

FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP  
Form 10-K  
March 10, 2015  
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, 2014

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 000-30707

First Northern Community Bancorp  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

California  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

68-0450397  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

195 N. First St., Dixon, CA  
(Address of principal executive offices)

95620  
(Zip Code)

707-678-3041  
(Registrant's telephone number including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: None  
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: Common Stock, no par value  
(Title of Class)

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 Exchange 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 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 (Section 229.405 of this chapter) 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 the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the registrant's Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant on June 30, 2014 (based upon the last reported sales price of such stock on the OTC Markets on June 30, 2014) was \$66,059,767.

The number of shares of the registrant's Common Stock outstanding as of March 3, 2015 was 9,846,539.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Items 10, 11, 12 (as to security ownership of certain beneficial owners and management), 13 and 14 of Part III incorporate by reference information from the registrant's proxy statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with the solicitation of proxies for the registrant's 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I		Page
Item 1	Business	4
Item 1A	Risk Factors	16
Item 1B	Unresolved Staff Comments	25
Item 2	Properties	25
Item 3	Legal Proceedings	25
Item 4	Mine Safety Disclosures	25
PART II		
Item 5	Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	26
Item 6	Selected Financial Data	27
Item 7	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	28
Item 7A	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	56
Item 8	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	56
Item 9	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	110
Item 9A	Controls and Procedures	110
Item 9B	Other Information	110
PART III		
Item 10	Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	111
Item 11	Executive Compensation	111
Item 12	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	112
Item 13	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence	112

Item 14	Principal Accountant Fees and Services	112
PART IV		
Item 15	Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules	113
Signatures		116

## NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report includes forward-looking statements, which include forecasts of our financial results and condition, expectations for our operations and business, and our assumptions for those forecasts and expectations. Do not rely unduly on forward-looking statements. Actual results might differ significantly compared to our forecasts and expectations. See Part I, Item 1A. “Risk Factors,” and the other risks described in this report for factors to be considered when reading any forward-looking statements in this filing.

This report includes forward-looking statements, which are subject to the “safe harbor” created by section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. We may make forward-looking statements in our Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) filings, press releases, news articles and when we are speaking on behalf of the Company. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. Often, they include the words “believe,” “expect,” “target,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “plan,” “seek,” “estimate,” “potential,” “project,” or words of similar meaning, or future or conditional verbs such as “will,” “would,” “should,” “could,” “might,” or “may.” These forward-looking statements are intended to provide investors with additional information with which they may assess our future potential. All of these forward-looking statements are based on assumptions about an uncertain future and are based on information available to us at the date of these statements. We do not undertake to update forward-looking statements to reflect facts, circumstances, assumptions or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.

In this document, for example, we make forward-looking statements, which discuss our expectations about:

- Our business objectives, strategies and initiatives, our organizational structure, the growth of our business and our competitive position
  - Our assessment of significant factors and developments that have affected or may affect our results
- Pending and recent legal and regulatory actions, and future legislative and regulatory developments, including the effects of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) and other legislation and governmental measures introduced in response to the financial crises affecting the banking system, financial markets and the U.S. economy
  - Regulatory controls and processes and their impact on our business
    - The costs and effects of legal or regulatory actions
      - Draws on performance letters of credit
- Our regulatory capital requirements under the new capital rules of the U.S. federal bank regulatory agencies
  - Payment of dividends in the foreseeable future
  - Credit quality and provision for credit losses
- Our allowances for credit losses, including the conditions we consider in determining the unallocated allowance and our portfolio credit quality, underwriting standards, and risk grade
  - Our assessment of economic conditions and trends and credit cycles and their impact on our business

- The seasonal nature of our business
- The impact of changes in interest rates and our strategy to manage our interest rate risk profile
- Loan portfolio composition and risk grade trends, expected charge offs, delinquency rates and our underwriting standards
  - Our deposit base including renewal of time deposits

- The impact on our net interest income and net interest margin from the current low-interest rate environment during the first half of 2015
  - Any significant increase or decrease in unrecognized tax benefits
    - Our pension and retirement plan costs
  - Our liquidity position and the potential effect of increase in stock market values
- Our long-term strategy to maintain deposit growth to fund growth in loans and other earnings assets and our focus on growing other operating income in asset management and other areas
- Critical accounting policies and estimates, the impact or anticipated impact of recent accounting pronouncements or change in accounting principles
  - Expected rates of return, yields and projected results

There are numerous risks and uncertainties that could and will cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in our forward-looking statements. Many of these factors are beyond our ability to control or predict and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations or prospects. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to those listed in this “Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” and in Part I, Item 1A “Risk Factors” and Part II, Item 7 “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

Readers of this document should not rely unduly on forward-looking information and should consider all uncertainties and risks disclosed throughout this document and in our other reports to the SEC, including, but not limited to, those discussed below. Any factor described in this report could by itself, or together with one or more other factors, adversely affect our business, future prospects, results of operations or financial condition. We do not undertake to update forward-looking statements to reflect facts, circumstances, assumptions or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.

## PART I

### ITEM 1 - BUSINESS

#### General

First Northern Bank of Dixon (“First Northern” or “Bank”) was established in 1910 under a California state charter as Northern Solano Bank, and opened for business on February 1st of that year. On January 2, 1912, the First National Bank of Dixon was established under a federal charter, and until 1955, the two entities operated side by side under the same roof and with the same management. In an effort to increase efficiency of operation, reduce operating expense, and improve lending capacity, the two banks were consolidated on April 8, 1955, with the First National Bank of Dixon as the surviving entity.

On January 1, 1980, the Bank’s federal charter was relinquished in favor of a California state charter, and the Bank’s name was changed to First Northern Bank of Dixon.

In April of 2000, the shareholders of First Northern approved a corporate reorganization, which provided for the creation of a bank holding company, First Northern Community Bancorp (“Company”). The objective of this reorganization, which was effected May 19, 2000, was to enable the Bank to better compete and grow in its competitive and rapidly changing marketplace. As a result of the reorganization, the Bank is a wholly-owned and principal operating subsidiary of the Company. The consolidated financial statements also include the accounts of Yolano Realty Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank. Yolano Realty Corporation was formed in September, 2009 for the purpose of managing selected other real estate owned properties.

First Northern engages in the general commercial banking business throughout the California Counties of Solano, Yolo, Placer, and Sacramento.



The Company's and the Bank's Administrative Offices are located in Dixon, California. Also located in Dixon are the back office functions of the Information Services/Central Operations Department and the Central Loan Department.

The Bank has nine full service branches. Three are located in the Solano County cities of Dixon, Fairfield, and Vacaville. Four branches are located in the Yolo County cities of Winters, Davis, West Sacramento and Woodland; and two branches are located in the Placer County cities of Roseville and Auburn. The Bank also has one satellite banking office inside a retirement community in the city of Davis. In addition, the Bank has residential mortgage loan office in Davis. The Bank also has an Asset Management & Trust Department in Downtown Sacramento that serves the Bank's entire market area. Similarly, the Bank engages financial advisors who offer non-FDIC insured investment and brokerage services throughout the region from offices strategically located in Davis and Auburn. In 2013, the Bank opened a commercial loan office in the Contra Costa County city of Walnut Creek to serve the East Bay Area's small- to medium-sized business lending needs.

First Northern is in the commercial banking business, which includes accepting demand, interest bearing transaction, savings, and time deposits, and making commercial, consumer, and real estate related loans. It also offers installment note collection, issues cashier's checks, sells travelers' checks, rents safe deposit boxes, and provides other customary banking services. The Bank is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") and effective July 21, 2010 by law, the maximum deposit insurance amount per depositor was raised to \$250,000.

First Northern also offers a broad range of alternative investment products and services through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., equipment leasing, credit cards, merchant card processing, payroll services, and limited international banking services through third parties.

The operating policy of the Bank since its inception has emphasized serving the banking needs of individuals and small- to medium-sized businesses. In Dixon, this has included businesses involved in crop and livestock production. Historically, the economy of the Dixon area has been primarily dependent upon agricultural related sources of income and most employment opportunities have also been related to agriculture. Since 2000, Dixon's economy has continued to diversify with expansion in the areas of industrial, commercial, retail, and residential housing projects.

The Bank operates one branch in Davis. The Davis economy is supported significantly by the University of California, Davis.

In 1983, the West Sacramento Branch was opened. The West Sacramento economy is based primarily on transportation, manufacturing, and distribution-related business.

In order to accommodate the demand of the Bank's customers for long-term residential real estate loans, a Mortgage Loan Office was opened in 1983. This office is centrally located in Davis, and has enabled the Bank to access the secondary real estate market.

The Vacaville Regency Park Branch was opened in 1985. Vacaville has a diverse economic base including a California state prison, food processing, distribution, shopping centers ("factory outlet stores"), medical, biotech, and other varied industries. The Vacaville Regency Park Branch was consolidated into the Vacaville Downtown Financial Center in January 2012.

In 1994, the Fairfield Branch was opened. Its diverse economic base includes military, namely Travis Air Force Base, food processing (an Anheuser-Busch plant), retail, namely the "Solano Town Center", manufacturing, medical, agriculture, and other varied industries. Fairfield is the county seat of Solano County.

A mortgage loan production office was opened in El Dorado Hills, in April 1996, to serve the growing mortgage loan demand in the foothills area east of Sacramento. This office was moved to Folsom in 2006, a more central location for serving Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and the west slope of El Dorado County. The Folsom office was consolidated into the Roseville Mortgage Office in early 2012.

An SBA Loan Department was opened in April 1997 in Sacramento to serve the small business and industrial loan demand throughout the Bank's entire market area. Today, SBA loans are underwritten by the Bank's small business lenders located within the Bank's branches.

In June of 1997, the Bank's seventh branch was opened in Woodland, the county seat of Yolo County. Woodland's economy includes agribusiness, retail services, and an industrial sector.

The Bank's eighth branch, the Downtown Financial Center, opened in July of 2000 in Vacaville to serve the business and individual financial needs on the west side of Interstate-80.

Two satellite banking offices of the Bank's Davis Branch were opened in 2001 in the Davis senior living communities of Covell Gardens and the University Retirement Community. The Bank later consolidated the Covell Gardens location into its main branch in Davis.

In December of 2001, Roseville became the site of the Bank's fourth mortgage loan production office. This office served the residential mortgage loan needs throughout the foothill regions of Placer, Sacramento as well as the west slope of El Dorado County through June 2014, when it was consolidated into the Davis Mortgage Loan office.

In October of 2002, the Bank opened its tenth branch on a prominent corner in Downtown Sacramento to serve Sacramento Metro's business center and its employees. The Bank's Asset Management & Trust Department, located on the mezzanine of the Downtown Sacramento Branch, was also opened in 2002 to serve the trust and fiduciary needs of the Bank's entire market area. On November 4, 2013, The Downtown Sacramento Branch was temporarily consolidated into the West Sacramento Branch while another Sacramento location is identified that will allow the Bank to provide more convenience to its clients. The Asset Management & Trust Department remains in the Downtown Sacramento location.

The Bank expanded its presence in Placer County in January 2005 by opening a full service branch on a prominent corner in the business district of Roseville.

In late 2007, First Northern Bank seized an opportunity in Auburn to acquire several key personnel from a highly respected local bank that had just merged with a large conglomerate bank. While First Northern scouted for a branch site, the 'Auburn team' worked from the Bank's Roseville Branch to develop business in Auburn. In June 2008, the Bank opened its Auburn Financial Center in a temporary location. Later, First Northern Bank purchased a building in the Auburn Town Center that previously housed a branch of a bank that no longer exists. In 2011, the Auburn Financial Center staff moved into its permanent location. First Northern Bank leases office space in this building to various tenants. The Financial Center houses a full service branch and an Investment & Brokerage Services Office. Auburn is the county seat of Placer County.

Through this period of change and diversification, the Bank's strategic focus, which emphasizes serving the banking needs of individuals and small-to medium-sized businesses, has not changed. The Bank takes real estate, crop proceeds, securities, savings and time deposits, automobiles, and equipment as collateral for loans.

Fiduciary services are offered to individuals, businesses, governments, and charitable organizations in the Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Contra Costa County regions. Most of the Bank's deposits are attracted from the market of northern and central Solano County and southern and central Yolo County.

As of December 31, 2014, the Company and the Bank employed 169 full-time employees and 209 employees in total. The Company and the Bank consider their relationship with their employees to be good and have not experienced any interruptions of operations due to labor disagreements.

First Northern has historically experienced seasonal swings in both deposit and loan volumes due primarily to general economic factors and specific economic factors affecting our customers. Deposits have typically hit lows in February or March and have peaked in November or December. Loans typically peak in the late spring and hit lows in the fall as crops are harvested and sold. Since the real estate and agricultural economies generally follow the same seasonal cycle, they experience the same deposit and loan fluctuations.

Available Information

The Company makes available free of charge on its website, [www.thatsmybank.com](http://www.thatsmybank.com), its Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company electronically files such material with, or furnishes it to, the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). These filings are also accessible on the SEC’s website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The information found on the Company’s website shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this report into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such Acts.

### The Effect of Government Policy on Banking

The earnings and growth of the Bank are affected not only by local market area factors and general economic conditions, but also by government monetary and fiscal policies. For example, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (“FRB”) influences the supply of money through its open market operations in U.S. Government securities, adjustments to the discount rates applicable to borrowings by depository institutions and others and establishment of reserve requirements against both member and non-member financial institutions’ deposits. Such actions significantly affect the overall growth and distribution of loans, investments, and deposits and also affect interest rates charged on loans and paid on deposits. For the past several years, in response to the financial crisis which began in 2008 and the ensuing recession, the FRB has pursued a variety of monetary measures aimed at sustaining a very low interest rate environment in the U.S. in order to stimulate economic growth, including purchases of long-term U.S. Treasury and federal agency backed securities and maintaining a very low target range for the federal funds rate. These policies of the FRB for the past several years have placed a downward pressure on the net interest margins of banks in the United States, including that of the Bank. During 2014, the FRB began to gradually ease its accommodative monetary policies, including discontinuing its asset purchase program in October, 2014. The FRB further indicated that expects to maintain the current very low target range for the federal funds rate for at least some time while it assesses progress toward its objectives of maximum employment and modest inflation. We cannot predict with any certainty the degree to which the FRB will continue its accommodative monetary policies, nor the timing of further easing of these policies.

The nature and impact of future changes in such policies on the business and earnings of the Company cannot be predicted. Additionally, state and federal tax policies can impact banking organizations.

As a consequence of the extensive regulation of commercial banking activities in the United States, the business of the Company is particularly susceptible to being affected by the enactment of federal and state legislation which may have the effect of increasing or decreasing the cost of doing business, modifying permissible activities or enhancing the competitive position of other financial institutions. Any change in applicable laws, regulations, or policies may have a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition, or results of operations, or prospects of the Company.

### Supervision and Regulation of Bank Holding Companies

The Company is a bank holding company subject to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (“BHCA”). The Company reports to, registers with, and is subject to the supervision and examination by, the FRB. The FRB also has the authority to examine the Company’s subsidiaries. The costs of any examination by the FRB are payable by the Company.

The FRB has significant supervisory, regulatory and enforcement authority over the Company and its affiliates. The FRB requires the Company to maintain certain levels of capital. See “Capital Standards” below for more information. The FRB also has the authority to take enforcement action against any bank holding company that commits any unsafe or unsound practice, or violates certain laws, regulations, or conditions imposed in writing by the FRB. See “Prompt Corrective Action and Other Enforcement Mechanisms” below for more information. Such enforcement powers include the power to assess civil money penalties against any bank holding company violating any provision of the BHCA or any regulation or order of the FRB under the BHCA. Knowing violations of the BHCA or regulations or orders of the FRB can also result in criminal penalties for the company and any individuals participating in such conduct. Under long-standing FRB policy and provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act, bank holding companies are required to act as a source of financial and managerial strength to their subsidiary banks, and to commit resources to support their subsidiary banks. This support may be required at times when a bank holding company may not be able to provide such support.

Under the BHCA, a company generally must obtain the prior approval of the FRB before it exercises a controlling influence over a bank, or acquires, directly or indirectly, more than 5% of the voting shares or substantially all of the assets of any bank or bank holding company. Thus, the Company is required to obtain the prior approval of the FRB before it acquires, merges, or consolidates with any bank or bank holding company. Any company seeking to acquire, merge, or consolidate with the Company also would be required to obtain the prior approval of the FRB.

The Company is generally prohibited under the BHCA from acquiring ownership or control of more than 5% of the voting shares of any company that is not a bank or bank holding company and from engaging directly or indirectly in activities other than banking, managing banks, or providing services to affiliates of the holding company. However, a bank holding company, with the approval of the FRB, may engage, or acquire the voting shares of companies engaged, in activities that the FRB has determined to be so closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto. A bank holding company must demonstrate that the benefits to the public of the proposed activity will outweigh the possible adverse effects associated with such activity.

