ (7)

2007



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	Less than 12 Months		12 Months or More	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Available-for-Sale				
-----				
Debt securities:				
U.S. Government agencies			\$ 11,552	\$ (41)
Mortgage-backed securities			30,136	(121)
Obligations of states and political sub-divisions	\$ 1,484	\$ (62)	6,944	(37)
Corporate stock			186	(65)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$ 1,484	\$ (62)	\$ 48,818	\$ (264)
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Held-to-Maturity				
-----				
Debt securities:				
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 1,192	\$ (2)	\$ 14,838	\$ (96)
	=====	=====	=====	=====

At December 31, 2008, the Company held 165 securities of which 26 were in a loss position for less than twelve months and 3 were in a loss position for twelve months or more. Of the 29 securities 13 are mortgage backed securities, 10 are obligations of states and political sub-divisions and 6 are corporate stocks.

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

5. INVESTMENT SECURITIES (Continued)

The unrealized loss on the Company's investments mortgage-backed securities and obligations of states and political sub-divisions is primarily driven by interest rates. Because the decline in market value is attributable to a change in interest rates and not credit quality, and because the Company has the ability and intent to hold these investments until recovery of fair value, which may be maturity, management does not consider these investments to be other-than-temporarily impaired.

6. LOANS AND LEASES

Outstanding loans and leases are summarized as follows (dollars in thousands):

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	Dece
	----- 2008 -----
Real estate - commercial	\$ 218,626
Real estate - construction	48,664
Real estate - multi-family	8,938
Real estate - residential	24,706
Commercial	90,625
Lease financing receivable	4,475
Agriculture	8,015
Consumer	14,796
	-----
	418,845
Deferred loan and lease origination fees, net	(571)
Allowance for loan and lease losses	(5,918)
	-----
	\$ 412,356 =====

Certain loans are pledged as collateral for available borrowings with the FHLB. Pledged loans totaled \$202,419,000 and \$171,709,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively (see Note 10).

The components of the Company's lease financing receivable are summarized as follows (dollars in thousands):

	Dece
	----- 2008 -----
Future lease payments receivable	\$ 4,985
Residual interests	67
Unearned income	(577)
	-----
Net lease financing receivable	\$ 4,475 =====

AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

6. LOANS AND LEASES (Continued)

Future lease payments receivable are as follows (dollars in thousands):

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Year Ending December 31, -----	
2009	\$ 1,635
2010	1,138
2011	903
2012	772
2013	400
Thereafter	137
	-----
Total lease payments receivable	\$ 4,985
	=====

Changes in the allowance for loan and lease losses were as follows  
(dollars in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31, -----		
	2008	2007	2006
	-----	-----	-----
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 5,883	\$ 5,874	\$ 5,679
Provision charged to operations	1,743	450	320
Losses charged to allowance	(1,734)	(548)	(150)
Recoveries	26	107	25
	-----	-----	-----
Balance, end of year	\$ 5,918	\$ 5,883	\$ 5,874
	=====	=====	=====

The recorded investment in loans and leases that were considered to be impaired totaled \$6,083,000 at December 31, 2008 and had a related valuation allowance of \$788,000. The average recorded investment in impaired loans and leases during 2008 was approximately \$8,291,000.

The recorded investment in loans and leases that were considered to be impaired totaled \$6,637,000 at December 31, 2007 and had a related valuation allowance of \$764,000. The average recorded investment in impaired loans and leases during 2007 was approximately \$407,000.

Non-accrual loans and leases totaled approximately \$5,767,000 and \$6,985,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Loans and leases past due 90 days or more and still accruing interest at December 31, 2008 and 2007 were \$474,000 and \$455,000, respectively. Interest income on non-accrual loans is generally recognized on a cash basis and was not significant for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006. Interest foregone on non-accrual loans totaled \$647,000 and \$305,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Interest foregone on non-accrual loans for the year ended December 31, 2006 was not significant.

Salaries and employee benefits totaling \$910,000, \$1,030,000 and \$1,183,000 have been deferred as loan and lease origination costs for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

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## AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

7. PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT

Premises and equipment consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2008	2007
Land	\$ 206	\$ 206
Building and improvements	740	1,094
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	7,013	6,518
Leasehold improvements	1,566	1,293
	9,525	9,111
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(7,410)	(7,128)
	\$ 2,115	\$ 1,983
	=====	=====

Depreciation and amortization included in occupancy and furniture and equipment expense totaled \$539,000, \$535,000 and \$623,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

8. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE SERVICING RECEIVABLES

The Company purchases existing accounts receivable on a discounted basis from selected merchants and assumes the related billing and collection responsibilities on a recourse basis. Accounts receivable servicing fees included in other income totaled \$170,000, \$244,000 and \$372,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The valuation allowance for these receivables is not significant.

