

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANCORP
Form 10-K
March 13, 2013

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

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012

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 Number: 000-26099

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANCORP
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

94-3327828
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

111 W. Pine Street, Lodi, California
(Address of principal executive offices)

95240
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (209) 367-2300

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: None

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: Common Stock, \$0.01 Par Value Per Share

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

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

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 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 whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if

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any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of 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 definition of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (Check one):

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

The aggregate market value of the Registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates on June 30, 2012 (based on the last reported trade on June 29, 2012) was \$292,102,000.

The number of shares of Common Stock outstanding as of February 28, 2013: 777,882

Documents Incorporated by Reference:

Portions of the definitive Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A are incorporated by reference in Part III, Items 10 through 14.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANCORP
FORM 10-K

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Introduction – Forward Looking Statements

This Form 10-K contains various forward-looking statements, usually containing the words “estimate,” “project,” “expect,” “objective,” “goal,” or similar expressions and includes assumptions concerning Farmers & Merchants Bancorp’s (together with its subsidiaries, the “Company” or “we”) operations, future results, and prospects. These forward-looking statements are based upon current expectations and are subject to risks and uncertainties. In connection with the “safe-harbor” provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, the Company provides the following cautionary statement identifying important factors which could cause the actual results of events to differ materially from those set forth in or implied by the forward-looking statements and related assumptions.

Such factors include the following: (1) the response of federal and state regulators to changes in regional and national economic conditions; (2) the effect of the continuing recessionary-like conditions in our local markets, including the housing market in the Central Valley of California; (3) significant changes in interest rates and prepayment speeds; (4) credit risks of lending and investment activities; (5) changes in federal and state banking laws or regulations; (6) competitive pressure in the banking industry; (7) changes in governmental fiscal or monetary policies; (8) uncertainty regarding the economic outlook resulting from the continuing war on terrorism, as well as actions taken or to be taken by the U.S. or other governments as a result of further acts or threats of terrorism; and (9) other factors discussed in Item 1A. Risk Factors.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances arising after the date on which they are made.

PART I

Item 1. Business

General Development of the Business

August 1, 1916, marked the first day of business for Farmers & Merchants Bank of Lodi. The Bank incorporated under the laws of the State of California and was licensed by the California Department of Financial Institutions as a state-chartered bank. Farmers & Merchants’ first venture out of Lodi occurred when the Galt office opened in 1948. Shortly thereafter branches were opened in Linden, Modesto and South Sacramento. In 1957, the Bank’s name was changed to Farmers & Merchants Bank of Central California.

The Bank continued expansion in the Lodi market area and acquired three offices in Turlock and Hilmar in 1985. The service area was next expanded by opening a branch in Elk Grove and a third office in Modesto. The year 2002 saw the opening of the Company’s first branch in the city of Stockton. In 2003, the Bank opened its fourth office in Modesto.

A second Galt office was opened in 2005 and a new full-service branch in downtown Sacramento was opened in early 2006. In late 2006, the Company opened its sixth Lodi office and its first commercial branch in Stockton. The downtown Turlock branch was relocated to a new facility in April 2008 and the Company’s first branch in Merced was opened in February 2009.

In addition to the preceding 22 full-service branches, the Bank serves the needs of its customers through two stand-alone ATM’s located on the grounds of the Lodi Grape Festival and California State University-Stanislaus. In 2007, the Bank began offering certain products over the internet at www.fmbonline.com.

On March 10, 1999, the Company, pursuant to a reorganization, acquired all of the voting stock of Farmers & Merchants Bank of Central California (the "Bank"). The Company is a bank holding company incorporated in the State of Delaware and registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. The Company's outstanding securities as of December 31, 2012, consisted of 777,882 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value and no shares of preferred stock issued. The Bank is the Company's principal asset.

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The Bank's two wholly owned subsidiaries are Farmers & Merchants Investment Corporation and Farmers/Merchants Corp. Farmers & Merchants Investment Corporation is currently dormant and Farmers/Merchants Corp. acts as trustee on deeds of trust originated by the Bank.

F & M Bancorp, Inc. was created in March 2002 to protect the name "F & M Bank." During 2002, the Company completed a fictitious name filing in California to begin using the streamlined name, "F & M Bank" as part of a larger effort to enhance the Company's image and build brand name recognition. Since 2002, the Company has converted all of its daily operating and image advertising to the "F & M Bank" name and the Company's logo, slogan and signage were redesigned to incorporate the trade name, "F & M Bank."

During 2003, the Company formed a wholly owned Connecticut statutory business trust, FMCB Statutory Trust I, for the sole purpose of issuing trust-preferred securities. See Note 13 located in "Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data."

The Company's principal business is to serve as a holding company for the Bank and for other banking or banking related subsidiaries, which the Company may establish or acquire. As a legal entity separate and distinct from its subsidiary, the Company's principal source of funds is, and will continue to be, dividends paid by and other funds from the Bank. Legal limitations are imposed on the amount of dividends that may be paid and loans that may be made by the Bank to the Company. See "Supervision and Regulation - Dividends and Other Transfer of Funds."

The Bank's deposit accounts are insured under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act up to applicable limits. See "Supervision and Regulation – Deposit Insurance."

As a bank holding company, the Company is subject to regulation and examination by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("FRB"). The Bank is a California state-chartered non-FRB member bank subject to the regulation and examination of the California Department of Financial Institutions ("DFI") and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC").

Service Area

The Company services the mid Central Valley of California, including Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties, with 22 banking offices and two stand-alone ATM's. This area encompasses:

Sacramento Metropolitan Statistical Area ("MSA"), with branches in Sacramento, Elk Grove and Galt. This MSA has a Population of 2.2 million and a Per Capita Income of approximately \$42,000. The MSA includes significant employment in the following sectors: state and local government; agriculture; and trade, transportation and utilities. Unemployment currently stands at 10.6% and has increased 5.3% since 2007.

Stockton MSA, with branches in Lodi, Linden and Stockton. This MSA has a Population of 0.7 million and a Per Capita Income of approximately \$33,000. The MSA includes significant employment in the following sectors: state and local government; agriculture; trade, transportation, and utilities; and education and health services. Unemployment currently stands at 15.2% and has increased 7.1% since 2007.

Modesto MSA, with branches in Modesto and Turlock. This MSA has a Population of 0.5 million and a Per Capita Income of approximately \$33,000. The MSA includes significant employment in the following sectors: agriculture; trade, transportation and utilities; state and local government; and education and health services. Unemployment currently stands at 15.6% and has increased 6.9% since 2007.

Merced MSA with branches in Hilmar and Merced. This MSA has a Population of 0.3 million and a Per Capita Income of approximately \$29,000. The MSA includes significant employment in the following sectors: agriculture; state and local government; and trade, transportation and utilities. Unemployment currently stands at 17.6% and has increased 7.5% since 2007.

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All of the Company's service areas are heavily influenced by the agricultural industry, however, with the exception of the State of California in the Sacramento MSA, no single employer represents a material concentration of jobs in any of our service areas.

See "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Overview" and "Financial Condition – Loans" for additional discussion regarding the Company's market conditions.

Through its network of banking offices, the Company emphasizes personalized service along with a full range of banking services to businesses and individuals located in the service areas of its offices. Although the Company focuses on marketing its services to small and medium sized businesses, a full range of retail banking services are made available to the local consumer market.

The Company offers a wide range of deposit instruments. These include checking, savings, money market, time certificates of deposit, individual retirement accounts and online banking services for both business and personal accounts.

The Company provides a full complement of lending products, including commercial, real estate construction, agribusiness, consumer, credit card, and real estate loans. Commercial products include term loans, lines of credit and other working capital financing and letters of credit. Financing products for individuals include automobile financing, lines of credit, residential real estate, home improvement and home equity lines of credit.

The Company also offers a wide range of specialized services designed for the needs of its commercial accounts. These services include a credit card program for merchants, collection services, account reconciliation, investment sweep, on-line account access, and electronic funds transfers by way of domestic and international wire and automated clearinghouse.

The Company makes investment products available to customers, including mutual funds and annuities. These investment products are offered through a third party, which employs investment advisors to meet with and provide investment advice to the Company's customers.

Employees

At December 31, 2012, the Company employed 299 full time equivalent employees. The Company believes that its employee relations are satisfactory.

Competition

The banking and financial services industry in California generally, and in the Company's market areas specifically, is highly competitive. The increasingly competitive environment is a result primarily of changes in regulation, changes in technology and product delivery systems, and the accelerating pace of consolidation among financial service providers. The Company competes with other major commercial banks, diversified financial institutions, credit unions, savings and loan associations, money market and other mutual funds, mortgage companies, and a variety of other non-banking financial services and advisory companies. Federal legislation encourages competition between different types of financial service providers and has fostered new entrants into the financial services market. It is anticipated that this trend will continue. Using the financial holding company structure, insurance companies and securities firms may compete more directly with banks and bank holding companies.

Many of our competitors are much larger in total assets and capitalization, have greater access to capital markets and offer a broader range of financial services than the Company. In order to compete with other financial service

providers, the Company relies upon personal contact by its officers, directors, employees, and stockholders, along with various promotional activities and specialized services. In those instances where the Company is unable to accommodate a customer's needs, the Company may arrange for those services to be provided through its correspondents.