The FRB generally prohibits a bank holding company from declaring or paying a cash dividend which would impose undue pressure on the capital of subsidiary banks or would be funded only through borrowing or other arrangements that might adversely affect a bank holding company's financial position. The FRB's policy is that a bank holding company should not continue its existing rate of cash dividends on its common stock unless its net income is sufficient to fully fund each dividend and its prospective rate of earnings retention appears consistent with its capital needs, asset quality, and overall financial condition. The Company is also subject to restrictions relating to the payment of dividends under California corporate law. See "Restrictions on Dividends and Other Distributions" below for additional restrictions on the ability of the Company and the Bank to pay dividends.

#### Supervision and Regulation of Bank

The Bank is subject to regulation, supervision and regular examination by the Financial Institutions Division of the California Department of Business Oversight ("DBO") and the FDIC. The regulations of these agencies affect most aspects of the Bank's business and prescribe permissible types of loans and investments, the amount of required reserves, requirements for branch offices, the permissible scope of the Bank's activities and various other requirements. While the Bank is not a member of the FRB, it is directly subject to certain regulations of the FRB dealing with such matters as check clearing activities, establishment of banking reserves, Truth-in-Lending ("Regulation Z"), Truth-in-Savings ("Regulation DD"), and Equal Credit Opportunity ("Regulation B"). The Bank is also subject to regulations of (although not direct supervision and examination by) the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB"), which created by the Dodd-Frank Act. Among the CFPB's responsibilities are implementing and enforcing federal consumer financial protection laws, reviewing the business practices of financial services providers for legal compliance, monitoring the marketplace for transparency on behalf of consumers and receiving complaints and questions from consumers about consumer financial products and services. The Dodd-Frank Act added prohibitions on unfair, deceptive or abusive acts and practices to the scope of consumer protection regulations overseen and enforced by the CFPB.

The banking industry is also subject to significantly increased regulatory controls and processes regarding Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering laws. In recent years, a number of banks and bank holding companies announced the imposition of regulatory sanctions, including regulatory agreements and cease and desist orders and, in some cases, fines and penalties by the bank regulators due to failures to comply with the Bank Secrecy Act and other anti-money laundering legislation. In a number of these cases, the fines and penalties have been significant. Failure to comply with these additional requirements may also adversely affect the ability to obtain regulatory approvals for future initiatives requiring regulatory approval, including acquisitions.

Under California law, the Bank is subject to various restrictions on, and requirements regarding, its operations and administration including the maintenance of branch offices and automated teller machines, capital and reserve requirements, deposits and borrowings, stockholder rights and duties, and investment and lending activities.

California law permits a state chartered bank to invest in the stock and securities of other corporations, subject to a state chartered bank receiving either general authorization or, depending on the amount of the proposed investment, specific authorization from the Commissioner. Federal banking laws, however, impose limitations on the activities and equity investments of state chartered, federally insured banks. The FDIC rules on investments prohibit a state bank from acquiring an equity investment of a type, or in an amount, not permissible for a national bank. FDIC rules also prohibit a state bank from engaging as a principal in any activity that is not permissible for a national bank, unless the bank is adequately capitalized and the FDIC approves the activity after determining that such activity does not pose a significant risk to the deposit insurance fund. The FDIC rules on activities generally permit subsidiaries of banks, without prior specific FDIC authorization, to engage in those activities that have been approved by the FRB for bank holding companies because such activities are so closely related to banking to be a proper incident thereto. Other activities generally require specific FDIC prior approval and the FDIC may impose additional restrictions on such activities on a case-by-case basis in approving applications to engage in otherwise impermissible

activities.

#### 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 (“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.

8

---



Part of the USA Patriot Act is the International Money Laundering Abatement and Financial Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001 (“IMLAFATA”). Among its provisions, IMLAFATA requires each financial institution 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. In addition, IMLAFATA contains a provision encouraging cooperation among financial institutions, regulatory authorities, and law enforcement authorities with respect to individuals, entities and organizations engaged in, or reasonably suspected of engaging in, terrorist acts or money laundering activities. IMLAFATA expands the circumstances under which funds in a bank account may be forfeited and requires covered financial institutions to respond under certain circumstances to requests for information from federal banking agencies within 120 hours. IMLAFATA also amends the BHCA and the Bank Merger Act to require the federal banking agencies to consider the effectiveness of a financial institution’s anti-money laundering activities when reviewing an application under these Acts.

Pursuant to IMLAFATA, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the heads of other government agencies, has adopted and proposed special measures applicable to banks, bank holding companies, and/or other financial institutions. These measures include enhanced record keeping and reporting requirements for certain financial transactions that are of primary money laundering concern, due diligence requirements concerning the beneficial ownership of certain types of accounts, and restrictions or prohibitions on certain types of accounts with foreign financial institutions.

#### Privacy Restrictions

The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (“GLBA”), which became law in 1999, 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 GLBA and all implementing regulations, and that the Bank has developed appropriate policies and procedures to meet its responsibilities in connection with the privacy provisions of GLBA.

Effective January 1, 2008, the federal bank regulatory agencies adopted final rules implementing the affiliate marketing provisions of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003; these rules impose a prohibition, subject to certain exceptions, on a financial institution using certain information received from an affiliate to make a solicitation to a consumer unless the consumer is given notice and a reasonable opportunity to opt out of such solicitations, and the consumer does not opt out. The final rules apply to information obtained from the consumer’s transactions or account relationships with an affiliate, any application the consumer submitted to an affiliate, and third-party sources, such as credit reports, if the information is to be used to send marketing solicitations. The rules do not supersede or affect a consumer’s existing right under other provisions of the law to opt out of the sharing between a financial institution and its affiliates of consumer information other than information relating solely to transactions or experiences between the consumer and the financial institution or its affiliates.

California and other state legislatures have adopted privacy laws, including laws prohibiting sharing of customer information without the customer’s prior permission. These laws may make it more difficult for the Company to share information with its marketing partners, reduce the effectiveness of marketing programs, and increase the cost of marketing programs.

#### Capital Standards

The federal banking agencies have risk-based capital adequacy guidelines intended to provide a measure of capital adequacy that reflects the degree of 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 as in effect until December 31, 2014 (referred to in this report as the "U.S. Basel I capital rules"), 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. government securities, to 100% for assets with relatively higher credit risk, such as certain loans.

In determining the capital level the Bank is required to maintain, the federal banking agencies do not, in all respects, follow generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and have special rules which have the effect of reducing the amount of capital that will be recognized for purposes of determining the capital adequacy of the Bank.

In addition to the risk-based guidelines, federal banking regulators have required banking organizations to maintain a minimum amount of Tier 1 capital to adjusted average total assets, referred to as the leverage capital ratio. For a banking organization rated in the highest of the five categories used by regulators to rate banking organizations, the minimum lever-age ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets must be 3%. It is improbable, however, that an institution with a 3% leverage ratio would receive the highest rating by the regulators since a strong capital position is a significant part of the regulators’ rating. For all banking organizations not rated in the highest category, the minimum leverage ratio must be at least 100 to 200 basis points above the 3% minimum. Thus, the effective minimum leverage ratio required, for all practical purposes, has been required to be at least 4% or 5%. 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 the minimum guidelines and ratios.

As of December 31, 2014, the Company’s and the Bank’s capital ratios exceeded applicable regulatory requirements.

The following tables present the capital ratios for the Company and the Bank, compared to the standards for well-capitalized bank holding companies and depository institutions, as of December 31, 2014 (calculated in accordance with the U.S. Basel I capital rules):

	The Company			Adequately Capitalized Ratio	
	Actual Capital	Ratio			
Leverage	\$91,799	9.4	%	4.0	%
Tier 1 Risk-Based	91,799	15.7	%	4.0	%
Total Risk-Based	99,137	17.0	%	8.0	%

	The Bank			Adequately Capitalized Ratio		Well Capitalized Ratio	
	Actual Capital	Ratio					
Leverage	\$87,903	9.0	%	4.0	%	5.0	%
Tier 1 Risk-Based	87,903	15.0	%	4.0	%	6.0	%
Total Risk-Based	95,241	16.3	%	8.0	%	10.0	%

The federal banking agencies must take into consideration concentrations of credit risk and 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. This evaluation will be made as a part of the institution’s regular safety and soundness examination. The federal banking agencies must also consider 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) in evaluating a Bank’s capital adequacy.

As described on the next page, under “Basel Committee Capital Standards and U.S. Regulatory Response”, on January 1, 2015, the Bank became subject to enhanced capital requirements under the federal bank regulators’ new capital

rules, referred to in this report as the “U.S. Basel III capital rules”), subject to various phase-in provisions.

## Basel Committee Capital Standards and U.S. Regulatory Response.

In December 2010, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (Basel Committee) published guidelines for the Basel III global regulatory framework for capital and liquidity. The Basel Committee is a committee of banking supervisory authorities from major countries in the global financial system which formulates broad supervisory standards and guidelines relating to financial institutions for implementation on a country-by-country basis. Basel III includes requirements regarding increased minimum capital ratios, added capital conservation buffers and new deductions from allowable equity capital. In January 2011, the Basel Committee issued further guidance on the minimum requirements for a bank instrument to qualify as additional (i.e., non-common) Tier 1 or Tier 2 capital. In January 2013, the Basel Committee issued a revised Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), which expands the range of assets eligible as high-quality liquid assets, among other changes. The LCR will be introduced in January 2015 with a minimum requirement beginning at 60%, rising in equal annual steps of 10 percentage points to reach 100%. Many aspects of the standards are uncertain and are subject to interpretation. The new standards are to be fully phased-in by January 2019.

In July 2013, the FRB and the other U.S. federal banking agencies adopted final rules (the U.S. Basel III capital rules) making significant changes to the U.S. regulatory capital framework for U.S. banking organizations and to conform this framework to Basel III. These rules, upon their effectiveness, will replace the federal banking agencies' general risk-based capital rules, advanced approaches rule, market-risk rule, and leverage rules, in accordance with certain transition provisions. Banks, such as First Northern Bank, became subject to the new rules on January 1, 2015. The new rules implement higher minimum capital requirements, include a new common equity Tier 1 capital requirement, and establish criteria that instruments must meet in order to be considered common equity Tier 1 capital, additional Tier 1 capital, or Tier 2 capital. When fully phased in by January 1, 2019, the final rules will provide for increased minimum capital ratios as follows: (a) a common equity Tier 1 capital ratio of 4.5%; (b) a Tier 1 capital ratio of 6% (which is an increase from 4.0%); (c) a total capital ratio of 8%; and (d) a Tier 1 leverage ratio to average consolidated assets of 4%. Under the new rules, in order to avoid certain limitations on capital distributions, including dividend payments and certain discretionary bonus payments to executive officers, a banking organization must hold a capital conservation buffer composed of common equity Tier 1 capital above its minimum risk based capital requirements (equal to 2.5% of total risk-weighted assets when fully phased in). The phase-in of the capital conservation buffer begins January 1, 2016, and must be completed by January 1, 2019. The U.S. Basel III capital rules also provide for various adjustments and deductions to the definitions of regulatory capital that will phase in from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017. We are currently evaluating the impact of these changes on our regulatory capital position.

## Prompt Corrective Action and Other Enforcement Mechanisms

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 ("FDICIA") requires each federal banking agency to take prompt corrective action to resolve the problems of insured depository institutions, including but not limited to those that fall below one or more prescribed minimum capital ratios. The law required each federal banking agency to promulgate regulations defining the following five categories in which an insured depository institution will be placed, based on the level of its capital ratios: well capitalized, adequately capitalized, under-capitalized, significantly undercapitalized, and critically undercapitalized.

Under the prompt corrective action provisions of FDICIA, an insured depository institution generally will be classified in the following categories based on the capital measures indicated below:

### "Well capitalized"

Total risk-based capital of 10%;  
Tier 1 risk-based capital of 6%; and  
Leverage ratio of 5%.

### "Adequately capitalized"

Total risk-based capital of 8%;  
Tier 1 risk-based capital of 4%; and  
Leverage ratio of 4%.

“Undercapitalized”

Total risk-based capital less than 8%;

Tier 1 risk-based capital less than 4%; or

Leverage ratio less than 4%.

“Significantly undercapitalized”

Total risk-based capital less than 6%;

Tier 1 risk-based capital less than 3%; or

Leverage ratio less than 3%.

“Critically undercapitalized”

Tangible equity to total assets less than

2%.

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 an unsafe or unsound practice warrants such treatment. At each successive lower capital category, an insured depository institution is subject to more restrictions. Management believes that at December 31, 2014, the Company and the Bank met the requirements for “well capitalized” institutions.

In addition to measures taken under the prompt corrective action provisions, commercial banking organizations may be subject to potential enforcement actions by the federal regulators for unsafe or unsound practices in conducting their businesses or for violations of any law, rule, regulation or 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.

#### Safety and Soundness Standards

FDICIA also implemented certain specific restrictions on transactions and required federal banking regulators to adopt overall safety and soundness standards for depository institutions related to internal control, loan underwriting and documentation and asset growth. Among other things, FDICIA limits the interest rates paid on deposits by undercapitalized institutions, restricts the use of brokered deposits, limits the aggregate extensions of credit by a depository institution to an executive officer, director, principal shareholder, or related interest, and reduces deposit insurance coverage for deposits offered by undercapitalized institutions for deposits by certain employee benefits accounts.

The federal banking agencies may require an institution to submit to an acceptable compliance plan as well as have the flexibility to pursue other more appropriate or effective courses of action given the specific circumstances and severity of an institution’s non-compliance with one or more standards.

#### Restrictions on Dividends and Other Distributions

The power of the board of directors of an insured depository institution to declare a cash dividend or other distribution with respect to capital is subject to statutory and regulatory restrictions which limit the amount available for such distribution depending upon the earnings, financial condition and cash needs of the institution, as well as general business conditions. FDICIA prohibits insured depository institutions from paying management fees to any controlling persons or, with certain limited exceptions, making capital distributions, including dividends, if, after such transaction, the institution would be undercapitalized.

The federal banking agencies also have authority to prohibit a depository institution from engaging in business practices, which are considered to be unsafe or unsound, possibly including payment of dividends or other payments under certain circumstances even if such payments are not expressly prohibited by statute.

In addition to the restrictions imposed under federal law, banks chartered under California law generally may only pay cash dividends to the extent such payments do not exceed the lesser of retained earnings of the bank’s net income for its last three fiscal years (less any distributions to shareholders during such period). In the event a bank desires to pay cash dividends in excess of such amount, the bank may pay a cash dividend with the prior approval of the

Commissioner in an amount not exceeding the greatest of the bank's retained earnings, the bank's net income for its last fiscal year, or the bank's net income for its current fiscal year.

The Company is also subject to dividend and share repurchase restrictions in our corporate charter relating to the 2011 issuance to the U.S. Treasury of \$22.8 million of preferred stock in connection with the Small Business Lending Fund financing program. On February 8, 2013, the Company redeemed \$10 million of the preferred stock, leaving \$12.8 million outstanding as of year end 2014.



### Premiums for Deposit Insurance

The Bank is a member of the Deposit Insurance Fund (“DIF”) maintained by the FDIC. Through the DIF, the FDIC insures the deposits of the Bank up to prescribed limits for each depositor. To maintain the DIF, member institutions are assessed an insurance premium based on their deposits and their institutional risk category. The FDIC determines an institution’s risk category by combining its supervisory ratings with its financial ratios and other risk measures.

Amendments to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (“FDIA”) in 2005 and 2006 created a new assessment system designed to more closely tie what banks pay for deposit insurance to the risks they pose and adopted a new base schedule of rates that the FDIC can adjust up or down, depending on the revenue needs of the insurance fund. As part of the Deposit Insurance Fund Restoration Plan adopted by the FDIC in October 2008, beginning on April 1, 2009, the FDIC initial base assessment rates were set between 12 and 45 basis points. The FDIC also has the authority to impose special assessments at any time it estimates that deposit insurance fund reserves could fall to a level that would adversely affect public confidence.

The Dodd-Frank Act requires the FDIC to revise the deposit insurance assessment system to base assessments on the average total consolidated assets of the institution, rather than upon deposits payable in the U.S. as was previously the case.

In October 2010, the FDIC adopted a comprehensive, long-range “restoration” plan for the deposit insurance fund to ensure that the ratio of the fund’s reserves to insured deposits reaches 1.35 percent by 2020, as required by the Dodd Frank Act. Based upon updated projections for the fund, the FDIC decided to forgo the uniform 3 basis point assessment rate increase which had been scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2011, and kept the current rate schedule in effect. In September 2010, the fund’s designated reserve ratio was set at 2.0 percent, and in December 2011, the fund’s designated reserve ratio for 2012 was set at 2.0 percent once again. The final rule adopts progressively lower assessment rate schedules as the fund reaches specified reserve levels. In October 2012, the FDIC, in its semi-annual update, confirmed that the fund remained on track to meet the requirements of the restoration plan and the Dodd-Frank Act. The ultimate effect on our business of these legislative and regulatory developments relating to the DIF cannot be predicted with any certainty.

### Community Reinvestment Act and Fair Lending

The Bank is subject to certain fair lending requirements and reporting obligations involving its home mortgage lending operations and is also subject to the Community Reinvestment Act (“CRA”). The CRA generally requires the federal banking agencies to evaluate the record of a financial institution in meeting the credit needs of the Bank’s local communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. In addition to substantive penalties and corrective measures that may be required for a violation of certain fair lending laws, the federal banking agencies may take compliance with such laws and CRA into account when reviewing other activities by the Bank, particularly applications involving business expansion such as acquisitions or de novo branching.