9. INTEREST-BEARING DEPOSITS

Interest-bearing deposits consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2008	2007
Savings	\$ 33,438	\$ 35,639
Money market	105,919	127,397
NOW accounts	45,581	43,577
Time, \$100,000 or more	95,161	75,723
Other time	37,819	40,643
	\$ 317,918	\$ 322,979
	=====	=====

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 (Continued)

9. INTEREST-BEARING DEPOSITS (Continued)

Aggregate annual maturities of time deposits are as follows (dollars in thousands):

Year Ending December 31, -----	
2009	\$ 118,120
2010	6,835
2011	4,202
2012	1,900
2013	1,893
Thereafter	30
	-----
	\$ 132,980
	=====

Interest expense recognized on interest-bearing deposits consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31, -----		
	2008	2007	2006
	-----	-----	-----
Savings	\$ 324	\$ 546	\$ 242
Money market	1,861	3,668	3,074
NOW accounts	68	113	130
Time, \$100,000 or more	2,249	3,167	3,092
Other time	1,399	2,066	2,139
	-----	-----	-----
	\$ 5,901	\$ 9,560	\$ 8,677
	=====	=====	=====

10. BORROWING ARRANGEMENTS

The Company has a total of \$37,000,000 in unsecured short-term borrowing arrangements to purchase Federal funds with two of its correspondent banks. There were no advances under the borrowing arrangements as of December 31, 2008 and 2007.

In addition, the Company has a line of credit available with the Federal Home Loan Bank which is secured by pledged mortgage loans (see Note 6) and investment securities (see Note 5). Borrowings may include overnight advances as well as loans with a term of up to thirty years. Advances totaling \$57,231,000 were outstanding from the Federal Home Loan Bank at December 31, 2008, bearing fixed interest rates ranging from 0.05% to 3.78% and maturing between January 2, 2009 and August 22, 2011. Advances totaling \$51,603,000 were outstanding from the Federal Home Loan Bank at December 31, 2007, bearing fixed interest rates ranging from 3.25% to 5.21% and maturing between January 2, 2008 and

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October 30, 2008. Amounts available under the borrowing arrangement with the Federal Home Loan Bank at December 31, 2008 and 2007 totaled \$60,012,000 and \$79,631,000, respectively.

In addition, the Company entered into a secured borrowing agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank in 2008. The borrowing can be secured by pledging selected loans and investment securities. Collateral value at December 31, 2008 was \$935,000. There were no advances outstanding as of December 31, 2008.

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### AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

#### 10. BORROWING ARRANGEMENTS (Continued)

The following table summarizes these borrowings (in thousands):

	December 31,			
	2008		2007	
	Amount	Weighted Average Rate	Amount	Weighted Average Rate
Short-term portion of borrowings	\$ 43,231	1.83%	\$ 51,603	
Long-term borrowings	14,000	3.19%		
	\$ 57,231	2.16%	\$ 51,603	

The Company has also been issued \$2,500,000 in letters of credit by the Federal Home Loan Bank which have been pledged to secure Local Agency Deposits. The letters of credit act as a guarantee of payment to certain third parties in accordance with specified terms and conditions. The letters of credit were not drawn upon in 2008 and management does not expect to draw upon these lines in the future.

ARB is eligible to issue certain debt that is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, up to a limit of \$10,260,000, under the FDIC's Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program. Any senior unsecured debt with a stated maturity of more than thirty days issued by ARB up to its debt guarantee limit falls under this program. ARB will be charged an annualized assessment from the FDIC, ranging from 50 to 100 basis points, based on the term and amount of the debt outstanding under the program. At December 31, 2008, the Company had no borrowings under this debt guarantee program.

#### 11. INCOME TAXES

The provision for income taxes for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006 consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

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	Federal	State	Total
	-----	-----	-----
2008			
-----			
Current	\$ 3,617	\$ 1,407	\$ 5,024
Deferred	(263)	(183)	(446)
	-----	-----	-----
Provision for income taxes	\$ 3,354	\$ 1,224	\$ 4,578
	=====	=====	=====
2007			
-----			
Current	\$ 3,986	\$ 1,494	\$ 5,480
Deferred	(163)	(77)	(240)
	-----	-----	-----
Provision for income taxes	\$ 3,823	\$ 1,417	\$ 5,240
	=====	=====	=====
2006			
-----			
Current	\$ 5,076	\$ 1,666	\$ 6,742
Deferred	(878)	(125)	(1,003)
	-----	-----	-----
Provision for income taxes	\$ 4,198	\$ 1,541	\$ 5,739
	=====	=====	=====

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

11. INCOME TAXES (Continued)

Deferred tax assets (liabilities) consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2008	2007
	-----	-----
Deferred tax assets:		
Allowance for loan and lease losses	\$ 2,641	\$ 2,641
Future benefit of state tax deduction	443	443
Deferred compensation	1,591	1,591
Other	414	414
	-----	-----
Total deferred tax assets	5,089	5,089

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Deferred tax liabilities:		
Core deposit intangible	(416)	
Unrealized gains on available-for-sale investment securities	(276)	
Investment market to market	(58)	
Future liability of state deferred tax assets	(291)	
Deferred loan costs	(433)	
Federal Home Loan Bank stock dividends	(274)	
Total deferred tax liabilities	(1,748)	(1,748)
Net deferred tax assets	\$ 3,341	\$ 3,341

The Company and its subsidiaries file income tax returns in the United States and California jurisdictions. There are currently no pending federal, state or local income tax examinations by tax authorities. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to the examination by federal taxing authorities for the years ended before December 31, 2005 and by state and local taxing authorities for years before December 31, 2004. The unrecognized tax benefits and changes therein and the interest and penalties accrued by the Company as of December 31, 2008 were not significant.