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Government Policies

The Company's profitability, like most financial institutions, is primarily dependent on interest rate differentials. The difference between the interest rates paid by the Company on interest-bearing liabilities, such as deposits and other borrowings, and the interest rates received by the Company on its interest-earning assets, such as loans extended to its customers and securities held in its investment portfolio, comprise the major portion of the Company's earnings. These rates are highly sensitive to many factors that are beyond the control of the Company and the Bank, such as inflation, recession and unemployment. The impact that changes in economic conditions might have on the Company and the Bank cannot be predicted.

The business of the Company is also influenced by the monetary and fiscal policies of the federal government and the policies of regulatory agencies, particularly the FRB. The FRB implements national monetary policies (with objectives such as curbing inflation and combating recession) through its open-market operations in U.S. Government securities by adjusting the required level of reserves for depository institutions subject to its reserve requirements, and by varying the target federal funds and discount rates applicable to borrowings by depository institutions. The actions of the FRB in these areas influence the growth of bank loans, investments, and deposits and also affect interest rates earned on interest-earning assets and paid on interest-bearing liabilities. The nature and impact on the Company of any future changes in monetary and fiscal policies cannot be predicted.

From time to time, legislative acts, as well as regulations, are enacted which have the effect of increasing the cost of doing business, limiting or expanding permissible activities, or affecting the competitive balance between banks and other financial services providers. Proposals to change the laws and regulations governing the operations and taxation of banks, bank holding companies, and other financial institutions and financial services providers are frequently made in the U.S. Congress, in the state legislatures, and before various regulatory agencies. This legislation may change banking statutes and the operating environment of the Company and its subsidiaries in substantial and unpredictable ways. If enacted, such legislation could increase or decrease the cost of doing business, limit or expand permissible activities or affect the competitive balance among banks, savings associations, credit unions, and other financial institutions. The Company cannot predict whether any of this potential legislation will be enacted, and if enacted, the effect that it, or any implemented regulations, would have on the financial condition or results of operations of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

Supervision and Regulation

General

Bank holding companies and banks are extensively regulated under both federal and state law. The regulation is intended primarily for the protection of depositors and the deposit insurance fund and not for the benefit of stockholders of the Company. Set forth below is a summary description of the material laws and regulations, which relate to the operations of the Company and the Bank. This description does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable laws and regulations.

The Company

The Company is a registered bank holding company and is subject to regulation under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 ("BHCA"), as amended. Accordingly, the Company's operations are subject to extensive regulation and examination by the FRB. The Company is required to file with the FRB quarterly and annual reports and such additional information as the FRB may require pursuant to the BHCA. The FRB conducts periodic examinations of the Company.

The FRB may require that the Company terminate an activity or terminate control of or liquidate or divest certain subsidiaries of affiliates when the FRB believes the activity or the control of the subsidiary or affiliate constitutes a

significant risk to the financial safety, soundness or stability of any of its banking subsidiaries. The FRB also has the authority to regulate provisions of certain bank holding company debt. Under certain circumstances, the Company must file written notice and obtain approval from the FRB prior to purchasing or redeeming its equity securities.

Under the BHCA and regulations adopted by the FRB, a bank holding company and its non-banking subsidiaries are prohibited from requiring certain tie-in arrangements in connection with an extension of credit, lease or sale of property, or furnishing of services. For example, with certain exceptions, a bank may not condition an extension of credit on a promise by its customer to obtain other services provided by it, its holding company or other subsidiaries, or on a promise by its customer not to obtain other services from a competitor. In addition, federal law imposes certain restrictions on transactions between Farmers & Merchants Bancorp and its subsidiaries. Further, the Company is required by the FRB to maintain certain levels of capital. See “Capital Standards.”

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The Company is prohibited by the BHCA, except in certain statutorily prescribed instances, from acquiring direct or indirect ownership or control of more than 5% of the outstanding voting shares of any company that is not a bank or bank holding company and from engaging directly or indirectly in activities other than those of banking, managing or controlling banks, or furnishing services to its subsidiaries. However, the Company, subject to the prior notice and/or approval of the FRB, may engage in any, or acquire shares of companies engaged in, activities that are deemed by the FRB to be so closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto.

Under FRB regulations, a bank holding company is required to serve as a source of financial and managerial strength to its subsidiary banks and may not conduct its operations in an unsafe or unsound manner. In addition, it is the FRB's policy that in serving as a source of strength to its subsidiary banks, a bank holding company should stand ready to use available resources to provide adequate capital funds to its subsidiary banks during periods of financial stress or adversity and should maintain the financial flexibility and capital-raising capacity to obtain additional resources for assisting its subsidiary banks. This support may be required at times when a bank holding company may not be able to provide such support. A bank holding company's failure to meet its obligations to serve as a source of strength to its subsidiary banks will generally be considered by the FRB to be an unsafe and unsound banking practice or a violation of the FRB's regulations or both.

The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 ("GLBA") eliminated many of the restrictions placed on the activities of bank holding companies that become financial holding companies. Among other things, GLBA repealed certain Glass-Steagall Act restrictions on affiliations between banks and securities firms, and amended the BHCA to permit bank holding companies that are financial holding companies to engage in activities, and acquire companies engaged in activities, that are: financial in nature (including insurance underwriting, insurance company portfolio investment, financial advisory, securities underwriting, dealing and market-making, and merchant banking activities); incidental to financial activities; or complementary to financial activities if the FRB determines that they pose no substantial risk to the safety or soundness of depository institutions or the financial system in general. GLBA also permits national banks to engage in activities considered financial in nature through a financial subsidiary, subject to certain conditions and limitations. The Company has not become a financial holding company.

The Company is also a bank holding company within the meaning of the California Financial Code. As such, the Company and its subsidiaries are subject to examination by, and may be required to file reports with, the DFI.

The Company's securities are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). As such, the Company is subject to the reporting, proxy solicitation and other requirements and restrictions of the Exchange Act.

The Bank

The Bank, as a California chartered non-FRB member bank, is subject to primary supervision, periodic examination and regulation by the DFI and the FDIC. If, as a result of an examination of the Bank, the FDIC should determine that the financial condition, capital resources, asset quality, earnings prospects, management, liquidity, or other aspects of the Bank's operations are unsatisfactory, or that the Bank or its management is violating or has violated any law or regulation, various remedies are available to the FDIC. Such remedies include the power to enjoin "unsafe or unsound" practices, to require affirmative action to correct any conditions resulting from any violation or practice, to issue an administrative order that can be judicially enforced, to direct an increase in capital, to restrict the growth of the Bank, to assess civil monetary penalties, to remove officers and directors, and ultimately to terminate the Bank's deposit insurance, which for a California chartered bank would result in a revocation of the Bank's charter. The DFI has many of the same remedial powers.

Various requirements and restrictions under the laws of the State of California and the United States affect the operations of the Bank. State and federal statutes and regulations relate to many aspects of the Bank's operations,

including reserves against deposits, ownership of deposit accounts, interest rates payable on deposits, loans, investments, mergers and acquisitions, borrowings, dividends, locations of branch offices, and capital requirements. Further, the Bank is required to maintain certain levels of capital. See “Capital Standards.”

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The USA Patriot Act

Title III of the United and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (the “USA Patriot Act”) includes numerous provisions for fighting international money laundering and blocking terrorism access to the U.S. financial system. The USA Patriot Act requires certain additional due diligence and record keeping practices, including, but not limited to, new customers, correspondent, and private banking accounts.

Part of the USA Patriot Act requires covered financial institutions to: (i) establish an anti-money laundering program; (ii) establish appropriate anti-money laundering policies, procedures and controls; (iii) appoint a Bank Secrecy Act officer responsible for day-to-day compliance; and (iv) conduct independent audits. The Patriot Act also expands penalties for violation of the anti-money laundering laws, including expanding the circumstances under which funds in a bank account may be forfeited. The Patriot Act also requires covered financial institutions to respond, under certain circumstances, to requests for information from federal banking agencies within 120 hours.

Privacy Restrictions

The GLBA, in addition to the previous described changes in permissible, non-banking activities permitted to banks, bank holding companies, and financial holding companies, also requires financial institutions in the U.S. to provide certain privacy disclosures to customers and consumers, to comply with certain restrictions on the sharing and usage of personally identifiable information, and to implement and maintain commercially reasonable customer information safeguarding standards.

The Company believes that it complies with all provisions of the GLBA and all implementing regulations and the Bank has developed appropriate policies and procedures to meet its responsibilities in connection with the privacy provisions of GLBA.

Dividends and Other Transfer of Funds

Dividends from the Bank constitute the principal source of income to the Company. The Company is a legal entity separate and distinct from the Bank. The Bank is subject to various statutory and regulatory restrictions on its ability to pay dividends to the Company. Under such restrictions, the amount available for payment of dividends to the Company by the Bank totaled \$37.9 million at December 31, 2012.

The FDIC and the DFI also have authority to prohibit the Bank from engaging in activities that, in their opinion, constitute unsafe or unsound practices in conducting its business. It is possible, depending upon the financial condition of the bank in question and other factors, that the FDIC or the DFI could assert that the payment of dividends or other payments might, under some circumstances, be an unsafe or unsound practice. Further, the FRB and the FDIC have established guidelines with respect to the maintenance of appropriate levels of capital by banks or bank holding companies under their jurisdiction. Compliance with the standards set forth in such guidelines and the restrictions that are or may be imposed under the prompt corrective action provisions of federal law could limit the amount of dividends which the Bank or the Company may pay. An insured depository institution is prohibited from paying management fees to any controlling persons or, with certain limited exceptions, making capital distributions if after such transaction the institution would be undercapitalized. The DFI may impose similar limitations on the Bank. See “Prompt Corrective Regulatory Action and Other Enforcement Mechanisms” and “Capital Standards” for a discussion of these additional restrictions on capital distributions.