### Certain CFPB Rules

In 2013, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) issued an Ability-to-Repay rule that all newly originated residential mortgages must meet, effective with new applications received as of January 10, 2014. The Ability-to-Repay rule establishes guidelines that the lender must follow when reviewing an applicant’s income, obligations, assets, liabilities, and credit history and requires that the lender make a reasonable and good faith determination of an applicant’s ability to repay the loan according to its terms. Lenders will be presumed to have met the Ability-to-Repay rule by originating loans that meet the criteria for “Qualified Mortgages”, which are set forth in detail in the rule. The mortgage loans originated by the Bank with the intent to sell them to Freddie Mac do meet the Qualified Mortgage criteria.

The CFPB has also issued a final rule on simplified and improved mortgage loan disclosures, otherwise known as Know Before You Owe, effective August 1, 2015. The rule provides that mortgage borrowers receive a loan estimate three business days after application and a closing disclosure three days before closing. These forms will replace disclosure forms previously provided to borrowers under other provisions of federal law. The rule provides for limitations on application fees and increases in closing costs.

These rules and any new regulatory requirements promulgated by the CFPB could have an adverse impact on our residential mortgage lending business as the industry adapts to the rule and any additional regulations. Our business strategy, product offerings and profitability may change as the market adjusts to the new rules and any additional regulations and as these requirements are interpreted by the regulators and courts.

### Conservatorship and Receivership of Insured Depository Institutions

If any insured depository institution becomes insolvent and the FDIC is appointed its conservator or receiver, the FDIC may, under federal law, disaffirm or repudiate any contract to which such institution is a party, if the FDIC determines that performance of the contract would be burdensome, and that disaffirmance or repudiation of the contract would promote the orderly administration of the institution's affairs. Such disaffirmance or repudiation would result in a claim by its holder against the receivership or conservatorship. The amount paid upon such claim would depend upon, among other factors, the amount of receivership assets available for the payment of such claim and its priority relative to the priority of others. In addition, the FDIC as conservator or receiver may enforce most contracts entered into by the institution notwithstanding any provision providing for termination, default, acceleration, or exercise of rights upon or solely by reason of insolvency of the institution, appointment of a conservator or receiver for the institution, or exercise of rights or powers by a conservator or receiver for the institution. The FDIC as conservator or receiver also may transfer any asset or liability of the institution without obtaining any approval or consent of the institution's shareholders or creditors.

### The Dodd-Frank Act

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act. This sweeping legislation has affected U.S. financial institutions, including us, in many ways, some of which have increased, or may increase in the future, the cost of doing business and have presented other challenges to the financial services industry. Many of the law's provisions have been in the process of being implemented by rules and regulations of the federal banking agencies, the scope and impact of which cannot yet be fully determined. The law contains many provisions which may have particular relevance to our business, including provisions that have resulted in adjustments to our FDIC deposit insurance premiums and that can be expected to result in increased capital and liquidity requirements, increased supervision, increased regulatory and compliance risks and costs and other operational costs and expenses, reduced fee-based revenues and restrictions on some aspects of our operations, and increased interest expense on our demand deposits.

The environment in which financial institutions continue to operate since the U.S. financial crisis, including legislative and regulatory changes affecting capital, liquidity, supervision, permissible activities, corporate governance and compensation, and changes in fiscal policy may have long-term effects on the business model and profitability of financial institutions that cannot now be foreseen.

### Overdraft and Interchange Fees; Interest on Demand Deposits.

In November 2009, the FRB adopted amendments under its Regulation E that imposed new restrictions on banks' abilities to charge overdraft services and fees. The rule prohibits financial institutions from charging fees for paying overdrafts on ATM and one-time debit card transactions, unless a consumer consents, or opts in, to the overdraft service for those types of transactions. The Dodd-Frank Act, through a provision known as the Durbin Amendment, required the FRB to establish standards for interchange fees that are "reasonable and proportional" to the cost of processing the debit card transaction and imposes other requirements on card networks. Under the final rule, effective in October 2011, the maximum permissible interchange fee that a bank may receive is the sum of \$0.21 per transaction and five basis points multiplied by the value of the transaction, with an additional upward adjustment of no more than \$0.01 per transaction if a bank develops and implements policies and procedures reasonably designed to achieve fraud-prevention standards set by regulation. In July 2013, a Federal district court held that this rule was not valid under the Dodd-Frank Act's standard that the fee be "reasonable and proportional" to the cost of processing the debit card transactions and improperly including certain categories of costs in applying the statutory standard. Thereafter, a United States Court of Appeal reversed the district court's ruling almost in its entirety, thus upholding the FRB's regulation, and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of that decision. The FRB's

regulation is resulting in decreased revenues and increased compliance costs for the banking industry and the Bank, and there can be no assurance that alternative sources of revenues can be implemented to offset the impact of these developments.

On July 21, 2011, the FRB's final rule repealing Regulation Q's prohibition against the payment of interest on demand deposit accounts became effective. Over time, permitting the payment of interest on business checking accounts could have a significant impact on our commercial deposit business.

## Sarbanes – Oxley Act

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (“Sarbanes-Oxley”) implemented a broad range of corporate governance and accounting measures to increase corporate responsibility, to provide for enhanced penalties for accounting and auditing improprieties at publicly traded companies, and to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of disclosures under federal securities laws. Among other things, Sarbanes-Oxley and its implementing regulations established new membership requirements and additional responsibilities for our audit committee, imposed restrictions on the relationship between us and our outside auditors (including restrictions on the types of non-audit services our auditors may provide to us), imposed additional responsibilities for our external financial statements on our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, expanded the disclosure requirements for our corporate insiders and contained new evaluation, auditing and reporting requirements relating to disclosure controls and procedures and our internal control over financial reporting.

## Possible Future Legislation and Regulatory Initiatives

The recent economic and political environment has led to a number of proposed legislative, governmental and regulatory initiatives, described above, that may significantly impact our industry. These and other initiatives could significantly change the competitive and operating environment in which we and our subsidiaries operate. We cannot predict whether these or any other proposals will be enacted or the ultimate impact of any such initiatives on our operations, competitive situation, financial condition or results of operations.

## Competition

In the past, an independent bank’s principal competitors for deposits and loans have been other banks (particularly large financial institutions that have substantial capital, technology and marketing resources, which are well in excess of ours, although these larger institutions may be required to hold more regulatory capital and as a result, achieve lower returns on equity), savings and loan associations, and credit unions. For agricultural loans, the Bank also competes with constituent entities with the Federal Farm Credit System. To a lesser extent, competition is also provided by thrift and loans, mortgage brokerage companies and insurance companies. Other institutions, such as brokerage houses, mutual fund companies, credit card companies, and even retail establishments have offered new investment vehicles, which also compete with banks for deposit business.

Current federal law has made it easier for out-of-state banks to enter and compete in the states in which we operate. Competition in our principal markets may further intensify as a result of the Dodd-Frank Act which, among other things, permits out-of-state de novo branching by national banks, state banks and foreign banks from other states. The availability of banking services over the Internet or “e-banking” has continued to expand. While the impact of these changes, and of other proposed changes, cannot be predicted with certainty, it is clear that the business of banking in California will remain highly competitive.

We also compete for deposits and loans with much larger financial institutions. Competition in our industry is likely to further intensify as a result of continued adverse economic and financial market conditions which has led to increased consolidation of financial services companies, including large consolidations of significance in our market area. In order to compete with major financial institutions and other competitors in its primary service areas, the Bank relies upon the experience of its executive and senior officers in serving business clients, and upon its specialized services, local promotional activities and the personal contacts made by its officers, directors and employees.

For customers whose loan demand exceeds the Bank’s legal lending limit, the Bank may arrange for such loans on a participation basis with correspondent banks. The seasonal swings discussed earlier have, in the past, had some impact on the Bank’s liquidity. The management of investment maturities, sale of loan participations, federal fund borrowings, qualification for funds under the Federal Reserve Bank’s seasonal credit program, and the ability to sell

mortgages in the secondary market is intended to allow the Bank to satisfactorily manage its liquidity.

## ITEM 1A – RISK FACTORS

In addition to factors mentioned elsewhere in this Report, the factors contained below, among others, could cause our financial condition and results of operations to be materially and adversely affected. If this were to happen, the value of our common stock could decline, perhaps significantly, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

U.S. and global economies continue to experience significant challenges.

In recent years, adverse financial developments have impacted the U.S. and global economies and financial markets and present challenges for the banking and financial services industry and for us. These developments include a general recession both globally and in the U.S. and have contributed to substantial volatility in the financial markets.

In response, various significant economic and monetary stimulus measures have been enacted by the U.S. Congress. It is uncertain whether these U.S. governmental actions will result in lasting improvement in financial and economic conditions affecting the U.S. banking industry and the U.S. economy. It also cannot be predicted whether and to what extent the efforts of the U.S. government to combat the recessionary conditions will continue. If, notwithstanding the government's fiscal and monetary measures, the U.S. economy were to become subject to a recessionary condition for an extended period, this would present additional significant challenges for the U.S. banking and financial services industry and for us.

### The Bank is Subject to Lending Risks of Loss and Repayment Associated with Commercial Banking Activities

The Bank's business strategy is to focus on commercial business loans (which includes agricultural loans), construction loans, and commercial and multi-family real estate loans. The principal factors affecting the Bank's risk of loss in connection with commercial business loans include the borrower's ability to manage its business affairs and cash flows, general economic conditions and, with respect to agricultural loans, weather and climate conditions. In recent years, California has been affected by severe drought conditions, which, if they were to continue, may adversely impact our commercial loan customers, particularly in the agricultural sector. Loans secured by commercial real estate are generally larger and involve a greater degree of credit and transaction risk than residential mortgage (one to four family) loans. Because payments on loans secured by commercial and multi-family real estate properties are often dependent on successful operation or management of the underlying properties, repayment of such loans may be dependent on factors other than the prevailing conditions in the real estate market or the economy. Real estate construction financing is generally considered to involve a higher degree of credit risk than long-term financing on improved, owner-occupied real estate. Risk of loss on a construction loan is dependent largely upon the accuracy of the initial estimate of the property's value at completion of construction or development compared to the estimated cost (including interest) of construction. If the estimate of value proves to be inaccurate, the Bank may be confronted with a project which, when completed, has a value which is insufficient to assure full repayment of the construction loan.

Although the Bank manages lending risks through its underwriting and credit administration policies, no assurance can be given that such risks will not materialize, in which event, the Company's financial condition, results of operations, cash flows, and business prospects could be materially adversely affected.

### Increases in the Allowance for Loan Losses Would Adversely Affect the Bank's Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The Bank's allowance for estimated losses on loans was approximately \$8.6 million, or 1.57% of total loans, at December 31, 2014, compared to \$9.4 million, or 1.81% of total loans, at December 31, 2013, and 166.5% of total non-performing loans net of guaranteed portions at December 31, 2014, compared to 102.3% of total non-performing loans at December 31, 2013. Material future additions to the allowance for estimated losses on loans may be necessary if material adverse changes in economic conditions occur and the performance of the Bank's loan portfolio

deteriorates. In addition, an allowance for losses on other real estate owned may also be required in order to reflect changes in the markets for real estate in which the Bank's other real estate owned is located and other factors which may result in adjustments which are necessary to ensure that the Bank's foreclosed assets are carried at the lower of cost or fair value, less estimated costs to dispose of the properties. Moreover, the FDIC and the DBO, as an integral part of their examination process, periodically review the Bank's allowance for estimated losses on loans and the carrying value of its assets. Increases in the provisions for estimated losses on loans and foreclosed assets would adversely affect the Bank's financial condition and results of operations. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Summary of Loan Loss Experience" below.



### The Bank's Dependence on Real Estate Lending Increases Our Risk of Losses

At December 31, 2014, approximately 73% of the Bank's loans (excluding loans held-for-sale) were secured by real estate. The value of the Bank's real estate collateral has been, and could in the future continue to be, adversely affected by the economic recession and resulting adverse impact on the real estate market in Northern California.

The Bank's primary lending focus has historically been commercial (including agricultural), construction, and real estate mortgage. At December 31, 2014, real estate mortgage (excluding loans held-for-sale) and construction loans (residential and other) comprised approximately 70% and 3%, respectively, of the total loans in the Bank's portfolio. At December 31, 2014, all of the Bank's real estate mortgage and construction loans and approximately 5% of its commercial loans were secured fully or in part by deeds of trust on underlying real estate. The Company's dependence on real estate increases the risk of loss in both the Bank's loan portfolio and its holdings of other real estate owned if economic conditions in Northern California further deteriorate in the future. Further deterioration of the real estate market in Northern California would have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition, and results of operations.

The CFPB has adopted various regulations which have and will continue to impact our residential mortgage lending business. For additional information, see "Business – Certain CFPB Rules" in Item 1 of this Report on Form 10-K.

See "U.S. and global economies continue to experience significant challenges" above, and "Adverse California Economic Conditions Could Adversely Affect the Bank's Business" below.

Adverse economic factors affecting certain industries the Bank serves could adversely affect our business.

We are subject to certain industry specific economic factors. For example, a portion of the Bank's total loan portfolio is related to residential and commercial real estate, especially in California. Increases in residential mortgage loan interest rates could have an adverse effect on the Bank's operations by depressing new mortgage loan originations, which in turn could negatively impact the Bank's title and escrow deposit levels. Additionally, a further downturn in the residential real estate and housing industries in California could have an adverse effect on the Bank's operations and the quality of its real estate and construction loan portfolio. Although the Bank does not engage in subprime or negative amortization lending, effects of recent subprime market challenges, combined with the ongoing challenges in the U.S. and California real estate markets, could result in further price reductions in single family home prices and a lack of liquidity in refinancing markets. These factors could adversely impact the quality of the Bank's residential construction, residential mortgage and construction related commercial portfolios in various ways, including by decreasing the value of the collateral for our loans. These factors could also negatively affect the economy in general and thereby the Bank's overall loan portfolio.

The Bank provides financing to, and receives deposits from, businesses in a number of other industries that may be particularly vulnerable to industry-specific economic factors, including the home building, commercial real estate, retail, agricultural, industrial, and commercial industries. The home building industry in California has been especially adversely impacted by the deterioration in residential real estate markets, which has lead the Bank to take additional provisions and charge-offs against credit losses in this portfolio. Continued increases in fuel prices and energy costs and the continuation of the drought in California could adversely affect businesses in several of these industries. Industry specific risks are beyond the Bank's control and could adversely affect the Bank's portfolio of loans, potentially resulting in an increase in non-performing loans or charge-offs and a slowing of growth or reduction in our loan portfolio.

The effects of changes or increases in, or supervisory enforcement of, banking or other laws and regulations or governmental fiscal or monetary policies could adversely affect us.

We are subject to significant federal and state banking regulation and supervision, which is primarily for the benefit and protection of our customers and the Federal Deposit Insurance Fund and not for the benefit of investors in our securities. In the past, our business has been materially affected by these regulations. This will continue and likely intensify in the future. Laws, regulations or policies, including accounting standards and interpretations, currently affecting us may change at any time. Regulatory authorities may also change their interpretation of and intensify their examination of compliance with these statutes and regulations. Therefore, our business may be adversely affected by changes in laws, regulations, policies or interpretations or regulatory approaches to compliance and enforcement, as well as by supervisory action or criminal proceedings taken as a result of noncompliance, which could result in the imposition of significant civil money penalties or fines. Changes in laws and regulations may also increase our expenses by imposing additional supervision, fees, taxes or restrictions on our operations. Compliance with laws and regulations, especially new laws and regulations, increases our operating expenses and may divert management attention from our business operations.

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act. This important legislation has affected U.S. financial institutions in many ways, some of which have increased, or may increase in the future, the cost of doing business and present other challenges to the financial services industry. Various provisions of the law have been implemented by rules and regulations of the federal banking agencies, but certain provisions of the law are yet to be implemented by the federal banking agencies and therefore the full scope and impact of the law on banking institutions generally and on our business cannot be fully determined at this time. The law contains many provisions that may have particular relevance to the business of the Bank. While the full effect of these provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act on the Bank cannot be predicted at this time, they have resulted in adjustments to our FDIC deposit insurance premiums, and can be expected to result in increased capital and liquidity requirements, increased supervision, increased regulatory and compliance risks and costs and other operational costs and expenses, reduced fee-based revenues and restrictions on some aspects of our operations, and as well as increased interest expense on our demand deposits, some or all of which may be material.

Proposals to reform the housing finance market in the U.S. could also significantly affect our business. These proposals, among other things, consider winding down the government sponsored entities Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (GSEs) and reducing or eliminating over time the role of the GSEs in guaranteeing mortgages and providing funding for mortgage loans, as well as the implementation of reforms relating to borrowers, lenders, and investors in the mortgage market, including reducing the maximum size of a loan that the GSEs can guarantee, phasing in a minimum down payment requirement for borrowers, improving underwriting standards, and increasing accountability and transparency in the securitization process.