The provision for income taxes differs from amounts computed by applying the statutory Federal income tax rate of 35.0% to income before income taxes. The significant items comprising these differences consisted of the following:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Federal income tax statutory rate	35.0%	35.0%	
State franchise tax, net of Federal tax effect	6.6%	6.7%	
Tax benefit of interest on obligations of states and political subdivisions	(2.9)%	(2.5)%	
Tax-exempt income from life insurance policies	(1.1)%	(1.0)%	
Stock option compensation expense	0.5%	0.4%	
Other	(0.4)%	(0.4)%	
Effective tax rate	37.7%	38.2%	



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12. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Leases

The Company leases branch facilities, administrative offices and various equipment under noncancelable operating leases which expire on various dates through the year 2019. Certain of the leases have five year renewal options. Two of the branch facilities are leased from current or former members of the Company's Board of Directors (see Note 17).

Future minimum lease payments are as follows (dollars in thousands):

Year Ending December 31, -----	\$
2009	\$
2010	
2011	
2012	
2013	
Thereafter	----- \$ =====

Rental expense included in occupancy, furniture and equipment expense totaled \$1,110,000, \$1,061,000 and \$1,035,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Financial Instruments With Off-Balance-Sheet Risk  
-----

The Company is a party to financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk in the normal course of business in order to meet the financing needs of its customers and to reduce its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates. These financial instruments consist of commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit. These instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amount recognized on the balance sheet.

The Company's exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party for commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit is represented by the contractual amount of those instruments. The Company uses the same credit policies in making commitments and standby letters of credit as it does for loans included on the consolidated balance sheet.

The following financial instruments represent off-balance-sheet credit risk (dollars in thousands):

December 31, -----	2
2008	2
-----	-----

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Commitments to extend credit:		
Revolving lines of credit secured by 1-4 family residences	\$ 7,396	\$
Commercial real estate, construction and land		
development commitments secured by real estate	17,076	
Other unused commitments, principally commercial loans	52,465	
	-----	-----
	\$ 76,937	\$
	=====	=====
Standby letters of credit	\$ 3,798	\$
	=====	=====

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### AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

#### 12. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Continued)

##### Financial Instruments With Off-Balance-Sheet Risk (Continued)

-----

At inception, real estate commitments are generally secured by property with a loan-to-value ratio of 65% to 75%. In addition, the majority of the Company's commitments have variable interest rates.

Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a customer as long as there is no violation of any conditions established in the contract. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee. Since some of the commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. Each client's creditworthiness is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the borrower. Collateral held varies but may include accounts receivable, inventory, equipment and deeds of trust on residential real estate and income-producing commercial properties.

Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments issued to guarantee the performance or financial obligation of a client to a third party. The credit risk involved in issuing letters of credit is essentially the same as that involved in extending loans to clients. The fair value of the liability related to these standby letters of credit, which represents the fees received for issuing the guarantees, was not significant at December 31, 2008 and 2007. The Company recognizes these fees as revenue over the term of the commitment or when the commitment is used.

##### Significant Concentrations of Credit Risk

-----

The Company grants real estate mortgage, real estate construction, commercial, agricultural and consumer loans to clients throughout Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, Amador, El Dorado, and Sonoma counties.

In management's judgment, a concentration exists in real estate-related

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loans which represented approximately 72% and 71% of the Company's loan portfolio at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. A continued substantial decline in the economy in general, or a continued decline in real estate values in the Company's primary market areas in particular, could have an adverse impact on collectibility of these loans. However, personal and business income represent the primary source of repayment for a majority of these loans.

### Correspondent Banking Agreements

-----

The Company maintains funds on deposit with other federally insured financial institutions under correspondent banking agreements. The Company did not have any uninsured deposits at December 31, 2008.

### Contingencies

-----

The Company is subject to legal proceedings and claims which arise in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, the amount of ultimate liability with respect to such actions will not materially affect the consolidated financial position or results of operations of the Company.

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## AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

#### 13. SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

##### Earnings Per Share

-----

A reconciliation of the numerators and denominators of the basic and diluted earnings per share computations is as follows (dollars and shares in thousands, except per share data):

For the Year Ended	Net Income	Weighted Average Number of Shares Outstanding	Per-Share Amount
-----	-----	-----	-----
December 31, 2008			
-----			
Basic earnings per share	\$ 7,571	5,811	\$ 1.30
	-----	-----	-----
Effect of dilutive stock options		14	
	-----	-----	
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 7,571	5,825	\$ 1.30
	=====	=====	=====

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December 31, 2007  
-----

Basic earnings per share	\$	8,478	6,053	\$	1.40
					=====
Effect of dilutive stock options			63		
		-----	-----		
Diluted earnings per share	\$	8,478	6,116	\$	1.39
		=====	=====		=====

December 31, 2006  
-----

Basic earnings per share	\$	9,062	6,396	\$	1.42
					=====
Effect of dilutive stock options			118		
		-----	-----		
Diluted earnings per share	\$	9,062	6,514	\$	1.39
		=====	=====		=====

Stock Option Plan  
-----

In 2000, the Board of Directors adopted a stock option plan under which options may be granted to employees and directors under incentive and nonstatutory agreements. The stock option plan was approved by the Company's shareholders. At December 31, 2008, grants outstanding combined with shares available for future grants totaled 603,000 shares under this plan. The plan requires that the option price may not be less than the fair market value of the stock at the date the option is granted. The purchase price of exercised options is payable in full in cash or shares of the Company's common stock owned by the optionee at the time the option is exercised. The options expire on dates determined by the Board of Directors, but not later than ten years from the date of grant. Options vest ratably over a five year period. The Plan does not provide for the settlement of awards in cash and new shares are issued upon the exercise of options.

AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

13. SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (Continued)

Stock Option Plan (Continued)  
-----

A summary of the outstanding and vested stock option activity for the year ended December 31, 2008 is as follows:

Outstanding

Nonvest

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	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price Per Share	Shares
Balance, January 1, 2008	347,191	\$ 17.54	187,721
Options granted	65,387	\$ 16.04	65,387
Options vested			(46,867)
Options exercised	(39,121)	\$ 6.88	
Options expired or canceled	(35,133)	\$ 15.91	(20,780)
Balance, December 31, 2008	338,324	\$ 18.67	185,461

A summary of exercisable options as of December 31, 2008 is as follows:

Number of vested stock options  
 Weighted average exercise price per share  
 Aggregate intrinsic value  
 Weighted average remaining contractual term in years

A summary of options outstanding at December 31, 2008 follows:

Range of Exercise Prices	Number of Options Outstanding December 31, 2008	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life
\$ 4.10	5,250	.95 years
\$ 11.67	33,578	4.25 years
\$ 12.38	1,575	9.42 years
\$ 12.66	927	4.45 years
\$ 16.19	63,562	9.13 years
\$ 16.78	50,859	5.35 years
\$ 18.11	27,561	6.05 years
\$ 18.24	34,045	6.65 years
\$ 23.40	57,813	8.38 years
\$ 24.01	63,154	7.15 years
	338,324	

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### Common Stock Repurchase Program

-----

On January 16, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Company authorized a stock repurchase program that allows for the repurchase of up to six and one half percent (6.5%) annually of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock. The repurchases under this plan can be made from time to time in the open market as conditions allow. Management reports monthly to the Board of Directors on the status of the repurchase program. The Board of Directors has reserved the right to suspend, terminate, modify or cancel the repurchase programs at any time for any reason. The 6.5% percent program announced in 2008, replaced a program announced in 2001 whereby the Company had the ability to repurchase up to five percent (5.0%) annually of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock. On October 17, 2007, the Board of Directors of the Company expanded the stock repurchase program by an additional \$2,000,000 for calendar year 2007. At December 31, 2008, ARB did not have excess retained earnings that would allow it to pay cash dividends to the Company, however, ARB anticipates that additional requests for exemptions to the dividend restrictions will be made which, if approved, would allow ARB to pay cash dividends to the Company.

### Stock Dividend

-----

The Board of Directors declared a 5% stock dividend on November 19, 2008, November 21, 2007 and November 15, 2006. As appropriate, per share and relevant data in the consolidated financial statements have been retroactively restated to reflect the stock dividends.

## 14. REGULATORY MATTERS

### Dividends

-----

Upon declaration by the Board of Directors of the Company, all shareholders of record will be entitled to receive dividends. The California Financial Code restricts the total dividend payment of any state banking association in any calendar year to the lesser of (1) the bank's retained earnings or (2) the bank's net income for its last three fiscal years, less distributions made to shareholders during the same three-year period. In addition, subject to prior regulatory approval, any state banking association may request an exception to this restriction. In 2006, ARB requested, and received approval for, a one-time payment of \$2,500,000. At December 31, 2008, ARB did not have excess retained earnings that would allow it to pay cash dividends to the Company, however, ARB anticipates that additional requests for exemptions to the dividend restrictions will be made which, if approved, would allow ARB to pay cash dividends to the Company.

The Company has paid quarterly cash dividends on its common stock since the first quarter of 2004; prior to that, the Company paid cash dividends twice a year since 1992. It is currently the intention of the Board of Directors of the Company to continue payment of cash dividends on a quarterly basis, subject to the restrictions herein. In 2008, 2007 and 2006, the Company declared cash dividends in the amount of \$0.57, \$0.55 and \$0.53, respectively, per common share. The amounts have been adjusted to reflect 5% stock dividends declared in 2008 and in 2007. There is no assurance, however, that any dividends will be paid in the future since they are subject to regulatory restrictions, and dependent upon earnings, financial condition and capital requirements of the

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Company and its subsidiaries.

Regulatory Capital  
-----

The Company and ARB are subject to certain regulatory capital requirements administered by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the FDIC. Failure to meet these minimum capital requirements can initiate certain mandatory, and possibly additional discretionary, actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

14. REGULATORY MATTERS (Continued)

Regulatory Capital (Continued)  
-----

Under capital adequacy guidelines, the Company and ARB must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of their assets, liabilities and certain off-balance-sheet items as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. These quantitative measures are established by regulation and require that minimum amounts and ratios of total and Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets and of Tier 1 capital to average assets be maintained. Capital amounts and classification are also subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk weightings and other factors.

ARB is also subject to additional capital guidelines under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. To be categorized as well capitalized, ARB must maintain minimum total risk-based, Tier 1 risk-based and Tier 1 leverage ratios as set forth in the table on the following page. The most recent notification from the FDIC categorized ARB as well capitalized under these guidelines. There are no conditions or events since that notification that management believes have changed the Bank's category.

Management believes that the Company and ARB met all their capital adequacy requirements as of December 31, 2008 and 2007. There are no conditions or events since those notifications that management believes have changed the categories.