Transactions with Affiliates

The Bank is subject to certain restrictions imposed by federal law on any extensions of credit to, or the issuance of a guarantee or letter of credit on behalf of the Company or other affiliates, the purchase of, or investments in stock or other securities thereof, the taking of such securities as collateral for loans, and the purchase of assets of the Company or other affiliates. Such restrictions prevent the Company and other affiliates from borrowing from the Bank unless

the loans are secured by marketable obligations of designated amounts. Further, such secured loans and investments by the Bank to or in the Company or to or in any other affiliates are limited, individually, to 10% of the Bank's capital and surplus (as defined by federal regulations), and such secured loans and investments are limited, in the aggregate, to 20% of the Bank's capital and surplus (as defined by federal regulations).

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In addition, the Company and its operating subsidiaries generally may not purchase a low-quality asset from an affiliate, and other specified transactions between the Company or its operating subsidiaries and an affiliate must be on terms and conditions that are consistent with safe and sound banking practices.

Also, the Company and its operating subsidiaries may engage in transactions with affiliates only on terms and under conditions that are substantially the same, or at least as favorable to the Company or its subsidiaries, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with (or that in good faith would be offered to) non-affiliated companies.

California law also imposes certain restrictions with respect to transactions with affiliates. Additionally, limitations involving the transactions with affiliates may be imposed on the Bank under the prompt corrective action provisions of federal law. See “Prompt Corrective Action and Other Enforcement Mechanisms.”

Capital Standards

The FRB and the FDIC have established risk-based capital guidelines with respect to the maintenance of appropriate levels of capital by United States banking organizations. These guidelines are intended to provide a measure of capital that reflects the risk associated with a banking organization’s operations for both transactions reported on the balance sheet as assets and transactions, such as letters of credit and recourse arrangements, which are recorded as off balance sheet items. Under these guidelines, nominal dollar amounts of assets and credit equivalent amounts of off balance sheet items are multiplied by one of several risk adjustment percentages, which range from 0% for assets with low credit risk, such as certain U.S. Treasury securities, to 100% for assets with relatively high credit risk, such as commercial loans.

The federal banking agencies require a minimum ratio of qualifying total capital to risk-weighted assets of 8% and a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets of 4%. In addition to the risk-based guidelines, federal banking regulators require banking organizations to maintain a minimum amount of Tier 1 capital to total assets, referred to as the leverage ratio. For a banking organization rated in the highest of the five categories used by regulators to rate banking organizations, the minimum leverage ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets must be 4%. In addition to these uniform risk-based capital guidelines and leverage ratios that apply across the industry, the regulators have the discretion to set individual minimum capital requirements for specific institutions at rates significantly above minimum guidelines and ratios. For further information on the Company and the Bank’s risk-based capital ratios see Note 14 located in “Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.”

The current risk-based capital guidelines which apply to the Bank are based upon the 1988 capital accord of international Basel Committee referred to as “Basel I.” A new international accord, referred to as Basel II evolved from 2004 to 2006 out of the efforts to revise capital adequacy standards for internationally active banks. In January 2009, the Basel Committee proposed to reconsider regulatory-capital standards, supervisory and risk-management requirements and additional disclosures to further strengthen the Basel II framework in response to recent worldwide economic developments referred to as “Basel III.”

On June 7, 2012, the FRB and FDIC issued proposed rules that would substantially amend the regulatory risk-based capital rules applicable to the Company and the Bank. The proposed rules implement the Basel III regulatory capital reforms and changes required by the Dodd-Frank Act (as hereinafter defined). The proposed rules indicated that the final rules would become effective on January 1, 2013, and the changes set forth in the final rules will be phased in from January 1, 2013 through January 1, 2019. However, the agencies have recently indicated that, due to the volume of public comments received, any final rule would be delayed past January 1, 2013.

Unlike previous proposed rules, the current proposed rule is applicable to all banking organizations that are currently subject to minimum capital requirements (including national banks, state member banks, state nonmember banks, state

and federal savings associations, and top-tier bank holding companies domiciled in the United States not subject to the Board's Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement), as well as top-tier savings and loan holding companies domiciled in the United States. Previous proposed rules were applicable to all U.S. bank holding companies with consolidated assets of \$50 billion or more and any nonbank financial firms that may be designated as systemically important companies.

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The proposed rules include new minimum risk-based capital and leverage ratios, which would be phased in during 2013 and 2014, and would refine the definitions of what constitutes "capital" for purposes of calculating those ratios, including the proposed phase-out of trust preferred securities as qualifying regulatory capital. The proposed new minimum capital level requirements applicable to the Company and the Bank under the proposals would be: (i) a new common equity Tier 1 capital ratio of 4.5%; (ii) a Tier 1 capital ratio of 6% (increased from 4%); (iii) a total capital ratio of 8% (unchanged from current rules); and (iv) a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 4%. The proposed rules would also establish a "capital conservation buffer" of 2.5% above each of the new regulatory minimum capital ratios which would result in the following minimum ratios: (i) a common equity Tier 1 capital ratio of 7.0%, (ii) a Tier 1 capital ratio of 8.5%, and (iii) a total capital ratio of 10.5%. The new capital conservation buffer requirement would be phased in beginning in January 2016 at 0.625% of risk-weighted assets and would increase each year until fully implemented in January 2019. An institution would be subject to limitations on paying dividends, engaging in share repurchases, and paying discretionary bonuses if its capital level falls below the buffer amount. These limitations would establish a maximum percentage of eligible retained income that could be utilized for such actions. These proposed rules would also adjust the prompt corrective action categories accordingly.

The proposed rules also implement other revisions to the current capital rules such as recognition of all unrealized gains and losses on available for sale debt and equity securities, and provide that instruments that will no longer qualify as capital would be phased out over time.

Prompt Corrective Action and Other Enforcement Mechanisms

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 ("FDICIA"), among other things, identifies five capital categories for insured depository institutions (well capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized and critically undercapitalized) and requires the respective Federal regulatory agencies to implement systems for "prompt corrective action" for insured depository institutions that do not meet minimum capital requirements within such categories. FDICIA imposes progressively more restrictive constraints on operations, management, and capital distributions, depending on the category in which an institution is classified. Failure to meet the capital guidelines could also subject a banking institution to capital raising requirements. An "undercapitalized" institution must develop a capital restoration plan. At December 31, 2012, the Bank exceeded all of the required ratios for classification as "well capitalized." It should be noted; however, that the Bank's capital category is determined solely for the purpose of applying the federal banking agencies' prompt corrective action regulations and the capital category may not constitute an accurate representation of the Bank's overall financial condition or prospects.

An institution that, based upon its capital levels, is classified as well capitalized, adequately capitalized, or undercapitalized may be treated as though it were in the next lower capital category if the appropriate federal banking agency, after notice and opportunity for hearing, determines that an unsafe or unsound condition or practice warrants such treatment. At each successive lower capital category, an insured depository institution is subject to more restrictions.

Banking agencies have also adopted regulations which mandate that regulators take into consideration: (i) concentrations of credit risk; (ii) interest rate risk (when the interest rate sensitivity of an institution's assets does not match the sensitivity of its liabilities or its off-balance-sheet position); and (iii) risks from non-traditional activities, as well as an institution's ability to manage those risks, when determining the adequacy of an institution's capital. That evaluation will be made as a part of the institution's regular safety and soundness examination. In addition, the banking agencies have amended their regulatory capital guidelines to incorporate a measure for market risk. In accordance with the amended guidelines, the Company and any company with significant trading activity must incorporate a measure for market risk in its regulatory capital calculations.

In addition to measures taken under the prompt corrective action provisions, commercial banking organizations may be subject to potential enforcement actions by the federal banking agencies for unsafe or unsound practices in

conducting their businesses or for violations of any law, rule, regulation, any condition imposed in writing by the agency, or any written agreement with the agency. Enforcement actions may include the imposition of a conservator or receiver, the issuance of a cease-and-desist order that can be judicially enforced, the termination of insurance of deposits (in the case of a depository institution), the imposition of civil money penalties, the issuance of directives to increase capital, the issuance of formal and informal agreements, the issuance of removal and prohibition orders against institution-affiliated parties and the enforcement of such actions through injunctions or restraining orders based upon a judicial determination that the agency would be harmed if such equitable relief was not granted. Additionally, a holding company's inability to serve as a source of strength to its subsidiary banking organizations could serve as an additional basis for a regulatory action against the holding company.

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Federal banking regulators have also issued final guidance regarding commercial real estate (“CRE”) lending. This guidance suggests that institutions that are potentially exposed to significant CRE concentration risk will be subject to increased regulatory scrutiny. Institutions that have experienced rapid growth in CRE lending, have notable exposure to a specific type of CRE lending, or are approaching or exceed certain supervisory criteria that measure an institution’s CRE portfolio against its capital levels, may be subject to such increased regulatory scrutiny. The Company’s CRE portfolio may be viewed as falling within one or more of the foregoing categories, and accordingly may become subject to increased regulatory scrutiny because of the CRE portfolio. Institutions that are determined by their regulator to have an undue concentration in CRE lending may be required to maintain levels of capital in excess of the statutory minimum requirements and/or be required to reduce their concentration in CRE loans. The FDIC has determined that the Company does not have any undue concentrations in CRE lending.