While the specific nature of these reforms and their impact on the financial services industry in general, and on the Bank in particular, is uncertain at this time, such reforms, if enacted, are likely to have a substantial impact on the mortgage market and could potentially reduce our income from mortgage originations by increasing mortgage costs or lowering originations. The GSE reforms could also reduce real estate prices, which could reduce the value of collateral securing outstanding mortgage loans. This reduction of collateral value could negatively impact the value or perceived collectability of these mortgage loans and may increase our allowance for loan losses. Such reforms may also include changes to the Federal Home Loan Bank System, which could adversely affect a significant source of term funding for lending activities by the banking industry, including the Bank. These reforms may also result in higher interest rates on residential mortgage loans, thereby reducing demand, which could have an adverse impact on our residential mortgage lending business.

In December 2010, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (Basel Committee) published guidelines for the Basel III global regulatory framework for capital and liquidity. The Basel Committee is a committee of banking supervisory authorities from major countries in the global financial system which formulates broad supervisory standards and guidelines relating to financial institutions for implementation on a country-by-country basis. In July 2013, the FRB and the other U.S. federal banking agencies adopted final rules making significant changes to the U.S. regulatory capital framework for U.S. banking organizations and to conform this framework to Basel III. These rules replaced the federal banking agencies' general risk-based capital rules, advanced approaches rule, market-risk rule, and leverage rules, in accordance with certain transition provisions. Banks, such as First Northern Bank, became subject to the new rules on January 1, 2015. The new rules implement higher minimum capital requirements, include a new common equity Tier 1 capital requirement, and establish criteria that instruments must meet in order to be considered common equity Tier 1 capital, additional Tier 1 capital, or Tier 2 capital. When fully phased in, the final rules will provide for increased minimum capital ratios as follows: (a) a common equity Tier 1 capital ratio of 4.5%; (b) a Tier 1 capital ratio of 6% (which is an increase from 4.0%); (c) a total capital ratio of 8%; and (d) a Tier 1 leverage ratio to average consolidated assets of 4%. Under the new rules, in order to avoid certain limitations on capital distributions, including dividend payments and certain discretionary bonus payments to executive officers, a banking organization must hold a capital conservation buffer composed of common equity Tier 1 capital above its minimum risk based capital requirements (equal to 2.5% of total risk-weighted assets). The phase-in of the capital conservation buffer will begin January 1, 2016, and be completed by January 1, 2019. The new rules also provide for

various adjustments and deductions to the definitions of regulatory capital that will phase in from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017. We are currently evaluating the impact of these changes on our future regulatory capital position. For additional information, see “Business – Basel Committee Capital Standards and U.S. Regulatory Response” in Item 1 of this Form 10-K.

We maintain systems and procedures designed to comply with applicable laws and regulations. However, some legal/regulatory frameworks provide for the imposition of criminal or civil penalties (which can be substantial) for noncompliance. In some cases, liability may attach even if the noncompliance was inadvertent or unintentional and even if compliance systems and procedures were in place at the time. There may be other negative consequences from a finding of noncompliance, including restrictions on certain activities and damage to our reputation.

Additionally, our business is affected significantly by the fiscal and monetary policies of the U.S. federal government and its agencies. We are particularly affected by the policies of the FRB, which regulates the supply of money and credit in the U.S. Under the Dodd-Frank Act and a long-standing policy of the FRB, a bank holding company is expected to act as a source of financial and managerial strength for its subsidiary banks. As a result of that policy, we may be required to commit financial and other resources to our subsidiary bank in circumstances where we might not otherwise do so. Among the instruments of monetary policy available to the FRB are (a) conducting open market operations in U.S. Government securities, (b) changing the discount rates on borrowings by depository institutions and the federal funds rate, and (c) imposing or changing reserve requirements against certain borrowings by banks and their affiliates. These methods are used in varying degrees and combinations to directly affect the availability of bank loans and deposits, as well as the interest rates charged on loans and paid on deposits. The policies of the FRB may have a material effect on our business, prospects, results of operations and financial condition.

Refer to “Business – Supervision and Regulation of Bank” in Item 1 of this Form 10-K for discussion of certain existing and proposed laws and regulations that may affect our business.

#### Adverse California Economic Conditions Could Adversely Affect the Bank’s Business

The Bank’s operations and a substantial majority of the Bank’s assets and deposits are generated and concentrated primarily in Northern California, particularly the counties of Placer, Sacramento, Solano and Yolo, and are likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. At December 31, 2014, approximately 73% of the Bank’s loan portfolio (excluding loans held-for-sale) consisted of real estate-related loans, all of which were secured by collateral located in Northern California. As a result, a further downturn in the economic conditions in Northern California may cause the Bank to incur losses associated with high default rates and decreased collateral values in its loan portfolio. Economic conditions in California are subject to various uncertainties at this time, including the significant deterioration in the California real estate market and housing industry.

For the last several years, economic conditions in California, and especially the regional markets we serve, have been subject to various challenges, including significant deterioration in the residential real estate sector and the California state government’s budgetary and fiscal difficulties. California continues to have a high unemployment rate. Also, California markets have experienced some of the worst property value declines in the U.S.

In addition, for the past several years, the State government of California has experienced budget shortfalls or deficits that have led to protracted negotiations between the Governor and the State Legislature over how to address the budget gap. The California electorate approved, in the November 2012 general elections, certain increases in the rate of income taxation in California, and also elected Democratic super-majorities in both Houses of the California legislature, thus potentially facilitating further increases in California tax rates. As a consequence, California’s 2013-14 budget proposal does not reflect deficits, however, there can be no assurance that the state’s fiscal and budgetary challenges will be readily resolved. In addition, the impact of increased rates of income taxation on the level of economic activity in California cannot be predicted at this time.

Also, municipalities and other governmental units within California have been experiencing budgetary difficulties, and several California municipalities have filed for protection under the Bankruptcy Code. As a result, concerns also have arisen regarding the outlook for the State of California’s governmental obligations, as well as those of California municipalities and other governmental units.

Poor economic conditions in California, and especially the regional markets we serve, will cause us to incur losses associated with higher default rates and decreased collateral values in our loan portfolio. If the budgetary and fiscal difficulties of the California State government and California municipalities and other governmental units continue or economic conditions in California decline further, we expect that our level of problem assets will increase and our prospects for growth will be impaired.

### The Bank is Subject to Interest Rate Risk

The income of the Bank depends to a great extent on “interest rate differentials” and the resulting net interest margins (i.e., the difference between the interest rates earned on the Bank’s interest-earning assets such as loans and investment securities, and the interest rates paid on the Bank’s interest-bearing liabilities such as deposits and borrowings). These rates are highly sensitive to many factors, which are beyond the Bank’s control, including, but not limited to, general economic conditions and the policies of various governmental and regulatory agencies, in particular, the FRB. The Bank is generally adversely affected by declining interest rates. For the past several years, in response to the financial crisis which began in 2008 and the ensuing recession, the FRB has pursued a variety of monetary measures aimed at sustaining a very low interest rate environment in the U.S. in order to stimulate economic growth, including purchases of long-term U.S. Treasury and federal agency backed securities and maintaining a very low target range for the federal funds rate. These policies of the FRB for the past several years have placed a downward pressure on the net interest margins of banks in the United States, including that of the Bank. During 2014, the FRB began to gradually ease its accommodative monetary policies, including discontinuing its asset purchase program in October, 2014. The FRB further indicated that expects to maintain the current very low target range for the federal funds rate for at least some time while it assesses progress toward its objectives of maximum employment and modest inflation. We cannot predict with any certainty the degree to which the FRB will continue its accommodative monetary policies, nor the timing of further easing of these policies. Changes in the relationship between short-term and long-term market interest rates or between different interest rate indices can also impact our interest rate differential, possibly resulting in a decrease in our interest income relative to interest expense. In addition, changes in monetary policy, including changes in interest rates, influence the origination of loans, the purchase of investments and the generation of deposits and affect the rates received on loans and investment securities and paid on deposits, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company’s business, financial condition, and results of operations.

### Potential Volatility of Deposits May Increase Our Cost of Funds

At December 31, 2014, 6% of the dollar value of the Company’s total deposits was represented by time certificates of deposit in excess of \$100,000 (as compared with 7% at December 31, 2013). Although we have adopted a pricing strategy designed to reduce the level of time deposits, these deposits are also considered volatile and could be subject to withdrawal. Withdrawal of a material amount of such deposits could adversely impact the Company’s liquidity, profitability, business prospects, results of operations and cash flows.

Time deposit accounts have decreased \$65.9 million or 43.3% since December 31, 2009. This decline was the result of an explicit pricing strategy adopted by the Company during the fourth quarter of 2009 based upon the recognition that market CD rates were greater than the yields that the Company could obtain reinvesting these funds in short-term agency securities or overnight Fed Funds. During 2009 management carefully reviewed time deposit customers and reduced the Company’s deposit rates to customers that did not also have transaction, savings and money market balances with the Company (i.e., depositors who were not “relationship customers”). Given the Company’s deposit growth in transaction and savings accounts, supplemented by investment portfolio maturities and sales, this time deposit decline did not result in any liquidity issues and it positively affected the Company’s net interest margin and earnings.

### Our Ability to Pay Dividends is Subject to Legal Restrictions

As a bank holding company, our cash flow typically comes from dividends of the Bank. Various statutory and regulatory provisions restrict the amount of dividends the Bank can pay to the Company without regulatory approval. The ability of the Company to pay cash dividends in the future also depends on the Company’s profitability, growth, and capital needs. In addition, California law restricts the ability of the Company to pay dividends. No assurance can be given that the Company will pay any dividends in the future or, if paid, such dividends will not be discontinued. The Company is also subject to dividend and share repurchase restrictions in our corporate charter

relating to the 2011 issuance to the U.S. Treasury of \$22.8 million of preferred stock in connection with the Small Business Lending Fund financing program. On February 8, 2013, the Company redeemed \$10 million of the preferred stock, leaving \$12.8 million currently outstanding. See “Business - Restrictions on Dividends and Other Distributions” above.

#### Competition Adversely Affects our Profitability

In California generally, and in the Bank’s primary market area specifically, major banks dominate the commercial banking industry. By virtue of their larger capital bases, such institutions have substantially greater lending limits than those of the Bank. Competition is likely to further intensify as a result of recent adverse economic and financial market conditions which have led to increased consolidation of financial services companies, including large consolidations of significance in our market area. In obtaining deposits and making loans, the Bank competes with these larger commercial banks and other financial institutions, such as savings and loan associations, credit unions and member institutions of the Farm Credit System, which offer many services that traditionally were offered only by banks. Using the financial holding company structure, insurance companies, and securities firms may compete more directly with banks and bank holding companies. In addition, the Bank competes with other institutions such as mutual fund companies, brokerage firms, and even retail stores seeking to penetrate the financial services market. Current federal law has also made it easier for out-of-state banks to enter and compete in the states in which we operate. Competition in our principal markets may further intensify as a result of the Dodd-Frank Act which, among other things, permits out-of-state de novo branching by national banks, state banks and foreign banks from other states. Also, technology and other changes increasingly allow parties to complete financial transactions electronically, and in many cases, without banks. For example, consumers can pay bills and transfer funds over the internet and by telephone without banks. Non-bank financial service providers may have lower overhead costs and are subject to fewer regulatory constraints. If consumers do not use banks to complete their financial transactions, we could potentially lose fee income, deposits and income generated from those deposits. During periods of declining interest rates, competitors with lower costs of capital may solicit the Bank’s customers to refinance their loans. Furthermore, during periods of economic slowdown or recession, the Bank’s borrowers may face financial difficulties and be more receptive to offers from the Bank’s competitors to refinance their loans. No assurance can be given that the Bank will be able to compete with these lenders. See “Business - Competition” above.



### Government Regulation and Legislation Could Adversely Affect the Company

The Company and the Bank are subject to extensive state and federal regulation, supervision, and legislation, which govern almost all aspects of the operations of the Company and the Bank. The business of the Bank is particularly susceptible to being affected by the enactment of federal and state legislation, which may have the effect of increasing the cost of doing business, modifying permissible activities, or enhancing the competitive position of other financial institutions. Such laws are subject to change from time to time and are primarily intended for the protection of consumers, depositors and the deposit insurance fund and not for the benefit of shareholders of the Company. Regulatory authorities may also change their interpretation of these laws and regulations. The Company cannot predict what effect any presently contemplated or future changes in the laws or regulations or their interpretations would have on the business and prospects of the Company, but it could be material and adverse. See “Business – Supervision and Regulation of Bank” and “Increased Regulation could Adversely Affect Us” above.

We maintain systems and procedures designed to comply with applicable laws and regulations. However, some legal/regulatory frameworks provide for the imposition of criminal or civil penalties (which can be substantial) for non-compliance. In some cases, liability may attach even if the non-compliance was inadvertent or unintentional and even if compliance systems and procedures were in place at the time. There may be other negative consequences from a finding of non-compliance, including restrictions on certain activities and damage to the Company’s reputation.

### Our Controls and Procedures May Fail or be Circumvented

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

### Recent Changes in Deposit Insurance Premiums Could Adversely Affect Our Business

As discussed above in Part I under the caption “Business – Premiums for Deposit Insurance,” the FDIC has taken recent steps, and the Dodd-Frank Act includes provisions, which could further increase deposit premiums and is contemplating further increases and a special assessment. Any further increases in the deposit insurance assessments the Bank pays would further increase our costs.

### Negative Public Opinion Could Damage Our Reputation and Adversely Affect Our Earnings

Reputational risk, or the risk to our earnings and capital from negative public opinion, is inherent in our business. Negative public opinion can result from the actual or perceived manner in which we conduct our business activities, management of actual or potential conflicts of interest and ethical issues, and our protection of confidential client information. Negative public opinion can adversely affect our ability to keep and attract customers and employees and can expose us to litigation and regulatory action. We take steps to minimize reputation risk in the way we conduct our business activities and deal with our clients and communities.

We may not be able to hire or retain additional qualified personnel and recruiting and compensation costs may increase as a result of turnover, both of which may increase costs and reduce profitability and may adversely impact our ability to implement our business strategy.

Our success depends upon the ability to attract and retain highly motivated, well-qualified personnel. We face significant competition in the recruitment of qualified employees. Executive compensation in the financial services sector has been controversial and the subject of regulation. The FDIC has proposed rules which would increase deposit premiums for institutions with compensation practices deemed to increase risk to the institution. Over time, this guidance and the proposed rules, upon their adoption, could have the effect of making it more difficult for banks to attract and retain skilled personnel.

### The Continuing War on Terrorism and Foreign Hostilities Could Adversely Affect U.S. and Global Economic Conditions

Acts or threats of terrorism and actions taken by the U.S. or other governments as a result of such acts or threats and other international hostilities may result in a disruption of U.S. economic and financial conditions and could adversely affect business, economic and financial conditions in the U.S. generally and in our principal markets. Continued foreign hostilities have also generated various political and economic uncertainties affecting the global and U.S. economies.

### Changes in Accounting Standards Could Materially Impact Our Financial Statements

The Company's consolidated financial statements are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, called GAAP. The financial information contained within our consolidated financial statements is, to a significant extent, financial information that is based on approximate measures of the financial effects of transactions and events that have already occurred. A variety of factors could affect the ultimate value that is obtained either when earning income, recognizing an expense, recovering an asset or relieving a liability. Along with other factors, we use historical loss factors to determine the inherent loss that may be present in our loan portfolio. Actual losses could differ significantly from the historical loss factors that we use. Other estimates that we use are fair value of our securities and expected useful lives of our depreciable assets. We have not entered into derivative contracts for our customers or for ourselves, which relate to interest rate, credit, equity, commodity, energy, or weather-related indices. GAAP itself may change from one previously acceptable method to another method. Although the economics of our transactions would be the same, the timing of events that would impact our transactions could change. Accounting standards and interpretations currently affecting the Company and its subsidiaries may change at any time, and the Company's financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected. In some cases, we could be required to apply a new or revised standard retroactively, resulting in our restating prior period financial statements.

There is a Limited Public Market for the Company's Common Stock which May Make it Difficult for Shareholders to Dispose of Their Shares

The Company's common stock is not listed on any exchange. However, trades may be reported on the OTC Markets under the symbol "FNRN". The Company is aware that Raymond James & Associates, Cromwell, Weedon & Company, Wedbush & Morgan securities, and Monroe Securities, Inc., all currently make a market in the Company's common stock. Management is aware that there are also private transactions in the Company's common stock. However, the limited trading market for the Company's common stock may make it difficult for shareholders to dispose of their shares. Also, the price of the Company's common stock may be affected by general market price movements as well as developments specifically related to the financial services sector, including interest rate movements, quarterly variations, or changes in financial estimates by securities analysts and a significant reduction in the price of the stock of another participant in the financial services industry.

### Advances and Changes in Technology, and the Company's Ability to Adapt Its Technology, could Impact Its Ability to Compete and Its Business and Operations

Advances and changes in technology can significantly impact the business and operations of the Company. The Company faces many challenges including the increased demand for providing computer access to Company accounts and the systems to perform banking transactions electronically. The Company's merchant processing services require the use of advanced computer hardware and software technology and rapidly changing customer and regulatory requirements. The Company's ability to compete depends on its ability to continue to adapt its technology on a timely and cost-effective basis to meet these requirements. In addition, the Company's business and operations are susceptible to negative impacts from computer system failures, communication and energy disruption, and unethical individuals with the technological ability to cause disruptions or failures of the Company's data processing systems.