Deco	
----- 2008 -----	
Amount	Ratio
----- (dollar	

Leverage Ratio  
-----

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American River Bankshares and Subsidiaries	\$	45,822	8.3
Minimum regulatory requirement	\$	22,038	4.0
American River Bank	\$	46,134	8.4
Minimum requirement for "Well-Capitalized" institution under prompt corrective action provisions	\$	27,451	5.0
Minimum regulatory requirement	\$	21,961	4.0
Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital Ratio -----			
American River Bankshares and Subsidiaries	\$	45,822	10.2
Minimum regulatory requirement	\$	17,889	4.0
American River Bank	\$	46,134	10.4
Minimum requirement for "Well-Capitalized" institution under prompt corrective action provisions	\$	26,736	6.0
Minimum regulatory requirement	\$	17,824	4.0
Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio -----			
American River Bankshares and Subsidiaries	\$	51,416	11.5
Minimum regulatory requirement	\$	35,805	8.0
American River Bank	\$	51,708	11.6
Minimum requirement for "Well-Capitalized" institution under prompt corrective action provisions	\$	44,594	10.0
Minimum regulatory requirement	\$	35,676	8.0

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

15. OTHER NONINTEREST INCOME AND EXPENSE

Other noninterest income consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Merchant fee income	\$ 482	\$ 544	\$ 54
Accounts receivable servicing fees (Note8)	170	244	37
Income from residential lending division	283	401	25
Bank owned life insurance	395	404	19
Other	216	252	29
	-----	-----	-----
	\$ 1,546	\$ 1,845	\$ 1,65
	=====	=====	=====



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Other noninterest expense consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Professional fees	\$ 936	\$ 832	\$ 77
Telephone and postage	403	420	41
Outsourced item processing	391	374	49
Advertising and promotion	339	338	35
Directors' expense	321	378	31
Amortization of intangible assets	286	308	33
Stationery and supplies	274	322	33
Donations	56	62	8
Other operating expenses	1,239	1,314	1,27
	-----	-----	-----
	\$ 4,245	\$ 4,348	\$ 4,37
	=====	=====	=====

### 16. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

#### American River Bankshares 401(k) Plan

-----

The American River Bankshares 401(k) Plan has been in place since January 1, 1993 and is available to all employees. Under the plan, the Company will match 100% of each participants' contribution up to 3% of annual compensation plus 50% of the next 2% of annual compensation. Employer Safe Harbor matching contributions are 100% vested upon entering the plan. The Company's contributions totaled \$200,000, \$227,000 and \$217,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

#### Employee Stock Purchase Plan

-----

The Company contracts with an administrator for an Employee Stock Purchase Plan which allows employees to purchase the Company's stock at fair market value as of the date of purchase. The Company bears all costs of administering the Plan, including broker's fees, commissions, postage and other costs actually incurred.

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

### 16. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS (Continued)

#### American River Bankshares Deferred Compensation Plan

-----

The Company has established a Deferred Compensation Plan for certain members of the management team and a Deferred Fee Agreement for

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Non-Employee Directors for the purpose of providing the opportunity for participants to defer compensation. Participants of the management team, who are selected by a committee designated by the Board of Directors, may elect to defer annually a minimum of \$5,000 or a maximum of eighty percent of their base salary and all of their cash bonus. Directors may also elect to defer up to one hundred percent of their monthly fees. The Company bears all administration costs and accrues interest on the participants' deferred balances at a rate based on U.S. Government Treasury rates plus 4.0%. This rate was 7.45% at December 31, 2008. Deferred compensation, including interest earned, totaled \$2,023,000, \$1,769,000 and \$1,488,000 at December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The expense recognized under this plan totaled \$142,000, \$142,000 and \$113,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

### Salary Continuation Plan

-----

The Company has agreements to provide certain current executives, or their designated beneficiaries, with annual benefits for up to 15 years after retirement or death. These benefits are substantially equivalent to those available under life insurance policies purchased by the Company on the lives of the executives. The Company accrues for these future benefits from the effective date of the agreements until the executives' expected final payment dates in a systematic and rational manner. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company had accrued \$672,000 and \$521,000, respectively, for potential benefits payable. This payable approximates the then present value of the benefits expected to be provided at retirement. The expense recognized under this plan totaled \$188,000, \$169,000 and \$126,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Under these plans, the Company invested in single premium life insurance policies with cash surrender values totaling \$10,496,000 and \$10,101,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. On the consolidated balance sheet, the cash surrender value of life insurance policies is included in accrued interest receivable and other assets. Tax-exempt income on these policies, net of expense, totaled approximately \$395,000, \$404,000 and \$192,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

### 17. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the normal course of business, the Company enters into transactions with related parties, including Directors and affiliates. These transactions include borrowings from the Company with substantially the same terms, including rates and collateral, as loans to unrelated parties. The following is a summary of the aggregate activity involving related party borrowers during 2008 (dollars in thousands):

Balance, January 1, 2008	\$	3,425
Disbursements		11
Amounts repaid		(153)
		-----
Balance, December 31, 2008	\$	3,283
		=====
Undisbursed commitments to related parties, December 31, 2008	\$	5
		=====

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The Company also leases two of its branch facilities from current or former members of the Company's Board of Directors. Rental payments to the Directors totaled \$110,000, \$106,000 and \$118,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

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### AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

18. OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

At December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, the Company had other comprehensive income as follows (dollars in thousands):