Safety and Soundness Standards

The federal banking agencies have adopted guidelines designed to assist in identifying and addressing potential safety and soundness concerns before capital becomes impaired. The guidelines set forth operational and managerial standards relating to: (i) internal controls, information systems, and internal audit systems; (ii) loan documentation; (iii) credit underwriting; (iv) asset growth; (v) earnings; and (vi) compensation, fees, and benefits. In addition, the federal banking agencies have also adopted safety and soundness guidelines with respect to asset quality and earnings standards. These guidelines provide six standards for establishing and maintaining a system to identify problem assets and prevent those assets from deteriorating. Under these standards, any insured depository institution should: (i) conduct periodic asset quality reviews to identify problem assets; (ii) estimate the inherent losses in problem assets and establish reserves that are sufficient to absorb estimated losses; (iii) compare problem asset totals to capital; (iv) take appropriate corrective action to resolve problem assets; (v) consider the size and potential risks of material asset concentrations; and (vi) provide periodic asset quality reports with adequate information for management and the Board of Directors to assess the level of asset risk. These guidelines also set forth standards for evaluating and monitoring earnings and for ensuring that earnings are sufficient for the maintenance of adequate capital and reserves.

Deposit Insurance

After the passage of the Dodd-Frank act, the deposits of the Bank are now insured by the FDIC up to \$250,000 per insured depositor.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005 provided the FDIC Board of Directors the authority to set the designated reserve ratio for the Deposit Insurance Fund (“DIF”) between 1.15% and 1.50%. The FDIC must adopt a restoration plan when the reserve ratio falls below 1.15% and begin paying dividends when the reserve ratio exceeds 1.35%.

Through the later part of 2008 and into 2009 the number of bank failures began to rise significantly. This placed considerable strain on the DIF. As a result, on September 29, 2009 the FDIC adopted an Amended Restoration Plan to allow the DIF to return to a ratio of 1.15% within eight years. The FDIC also adopted risk-based assessment rates beginning in January of 2011. On November 12, 2009 the FDIC also adopted a final rule amending the assessment regulations to require insured depository institutions to prepay their quarterly risk-based assessments for the fourth quarter of 2009, and for all of 2010, 2011 and 2012, on December 30, 2009, except for those institutions where the FDIC grants an exemption. The prepaid assessment was collected December 30, 2009, and resulted in a prepayment by the Bank of \$7,258,000. Since December 2009, the Company has expensed \$3,931,000 of this prepaid assessment. The remaining balance of the prepaid assessment was \$3,327,000 at December 31, 2012.

Under the Dodd-Frank Act, the minimum designated reserve ratio of the DIF increased from 1.15% to 1.35% of estimated insured deposits. Additionally, the Dodd-Frank Act revised the assessment base against which an insured depository institution’s deposit insurance premiums paid to the DIF will be calculated. On February 7, 2011, the FDIC

approved a final rule, as mandated by Dodd-Frank, changing the deposit insurance assessment system from one that is based on total domestic deposits to one that is based on average consolidated total assets minus average tangible equity. The new rule took effect for the quarter beginning April 1, 2011.

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The Bank's FDIC premiums were \$968,000 in 2012 compared to \$1.5 million in 2011. Future increases in insurance premiums could have adverse effects on the operating expenses and results of operations of the Company. Management cannot predict what insurance assessment rates will be in the future.

Insurance of deposits may be terminated by the FDIC upon a finding that the institution has engaged in unsafe or unsound practices, is in an unsafe or unsound condition to continue operations, or has violated any applicable law, regulation, rule, order, or condition imposed by the FDIC or the Bank's primary regulator. Management of the Company is not aware of any practice, condition or violation that might lead to termination of the Company's deposit insurance.

Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA") and Fair Lending

The Bank is subject to certain fair lending requirements involving lending, investing, and other CRA activities. CRA requires each insured depository institution to identify the communities served by the institution's offices and to identify the types of credit and investments the institution is prepared to extend within such communities including low and moderate-income neighborhoods. It also requires the institution's regulators to assess the institution's performance in meeting the credit needs of its community and to take such assessment into consideration in reviewing applications for mergers, acquisitions, relocation of existing branches, opening of new branches, and other transactions. A bank may be subject to substantial penalties and corrective measures for a violation of certain fair lending laws.

A bank's compliance with the Community Reinvestment Act is assessed using an evaluation system, which bases CRA ratings on an institution's lending, service and investment performance. An unsatisfactory rating may be the basis for denying a merger application. The Bank's latest CRA examination was completed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in July 2010 and the Bank received an overall Satisfactory rating in complying with its CRA obligations.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002(Sarbanes-Oxley Act)

This legislation addresses certain accounting oversight and corporate governance matters, including but not limited to:

required executive certification of financial presentations;

increased requirements for board audit committees and their members;

enhanced disclosure of controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting;

enhanced controls over, and reporting of, insider trading; and

increased penalties for financial crimes and forfeiture of executive bonuses in certain circumstances.

As a public reporting company, the Company is subject to the requirements of this legislation and related rules and regulations issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act did not have a material impact upon its business. However, other non-interest expense items, including professional expenses and other costs related to compliance with the reporting requirements of the securities laws have significantly increased and can be expected to continue to increase.

Consumer Protection Regulations

The Company's lending activities are subject to a variety of statutes and regulations designed to protect consumers, including the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Truth-in-Lending Act. Deposit operations are also subject to laws and regulations that protect consumer rights including Funds Availability, Truth in Savings, and Electronic Funds Transfers. Additional rules govern check writing

ability on certain interest earning accounts and prescribe procedures for complying with administrative subpoenas of financial records. Additionally, a provision of the Federal Reserve Regulation E has been changed effective July 1, 2010 that puts restrictions on institutions assessing overdraft fees on consumer's accounts relating to debit card usage or other forms of transfers.

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Emergency Economic Stabilization Act

In response to the financial crisis affecting the banking system and financial markets, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (“EESA”) was signed into law on October 3, 2008, which among other things: (1) temporarily increased FDIC insurance coverage from \$100,000 to \$250,000 through December 31, 2009 (subsequently made permanent with the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act); and (2) established the Troubled Asset Relief Program (“TARP”). As part of TARP, the United States Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) established the Capital Purchase Program (“CPP”) to provide up to \$700 billion of funding to eligible financial institutions through the purchase of capital stock and other financial instruments for the purpose of stabilizing and providing liquidity to the U.S. financial markets. In connection with EESA, there have been numerous actions by the FRB, Congress, and the Treasury, the FDIC, the SEC and others to further the economic and banking industry stabilization efforts under EESA.

The Company decided not to participate in the TARP CPP.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act)

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed into law the sweeping financial regulatory reform, Dodd-Frank Act, that implements significant changes to the regulation of the financial services industry, including provisions that, among other things:

Centralize responsibility for consumer financial protection by creating a new agency within the Federal Reserve Board, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, with broad rulemaking, supervision and enforcement authority for a wide range of consumer protection laws that would apply to all banks and thrifts.

Apply the same leverage and risk-based capital requirements that apply to insured depository institutions to bank holding companies.

Require the FDIC to seek to make its capital requirements for banks countercyclical so that the amount of capital required to be maintained increases in times of economic expansion and decreases in times of economic contraction.

Change the assessment base for federal deposit insurance from the amount of insured deposits to consolidated assets less tangible capital.

Implement corporate governance revisions, including executive compensation and proxy access by stockholders.

Make permanent the \$250,000 limit for federal deposit insurance and increase the cash limit of Securities Investor Protection Corporation protection from \$100,000 to \$250,000, and provide unlimited federal deposit insurance until January 1, 2013 for non-interest bearing demand transaction accounts at all insured depository institutions.

Repeal the federal prohibitions on the payment of interest on demand deposits effective July 21, 2011, thereby permitting depository institutions to pay interest on business transaction and other accounts.

Many aspects of the Dodd-Frank Act are subject to rulemaking by various regulatory agencies and will take effect over several years, making it difficult to anticipate the overall financial impact on the Company, its customers or the financial industry more generally. The elimination of the prohibition on the payment of interest on demand deposits could materially increase our interest expense, depending on our competitors' responses.

Future Legislation and Regulatory Initiatives

Various legislative and regulatory initiatives are from time to time introduced in Congress and state legislatures, as well as regulatory agencies. Future legislation regarding financial institutions may change banking statutes and the operating environment of the Company and the Bank in substantial and unpredictable ways, and could increase or

decrease the cost of doing business, limit or expand permissible activities or affect the competitive balance depending upon whether any of this potential legislation will be enacted, and if enacted, the effect that it or any implementing regulations, would have on the financial condition or results of operations of the Company or the Bank. The nature and extent of future legislative and regulatory changes affecting financial institutions is unpredictable at this time. The Company cannot determine the ultimate effect that such potential legislation, if enacted, would have upon its financial condition or operations.

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Available Information

Company reports filed with the SEC including the annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements and ownership reports filed by directors, executive officers and principal stockholders can be accessed through the Company's web site at <http://www.fmbonline.com>. The link to the SEC is on the About Us page.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

An investment in our common stock is subject to risks inherent in our business. The material risks and uncertainties that management believes may affect our business are described below. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below together with all of the other information included or incorporated by reference in this 10-K Report. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing our business. Additional risks and uncertainties that management is not aware of or focused on or that management currently deems immaterial may also impair our business operations. This 10-K Report is qualified in its entirety by these risk factors.