### Information Security Breaches or other technological difficulties could adversely affect the Company

Our operations rely on the secure processing, storage, transmission and reporting of personal, confidential and other sensitive information in our computer systems, networks and business applications. Although we take protective measures, our computer systems may be vulnerable to breaches, unauthorized access, misuse, computer viruses or other malicious code, and other events that could have significant negative consequences to us. Such events could result in interruptions or malfunctions in our or our customers' operations, interception, misuse or mishandling of personal or confidential information, or processing of unauthorized transactions or loss of funds. These events could result in litigation and financial losses that are either not insured against or not fully covered by our insurance, regulatory consequences or reputational harm, any of which could harm our competitive position, operating results and financial condition. These types of incidents can remain undetected for extended periods of time, thereby increasing the associated risks. We may also be required to expend significant resources to modify our protective measures or to investigate and remediate vulnerabilities or exposures arising from cybersecurity risks.

We depend on the continued efficacy of our technical systems, operational infrastructure, relationships with third parties and our employees in our day-to-day and ongoing operations. Our dependence upon automated systems to record and process transactions may further increase the risk that technical system flaws or employee tampering or manipulation of those systems will result in losses that are difficult to detect. With regard to the physical infrastructure that supports our operations, we have taken measures to implement backup systems and other safeguards, but our ability to conduct business may be adversely affected by any disruption to that infrastructure. Failures in our internal control or operational systems, security breaches or service interruptions could impair our ability to operate our business and result in potential liability to customers, reputational damage and regulatory intervention, any of which could harm our operating results and financial condition.

We may also be subject to disruptions of our operating systems arising from other events that are wholly or partially beyond our control, such as electrical, internet or telecommunications outages or unexpected difficulties with the implementation of our technology enhancement projects, which may give rise to disruption of service to customers and to financial loss or liability. Our business recovery plan may not work as intended or may not prevent significant interruptions of our operations.

In recent years, it has been reported that several of the larger U.S. banking institutions have been the target of cyberattacks that have, for limited periods, resulted in the disruption of various operations of the targeted banks. While we have a variety of cyber-security measures in place, the consequences to our business, if we were to become a target of such attacks, cannot be predicted with any certainty.

In addition, there have been increasing efforts on the part of third parties to breach data security at financial institutions or with respect to financial transactions, including through the use of social engineering schemes such as "phishing." The ability of our customers to bank remotely, including online and through mobile devices, requires secure

transmission of confidential information and increases the risk of data security breaches.

Even if cyber-attacks and similar tactics are not directed specifically at the Bank, such attacks on other large financial institutions could disrupt the overall functioning of the financial system and undermine consumer confidence in banks generally, to the detriment of other financial institutions, including the Bank. A data security breach at a large U.S. retailer recently resulted in the compromise of data related to credit and debit cards of large numbers of customers requiring many banks, including the Bank, to reissue credit and debit cards for affected customers and reimburse these customers for losses sustained. Proposals have been advanced to replace the magnetic-stripe cards commonly used in the U.S. with more secure smart-chip technology to reduce the risk of such data breaches. The costs of such a conversion could be considerable and it remains unclear at this time how much of such costs would be borne by retailers, card issuers and the banking industry.

## Environmental Hazards Could Have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company's Business, Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The Company, in its ordinary course of business, acquires real property securing loans that are in default, and there is a risk that hazardous substances or waste, contaminants or pollutants could exist on such properties. The Company may be required to remove or remediate such substances from the affected properties at its expense, and the cost of such removal or remediation may substantially exceed the value of the affected properties or the loans secured by such properties. Furthermore, the Company may not have adequate remedies against the prior owners or other responsible parties to recover its costs. Finally, the Company may find it difficult or impossible to sell the affected properties either prior to or following any such removal. In addition, the Company may be considered liable for environmental liabilities in connection with its borrowers' properties, if, among other things, it participates in the management of its borrowers' operations. The occurrence of such an event could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

The Company may not be successful in raising additional capital needed in the future

If additional capital is needed in the future as a result of losses, our business strategy or regulatory requirements, there is no assurance that our efforts to raise such additional capital will be successful or that shares sold in the future will be sold at prices or on terms equal to or better than the current market price. The inability to raise additional capital when needed or at prices and terms acceptable to us could adversely affect our ability to implement our business strategies.

In the future the Company may be required to recognize impairment with respect to investment securities

The Company's securities portfolio contains mortgage-backed securities and currently includes securities with unrecognized losses. The Company may continue to observe declines in the fair market value of these securities. Management evaluates the securities portfolio for any other-than-temporary impairment each reporting period, as required by generally accepted accounting principles. There can be no assurance, however, that future evaluations of the securities portfolio will not require us to recognize impairment charges with respect to these and other holdings.

#### ITEM 1B – UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

Not applicable.

#### ITEM 2 – PROPERTIES

The Company and the Bank are engaged in the banking business through thirteen offices in five counties in Northern California operating out of three offices in Solano County, six in Yolo County, one in Sacramento County, two in Placer County, and one in Contra Costa County. In addition, the Company owns four vacant lots, three in northern Solano County and one in eastern Sacramento County, for possible future bank sites.

The Bank owns four branch office locations and two administrative facilities and leases 10 facilities. Most of the leases contain multiple renewal options and provisions for rental increases, principally for changes in the cost of living index, property taxes and maintenance.

See Item 1 “Business” in this report for more information regarding our properties.

#### ITEM 3 - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Neither the Company nor the Bank is a party to any material pending legal proceeding, nor is any of its property the subject of any material pending legal proceeding, except ordinary routine litigation arising in the ordinary course of the Bank’s business and incidental to its business, none of which is expected to have a material adverse impact upon the Company’s or the Bank’s business, financial position or results of operations.

#### 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 Company's common stock is not listed on any exchange. However, trades may be reported on the OTC Markets under the symbol "FNRN". The Company is aware that Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett, Stone & Youngberg, Wedbush Securities, and Monroe Securities, Inc., all currently make a market in the Company's common stock. Management is aware that there are also private transactions in the Company's common stock, and the data set forth below may not reflect all such transactions.

The following table summarizes the range of reported high and low bid quotations of the Company's Common Stock for each quarter during the last two fiscal years and is based on information provided by Stone & Youngberg. The quotations reflect the price that would be received by the seller without retail mark-up, mark-down or commissions and may not have represented actual transactions:

QUARTER/YEAR	HIGH*	LOW*
4th Quarter 2014	\$7.68	\$7.43
3rd Quarter 2014	\$7.49	\$7.06
2nd Quarter 2014	\$7.25	\$6.72
1st Quarter 2014	\$7.74	\$6.67
4th Quarter 2013	\$6.89	\$6.33
3rd Quarter 2013	\$6.80	\$5.46
2nd Quarter 2013	\$5.96	\$5.40
1st Quarter 2013	\$5.59	\$4.94

\* Price adjusted for stock dividends in the indicated periods for the 4% stock dividend payable March 31, 2015, as described below.

As of March 3, 2015, there were approximately 1,344 holders of record of the Company's common stock, no par value.

In the last two fiscal years the Company has declared the following stock dividends:

Shareholder Record Date	Dividend Percentage	Date Payable
February 28, 2014	3 %	March 31, 2014
February 27, 2015	4 %	March 31, 2015

The Company does not expect to pay a cash dividend in the foreseeable future. Our ability to declare and pay dividends is affected by certain regulatory restrictions. See "Business – Restrictions on Dividends and Other Distributions" above. The Company made no repurchases of common stock in the twelve months ended December 31, 2014.

For information regarding securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans, see Part III, Item 12 of this report on Form 10-K.





## ITEM 6 - SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected consolidated financial data below have been derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements. The selected consolidated financial data set forth below as of December 31, 2011, and 2010 have been derived from the Company's historical consolidated financial statements not included in this Report. The financial information for 2014, 2013, and 2012 should be read in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," which is in Part II (Item 7) of this Report and with the Company's audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto, which are included in Part II (Item 8) of this Report.

Consolidated Financial Data as of and for the years ended December 31,  
(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Interest and Dividend Income	\$30,840	\$28,859	\$28,259	\$28,790	\$29,927
Interest Expense	(1,291 )	(1,265 )	(1,802 )	(2,476 )	(3,606 )
Net Interest Income	29,549	27,594	26,457	26,314	26,321
Provision for Loan Losses	(1,800 )	(1,200 )	(3,276 )	(5,138 )	(4,914 )
Net Interest Income after Provision for Loan Losses	27,749	26,394	23,181	21,176	21,407
Other Operating Income	7,480	9,300	9,442	9,382	9,154
Other Operating Expense	(26,569 )	(27,456 )	(26,254 )	(26,762 )	(27,889 )
Income (Loss) before Taxes	8,660	8,238	6,369	3,796	2,672
(Provision) Benefit for Taxes	(2,790 )	(2,854 )	(1,723 )	(1,132 )	(7 )
Net Income (Loss)	\$5,870	\$5,384	\$4,646	\$2,664	\$2,665
Preferred Stock Dividend and Accretion	(129 )	(677 )	(1,139 )	(1,399 )	(992 )
Net Income (Loss) available to common shareholders	\$5,741	\$4,707	\$3,507	\$1,265	\$1,673
Basic Income (Loss) Per Share	\$0.57	\$0.47	\$0.35	\$0.13	\$0.17
Diluted Income (Loss) Per Share	\$0.56	\$0.46	\$0.35	\$0.13	\$0.17
Total Assets	\$957,884	\$897,669	\$831,483	\$781,150	\$737,217
Total Investments	\$151,226	\$173,269	\$184,491	\$160,241	\$107,346
Total Loans, including Loans Held-for-Sale, net	\$538,470	\$508,113	\$445,008	\$435,621	\$444,360
Total Deposits	\$857,052	\$803,787	\$730,811	\$678,958	\$640,258
Total Equity	\$92,051	\$84,908	\$92,325	\$87,702	\$79,596
Weighted Average Shares of Common Stock outstanding used for Basic Income (Loss) Per Share	10,117,006	10,088,802	10,060,724	10,018,882	9,967,942

## Computation 1

Weighted Average Shares of  
Common Stock outstanding used for  
Diluted Income (Loss) Per Share

Computation 1	10,169,836		10,127,345		10,088,178		10,019,823		9,969,688	
Return (Loss) on Average Total Assets	0.62	%	0.62	%	0.58	%	0.35	%	0.36	%
Net Income (Loss)/Average Equity	6.59	%	6.36	%	5.11	%	3.19	%	3.34	%
Net Income (Loss)/Average Deposits	0.69	%	0.70	%	0.66	%	0.40	%	0.41	%
Average Loans/Average Deposits	60.71	%	61.06	%	62.22	%	65.17	%	69.91	%
Average Equity to Average Total Assets	9.46	%	9.83	%	11.34	%	11.00	%	10.68	%

1. All years have been restated to give retroactive effect for stock dividends issued and stock splits.

## ITEM 7 – MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATION

### Introduction

This overview highlights selected information in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of trends, events, commitments, uncertainties, liquidity, capital resources, and critical accounting estimates, you should carefully read this entire Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Our subsidiary, First Northern Bank of Dixon, is a California state-chartered bank that derives most of its revenues from lending and deposit taking in the Sacramento Valley region of Northern California. Interest rates, business conditions and customer confidence all affect our ability to generate revenues. In addition, the regulatory environment and competition can challenge our ability to generate those revenues.

Financial highlights for 2014 include:

The Company reported net income of \$5.9 million, a 9.3% increase compared to net income of \$5.4 million before dividends on preferred stock paid to the U.S. Treasury for 2013. Net income available to common shareholders totaled \$5.7 million, a 21.3% increase compared to net income available to common shareholders of \$4.7 million for 2013. Net income per common share after consideration of dividends on preferred stock paid to the U.S. Treasury for 2014 was \$0.57 and resulted in an increase in net income per common share of 21.3% compared to net income per common share of \$0.47 for 2013. Net income per common share on a fully diluted basis was \$0.56 for 2014, an increase of 21.7% compared to net income per common share on a fully diluted basis of \$0.46 for 2013.

Loans (including loans held-for-sale), net of allowance increased to \$538.5 million at December 31, 2014, a 6.0% increase from \$508.1 million at December 31, 2013. Commercial loans totaled \$120.8 million at December 31, 2014, up 9.2% from \$110.6 million at December 31, 2013; commercial real estate loans were \$257.0 million, up 9.2% from \$235.3 million at December 31, 2013; agriculture loans were \$61.1 million, up 18.2% from \$51.7 million at December 31, 2013; residential mortgage loans were \$50.5 million, down 4.4% from \$52.8 million at December 31, 2013; residential construction loans were \$6.0 million, down 42.3% from \$10.4 million at December 31, 2013; and consumer loans totaled \$49.9 million, down 7.8% from \$54.1 million at December 31, 2013.

Average deposits increased to \$844.9 million during 2014, a \$76.0 million or 9.9% increase from 2013.

The Company reported average total assets of \$941.8 million at December 31, 2014, up 9.3% from \$861.7 million a year earlier.

The provision for loan losses in 2014 totaled \$1.8 million, an increase of 50.0% from \$1.2 million in 2013. Net charge-offs were \$2.6 million in 2014 compared to \$0.4 million in 2013. The increase in the provision for loan losses is primarily due to increased charge-offs and increase in the loan portfolio.

Net interest income totaled \$29.5 million for 2014, an increase of 6.9% from \$27.6 million in 2013, primarily due to increased average loan volumes, increased investment securities rates, decreased rates on savings, money market and time deposit accounts which was partially offset by decreased loan rates, decreased average investment securities volumes, increased average interest-bearing transaction, savings and money market account volumes.

Other operating income totaled \$7.5 million for 2014, a decrease of 19.4% from \$9.3 million in 2013. The decrease was primarily due to decreases in service charges on deposit accounts, gains on sales of loans and other income.

Other operating expenses totaled \$26.6 million for 2014, down 3.3% from \$27.5 million in 2013. The decrease is primarily due to decreases in salaries and employee benefits and occupancy and equipment expenses, which was partially offset by increases in data processing, other real estate owned expense and impairment, and other expenses.

In 2015, the Company intends to continue its long-term strategy of maintaining deposit growth to fund growth in loans and other earning assets and intends to identify opportunities for growing other operating income in areas such as Asset Management and Trust and Investment and Brokerage Services, and deposit fee income, while remaining conscious of the need to maintain appropriate expense levels.

## Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The Company's discussion and analysis of its financial condition and results of operations are based upon the Company's consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires the Company to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an on-going basis, the Company evaluates its estimates, including those related to the allowance for loan losses, other real estate owned, investments, and income taxes. The Company bases its estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

The Company's most significant estimates are approved by its senior management team. At the end of each financial reporting period, a review of these estimates is presented to the Company's Board of Directors.

The Company believes the following critical accounting policies affect its more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements:

### Allowance for Loan Losses

The Company believes the allowance for loan losses accounting policy is critical because the loan portfolio represents the largest asset type on the consolidated balance sheet and there is significant judgment used in determining the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses. The Company maintains an allowance for loan losses resulting from the inability of borrowers to make required loan payments. Loan losses are charged off against the allowance, while recoveries of amounts previously charged off are credited to the allowance. A provision for loan losses is charged to operations based on the Company's periodic evaluation of the factors mentioned below, as well as other pertinent factors. The allowance for loan losses consists of an allocated component and a general component. The components of the allowance for loan losses represent an estimate. The allocated component of the allowance for loan losses reflects expected losses resulting from analyses developed through specific credit allocations for individual loans and historical loss experience for each loan category. The specific credit allocations are based on regular analyses of all loans where the internal credit rating is at or below a predetermined classification. These analyses involve a high degree of judgment in estimating the amount of loss associated with specific loans, including estimating the amount and timing of future cash flows and collateral values. The historical loan loss element is determined using analysis that examines loss experience.

The allocated component of the allowance for loan losses also includes consideration of concentrations and changes in portfolio mix and volume. The general portion of the allowance reflects the Company's estimate of probable inherent but undetected losses within the portfolio due to uncertainties in economic conditions, delays in obtaining information, including unfavorable information about a borrower's financial condition, the difficulty in identifying triggering events that correlate perfectly to subsequent loss rates, and risk factors that have not yet manifested themselves in loss allocation factors. Uncertainty surrounding the strength and timing of economic cycles also affects estimates of loss. There are many factors affecting the allowance for loan losses; some are quantitative while others require qualitative judgment. Although the Company believes its process for determining the allowance adequately considers all of the potential factors that could potentially result in credit losses, the process includes subjective elements and may be susceptible to significant change. To the extent actual outcomes differ from Company estimates, additional provision for credit losses could be required that could adversely affect earnings or financial position in future periods.

### Impaired Loans

A loan is considered impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement, including scheduled interest payments. For a loan that has been restructured, the contractual terms of the loan agreement refer to the contractual terms specified by the original loan agreement, not the contractual terms specified by the restructuring agreement. An impaired loan is measured based upon the present value of future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective rate, the loan's observable market price, or the fair value of collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. Interest on impaired loans is recognized on a cash basis. If the measurement of the impaired loan is less than the recorded investment in the loan, an impairment is recognized by a charge to the allowance for loan losses.