	Before Tax	Tax Expense	Aft Ta
	-----	-----	-----
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008			
-----			
Other comprehensive income:			
Unrealized holding gains	\$ 628	\$ (258)	\$
Less reclassification adjustment for realized gains included in net income	126	(52)	
	-----	-----	-----
	\$ 502	\$ (206)	\$
	=====	=====	=====
For the Year Ended December 31, 2007			
-----			
Other comprehensive income:			
Unrealized holding gains	\$ 1,153	\$ (472)	\$
Less reclassification adjustment for realized gains included in net income	25	(10)	
	-----	-----	-----
	\$ 1,128	\$ (462)	\$
	=====	=====	=====
For the Year Ended December 31, 2006			
-----			
Other comprehensive income:			
Unrealized holding gains	\$ 323	\$ (130)	\$
Less reclassification adjustment for realized gains included in net income	1		
	-----	-----	-----
	\$ 322	\$ (130)	\$
	=====	=====	=====

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

19. PARENT ONLY CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2008 and 2007  
(Dollars in thousands)

	2008	2007
	-----	-----
ASSETS		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 1,596	\$ 611
Investment in subsidiaries	63,759	60,231
Dividends receivable from subsidiaries		840
Other assets	1,884	1,873
	-----	-----
	\$ 67,239	\$ 63,555
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Dividends payable to shareholders	\$ 828	\$ 839
Other liabilities	2,964	2,743
	-----	-----
Total liabilities	3,792	3,582
	-----	-----
Shareholders' equity:		
Common stock	47,433	45,668
Retained earnings	15,617	14,204
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of taxes	397	101
	-----	-----
Total shareholders' equity	63,447	59,973
	-----	-----
	\$ 67,239	\$ 63,555
	=====	=====

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

19. PARENT ONLY CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME

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For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006  
(Dollars in thousands)

	2008	2007	2006
	-----	-----	-----
Income:			
Dividends declared by subsidiaries - eliminated in consolidation	\$ 4,560	\$ 12,575	\$
Management fee from subsidiaries - eliminated in consolidation	3,706	3,332	
Other income	39	39	
	-----	-----	-----
Total income	8,305	15,946	
	-----	-----	-----
Expenses:			
Salaries and employee benefits	2,582	2,766	
Professional fees	390	384	
Directors' expense	248	288	
Other expenses	668	696	
	-----	-----	-----
Total expenses	3,888	4,134	
	-----	-----	-----
Income before equity in undistributed income of subsidiaries	4,417	11,812	
Equity in undistributed (distributed) income of subsidiaries	3,113	(3,637)	
	-----	-----	-----
Income before income taxes	7,530	8,175	
Income tax benefit	41	303	
	-----	-----	-----
Net income	\$ 7,571	\$ 8,478	\$
	=====	=====	=====

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AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

19. PARENT ONLY CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006  
(Dollars in thousands)

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	2008	2007	
	-----	-----	
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	\$ 7,571	\$ 8,478	\$
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
(Distributed) undistributed earnings of subsidiaries	(3,113)	3,637	
Decrease (increase) in dividends receivable from subsidiaries	840	(540)	
Stock option compensation expense	291	301	
Increase in other assets	(104)	(500)	
Increase in other liabilities	221	820	
	-----	-----	
Net cash provided by operating activities	5,705	12,196	
	-----	-----	
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of equipment	(26)	(41)	
	-----	-----	
Net cash used in investing activities	(26)	(41)	
	-----	-----	
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Cash dividends paid	(3,328)	(3,328)	
Exercise of stock options, including tax benefit	354	679	
Cash paid to repurchase common stock	(1,710)	(9,194)	
Cash paid for fractional shares	(10)	(9)	
	-----	-----	
Net cash used in financing activities	(4,694)	(11,852)	
	-----	-----	
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	985	303	
	-----	-----	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	611	308	
	-----	-----	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 1,596	\$ 611	\$
	=====	=====	=====

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Selected Quarterly Information (Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share and price range of common stock)

	March 31,	June 30,	September 30,	December 31,
	-----	-----	-----	-----
2008				
Interest income	\$ 8,578	\$ 8,252	\$ 8,604	\$ 8,119
Net interest income	6,342	6,395	6,742	6,446

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Provision for loan and lease losses	337	190	381	835
Noninterest income	585	639	446	498
Noninterest expense	3,629	3,642	3,694	3,236
Income before taxes	2,961	3,202	3,113	2,873
Net income	1,833	1,981	1,931	1,826

Basic earnings per share	\$ .31	\$ .34	\$ .33	\$ .32
Diluted earnings per share	.31	.34	.33	.32
Cash dividends per share	.143	.143	.143	.143

Price range, common stock	\$14.29-17.34	\$ 9.29-15.67	\$ 7.17-11.33	\$ 8.01-13.33
---------------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

2007

Interest income	\$ 9,464	\$ 9,498	\$ 9,454	\$ 9,062
Net interest income	6,547	6,609	6,680	6,566
Provision for loan and lease losses	121	144	50	135
Noninterest income	641	724	669	565
Noninterest expense	3,692	3,779	3,796	3,566
Income before taxes	3,375	3,410	3,503	3,430
Net income	2,086	2,098	2,152	2,142

Basic earnings per share	\$ .34	\$ .34	\$ .35	\$ .36
Diluted earnings per share	.33	.34	.35	.36
Cash dividends per share	.136	.136	.136	.143

Price range, common stock	\$21.33-24.03	\$21.19-22.22	\$19.56-21.68	\$15.05-20.41
---------------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

The earnings per share, cash dividends, and price range have been adjusted for 5% stock dividends in 2008 and 2007.

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Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure.