If any of the following risks actually occur, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. If this were to happen, the value of our common stock could decline significantly, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Associated With Our Business

Continuing Difficult Economic Conditions In Our Service Areas Could Adversely Affect Our Operations And/Or Cause Us To Sustain Losses - While the national economy and the economy of other portions of California have experienced recent improvements, the Central Valley of California, the Company's primary market area, continues to experience difficult economic and market conditions. This has been reflected in: (1) public sector financial stress, both at the local and statewide level (See "Item 1. Business – Service Area" - the State of California, a large employer in one of the Company's market territories is experiencing a budget crisis that has yet to be fully solved); and (2) significant private sector business failures and job losses.

Our retail and commercial banking operations are concentrated primarily in Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties. See "Item 1. Business – Service Area." As a result of this geographic concentration, our results of operations depend largely upon economic conditions in these areas and these areas continue to experience a significant deterioration in real estate values, foreclosures, and high unemployment and under-employment. A significant source of risk arises from the possibility that losses will be sustained if a significant number of our borrowers, guarantors and related parties fail to perform in accordance with the terms of their loans. This risk increases when the economy is weak as it is presently in our local areas. We have adopted underwriting and credit monitoring procedures and credit policies, including the establishment and review of the allowance for loan losses, that management believes are appropriate to minimize this risk by assessing the likelihood of nonperformance, tracking loan performance and diversifying our credit portfolio. These policies and procedures; however, may not prevent unexpected losses that could materially adversely affect our results of operations in general and the market value of our stock. See "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Overview - Looking Forward: 2013 and Beyond."

Additionally, despite the stability of our earnings over the last several years, economic uncertainties may continue for the foreseeable future and the full extent of the repercussions on our local economies in general and our business in particular are not fully known at this time. Such events may have a negative effect on: (i) our ability to service our existing customers and attract new customers; (ii) the ability of our borrowers to operate their business as successfully

as in the past; (iii) the financial security and net worth of our customers; and (iv) the ability of our customers to repay their loans with us in accordance with the terms thereof.

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Nonperforming Assets Take Significant Time To Resolve And Adversely Affect Our Company's Results Of Operations And Financial Condition - Nonperforming assets adversely affect our net income in various ways. Until economic and market conditions improve in our local markets, we expect to continue to incur losses relating to non-performing loans. We do not record interest income on non-accrual loans or other real estate owned, thereby adversely affecting our income and increasing our loan administration costs. When we take collateral in foreclosures and similar proceedings, we are required to mark the related loan to the then fair market value of the collateral, which may result in a loss. While we have reduced our problem assets through workouts, restructurings and otherwise, decreases in the value of these assets, or the underlying collateral, or in these borrowers' performance or financial conditions, whether or not due to economic and market conditions beyond our control, could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. In addition, the resolution of nonperforming assets requires significant commitments of time from management, which can be detrimental to the performance of other responsibilities. There can be no assurance that we will not experience further increases in nonperforming loans in the future.

Our Allowance For Loan Losses May Not Be Adequate To Cover Actual Losses - A significant source of risk arises from the possibility that losses could be sustained because borrowers, guarantors, and related parties may fail to perform in accordance with the terms of their loans and leases. The underwriting and credit monitoring policies and procedures that we have adopted to address this risk may not prevent unexpected losses that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Unexpected losses may arise from a wide variety of specific or systemic factors, many of which are beyond our ability to predict, influence, or control.

Like all financial institutions, we maintain an allowance for loan losses to provide for loan defaults and non-performance. See "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Provision and Allowance for Credit Losses." The allowance is funded from a provision for loan losses, which is a charge to our income statement. Our allowance for loan losses may not be adequate to cover actual loan losses, and future provisions for loan losses could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. The allowance for loan losses reflects our estimate of the probable losses in our loan portfolio at the relevant balance sheet date. Our allowance for loan losses is based on prior experience, as well as an evaluation of the known risks in the current portfolio, composition and growth of the loan portfolio and other economic factors. The determination of an appropriate level of loan loss allowance is an inherently difficult process and is based on numerous assumptions. The amount of future losses is susceptible to changes in economic, operating and other conditions, including changes in interest rates, that may be beyond our control and these losses may exceed current estimates.

The process we use to estimate losses inherent in our credit exposure requires difficult, subjective and complex judgments, including forecasts of economic conditions and how these economic conditions might impair the ability of our borrowers to repay their loans. The level of uncertainty concerning current economic conditions may adversely affect the accuracy of our estimates, which may, in turn, impact the reliability of the allowance for loan losses.

While we believe that our allowance for loan losses is adequate to cover current losses, we cannot assure you that we will not increase the allowance for loan losses further or that regulators will not require us to increase this allowance. Either of these occurrences could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We Are Dependent On Real Estate And Further Downturns In The Real Estate Market Could Hurt Our Business - Although our regulators have determined that we do not have significant CRE concentration risk, a significant portion of our loan portfolio is dependent on real estate. See "Item 1. Business – Supervision and Regulation - Prompt Corrective Action and Other Enforcement Mechanisms." At December 31, 2012, real estate served as the principal

source of collateral with respect to approximately 73% of our loan outstandings and 22% of loans outstanding were secured by production agricultural properties. Continuing stresses in current economic conditions in our local markets or rising interest rates could have an adverse effect on the demand for new loans, the ability of borrowers to repay outstanding loans, the value of real estate and other collateral securing loans and the value of real estate owned by us, as well as our financial condition and results of operations in general and the market value of our common stock.

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Acts of nature, including earthquakes, floods and fires, which may cause uninsured damage and other loss of value to real estate that secures these loans, may also negatively impact our financial condition.

Our Real Estate Lending Also Exposes Us To The Risk Of Environmental Liabilities - In the course of our business, we may foreclose and take title to real estate, and could be subject to environmental liabilities with respect to these properties. We may be held liable to a governmental entity or to third persons for property damage, personal injury, investigation and clean-up costs incurred by these parties in connection with environmental contamination, or may be required to investigate or clean up hazardous or toxic substances, or chemical releases at a property. The costs associated with investigation or remediation activities could be substantial. In addition, as the owner or former owner of a contaminated site, we may be subject to common law claims by third parties based on damages and costs resulting from environmental contamination emanating from the property. If we ever become subject to significant environmental liabilities, our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

Our Business Is Subject To Interest Rate Risk And Changes In Interest Rates May Adversely Affect Our Performance And Financial Condition - Our earnings are impacted by changing interest rates. Changes in interest rates impact the demand for new loans, the credit profile of our borrowers, the rates received on loans and securities and rates paid on deposits and borrowings. The difference between the rates received on loans and securities and the rates paid on deposits and borrowings is known as the net interest margin. Like many financial institutions, our net interest margin has been declining. We expect that continued low interest rates and aggressive competitor pricing strategies will continue to push net interest margin lower in 2013.

Although we believe our current level of interest rate sensitivity is reasonable, significant fluctuations in interest rates and increasing competition may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Net Interest Income/Net Interest Margin” and “Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk - Interest Rate Risk.”

Continuing low levels of market interest rates could adversely affect our earnings. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System regulates the supply of money and credit in the United States. Its policies determine, in large part, the cost of funds for lending and investing and the yield earned on those loans and investments, both of which impact the Company’s net interest margin. Beginning in September 2007 the FRB implemented a series of rate reductions in response to the current state of the national economy and housing market as well as the volatility of financial markets. Rates have remained low ever since, and show no signs of significantly increasing in the near future. When interest rates decline, borrowers tend to refinance higher-rate, fixed-rate loans at lower rates, and prepaying their existing loans. Under those circumstances, we would not be able to reinvest those prepayments in assets earning interest rates as high as the rates on the prepaid loans. In addition, our CRE and commercial loans, which carry interest rates that, in general, adjust in accordance with changes in the prime rate, will adjust to lower rates. We are also significantly affected by the level of loan demand available in our market. The inability to make sufficient loans directly affects the interest income we earn. Lower loan demand will generally result in lower interest income realized as we place funds in lower yielding investments. See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Overview - Looking Forward: 2013 and Beyond.”

Failure To Successfully Execute Our Strategy Could Adversely Affect Our Performance - Our financial performance and profitability depends on our ability to execute our corporate growth strategy. Continued growth however, may present operating and other problems that could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that we will be able to execute our growth strategy or maintain the level of profitability that we have recently experienced. Factors that may adversely affect our ability to attain our long-term financial performance goals include those stated elsewhere in this section, as well as the:

inability to maintain or increase net interest margin;

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inability to control non-interest expense, including, but not limited to, rising employee and healthcare costs and the costs of regulatory compliance;

inability to maintain or increase non-interest income; and

continuing ability to expand through de novo branching or otherwise.

Our Financial Results Can Be Impacted By The Seasonality Of Our Agricultural Business And The Risks Related Thereto - The Company's service areas can be significantly impacted by the seasonal and cyclical operations of the agricultural industry. As a result, the Company's financial results can be influenced by the banking needs of its agricultural customers (e.g., generally speaking during the spring and summer customers draw down their deposit balances and increase loan borrowing to fund the purchase of equipment and the planting of crops. Correspondingly, deposit balances are replenished and loans repaid in late fall and winter as crops are harvested and sold). Additionally, although the Company's loan portfolio is believed to be well diversified, at various times during 2012 approximately 37% of the Company's loan balances were outstanding to agricultural borrowers. Commitments are well diversified across various commodities, including dairy, grapes, walnuts, almonds, cherries, apples, pears, walnuts, and various row crops. Additionally, many individual borrowers are themselves diversified across commodity types, reducing their exposure, and therefore the Company's, to cyclical downturns in any one commodity.