### Other-than-temporary Impairment in Investment Securities

Investments with fair values that are less than amortized cost are considered impaired. Impairment may result from either a decline in the financial condition of the issuing entity or, in the case of fixed interest rate investments, from rising interest rates. At each consolidated financial statement date, management assesses each investment to determine if impaired investments are temporarily impaired or if the impairment is other than temporary. This assessment includes consideration regarding the duration and severity of impairment, the credit quality of the issuer and a determination of whether the Company intends to sell the security, or if it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost basis less any current-period credit losses. Other-than-temporary impairment is recognized in earnings if one of the following conditions exists: 1) the Company's intent is to sell the security; 2) it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the security before the impairment is recovered; or 3) the Company does not expect to recover its amortized cost basis. If, by contrast, the Company does not intend to sell the security and will not be required to sell the security prior to recovery of the amortized cost basis, the Company recognizes only the credit loss component of other-than-temporary impairment in earnings. The credit loss component is calculated as the difference between the security's amortized cost basis and the present value of its expected future cash flows. The remaining difference between the security's fair value and the present value of the future expected cash flows is deemed to be due to factors that are not credit related and is recognized in other comprehensive income.

### Fair Value Measurements

The Company utilizes fair value measurements to record fair value adjustments to certain assets and liabilities and to determine fair value disclosures. Securities available-for-sale are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. Additionally, from time to time, the Company may be required to record at fair value other assets on a non-recurring basis, such as loans held-for-sale, loans held-for-investment and certain other assets. These non-recurring fair value adjustments typically involve application of lower of cost or market accounting or write-downs of individual assets. Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are recognized on the actual date of the event or circumstances that caused the transfer, which generally corresponds with the Company's quarterly valuation process. For additional discussion, see Note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-K.

### Share-Based Payment

The Company determines the fair value of stock options at grant date using the Black-Scholes pricing model that takes into account the stock price at the grant date, the exercise price, the expected dividend yield, stock price volatility, and the risk-free interest rate over the expected life of the option. The Black-Scholes model requires the input of highly subjective assumptions including the expected life of the stock-based award and stock price volatility. The estimates used in the model involve inherent uncertainties and the application of Management's judgment. As a result, if other assumptions had been used, our recorded stock-based compensation expense could have been materially different from that reflected in these financial statements. The fair value of non-vested restricted common shares generally equals the stock price at grant date. In addition, we are required to estimate the expected forfeiture rate and only recognize expense for those share-based awards expected to vest. If our actual forfeiture rate is materially different from the estimate, the share-based compensation expense could be materially different. For additional discussion, see Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-K.

### Accounting for Income Taxes

Income taxes reported in the consolidated financial statements are computed based on an asset and liability approach. We recognize the amount of taxes payable or refundable for the current year, and deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences that have been recognized in the financial statements. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the differences between the financial statements



and tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. We record net deferred tax assets to the extent it is more-likely-than-not that they will be realized. In evaluating our ability to recover the deferred tax assets, Management considers all available positive and negative evidence, including scheduled reversals of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income, tax planning strategies and recent financial operations. In projecting future taxable income, Management develops assumptions including the amount of future state and federal pretax operating income, the reversal of temporary differences, and the implementation of feasible and prudent tax planning strategies. These assumptions require significant judgment about the forecasts of future taxable income and are consistent with the plans and estimates being used to manage the underlying business. The Company files consolidated federal and combined state income tax returns.

A "more-likely-than-not" recognition threshold that must be met before a tax benefit can be recognized in the financial statements. For tax positions that meet the more-likely-than-not threshold, an enterprise may recognize only the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than fifty percent likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement with the taxing authority. The Company recognized a decrease for unrecognized tax benefits during 2012. To the extent tax authorities disagree with these tax positions, our effective tax rates could be materially affected in the period of settlement with the taxing authorities. For additional discussion, see Note 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-K.

#### Mortgage Servicing Rights

Transfers and servicing of financial assets and extinguishments of liabilities are accounted for and reported based on consistent application of a financial-components approach that focuses on control. Transfers of financial assets that are sales are distinguished from transfers that are secured borrowings. Retained interests (mortgage servicing rights) in loans sold are measured by allocating the previous carrying amount of the transferred assets between the loans sold and retained interest, if any, based on their relative fair value at the date of transfer. Fair values are estimated using discounted cash flows based on a current market interest rate. The Company recognizes a gain and a related asset for the fair value of the rights to service loans for others when loans are sold.

The recorded value of mortgage servicing rights is included in other assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets initially at fair value, and is amortized in proportion to, and over the period of, estimated net servicing revenues. The Company assesses capitalized mortgage servicing rights for impairment based upon the fair value of those rights at each reporting date. For purposes of measuring impairment, the rights are stratified based upon the product type, term and interest rates. Fair value is determined by discounting estimated net future cash flows from mortgage servicing activities using discount rates that approximate current market rates and estimated prepayment rates, among other assumptions. The amount of impairment recognized, if any, is the amount by which the capitalized mortgage servicing rights for a stratum exceeds their fair value. Impairment, if any, is recognized through a valuation allowance for each individual stratum.

#### Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In February 2013, FASB issued ASU 2013-04, Obligations Resulting from Joint and Several Liability Arrangements for Which the Total Amount of the Obligation Is Fixed at the Reporting Date, which provides guidance for the recognition, measurement, and disclosure of obligations resulting from joint and several liability arrangements for which the total amount of the obligation is fixed at the reporting date. Examples of obligations within the scope of this guidance include debt arrangements, other contractual obligations, and settled litigation and judicial rulings. This guidance is effective for interim and annual periods beginning on January 1, 2014 and must be retroactively applied to prior periods presented. Early adoption is permitted. Adoption of the new guidance did not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In July 2013, FASB issued ASU 2013-11, Presentation of an Unrecognized Tax Benefit When a Net Operating Loss Carryforward, a Similar Tax Loss, or a Tax Credit Carryforward Exists. The amendments in this ASU provide that an unrecognized tax benefit, or a portion thereof, should be presented in the financial statements as a reduction to a deferred tax asset for a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward, except to the extent that a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward is not available at the reporting date to settle any additional income taxes that would result from disallowance of a tax position, or the tax law does not require the entity to use, and the entity does not intend to use, the deferred tax asset for such purpose, then the unrecognized tax benefit should be presented as a liability. The amendments are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2013. Early adoption and retrospective application is permitted. Adoption of the new guidance did not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In January 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-01, Investments – Equity Method and Joint Ventures. The amendments in this ASU permit reporting entities to make an accounting policy election to account for their investments in qualified affordable housing projects using the proportional amortization method if certain conditions are met. Disclosures for a change in accounting principle are required upon transition. The amendments should be applied retrospectively to all periods presented. A reporting entity that uses the effective yield method to account for its investments in qualified affordable housing projects before the date of adoption may continue to apply the effective yield method for those preexisting investments. The amendments in this ASU are effective for public business entities for annual periods and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2014. Early adoption is permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In January 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-04, Receivables – Troubled Debt Restructurings by Creditors. The amendments in this ASU clarify that an in substance repossession or foreclosure occurs, and a creditor is considered to have received physical possession of residential real estate property collateralizing a consumer mortgage loan, upon either (1) the creditor obtaining legal title to the residential real estate property upon completion of a foreclosure or (2) the borrower conveying all interest in the residential real estate property to the creditor to satisfy that loan through completion of a deed in lieu of foreclosure or through a similar legal agreement. Additionally, the amendments require interim and annual disclosure of both (1) the amount of foreclosed residential real estate property held by the creditor and (2) the recorded investment in consumer mortgage loans collateralized by residential real estate property that are in the process of foreclosure according to local requirements of the applicable jurisdiction. The amendments in this ASU are effective for public business entities for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2014. An entity can elect to adopt the amendments in this ASU using either a modified retrospective transition method or a prospective transition method. Early adoption is permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In January, 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-05, Service Concession Arrangements. The amendments specify that an operating entity should not account for a service concession arrangement that is within the scope of this ASU as a lease in accordance with Topic 840. An operating entity should refer to other Topics as applicable to account for various aspects of a service concession arrangement. The amendments also specify that the infrastructure used in a service concession arrangement should not be recognized as property, plant, and equipment of the operating entity. The amendments in this ASU should be applied on a modified retrospective basis to service concession arrangements that exist at the beginning of an entity's fiscal year of adoption. The modified retrospective approach requires the cumulative effect of applying this ASU to arrangements existing at the beginning of the period of adoption to be recognized as an adjustment to the opening retained earnings balance for the annual period of adoption. The amendments are effective for a public business entity for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2014. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In August, 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-14, Receivables- Troubled Debt Restructuring by Creditors: Classification of Certain Government-Guaranteed Mortgage Loans upon Foreclosure. The amendment affects creditors that hold government-guaranteed mortgage loans, including those guaranteed by the FHA and the VA. It requires that a mortgage loan be derecognized and a separate other receivable be recognized upon foreclosure if the following conditions are present:

- The loan has a government guarantee that is not separable from the loan before foreclosure.
- At the time of foreclosure, the creditor has the intent to convey the real estate property to the guarantor and make a claim on the guarantee, and the creditor has the ability to recover under that claim.
- At the time of foreclosure, any amount of the claim that is determined on the basis of the fair value of the real estate is fixed.

Upon foreclosure, the separate other receivable should be measured based on the amount of the loan balance (principal and interest) expected to be recovered from the guarantor. The amendments are effective for a public business entity for annual periods and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2014.

In August, 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-15, Presentation of Financial Statements- Going Concern: Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern. The amendment defines management's responsibility to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about an organization's ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. Under GAAP, financial statements are prepared under the presumption that the reporting organization will continue to operate as a going concern, except in limited circumstances. The going concern basis of accounting is critical to financial reporting because it establishes the fundamental basis for measuring and classifying assets and liabilities. Currently, GAAP lacks guidance about management's responsibility to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about the organization's ability to continue as a going concern or to provide related footnote disclosures. This ASU provides guidance to an organization's management, with principles and definitions that are intended to reduce diversity in the timing and content of disclosures that are commonly provided by organizations today in the financial statement footnotes. The amendments are effective for a public business entity for annual periods ending after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

The following statistical information and discussion should be read in conjunction with the Selected Financial Data included in Part II (Item 6) and the audited consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes included in Part II (Item 8) of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The following tables present information regarding the consolidated average assets, liabilities and stockholders' equity, the amounts of interest income from average earning assets and the resulting yields, and the amount of interest expense paid on interest-bearing liabilities. Average loan balances include non-performing loans. Interest income includes proceeds from loans on non-accrual status only to the extent cash payments have been received and applied as interest income. Tax-exempt income is not shown on a tax equivalent basis.

Distribution of Assets, Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity;  
Interest Rates and Interest Differential  
(Dollars in thousands)

	2014		2013		2012	
	Average Balance	Percent	Average Balance	Percent	Average Balance	Percent
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash and Due From Banks	\$231,555	24.59 %	\$161,251	18.71 %	\$140,411	17.50 %
Investment Securities	159,602	16.95 %	190,678	22.13 %	182,755	22.79 %
Loans <sup>1</sup>	512,902	54.46 %	469,486	54.48 %	435,821	54.35 %
Stock in Federal Home Loan Bank and other equity securities, at cost	3,868	0.41 %	3,682	0.43 %	3,433	0.43 %
Other Real Estate Owned	169	0.02 %	400	0.05 %	962	0.12 %
Other Assets	33,687	3.57 %	36,236	4.20 %	38,661	4.81 %
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$941,783</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>\$861,733</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>\$802,043</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>						
Deposits:						
Demand	\$277,204	29.45 %	\$253,487	29.42 %	\$215,062	26.81 %
Interest-Bearing Transaction Deposits						
Savings & MMDAs	216,915	23.03 %	196,825	22.84 %	169,475	21.13 %
Time Certificates	260,421	27.64 %	228,748	26.54 %	217,031	27.06 %
Borrowed Funds	90,330	9.59 %	89,803	10.42 %	98,843	12.32 %
Other Liabilities	—	0.00 %	—	0.00 %	3,443	0.43 %
Stockholders' Equity	7,797	0.83 %	8,190	0.95 %	7,256	0.91 %
Total Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity	89,116	9.46 %	84,680	9.83 %	90,933	11.34 %
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>\$941,783</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>\$861,733</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>\$802,043</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>

1. Average balances for loans include loans held-for-sale and non-accrual loans and are net of the allowance for loan losses.



Net Interest Earnings  
Average Balances, Yields and Rates  
(Dollars in thousands)

Assets	2014			2013			2012		
	Average Balance	Interest Income/Expense	Yields Earned/Rates Paid	Average Balance	Interest Income/Expense	Yields Earned/Rates Paid	Average Balance	Interest Income/Expense	Yields Earned/Rates Paid
Loans 1	\$512,902	\$25,789	5.03 %	\$469,486	\$23,911	5.09 %	\$435,821	\$23,277	5.34 %
Loan Fees	—	926	0.18 %	—	1,253	0.27 %	—	1,123	0.26 %
<b>Total Loans, Including Loan Fees</b>	<b>512,902</b>	<b>26,715</b>	<b>5.21 %</b>	<b>469,486</b>	<b>25,164</b>	<b>5.36 %</b>	<b>435,821</b>	<b>24,400</b>	<b>5.60 %</b>
Due From Banks	214,902	595	0.28 %	144,280	431	0.30 %	124,151	359	0.29 %
<b>Investment Securities:</b>									
Taxable	150,661	2,898	1.92 %	180,760	2,710	1.50 %	172,258	3,042	1.77 %
Non-taxable <sup>2</sup>	8,941	354	3.96 %	9,918	397	4.00 %	10,497	413	3.93 %
<b>Total Investment Securities</b>	<b>159,602</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>2.04 %</b>	<b>190,678</b>	<b>3,107</b>	<b>1.63 %</b>	<b>182,755</b>	<b>3,455</b>	<b>1.89 %</b>
<b>Other Earning Assets</b>	<b>3,868</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>7.19 %</b>	<b>3,682</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>4.26 %</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1.31 %</b>
<b>Total Earning Assets</b>	<b>\$891,274</b>	<b>\$30,840</b>	<b>3.46 %</b>	<b>\$808,126</b>	<b>\$28,859</b>	<b>3.57 %</b>	<b>\$746,160</b>	<b>\$28,259</b>	<b>3.79 %</b>
Cash and Due from Banks	16,653			16,971			16,260		
Premises and Equipment	7,386			7,653			8,030		
Other Real Estate Owned	169			400			962		



Interest  
Receivable  
and Other

Assets	26,301	28,583	30,631
Total Assets	\$941,783	\$861,733	802,043

1. Average balances for loans include loans held-for-sale and non-accrual loans and are net of the allowance for loan losses, but non-accrued interest thereon is excluded.

2. Interest income and yields on tax-exempt securities are not presented on a taxable equivalent basis.

Continuation of  
Net Interest Earnings  
Average Balances, Yields and Rates  
(Dollars in thousands)

	2014			2013			2012		
	Average Balance	Interest Income/ Expense	Yields Earned/ Rates Paid	Average Balance	Interest Income/ Expense	Yields Earned/ Rates Paid	Average Balance	Interest Income/ Expense	Yields Earned/ Rates Paid
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity									
Interest-Bearing Deposits:									
Interest-Bearing Transaction Deposits	\$216,915	\$299	0.14 %	\$196,825	\$264	0.13 %	\$169,475	\$306	0.18 %
Savings & MMDAs	260,421	618	0.24 %	228,748	597	0.26 %	217,031	692	0.32 %
Time Certificates	90,330	374	0.41 %	89,803	404	0.45 %	98,843	663	0.67 %
Total Interest-Bearing Deposits	567,666	1,291	0.23 %	515,376	1,265	0.25 %	485,349	1,661	0.34 %
Borrowed Funds	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,443	141	4.10 %
Total Interest-Bearing Deposits and Funds	567,666	1,291	0.23 %	515,376	1,265	0.25 %	488,792	1,802	0.37 %
Demand Deposits	277,204	—	—	253,487	—	—	215,062	—	—
Total Deposits and Borrowed Funds	844,870	\$1,291	0.15 %	768,863	\$1,265	0.16 %	703,854	\$1,802	0.26 %
Interest payable and Other Liabilities	7,797			8,190			7,256		
Stockholders' Equity	89,116			84,680			90,933		

Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$941,783			\$861,733			\$802,043		
Net Interest Income and Net Interest Margin 1	\$29,549	3.32 %		\$27,594	3.41 %		\$26,457	3.55 %	
Net Interest Spread 2		3.23 %			3.32 %			3.42 %	

1. Net interest margin is computed by dividing net interest income by total average interest-earning assets.

2. Net interest spread represents the average yield earned on interest-earning assets less the average rate paid on interest-bearing liabilities.

Analysis of Changes  
in Interest Income and Interest Expense  
(Dollars in thousands)

Following is an analysis of changes in interest income and expense (dollars in thousands) for 2014 over 2013 and 2013 over 2012. Changes not solely due to interest rate or volume have been allocated proportionately to interest rate and volume.