There has been no change in the independent accountants engaged to audit the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries during the last two fiscal years ended December 31, 2008. There have been no disagreements with such independent accountants during the last two fiscal years ended December 31, 2008, on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures.

Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company, under the supervision and with the participation of its management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's "disclosure controls and procedures" (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) as of December 31, 2008. Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective in timely making known to them material information relating to the Company and the Company's consolidated subsidiaries required to

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be disclosed in the Company's reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act.

During the quarter ended December 31, 2008, there have been no changes in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, these controls.

### Report of Management on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting for the Company (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended).

The Company's management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In making this assessment, management used the criteria applicable to the Company as set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in Internal Control--Integrated Framework. Based upon such assessment, management believes that, as of December 31, 2008, the Company's internal control over financial reporting is effective based upon those criteria.

This annual report on Form 10-K does not include an attestation report of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Management's report was not subject to attestation by the Company's independent registered public accounting firm pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission that permit the Company to provide only management's report in this annual report, as a result of the change during 2008 in the Company's status from an accelerated filer to a non-accelerated filer.

/s/ DAVID T. TABER

/s/ MITCHELL A. DERENZO

-----  
David T. Taber  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Mitchell A. Derenzo  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

### Item 9B. Other Information.

None.

## PART III

### Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance.

The information required by Item 10 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to the information contained in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders which will be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A.

### Item 11. Executive Compensation.

The information required by Item 11 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to the information contained in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders which will be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A.



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Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters.

The information required by Item 12 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to the information contained in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders which will be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence.

The information required by Item 13 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to the information contained in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders which will be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A.

Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services.

The information required by Item 14 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to the information contained in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders which will be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A.

### PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.

(a) (1) Financial Statements. Listed and included in Part II, Item 8.

(2) Financial Statement Schedules. Not applicable.

(3) Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	Document Description
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(2.1)	Agreement and Plan of Reorganization and Merger by and among the Registrant, ARH Interim National Bank and North Coast Bank, N.A., dated as of March 1, 2000 (included as Annex A). **
(2.2)	Agreement and Plan of Reorganization and Merger by and among the Registrant, American River Bank and Bank of Amador, dated as of July 8, 2004 (included as Annex A). ***
(3.1)	Articles of Incorporation, as amended, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2008, filed with the Commission on August 8, 2008.
(3.2)	Bylaws, as amended, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2008, filed with the Commission on August 8, 2008.
(4.1)	Specimen of the Registrant's common stock certificate, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.1 to the

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Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2004, filed with the Commission on August 11, 2004.

- (10.1) Lease agreement between American River Bank and Spieker Properties, L.P., a California limited partnership, dated April 1, 2000, related to 1545 River Park Drive, Suite 107, Sacramento, California. \*\*
- (10.2) Lease agreement between American River Bank and Bradshaw Plaza, Associates, Inc. dated November 27, 2006, related to 9750 Business Park Drive, Sacramento, California incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on November 28, 2006.
- (10.3) Lease agreement between American River Bank and Marjorie G. Taylor dated April 5, 1984, and addendum thereto dated July 16, 1997, related to 10123 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, California. \*\*
- (10.4) Lease agreement between American River Bank and LUM YIP KEE, Limited (formerly Sandalwood Land Company) dated August 28, 1996, related to 2240 Douglas Boulevard, Suite 100, Roseville, California (\*\*), and Amendment No. 1 thereto dated July 28, 2006, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on July 31, 2006.
- \* (10.5) Registrant's 1995 Stock Option Plan. \*\*
- \* (10.6) Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement under the 1995 Stock Option Plan. \*\*
- \* (10.7) Form of Incentive Stock Option Agreement under the 1995 Stock Option Plan. \*\*
- \* (10.8) Registrant's Deferred Compensation Plan, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on May 30, 2006.
- \* (10.09) Registrant's Deferred Fee Plan, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on May 30, 2006.
- (10.10) Lease agreement between American River Bank and 520 Capitol Mall, Inc., dated August 19, 2003, related to 520 Capitol Mall, Suite 100, Sacramento, California, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.29 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2003, filed with the Commission on November 7, 2003 and the First Amendment thereto dated April 21, 2004, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.37 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2004, filed with the Commission on August 11, 2004.
- \* (10.11) Employment Agreement between Registrant and David T. Taber dated June 2, 2006, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on May 30, 2006.

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- (10.12) Lease agreement between R & R Partners, a California General Partnership and North Coast Bank, dated July 1, 2003, related to 8733 Lakewood Drive, Suite A, Windsor, California, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.32 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2003, filed with the Commission on November 7, 2003; the First Amendment thereto, dated January 2, 2006, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K,

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filed with the Commission on January 3, 2006; and the Second Amendment thereto, dated December 8, 2006, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.39 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2007, filed with the Commission on May 7, 2007; and the Third Amendment thereto, dated December 31, 2008, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on January 2, 2009.