Our Ability To Access Markets For Funding And Acquire And Retain Customers Could Be Adversely Affected By The Deterioration Of Other Financial Institutions Or The Financial Service Industry's Reputation - Reputation risk is the risk to liquidity, earnings and capital arising from negative publicity regarding the financial services industry. The financial services industry continues to be featured in negative headlines about the global and national credit crisis and the resulting stabilization legislation enacted by the U.S. federal government. These reports can be damaging to the industry's image and potentially erode consumer confidence in insured financial institutions. Recent bank failures in California and throughout the United States have also had a negative impact.

Our Interest Expense May Increase Following The Repeal Of The Federal Prohibition On Payment Of Interest On Demand Deposits - The federal prohibition on the ability of financial institutions to pay interest on demand deposit accounts has been repealed. As a result, beginning on July 21, 2011, financial institutions could commence offering interest on demand deposits to compete for clients. Our interest expense will increase and our net interest margin will decrease if the Company begins offering interest on demand deposits to attract additional customers or maintain current customers, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, net income and results of operations.

We Face Strong Competition From Financial Service Companies And Other Companies That Offer Banking Services That Could Adversely Impact Our Business - The financial services business in our market areas is highly competitive. It is becoming increasingly competitive due to changes in regulation, technological advances, and the accelerating pace of consolidation among financial services providers. We face competition both in attracting deposits and in making loans. We compete for loans principally through the interest rates and loan fees we charge and the efficiency and quality of services we provide. Increasing levels of competition in the banking and financial services business may reduce our market share, decrease loan demand, cause the prices we charge for our services to fall, or decrease our net interest margin by forcing us to offer lower lending interest rates and pay higher deposit interest rates. Therefore, our results may differ in future periods depending upon the nature or level of competition.

Technology and other changes are allowing parties to complete financial transactions that historically have involved banks through alternative methods. For example, consumers can now maintain funds that would have historically been held as bank deposits in brokerage accounts or mutual funds. Consumers can also complete transactions such as paying bills and/or transferring funds directly without the assistance of banks. The process of eliminating banks as

intermediaries, known as “disintermediation,” could result in the loss of fee income, as well as the loss of customer deposits and the related income generated from those deposits. The loss of these revenue streams and the lower cost deposits as a source of funds could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

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Many of our competitors offer products and services that we do not offer, and many have substantially greater resources, such as greater capital resources and more access to longer term, lower cost funding sources. Many also have greater name recognition and market presence that benefit them in attracting business. In addition, larger competitors may be able to price loans and deposits more aggressively than we do. Our larger competitors generally have easier access to capital, and often on better terms. Some of the financial services organizations with which we compete are not subject to the same degree of regulation as is imposed on bank holding companies and federally insured state-chartered banks, national banks and federal savings institutions. As a result, these non bank competitors have certain advantages over us in accessing funding and in providing various services. Other competitors are subject to similar regulation but have the advantages of larger established customer bases, higher lending limits, extensive branch networks, numerous automated teller machines, greater advertising and marketing budgets or other factors. Some of our competitors have other advantages, such as tax exemption in the case of credit unions, and lesser regulation in the case of mortgage companies and specialty finance companies.

Deposit Insurance Assessments Could Increase At Any Time, Which Will Adversely Affect Profits - FDIC deposit insurance expense for the years 2012, 2011, and 2010 was \$968,000, \$1.5 million, and \$2.3 million, respectively. The FDIC has recently changed its methodology for calculating deposit premiums, See "Item 1. Business – Supervision and Regulation – Deposit Insurance." While FDIC deposit insurance assessments decreased in 2012, they remain well above the pre-recession level of \$144,000 the Company paid in 2007, and additional increases could take place at any time due to continuing strains on the FDIC deposit insurance fund resulting from the cost of recent bank failures. Any increases could have adverse effects on the operating expenses and results of operations of the Company.

We May Not Be Able To Attract And Retain Skilled People - Our success depends, in large part, on our ability to attract and retain key people. Competition for the best people in most of our activities can be intense and we may not be able to hire people or to retain them. The unexpected loss of services of one or more of our key personnel could have a material adverse impact on our business because of their skills, knowledge of our market, years of industry experience and the difficulty of promptly finding qualified replacement personnel.

Our Internal Operations Are Subject To A Number Of Risks - We are subject to certain operations risks, including, but not limited to, information system failures and errors, customer or employee fraud and catastrophic failures resulting from terrorist acts or natural disasters. We maintain a system of internal controls to mitigate against such occurrences and maintain insurance coverage for such risks that are insurable, but should such an event occur that is not prevented or detected by our internal controls, uninsured or in excess of applicable insurance limits, it could have a significant adverse impact on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

We rely heavily on communications and information systems to conduct our business. Any failure, interruption or breach in security of these systems could result in failures or disruptions in our customer relationship management, general ledger, deposit, loan and other systems. While we have policies and procedures designed to prevent or limit the effect of the failure, interruption or security breach of our information systems, there can be no assurance that any such failures, interruptions or security breaches will not occur or, if they do occur, that they will be adequately addressed. The occurrence of any failures, interruptions or security breaches of our information systems could damage our reputation, result in a loss of customer business, subject us to additional regulatory scrutiny, or expose us to civil litigation and possible financial liability, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

The financial services industry is continually undergoing rapid technological change with frequent introductions of new technology-driven products and services. The effective use of technology increases efficiency and enables financial institutions to better serve customers and to reduce costs. Our future success depends, in part, upon our ability to address the needs of our customers by using technology to provide products and services that will satisfy customer demands, as well as to create additional efficiencies in our operations. Many of our competitors have

substantially greater resources to invest in technological improvements. We may not be able to effectively implement new technology-driven products and services or be successful in marketing these products and services to our customers. Failure to successfully keep pace with technological change affecting the financial services industry could have a material adverse impact on our business and, in turn, our financial condition and results of operations.

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Severe weather, natural disasters, acts of war or terrorism and other adverse external events could have a significant impact on our ability to conduct business. Such events could affect the stability of our deposit base, impair the ability of borrowers to repay outstanding loans, impair the value of collateral securing loans, cause significant property damage, result in loss of revenue and/or cause us to incur additional expenses. Operations in several of our markets could be disrupted by both the evacuation of large portions of the population as well as damage and or lack of access to our banking and operation facilities. While we have not experienced such an occurrence to date, other severe weather or natural disasters, acts of war or terrorism or other adverse external events may occur in the future. Although management has established disaster recovery policies and procedures, the occurrence of any such event could have a material adverse effect on our business, which, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We Depend On Cash Dividends From Our Subsidiary Bank To Meet Our Cash Obligations - As a holding company, dividends from our subsidiary bank provide a substantial portion of our cash flow used to service the interest payments on our Trust Preferred Securities and our other obligations, including cash dividends. See “Item 5. Market for the Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.” Various statutory provisions restrict the amount of dividends our subsidiary bank can pay to us without regulatory approval.

Risks Associated With Our Industry

We Are Subject To Government Regulation That Could Limit Or Restrict Our Activities, Which In Turn Could Adversely Impact Our Financial Performance - The financial services industry is regulated extensively and we are subject to examination, supervision and comprehensive regulations by various regulatory agencies. Federal and state regulations are designed primarily to protect the deposit insurance funds and consumers, and not to benefit our stockholders. These regulations can sometimes impose significant limitations on our operations and increase our cost of doing business.

Further, federal monetary policy, particularly as implemented through the Federal Reserve System, significantly affects economic conditions for us.

Proposals to change the laws and regulations governing the operations and taxation of, and federal insurance premiums paid by, banks and other financial institutions and companies that control such institutions are frequently raised in the U.S. Congress, the California legislature and before bank regulatory authorities. The likelihood of any major changes in the future and the impact such changes, including the Dodd-Frank Act, might have on us or the Bank are impossible to determine. Similarly, proposals to change the accounting treatment applicable to banks and other depository institutions are frequently raised by the SEC, the federal banking agencies, the IRS and other appropriate authorities. The likelihood and impact of any additional future changes in law or regulation and the impact such changes might have on us or the Bank are impossible to determine at this time.

Risks Associated With Our Stock

Our Stock Trades Less Frequently Than Others - The Company’s common stock is not widely held or listed on any exchange. However, trades may be reported on the OTC Bulletin Board under the symbol "FMCB." Management is aware that there are private transactions in the Company’s common stock. However, the limited trading market for the Company’s common stock may make it difficult for stockholders to dispose of their shares.

Our Stock Price Is Affected By A Variety Of Factors - Stock price volatility may make it more difficult for you to resell your common stock when you want and at prices you find attractive. Our stock price can fluctuate significantly in response to a variety of factors discussed in this section, including, among other things:

actual or anticipated variations in quarterly results of operations;

operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors deem comparable to our Company;

news reports relating to trends, concerns and other issues in the financial services industry;

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available investment liquidity in our market area since our stock is not listed on any exchange; and

Perceptions in the marketplace regarding our Company and/or its competitors.