	2014 Over 2013			2013 Over 2012		
	Volume	Interest Rate	Change	Volume	Interest Rate	Change
<b>Increase in Interest Income:</b>						
Loans	\$2,166	\$(288 )	\$1,878	\$1,752	\$(1,118 )	\$634
Loan Fees	(327 )	—	(327 )	130	—	130
Due From Banks	195	(31 )	164	60	12	72
Investment Securities	(558 )	703	145	144	(492 )	(348 )
Other Assets	8	113	121	3	109	112
	\$1,484	\$497	\$1,981	\$2,089	\$(1,489 )	\$600
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Interest Expense:</b>						
<b>Deposits:</b>						
Interest-Bearing Transaction Deposits	\$20	\$15	\$35	\$47	\$(89 )	\$(42 )
Savings & MMDAs	72	(51 )	21	37	(132 )	(95 )
Time Certificates	2	(32 )	(30 )	(57 )	(202 )	(259 )
Borrowed Funds	—	—	—	(71 )	(70 )	(141 )
	\$94	\$(68 )	\$26	\$(44 )	\$(493 )	\$(537 )
<b>Increase in Net Interest Income:</b>						
	\$1,390	\$565	\$1,955	\$2,133	\$(996 )	\$1,137



## INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

## Composition of Investment Securities

The mix of investment securities held by the Company at December 31, of the previous three fiscal years is as follows (dollars in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
Investment securities available-for-sale (at fair value):			
U.S. Treasury Securities	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,005
Securities of U.S. Government Agencies and Corporations	28,429	52,685	28,305
Obligations of State & Political Subdivisions	20,763	27,387	28,786
Collateralized Mortgage Obligations	12,553	5,405	8,278
Mortgage-Backed Securities	89,481	87,792	118,117
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$ 151,226</b>	<b>\$ 173,269</b>	<b>\$ 184,491</b>

## Maturities of Investment Securities

The following table is a summary of the relative maturities (dollars in thousands) and yields of the Company's investment securities as of December 31, 2014. The yields on tax-exempt securities are shown on a tax equivalent basis.

	Period to Maturity					
	Within One Year		After One But Within Five Years		After Five But Within Ten Years	
	Amount	Yield	Amount	Yield	Amount	Yield
Investment securities available-for-sale (at fair value):						
Securities of U.S. Government						
Agencies and Corporations	\$ —	—	\$ 26,452	1.24 %	\$ 1,977	1.75 %
Obligations of State & Political Subdivisions	340	5.94 %	4,753	2.77 %	13,600	4.43 %
Collateralized Mortgage Obligations						
Obligation Obligations						
Obligations Obligations	828	1.91 %	11,725	1.93 %	—	—
Mortgage-Backed Securities	—	—	83,988	2.14 %	5,493	2.34 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,168</b>	<b>3.08 %</b>	<b>\$ 126,918</b>	<b>1.96 %</b>	<b>\$ 21,070</b>	<b>3.63 %</b>

	After Ten Years		Total		
	Amount	Yield	Amount	Yield	
Investment securities available-for-sale (at fair value):					
Securities of U.S. Government					
Agencies and Corporations	\$ —	—	\$28,429	1.28	%
Obligations of State &					
Political Subdivisions	2,070	5.00	20,763	4.13	%
Collateralized Mortgage Obligations	—	—	12,553	1.93	%
Mortgage-Backed Securities	—	—	89,481	2.15	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,070</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>\$151,226</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>%</b>

## LOAN PORTFOLIO

## Composition of Loans

The mix of loans, net of deferred origination fees and costs and allowance for loan losses and excluding loans held-for-sale, at December 31, for the previous five fiscal years is as follows (dollars in thousands):

	2014		December 31, 2013				2012	
	Balance	Percent	Balance	Percent	Balance	Percent		
Commercial	\$120,751	22.1 %	\$110,644	21.5 %	\$88,810	19.8 %		
Commercial Real Estate	256,955	47.1 %	235,296	45.7 %	188,426	42.0 %		
Agriculture	61,144	11.2 %	51,730	10.0 %	52,747	11.8 %		
Residential Mortgage	50,511	9.3 %	52,809	10.3 %	51,266	11.4 %		
Residential Construction	5,963	1.1 %	10,444	2.0 %	7,586	1.7 %		
Consumer	49,911	9.2 %	54,079	10.5 %	59,393	13.3 %		
	545,235	100.0 %	515,002	100.0 %	448,228	100 %		
Allowance for loan losses	(8,583 )		(9,353 )		(8,554 )			
Net deferred origination fees and costs	1,327		1,201		775			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$537,979</b>		<b>\$506,850</b>		<b>\$440,449</b>			
			2011		2010			
			Balance	Percent	Balance	Percent		
Commercial			\$91,914	20.7 %	\$82,815	18.3 %		
Commercial Real Estate			175,793	39.7 %	186,405	41.1 %		
Agriculture			52,064	11.8 %	53,040	11.7 %		
Residential Mortgage			51,586	11.6 %	52,347	11.5 %		
Residential Construction			7,492	1.7 %	10,246	2.3 %		
Consumer			64,150	14.5 %	68,374	15.1 %		
			442,999	100.0 %	453,227	100.0 %		
Allowance for loan losses			(10,408 )		(11,039 )			
Net deferred origination fees and costs			198		(173 )			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$432,789</b>		<b>\$442,015</b>			

Commercial loans are primarily for financing the needs of a diverse group of businesses located in the Bank's market area. Commercial real estate loans generally fall into two categories, owner-occupied and non-owner occupied. Real estate construction loans are generally for financing the construction of single-family residential homes for individuals and builders we believe are well-qualified. These loans are secured by real estate and have short maturities. Residential mortgage loans, which are secured by real estate, include owner-occupied and non-owner occupied properties in the Bank's market area. Loans are considered agriculture loans when the primary source of repayment is from the sale of an agricultural or agricultural-related product or service. Such loans are secured and/or unsecured to producers and processors of crops and livestock. The Bank also makes loans to individuals for



investment purposes. Most of these loans are relatively short-term (an overall average life of approximately two years) and secured by various types of collateral.

As shown in the comparative figures for loan mix during 2014 and 2013, total loans increased as a result of increases in commercial, commercial real estate, and agriculture loans, which were partially offset by decreases in residential mortgage, residential construction, and consumer loans.

## Maturities and Sensitivities of Loans to Changes in Interest Rates

Loan maturities of the loan portfolio at December 31, 2014 are as follows (dollars in thousands) (excludes loans held-for-sale):

	Maturing	Fixed Rate	Variable Rate	Total
Within one year		\$21,434	\$64,721	\$86,155
After one year through five years		60,605	41,378	101,983
After five years		64,125	292,972	357,097
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$146,164</b>	<b>\$399,071</b>	<b>\$545,235</b>

## Non-accrual, Past Due, OREO and Restructured Loans

It is generally the Company's policy to discontinue interest accruals once a loan is past due for a period of 90 days as to interest or principal payments. When a loan is placed on non-accrual, interest accruals cease and uncollected accrued interest is reversed and charged against current income. Payments received on non-accrual loans are applied against principal. A loan may only be restored to an accruing basis when it again becomes well secured and in the process of collection or all past due amounts have been collected and an appropriate period of performance has been demonstrated.

The following tables summarize the Company's non-accrual loans by loan category (dollars in thousands), net of guarantees of the State of California and U.S. Government, including its agencies and its government-sponsored agencies at December 31, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, and 2010.

	At December 31, 2014			At December 31, 2013		
	Gross	Guaranteed	Net	Gross	Guaranteed	Net
Commercial	\$2,151	\$82	\$2,069	\$2,609	\$202	\$2,407
Commercial real estate	672	—	672	2,607	200	2,407
Agriculture	—	—	—	1,590	—	1,590
Residential mortgage	1,691	—	1,691	2,166	—	2,166
Residential construction	71	—	71	93	—	93
Consumer	652	—	652	505	23	482
<b>Total non-accrual loans</b>	<b>\$5,237</b>	<b>\$82</b>	<b>\$5,155</b>	<b>\$9,570</b>	<b>\$425</b>	<b>\$9,145</b>

	At December 31, 2012			At December 31, 2011		
	Gross	Guaranteed	Net	Gross	Guaranteed	Net
Commercial	\$ 2,853	\$ 73	\$ 2,780	\$ 2,905	\$ 62	\$ 2,843
Commercial real estate	1,879	—	1,879	3,071	—	3,071
Agriculture	—	—	—	992	—	992

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

Residential mortgage	2,095	—	2,095	1,334	—	1,334
Residential construction	—	—	—	48	—	48
Consumer	441	50	391	360	—	360
Total non-accrual loans	\$ 7,268	\$ 123	\$ 7,145	\$ 8,710	\$ 62	\$ 8,648

	At December 31, 2010		
	Gross	Guaranteed	Net
Commercial	\$1,817	\$77	\$1,740
Commercial real estate	5,864	—	5,864
Agriculture	1,752	—	1,752
Residential mortgage	2,301	—	2,301
Residential construction	272	—	272
Consumer	268	—	268
Total non-accrual loans	\$12,274	\$77	\$12,197

Non-accrual loans amounted to \$5,237,000 at December 31, 2014 and were comprised of six residential mortgage loans totaling \$1,691,000, two residential construction loans totaling \$71,000, five commercial real estate loans totaling \$672,000, seven commercial loans totaling \$2,151,000, and five consumer loans totaling \$652,000. Non-accrual loans amounted to \$9,570,000 at December 31, 2013 and were comprised of seven residential mortgage loans totaling \$2,166,000, two residential construction loans totaling \$93,000, nine commercial real estate loans totaling \$2,607,000, three agricultural loans totaling \$1,590,000, nine commercial loans totaling \$2,609,000 and five consumer loans totaling \$505,000. Non-accrual loans amounted to \$7,268,000 at December 31, 2012 and were comprised of seven residential mortgage loans totaling \$2,095,000, five commercial real estate loans totaling \$1,879,000, eleven commercial loans totaling \$2,853,000 and seven consumer loans totaling \$441,000. It is generally the Company's policy to charge-off the portion of any non-accrual loan for which the Company does not expect to collect by writing the loan down to estimated net realizable value of the underlying collateral.

The five largest non-accrual loans as of December 31, 2014, totaled approximately \$3,193,000 or 61% of total non-accrual loans and consisted of two residential mortgage loans totaling \$1,014,000, supported by residential property located within the Company's market area, two commercial and industrial loans totaling \$1,757,000, supported by the business assets of the borrower, and one consumer loan totaling \$423,000, supported by residential property located within the Company's market area. The collateral securing all of these loans is generally appraised every six months.

In comparison, the five largest non-accrual loans as of December 31, 2013, totaled approximately \$4,587,000 or 48% of total non-accrual loans and consisted of two residential mortgage loans totaling \$1,323,000, supported by residential property located within the Company's market area, one commercial real estate loan totaling \$1,099,000, supported by commercial properties located within the Company's market area, one agricultural loan totaling \$626,000, supported by real property located within the Company's market area, and one commercial and industrial loan totaling \$1,539,000, supported by the business assets of the borrower.

If interest on non-accrual loans had been accrued, such interest income would have approximated \$570,000, \$501,000, and \$766,000 during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. Income actually recognized for these loans approximated \$327,000, \$0, and \$24,000 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.

Loans for which it is probable that payment of interest and principal will not be made in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement are considered impaired. Non-performing impaired loans are non-accrual loans and loans that are 90 days or more past due and still accruing. Total non-performing impaired loans at December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 consisting of loans on non-accrual status totaled \$5,237,000, \$9,570,000, and

\$7,268,000, respectively. A restructuring of a loan can constitute a troubled debt restructuring if the Company for economic or legal reasons related to the borrower's financial difficulties grants a concession to the borrower that it would not otherwise consider. A loan that is restructured in a troubled debt restructuring is considered an impaired loan. Performing impaired loans, which consisted of loans modified as troubled debt restructurings, totaled \$5,467,000, \$9,187,000, and \$6,113,000 at December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. The Company expects to collect all principal and interest due from performing impaired loans. These loans are not on non-accrual status. No assurance can be given that the existing or any additional collateral will be sufficient to secure full recovery of the obligations owed under these loans.

The Company had no loans 90 days past due and still accruing at December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012.

As the following table illustrates, total non-performing assets which consists of loans on non-accrual status, loans past due 90-days and still accruing and Other Real Estate Owned ("OREO") net of guarantees of the State of California and U.S. Government, including its agencies and its government-sponsored agencies, decreased \$3,254,000, or 35.6% to \$5,891,000 from December 31, 2013 and increased \$938,000 or 11.4% at December 31, 2013 from December 31, 2012. Non-performing assets net of guarantees represent 0.6%, 1.0%, and 1.0% of total assets at December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. The Bank's management believes that the \$5,237,000 in non-accrual loans are appropriately reflected at their net realizable value at December 31, 2014. However, no assurance can be given that the existing or any additional collateral will be sufficient to secure full recovery of the obligations owed under these loans.

	At December 31, 2014			At December 31, 2013		
	Gross	Guaranteed	Net	Gross	Guaranteed	Net
(dollars in thousands)						
Non-accrual loans	\$5,237	\$82	\$5,155	\$9,570	\$425	\$9,145
Loans 90 days past due and still accruing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total non-performing loans	5,237	82	5,155	9,570	425	9,145
Other real estate owned	736	—	736	—	—	—
Total non-performing assets	5,973	82	5,891	9,570	425	9,145
Non-performing loans to total loans			0.9			1.8
			%			%
Non-performing assets to total assets			0.6			1.0
			%			%
Allowance for loan and lease losses to non-performing loans			166.5			102.3
			%			%

	At December 31, 2012			At December 31, 2011		
	Gross	Guaranteed	Net	Gross	Guaranteed	Net
(dollars in thousands)						
Non-accrual loans	\$7,268	\$123	\$7,145	\$8,710	\$62	\$8,648
Loans 90 days past due and still accruing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total non-performing loans	7,268	123	7,145	8,710	62	8,648
Other real estate owned	1,062	—	1,062	1,325	—	1,325
Total non-performing assets	8,330	123	8,207	10,035	62	9,973
Non-performing loans to total loans			1.6			2.0
			%			%
Non-performing assets to total assets			1.0			1.3
			%			%
Allowance for loan and lease losses to non-performing loans			119.7			120.4
			%			%

	At December 31, 2010		
	Gross	Guaranteed	Net
(dollars in thousands)			
Non-accrual loans	\$12,274	\$77	\$12,197
Loans 90 days past due and still accruing	—	—	—
Total non-performing loans	12,274	77	12,197

Other real estate owned	2,682	—	2,682	
Total non-performing assets	14,956	77	14,879	
Non-performing loans to total loans			2.7	%
Non-performing assets to total assets			2.0	%
Allowance for loan and lease losses to non-performing loans			90.5	%

OREO consists of property that the Company has acquired by deed in lieu of foreclosure or through foreclosure proceedings, and property that the Company does not hold title to but is in actual control of, known as in-substance foreclosure. The estimated fair value of the property is determined prior to transferring the balance to OREO. The balance transferred to OREO is the estimated fair value of the property less estimated cost to sell. Impairment may be deemed necessary to bring the book value of the loan equal to the appraised value. Appraisals or loan officer evaluations are then conducted periodically thereafter charging any additional impairment to the appropriate expense account.

OREO amounted to \$736,000, \$0, and \$1,062,000 for the periods ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. The increase in OREO loans at December 31, 2014 from the balance at December 31, 2013 was due to the addition of three commercial properties, partially offset by the disposition of one commercial property.

#### Potential Problem Loans

The Company manages asset quality and credit risk by maintaining diversification in its loan portfolio and through review processes that include analysis of credit requests and ongoing examination of outstanding loans and delinquencies, with particular attention to portfolio dynamics and loan mix. The Company strives to identify loans experiencing difficulty early enough to correct the problems, to record charge-offs promptly based on realistic assessments of collectability and current collateral values and to maintain an adequate allowance for loan losses at all times. Asset quality reviews of loans and other non-performing assets are administered using credit risk rating standards and criteria similar to those employed by state and federal banking regulatory agencies. The federal banking regulatory agencies utilize the following definitions for assets adversely classified for supervisory purposes: “Substandard Assets: a substandard asset is inadequately protected by the current sound worth and paying capacity of the obligor or of the collateral pledged, if any. Assets so classified must have a well-defined weakness or weaknesses that jeopardize the liquidation of the debt. They are characterized by the distinct possibility that the institution will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected.” “Doubtful Assets: An asset classified doubtful has all the weaknesses inherent in one classified substandard with the added characteristic that the weaknesses make collection or liquidation in full, on the basis of currently existing facts, conditions, and values, highly questionable and improbable.” Other Real Estate Owned” and loans rated Substandard and Doubtful are deemed “classified assets”. This category, which includes both performing and non-performing assets, receives an elevated level of attention regarding collection.

Residential mortgage loans, which are secured by real estate, are primarily susceptible to three risks; non-payment due to diminished or lost income, over-extension of credit, a lack of borrower’s cash flow to sustain payments, and shortfalls in collateral value. In general, non-payment is due to loss of employment and follows general economic trends in the marketplace, particularly the upward movement in the unemployment rate, loss of collateral value, and demand shifts.