- \* (10.13) Salary Continuation Agreement, as amended on February 21, 2008, between American River Bank and Mitchell A. Derenzo, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on February 22, 2008.
- \* (10.14) Salary Continuation Agreement, as amended on February 21, 2008, between the Registrant and David T. Taber, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on February 22, 2008.
- \* (10.15) Salary Continuation Agreement, as amended on February 21, 2008, between American River Bank and Douglas E. Tow, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on February 22, 2008.
- \* (10.16) Registrant's 2000 Stock Option Plan with forms of Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement and Incentive Stock Option Agreement. \*\*
- \* (10.17) Registrant's 401(k) Plan dated December 23, 2008, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on December 24, 2008.
- (10.18) Lease agreement between Bank of Amador and the United States Postal Service, dated April 24, 2001, related to 424 Sutter Street, Jackson, California (\*\*\*) and the First Amendment thereto, dated June 5, 2006, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on June 6, 2006.
- \* (10.19) Salary Continuation Agreement, as amended on February 21, 2008, between Bank of Amador, a division of American River Bank, and Larry D. Standing and related Endorsement Split Dollar Agreement, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.4 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K,

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filed with the Commission on February 22, 2008.

- \* (10.20) Director Retirement Agreement, as amended on February 21, 2008, between Bank of Amador, a division of American River Bank, and Larry D. Standing, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.5 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on February 22, 2008.
- (10.21) Item Processing Agreement between American River Bank and Fidelity Information Services, Inc., dated April 22, 2005, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on April 27, 2005.
- (10.22) Lease agreement between Registrant and One Capital Center, a California limited partnership, dated May 17, 2005, related to 3100 Zinfandel Drive, Rancho Cordova, California, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on May 18, 2005.
- (10.23) Managed Services Agreement between American River Bankshares and ProNet Solutions, Inc., dated September 8, 2005, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on September 9, 2005.
- \* (10.24) American River Bankshares 2005 Executive Incentive Plan, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on October 27, 2005; the First Amendment thereto, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to

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the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on March 17, 2006; and the Second Amendment thereto, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on March 23, 2007; and the Third Amendment thereto, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on February 22, 2008.

- \* (10.25) American River Bankshares Director Emeritus Program, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.33 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2006, filed with the Commission on August 8, 2006.
- \* (10.26) Employment Agreement dated September 20, 2006 between American River Bankshares and Mitchell A. Derenzo, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on September 20, 2006.
- \* (10.27) Employment Agreement dated September 20, 2006 between American River Bankshares and Douglas E. Tow, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on September 20, 2006.

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- \* (10.28) Employment Agreement dated September 20, 2006 between American River Bankshares and Kevin B. Bender, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on September 20, 2006.
- \* (10.29) Employment Agreement dated September 20, 2006 between American River Bank and Raymond F. Byrne, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.5 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on September 20, 2006.
- \* (10.30) Salary Continuation Agreement, as amended on February 21, 2008, between American River Bank and Kevin B. Bender, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.6 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on February 22, 2008.
- \* (10.31) Salary Continuation Agreement, as amended on February 21, 2008, between American River Bank and Raymond F. Byrne, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.7 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on February 22, 2008.
- (10.32) Lease agreement dated May 23, 2007 between Bank of Amador, a division of American River Bank, and Joseph Bellamy, Trustee of the Joseph T. Bellamy 2005 Trust, related to 26395 Buckhorn Ridge Road, Pioneer, California, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on May 24, 2007 and the First Amendment thereto, dated October 15, 2007, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on October 16, 2007.
- (10.33) Sublease agreement dated December 23, 2008 between North Coast Bank, a division of American River Bank, and Chicago Title Company, a California Corporation; and lease agreement dated December 23, 2008 between North Coast Bank, a division of American River Bank, and 90 E Street LLC, related to 90 E Street, Santa Rosa, California, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.2 and 99.3 to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on December 24, 2008.
- (14.1) Registrant's Code of Ethics, incorporated by reference from Exhibit 14.1 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2003, filed with the Commission on March 19, 2004.
- (21.1) The Registrant's only subsidiaries are American River Bank and American River Financial.
- (23.1) Consent of Perry-Smith LLP.
- (31.1) Certifications of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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- (31.2) Certifications of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- (32.1) Certification of Registrant by its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

\* Denotes management contracts, compensatory plans or arrangements.

\*\* Incorporated by reference to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-4 (No. 333-36326) filed with the Commission on May 5, 2000.

\*\*\* Incorporated by reference to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-4 (No. 333-119085) filed with the Commission on September 17, 2004.

An Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 and Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement for the Company's 2009 Annual Meeting will be mailed to security holders subsequent to the date of filing this Report. Copies of said materials will be furnished to the Commission in accordance with the Commission's Rules and Regulations.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES

March 5, 2009  
-----

By: /s/ DAVID T. TABER  
-----  
David T. Taber  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

March 5, 2009  
-----

By: /s/ MITCHELL A. DERENZO  
-----  
Mitchell A. Derenzo  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ CHARLES D. FITE ----- Charles D. Fite	Director, Chairman	3/05/09
 /s/ ROGER J. TAYLOR	Director, Vice Chairman	3/05/09

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-----  
 Roger J. Taylor

/s/ AMADOR S. BUSTOS Director 3/05/09  
 -----

Amador S. Bustos

/s/ DORENE C. DOMINGUEZ Director 3/05/09  
 -----

Dorene C. Dominguez

/s/ ROBERT J. FOX Director 3/05/09  
 -----

Robert J. Fox

/s/ WILLIAM A. ROBOTHAM Director 3/05/09  
 -----

William A. Robotham

/s/ DAVID T. TABER Director 3/05/09  
 -----

David T. Taber

/s/ STEPHEN H. WAKS Director 3/05/09  
 -----

Stephen H. Waks

/s/ MICHAEL A. ZIEGLER Director 3/05/09  
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Michael A. Ziegler

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