Our Common Stock Is Not An Insured Deposit - Our common stock is not a bank deposit and, therefore, is not insured against loss by the FDIC, any other deposit insurance fund or by any other public or private entity. Investment in our common stock is inherently risky for the reasons described in this “Risk Factors” section and elsewhere in this report and is subject to the same market forces that affect the price of common stock in any company. As a result, if you acquire our common stock, you may lose some or all of your investment.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

The Company has no unresolved comments received from staff at the SEC.

Item 2. Properties

Farmers & Merchants Bancorp along with its subsidiaries are headquartered in Lodi, California. Executive offices are located at 111 W. Pine Street. Banking services are provided in twenty-two branch locations in the Company's service area. Of the twenty-two branches, sixteen are owned and six are leased. The expiration of these leases occurs between the years 2013 and 2017. See Note 19 located in “Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.”

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

Certain lawsuits and claims arising in the ordinary course of business have been filed or are pending against the Company or its subsidiaries. Based upon information available to the Company, its review of such lawsuits and claims and consultation with its counsel, the Company believes the liability relating to these actions, if any, would not have a material adverse effect on its consolidated financial statements.

There are no material proceedings adverse to the Company to which any director, officer or affiliate of the Company is a party.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not Applicable

PART II

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

The common stock of Farmers & Merchants Bancorp is not widely held or listed on any exchange. However, trades may be reported on the OTC Bulletin Board under the symbol “FMCB.” Additionally, management is aware that there are private transactions in the Company’s common stock.

The following table summarizes the actual high, low, and close sale prices for the Company's common stock since the first quarter of 2011. These figures are based on activity posted on the OTC Bulletin Board and on private transactions between individual stockholders that are reported to the Company.

Calendar Quarter	High	Low	Close	Cash Dividends
------------------	------	-----	-------	----------------

				Declared (Per Share)	
2012	Fourth quarter	\$ 405	\$ 355	\$ 405	\$ 6.20
	Third quarter	375	355	375	-
	Second quarter	400	350	375	5.90
	First quarter	400	342	350	-

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	Calendar Quarter	High	Low	Close	Cash Dividends Declared (Per Share)
2011	Fourth quarter	\$ 400	\$ 345	\$ 400	\$ 6.10
	Third quarter	425	360	375	-
	Second quarter	410	383	410	5.65
	First quarter	425	400	400	-

As of January 31, 2013, there were approximately 1,480 stockholders of record of the Company's common stock.

The Company and, before the Company was formed, the Bank, have paid cash dividends for the past 78 consecutive years. There are limitations under Delaware corporate law as to the amounts of cash dividends that may be paid by the Company. Additionally, if we decided to defer interest on our subordinated debentures, we would be prohibited from paying cash dividends on the Company's common stock. The Company is dependent on cash dividends paid by the Bank to fund its cash dividend payments to its stockholders. There are regulatory limitations on cash dividends that may be paid by the Bank under state and federal laws. See "Item 1. Business – Supervision and Regulation."

In 1998, the Board approved the Company's first common stock repurchase program. This program has been extended and expanded several times since then, and most recently, on September 11, 2012, the Board of Directors approved increasing the funds available for the Company's common stock repurchase program to \$20 million over the three-year period ending September 30, 2015.

Repurchases under the program will continue to be made on the open market or through private transactions. The repurchase program also requires that no purchases may be made if the Bank would not remain "well-capitalized" after the repurchase.

There were no shares repurchased by the Company during the fourth quarter of 2012. The approximate dollar value of shares that may yet be purchased under the program is \$20 million.

On August 5, 2008, the Board of Directors approved a Share Purchase Rights Plan (the "Rights Plan"), pursuant to which the Company entered into a Rights Agreement dated August 5, 2008, with Registrar and Transfer Company, as Rights Agent, and the Company declared a dividend of a right to acquire one preferred share purchase right (a "Right") for each outstanding share of the Company's common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, to stockholders of record at the close of business on August 15, 2008. Generally, the Rights are only triggered and become exercisable if a person or group (the "Acquiring Person") acquires beneficial ownership of 10 percent or more of the Company's common stock or announces a tender offer for 10 percent or more of the Company's common stock.

The Rights Plan is similar to plans adopted by many other publicly traded companies. The effect of the Rights Plan is to discourage any potential acquirer from triggering the Rights without first convincing Farmers & Merchants Bancorp's Board of Directors that the proposed acquisition is fair to, and in the best interest of, all of the stockholders of the Company. The provisions of the Plan will substantially dilute the equity and voting interest of any potential acquirer unless the Board of Directors approves of the proposed acquisition. Each Right, if and when exercisable, will entitle the registered holder to purchase from the Company one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, no par value, at a purchase price of \$1,200 for each one one-hundredth of a share, subject to adjustment. Each holder of a Right (except for the Acquiring Person, whose Rights will be null and void upon such event) shall thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise, that number of Common Shares of the Company having a market value of two times the exercise price of the Right. At any time before a person becomes an Acquiring Person, the Rights can be redeemed, in whole, but not in part, by Farmers and Merchants Bancorp's Board

of Directors at a price of \$0.001 per Right. The Rights Plan will expire on August 5, 2018.

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Performance Graphs

The following graph compares the Company's cumulative total stockholder return on common stock from December 31, 2007 to December 31, 2012 to that of: (i) the Morningstar Banks Index - Regional (US) Industry Group; and (ii) the cumulative total return of the New York Stock Exchange market index. The graph assumes an initial investment of \$100 on December 31, 2007 and reinvestment of dividends. The stock price performance set forth in the following graph is not necessarily indicative of future price performance. The Company's stock price data is based on activity posted on the OTC Bulletin Board and on private transactions between individual stockholders that are reported to the Company. This data was furnished by Zacks SEC Compliance Services Group.

This graph shall not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933.

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Item 6.

Selected Financial Data

Farmers & Merchants Bancorp
 Five Year Financial Summary of Operations
 (in thousands except per share data)

Summary of Income:	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Total Interest Income	\$78,491	\$82,354	\$84,461	\$91,314	\$93,208
Total Interest Expense	5,140	7,974	9,685	16,331	24,784
Net Interest Income	73,351	74,380	74,776	74,983	68,424
Provision for Loan Losses	1,850	6,775	14,735	15,420	7,998
Net Interest Income After Provision for Loan Losses	71,501	67,605	60,041	59,563	60,426
Total Non-Interest Income	14,110	12,274	17,185	18,194	16,064
Total Non-Interest Expense	48,277	45,028	43,939	46,429	40,103
Income Before Income Taxes	37,334	34,851	33,287	31,328	36,387
Provision for Income Taxes	13,985	12,642	12,169	11,315	13,597
Net Income	\$23,349	\$22,209	\$21,118	\$20,013	\$22,790
Balance Sheet Data:					
Total Assets	\$1,974,686	\$1,919,684	\$1,841,491	\$1,781,014	\$1,684,437
Loans	1,246,902	1,163,078	1,176,002	1,212,718	1,177,364
Allowance for Loan Losses	34,217	33,017	32,261	29,813	20,034
Investment Securities	486,383	542,912	493,581	435,166	363,729
Deposits	1,722,026	1,626,197	1,566,503	1,498,124	1,432,702
Federal Home Loan Bank Advances	-	530	591	20,149	703
Shareholders' Equity	205,033	189,346	173,241	164,727	156,545
Selected Ratios:					
Return on Average Assets	1.22	% 1.19	% 1.19	% 1.15	% 1.44
Return on Average Equity	11.62	% 12.10	% 12.25	% 12.33	% 15.23
Dividend Payout Ratio	40.34	% 41.24	% 41.93	% 42.95	% 36.99
Average Loans to Average Deposits	72.02	% 74.48	% 79.03	% 80.12	% 84.16
Average Equity to Average Assets	10.45	% 9.85	% 9.74	% 9.34	% 9.46
Period-end Shareholders' Equity to Total Assets	10.38	% 9.86	% 9.41	% 9.25	% 9.29
Per Share Data:					
Net Income (1)	\$29.99	\$28.49	\$27.05	\$25.57	\$28.69
Cash Dividends Per Share	\$12.10	\$11.75	\$11.35	\$11.00	\$10.65

(1)Based on the weighted average number of shares outstanding of 778,648, 779,424, 780,619, 782,754, and 794,239 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, and 2008, respectively.

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

Overview

The Company's primary service area encompasses the mid Central Valley of California, a region that can be significantly impacted by the seasonal needs of the agricultural industry. Accordingly, discussion of the Company's Financial Condition and Results of Operations is influenced by the seasonal banking needs of its agricultural customers (e.g., during the spring and summer customers draw down their deposit balances and increase loan borrowing to fund the purchase of equipment and planting of crops. Correspondingly, deposit balances are replenished and loans repaid in late fall and winter as crops are harvested and sold).

The Five-Year Period: 2008 through 2012

Through much of 2007 the economy in our primary service area was strong, the stock market rising and individuals and businesses doing well. Then in October 2007 the financial markets started what would become a major adjustment and an economic recession began that continues even today in the Central Valley of California. The Central Valley has been one of the hardest hit areas in the country during this recession. Housing prices in many areas declined as much as 60% and the economic stress eventually spread from residential real estate to other industry segments such as autos and commercial real estate. Unemployment levels remain above 15% in many areas.

Despite this difficult economic environment, in management's opinion, the Company's operating performance over the past five years has been exceptionally strong.

(in thousands, except per share data)

Financial Performance

Indicator	2012		2011		2010		2009		2008		
Net Income	\$	23,349	\$	22,209	\$	21,118	\$	20,013	\$	22,790	
Total Assets	\$	1,974,686	\$	1,919,684	\$	1,841,491	\$	1,781,014	\$	1,684,437	
Total Loans	\$	1,246,902	\$	1,163,078	\$	1,176,002	\$	1,212,718	\$	1,177,364	
Total Deposits	\$	1,722,026	\$	1,626,197	\$	1,566,503	\$	1,498,124	\$	1,432,702	
Total Shareholders' Equity	\$	205,033	\$	189,346	\$	173,241	\$	164,727	\$	156,545	
Total Consolidated Risk-Based Capital Ratio		14.96	%	14.86	%	13.82	%	12.48	%	12.59	%
Non-Performing Loans as a % of Total Loans		0.74	%	0.36	%	0.45	%	0.76	%	0.45	%
Substandard Loans as a % of Total Loans		1.72	%	3.67	%	3.40	%	5.17	%	3.01	%
Net Charge-Offs to Average Loans		0.05	%	0.51	%	1.04	%	0.48	%	0.57	%
Loan Loss Allowance as a % of Total Loans		2.74	%	2.83	%	2.74	%	2.45	%	1.70	%
Return on Average Assets		1.22	%	1.19	%	1.19	%	1.15	%	1.44	%
Return on Average Equity		11.62	%	12.10	%	12.25	%	12.33	%	15.23	%
Basic Earnings Per Common Share	\$	29.99	\$	28.49	\$	27.05	\$	25.57	\$	28.69	
Cash Dividends Per Share	\$	12.10	\$	11.75	\$	11.35	\$	11.00	\$	10.65	

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Cash Dividends Declared	\$ 9,418	\$ 9,158	\$ 8,855	\$ 8,596	\$ 8,430
# Shares Repurchased During Year	1,542	-	1,520	6,016	13,152
Average Share Price of Repurchased Shares	\$ 373	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 387	\$ 449
High Stock Price – Fourth Quarter	\$ 405	\$ 400	\$ 425	\$ 425	\$ 450
Low Stock Price – Fourth Quarter	\$ 355	\$ 345	\$ 400	\$ 325	\$ 385
Closing Stock Price – Fourth Quarter	\$ 405	\$ 400	\$ 415	\$ 380	\$ 420

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Although the Company was not entirely immune to the pressures that a struggling economy brought to bear, management believes that the Company's performance compared very favorably to its peer banks during the five-year period ending December 31, 2012:

Net income totaled \$109.5 million and never dropped below \$20.0 million in any single year.

Return on Average Assets never dropped below 1.15% in any single year.

Total assets increased 29.9% to \$1.97 billion.

Total loans increased 9.3% to \$1.25 billion.

Total deposits increased 31.4% to \$1.72 billion.

More recently:

In 2012, the Company earned \$23.3 million for a return on average assets of 1.22%, and our return on average assets averaged 1.24% over the five-year period. Importantly, these strong results were generated at the same time the Company increased its loan loss allowance by \$15.7 million, to \$34.2 million or 2.74% of total loans.

In 2012, the Company increased its cash dividend per share by 3.0% over 2011 levels, and our strong financial performance allowed us to increase dividends every year during this five-year period, even as many banks eliminated or significantly reduced their dividends.

The Company's total risk based capital ratio was --14.96% at December 31, 2012, and the Bank achieved the highest regulatory classification of "well capitalized" in each of the five years. See "Financial Condition – Capital."

Despite economic conditions in the Company's local markets, the Company's asset quality remains very strong compared to peer banks at the present time, when measured by: (1) net charge-offs of 0.52% of average loans during this five-year period; and (2) substandard loans totaling 1.72% of total loans at December 31, 2012. See "Results of Operations – Provision and Allowance for Loan Losses" and "Financial Condition – Classified Loans and Non-Performing Assets."

As a result of this strong earnings performance, capital position, and asset quality, stockholders have benefited well in excess of overall bank and bank holding company stock market returns over the past five years:

Cash dividends per share have increased 24.7% since 2007, and totaled \$56.85 per share over the five-year period.

The total return on the Company's stock over the past five years compares very favorably to overall stock market returns of other banks and bank holding companies. See "Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Security - Performance Graphs."

The Company did not dilute existing common stockholders by participating in the Federal Government's 2008 TARP Capital Purchase Program.

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Looking Forward: 2013 and Beyond

In management's opinion, the following key issues will influence the financial results of the Company in 2013 and future years:

The Company's earnings are heavily dependent on its net interest margin, which is sensitive to such factors as: (1) market interest rates; (2) the mix of our earning assets and interest bearing liabilities; and (3) competitor pricing strategies.

- During the third quarter of 2007, the FRB began dropping short-term market rates. Market rates remain low, and the FRB continues to imply that they expect them to remain that way well into 2014.
- Deposit growth continues to outstrip loan growth, and the Company's loan-to-deposit ratio has dropped every year since 2008. This results in an increasing percentage of our earning assets being placed into lower yielding investment securities, interest bearing deposits with banks, and Federal Funds Sold.
- Aggressive competitor pricing for both loans and deposits has often required the Company to respond in order to retain key customers.

The combination of these factors has caused the Company's net interest margin to decline from 4.89% in the second quarter of 2007 to 4.23% in the fourth quarter of 2012. The Company expects all of these factors to continue to push the net interest margin lower in 2013. See "Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk - Interest Rate Risk."

The Company's results can be significantly influenced by changes in the credit quality of its borrowers. Substandard loans totaled \$21.5 million or 1.72% of total loans at December 31, 2012 vs. \$42.8 million or 3.67% of total loans at December 31, 2011, and a peak of \$62.8 million or 5.17% of total loans at December 31, 2009. Management believes, based on information currently available, that these levels are adequately covered by the Company's \$34.2 million allowance for loan losses as of December 31, 2012. See "Results of Operations - Provision and Allowance for Loan Losses" and "Financial Condition - Classified Loans and Non-Performing Assets." The Company's provision for loan losses was \$1.9 million in 2012, a significant decrease from \$6.8 million in 2011 and \$14.7 million in 2010, but still remains above the pre-recession levels of \$1.5 million in 2007. Given the continued recessing economy in the Central Valley of California, many of the Company's borrowers continue to feel the impact of the recession. See "Item 1A. Risk Factors."

FDIC deposit insurance expense for the years 2012, 2011, and 2010 was \$968,000, \$1.5 million, and \$2.3 million, respectively. The FDIC has recently changed its methodology for calculating deposit premiums. See "Item 1. Business - Supervision and Regulation - Deposit Insurance." While FDIC deposit insurance assessments decreased in 2012, they remain well above the pre-recession level of \$144,000 the Company paid in 2007, and additional increases could take place at any time due to continuing strains on the FDIC deposit insurance fund resulting from the cost of recent bank failures. Any increases could have adverse effects on the operating expenses and results of operations of the Company.

Congress and the Obama Administration are continuing to implement broad changes to the regulation of consumer financial products and the financial services industry as a whole. These changes could significantly affect the Company's product offerings, pricing and profitability in areas such as debit and credit cards, home mortgages and deposit service charges.

Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis is intended to provide a better understanding of Farmers & Merchants Bancorp and its subsidiaries' performance during each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2012, and the material changes in financial condition, operating income, and expense of the Company and its subsidiaries as shown in the accompanying financial statements.

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Net Interest Income/Net Interest Margin

The tables on the following pages reflect the Company's average balance sheets and volume and rate analysis for the years ending 2012, 2011, and 2010. Average balance amounts for assets and liabilities are the computed average of daily balances.

Net interest income is the amount by which the interest and fees on loans and other interest earning assets exceed the interest paid on interest bearing sources of funds. For the purpose of analysis, the interest earned on tax-exempt investments and municipal loans is adjusted to an amount comparable to interest subject to normal income taxes. This adjustment is referred to as "tax equivalent" adjustment and is noted wherever applicable.

The Volume and Rate Analysis of Net Interest Income summarizes the changes in interest income and interest expense based on changes in average asset and liability balances (volume) and changes in average rates (rate). For each category of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities, information is provided with respect to changes attributable to: (1) changes in volume (change in volume multiplied by initial rate); (2) changes in rate (change in rate multiplied by initial volume); and (3) changes in rate/volume (allocated in proportion to the respective volume and rate components).

The Company's earning assets and rate sensitive liabilities are subject to repricing at different times, which exposes the Company to income fluctuations when interest rates change. In order to minimize income fluctuations, the Company attempts to match asset and liability maturities. However, some maturity mismatch is inherent in the asset and liability mix. See "Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk - Interest Rate Risk."

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Farmers & Merchants Bancorp
 Year-to-Date Average Balances and Interest Rates
 (Interest and Rates on a Taxable Equivalent Basis)
 (in thousands)

Assets	Year Ended December 31, 2012			
	Balance	Interest	Rate	
Interest Bearing Deposits with Banks	\$43,351	\$110	0.25	%
Investment Securities:				
Government Agency & Government-Sponsored Entities	56,396	577	1.02	%
Municipals - Non-Taxable	70,432	4,047	5.75	%
Mortgage Backed Securities	399,121	9,182	2.30	%
Other	15,358	182	1.19	%
Total Investment Securities	541,307	13,988	2.58	%
Loans				
Real Estate	767,555	44,329	5.78	%
Home Equity	46,405	2,656	5.72	%
Agricultural	200,040	9,888		