Commercial real estate loans generally fall into two categories, owner-occupied and non-owner occupied. Loans secured by owner occupied real estate are primarily susceptible to changes in the market conditions of the related business. This may be driven by, among other things, industry changes, geographic business changes, changes in the individual financial capacity of the business owner, general economic conditions and changes in business cycles. These same risks apply to commercial loans whether secured by equipment, receivables or other personal property or unsecured. Losses on loans secured by owner occupied real estate, equipment, or other personal property generally are dictated by the value of underlying collateral at the time of default and liquidation of the collateral. When default is driven by issues related specifically to the business owner, collateral values tend to provide better repayment support and may result in little or no loss. Alternatively, when default is driven by more general economic conditions, underlying collateral generally has devalued more and results in larger losses due to default. Loans secured by non-owner occupied real estate are primarily susceptible to risks associated with swings in occupancy or vacancy and related shifts in lease rates, rental rates or room rates. Most often, these shifts are a result of changes in general economic or market conditions or overbuilding and resultant over-supply of space. Losses are dependent on the value of underlying collateral at the time of default. Values are generally driven by these same factors and influenced by interest rates and required rates of return as well as changes in occupancy costs. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank-approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, sales invoices, or other appropriate means. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically thereafter, (generally every 3 – 6 months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.



Construction loans, whether owner occupied or non-owner occupied residential development loans, are not only susceptible to the related risks described above but the added risks of construction itself including cost over-runs, mismanagement of the project, or lack of demand and market changes experienced at time of completion. Again, losses are primarily related to underlying collateral value and changes therein as described above. Problem construction loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns and payment history of the borrower. Based on this information the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors, the Company may pursue repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank-approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically thereafter, (generally every 3 – 6 months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Agricultural loans, whether secured or unsecured, generally are made to producers and processors of crops and livestock. Repayment is primarily from the sale of an agricultural product or service. Agricultural loans are generally secured by inventory, receivables, equipment, and other real property. Agricultural loans primarily are susceptible to changes in market demand for specific commodities. This may be exacerbated by, among other things, industry changes, changes in the individual financial capacity of the business owner, general economic conditions and changes in business cycles, as well as changing weather conditions. Problem agricultural loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns, crop budgets, payment history, and crop inspections. Based on this information, the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors. Notwithstanding, when repayment becomes unlikely based on the borrower's income and cash flow, repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral may become necessary. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank-approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically thereafter, (generally every 3 – 6 months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Commercial loans, whether secured or unsecured, generally are made to support the short-term operations and other needs of small businesses. These loans are generally secured by the receivables, equipment, and other real property of the business and are susceptible to the related risks described above. Problem commercial loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns, and payment history of the borrower. Based on this information, the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors. Notwithstanding, when repayment becomes unlikely based on the borrower's income and cash flow, repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral may become necessary. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank-approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically there after, (generally every 3 – 6 months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Consumer loans, whether unsecured or secured are primarily susceptible to three risks; non-payment due to diminished or lost income, over-extension of credit, a lack of borrower's cash flow to sustain payments, and shortfall in collateral value. In general, non-payment is due to loss of employment and will follow general economic trends in the marketplace, particularly the upward movements in the unemployment rate, loss of collateral value, and demand shifts.

Once a loan becomes delinquent and repayment becomes questionable, a Company collection officer will address collateral shortfalls with the borrower and attempt to obtain additional collateral or a principal payment. If this is not forthcoming and payment in full is unlikely, the Company will estimate its probable loss, using a recent valuation as appropriate to the underlying collateral less estimated costs of sale, and charge-off the loan down to the estimated net realizable amount. Depending on the length of time until final collection, the Bank may periodically revalue the underlying collateral and take additional charge-offs as warranted. Revaluations may occur as often as every 3-12 months depending on the underlying collateral and volatility of values. Final charge-offs or recoveries are taken when collateral is liquidated and actual loss is known. Unpaid balances on loans after or during collection and liquidation may also be pursued through litigation and attachment of wages or judgment liens on borrower's other assets.

Excluding the non-performing loans cited previously, loans totaling \$11,362,000 and \$19,378,000 were classified as substandard or doubtful loans, representing potential problem loans at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. In management's opinion, the potential loss related to these problem loans is sufficiently covered by the Bank's existing loan loss reserve (Allowance for Loan Losses) at December 31, 2014 and 2013. The ratio of the Allowance for Loan Losses to total loans at December 31, 2014 and 2013 was 1.57% and 1.81%, respectively.



## SUMMARY OF LOAN LOSS EXPERIENCE

The Company's allowance for credit losses is maintained at a level considered adequate to provide for losses that can be estimated based upon specific and general conditions. These include conditions unique to individual borrowers, as well as overall credit loss experience, the amount of past due, non-performing loans and classified loans, recommendations of regulatory authorities, prevailing economic conditions and other factors. A portion of the allowance is specifically allocated to classified loans whose full collectability is uncertain. Such allocations are determined by Management based on loan-by-loan analyses. In addition, loans with similar characteristics not usually criticized using regulatory guidelines are analyzed based on the historical loss rates and delinquency trends, grouped by the number of days the payments on these loans are delinquent. Last, allocations are made to non-criticized and classified commercial loans and residential real estate loans based on historical loss rates, and other statistical data. The remainder of the allowance is considered to be unallocated. The unallocated allowance is established to provide for probable losses that have been incurred as of the reporting date but not reflected in the allocated allowance. It addresses additional qualitative factors consistent with Management's analysis of the level of risks inherent in the loan portfolio, which are related to the risks of the Company's general lending activity. Included in the unallocated allowance is the risk of losses that are attributable to national or local economic or industry trends which have occurred but have yet been recognized in past loan charge-off history (external factors). The external factors evaluated by the Company include: economic and business conditions, external competitive issues, and other factors. Also included in the unallocated allowance is the risk of losses attributable to general attributes of the Company's loan portfolio and credit administration (internal factors). The internal factors evaluated by the Company include: loan review system, adequacy of lending Management and staff, loan policies and procedures, problem loan trends, concentrations of credit, and other factors. By their nature, these risks are not readily allocable to any specific loan category in a statistically meaningful manner and are difficult to quantify. Management assigns a range of estimated risk to the qualitative risk factors described above based on Management's judgment as to the level of risk, and assigns a quantitative risk factor from the range of loss estimates to determine the appropriate level of the unallocated portion of the allowance. Management considers the \$8,583,000 allowance for credit losses to be adequate as a reserve against losses as of December 31, 2014.

Analysis of the Allowance for Loan Losses  
(Dollars in thousands)

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Balance at Beginning of Year	\$9,353	\$8,554	\$10,408	\$11,039	\$11,916
Provision for Loan Losses	1,800	1,200	3,276	5,138	4,914
<b>Loans Charged-Off:</b>					
Commercial	(2,288 )	(168 )	(3,498 )	(2,381 )	(1,930 )
Commercial Real Estate	(69 )	(17 )	(375 )	(2,000 )	(1,491 )
Agriculture	—	(1 )	(116 )	(860 )	(736 )
Residential Mortgage	(71 )	(333 )	(864 )	(272 )	(715 )
Residential Construction	—	(127 )	(167 )	(197 )	(830 )
Consumer	(393 )	(572 )	(875 )	(932 )	(914 )
<b>Total Charged-Off</b>	<b>(2,821 )</b>	<b>(1,218 )</b>	<b>(5,895 )</b>	<b>(6,642 )</b>	<b>(6,616 )</b>
<b>Recoveries:</b>					
Commercial	58	377	306	185	540
Commercial Real Estate	—	51	—	288	1
Agriculture	—	3	4	142	78
Residential Mortgage	—	157	—	11	22
Residential Construction	86	45	341	71	6
Consumer	107	184	114	176	178
<b>Total Recoveries</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>Net (Charge-Offs) Recoveries</b>	<b>(2,570 )</b>	<b>(401 )</b>	<b>(5,130 )</b>	<b>(5,769 )</b>	<b>(5,791 )</b>
Balance at End of Year	\$8,583	\$9,353	\$8,554	\$10,408	\$11,039
<b>Ratio of Net (Charge-Offs) Recoveries</b>					
<b>During the Year to Average Loans</b>					
Outstanding During the Year	(0.49 %)	(0.09 %)	(1.18 %)	(1.34 %)	(1.27 %)
Allowance as a percentage of Total Loans	1.57 %	1.81 %	1.91 %	2.35 %	2.44 %
Allowance as a percentage of Non-performing loans, net of guarantees	166.5 %	102.3 %	119.7 %	120.4 %	90.5 %

## Allocation of the Allowance for Loan Losses

The Allowance for Loan Losses has been established as a general component available to absorb probable inherent losses throughout the Loan Portfolio. The following table is an allocation of the Allowance for Loan Losses balance on the dates indicated (dollars in thousands):

Loan Type:	December 31, 2014				December 31, 2013				December 31, 2012			
	Allocation of Allowance for Loan Losses Balance	Allowance as a % of Total Allowance	Loans as a % of Total Loans, net		Allocation of Allowance for Loan Losses Balance	Allowance as a % of Total Allowance	Loans as a % of Total Loans, net		Allocation of Allowance for Loan Losses Balance	Allowance as a % of Total Allowance	Loans as a % of Total Loans, net	
Commercial	\$3,581	41.7 %	21.8 %		\$3,199	34.2 %	21.2 %		\$2,899	33.9 %	19.5 %	
Commercial Real Estate	1,825	21.3 %	47.5 %		2,290	24.5 %	46.0 %		1,723	20.1 %	42.4 %	
Agriculture	580	6.8 %	11.3 %		557	6.0 %	10.1 %		915	10.7 %	11.8 %	
Residential Mortgage	1,181	13.8 %	9.2 %		1,216	13.0 %	10.2 %		1,148	13.4 %	11.4 %	
Residential Construction	161	1.9 %	1.1 %		441	4.7 %	2.0 %		724	8.5 %	1.6 %	
Consumer	886	10.3 %	9.1 %		1,023	10.9 %	10.5 %		1,110	13.0 %	13.3 %	
Unallocated	369	4.3 %	—		627	6.7 %	—		35	0.4 %	—	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,583</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>		<b>\$9,353</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>		<b>\$8,554</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	

December 31, 2011

December 31, 2010

Loan Type:	December 31, 2011				December 31, 2010			
	Allocation of Allowance for Loan Losses Balance	Allowance as a % of Total Allowance	Loans as a % of Total Loans, net		Allocation of Allowance for Loan Losses Balance	Allowance as a % of Total Allowance	Loans as a % of Total Loans, net	
Commercial	\$3,598	34.6 %	20.4 %		\$3,761	34.1 %	17.9 %	
Commercial Real Estate	1,747	16.8 %	40.2 %		1,957	17.7 %	41.7 %	
Agriculture	1,934	18.6 %	11.6 %		2,141	19.4 %	11.5 %	
Residential Mortgage	1,135	10.9 %	11.7 %		830	7.5 %	11.7 %	
Residential Construction	1,198	11.5 %	1.5 %		1,719	15.6 %	1.9 %	
Consumer	796	7.6 %	14.6 %		556	5.0 %	15.3 %	
Unallocated	—	—	—		75	0.7 %	—	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,408</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>		<b>\$11,039</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	

The Bank believes that any breakdown or allocation of the allowance into loan categories lends an appearance of exactness, which does not exist, because the allowance is available for all loans. The allowance breakdown shown above is computed taking actual experience into consideration but should not be interpreted as an indication of the specific amount and allocation of actual charge-offs that may ultimately occur.

## Deposits

The following table sets forth the average amount and the average rate paid on each of the listed deposit categories (dollars in thousands) during the periods specified:

	2014		2013		2012	
	Average Amount	Average Rate	Average Amount	Average Rate	Average Amount	Average Rate
Deposit Type:						
Non-interest-Bearing Demand	\$277,204	—	\$253,487	—	\$215,062	—
Interest-Bearing Demand (NOW)	\$216,915	0.14 %	\$196,825	0.13 %	\$169,475	0.18 %
Savings and MMDAs	\$260,421	0.24 %	\$228,748	0.26 %	\$217,031	0.32 %
Time	\$90,330	0.41 %	\$89,803	0.45 %	\$98,843	0.67 %

The following table sets forth by time remaining to maturity the Bank's time deposits in the amount of \$100,000 or more (dollars in thousands) as of December 31, 2014:

Three months or less	\$16,135
Over three months through twelve months	29,911
Over twelve months	9,178
Total	\$55,224

## Short-Term Borrowings

The Company had no secured borrowings from the U.S. Treasury and no Federal Funds purchased at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.

Additional short-term borrowings available to the Company consist of a line of credit and advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank ("FHLB") secured under terms of a blanket collateral agreement by a pledge of FHLB stock and certain other qualifying collateral such as commercial and mortgage loans. At December 31, 2014, the Company had collateral borrowing capacity from the FHLB of \$212,916,000. The Company also has unsecured Federal Funds lines of credit totaling \$57,000,000 with correspondent banks.

## Long-Term Borrowings

The Company had no long-term borrowings at December 31, 2014 and 2013. Average outstanding balances of long-term borrowings, was \$0 during 2014 and 2013.





Overview

Year Ended December 31, 2014 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2013

Net income available to common shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014, was \$5.7 million, representing an increase of \$1.0 million, or 21.3% increase, compared to net income available to common shareholders of \$4.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in net income available to common shareholders was principally attributable to a \$2.0 million increase in interest income, \$0.9 million decrease in other operating expenses, and \$0.5 million decrease in preferred stock dividends, which was partially offset by a \$0.6 million increase in provision for loan loss and \$1.8 million decrease in other operating income.

Total assets increased by \$60.2 million, or 6.7%, to \$957.9 million as of December 31, 2014 compared to \$897.7 million at December 31, 2013. The increase in total assets was mainly due to a \$51.8 million increase in cash and \$30.4 million increase in net loans (including loans held-for-sale), which was partially offset by a \$22.0 million decrease in investment securities. Total deposits increased \$53.3 million, or 6.6%, to \$857.1 million as of December 31, 2014 compared to \$803.8 million at December 31, 2013.

Year Ended December 31, 2013 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2012

Net income available to common shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2013, was \$4.7 million, representing an increase of \$1.2 million, or 34.3% increase, compared to net income available to common shareholders of \$3.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in net income available to common shareholders was principally attributable to a \$0.6 million increase in interest income, \$0.5 million decrease in interest expense, and \$2.1 million decrease in provision for loan loss, which was partially offset by a \$1.2 million increase in other operating expenses and a \$1.1 million increase in provision for income tax.

Total assets increased by \$66.2 million, or 8.0%, to \$897.7 million as of December 31, 2013 compared to \$831.5 million at December 31, 2012. The increase in total assets was mainly due to a \$15.9 million increase in cash and \$63.1 million increase in net loans (including loans held-for-sale), which was partially offset by an \$11.2 million decrease in investment securities and \$1.1 million decrease in other real estate owned. Total deposits increased \$73.0 million, or 10.0%, to \$803.8 million as of December 31, 2013 compared to \$730.8 million at December 31, 2012.

## Results of Operations

## Net Interest Income

Net interest income is the excess of interest and fees earned on the Bank's loans, investment securities, federal funds sold and banker's acceptances over the interest expense paid on deposits, mortgage notes and other borrowed funds. It is primarily affected by the yields on the Bank's interest-earning assets and loan fees and interest-bearing liabilities outstanding during the period. The \$1,955,000 increase in the Bank's net interest income in 2014 from 2013 was due primarily to the effects of higher loan volumes, higher returns on investment securities and higher due from bank volumes, which was partially offset by lower loan interest rates, lower loan fee volumes and lower investment securities volumes. The \$1,137,000 increase in the Bank's net interest income in 2013 from 2012 was due to the effects of higher loan volumes, higher loan fees, lower deposit rates, lower time deposit volumes and lower borrowed funds volumes, which was partially offset by lower loan interest rates, lower investment securities rates, higher interest-bearing transaction deposit volumes, higher savings volumes and higher money market account volumes. Continued lower interest rates have been affected by the FRB's pursuit of a variety of monetary measures designed to stimulate economic growth, including purchases of long-term U.S. Treasury and federal agency backed securities and maintaining a very low target range for the federal funds rate. These policies of the FRB for the past several years have placed a downward pressure on the net interest margins of banks in the United States, including that of the Bank. During 2014, the FRB began to gradually ease its accommodative monetary policies, including discontinuing its asset purchase program in October, 2014. The FRB further indicated that expects to maintain the current very low target range for the federal funds rate for at least some time while it assesses progress toward its objectives of maximum employment and modest inflation. We cannot predict with any certainty the degree to which the FRB will continue its accommodative monetary policies, nor the timing of further easing of these policies. The "Analysis of Changes in Interest Income and Interest Expense" set forth on page 37 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K identifies the effects of interest rates and loan/deposit volume. Another factor that affected the net interest income was the average earning asset to average total asset ratio. This ratio was 94.6% in 2014, 93.8% in 2013, and 93.0% in 2012.

The nature and impact of future changes in such policies on the business and earnings of the Company cannot be predicted. Additionally, state and federal tax policies can impact banking organizations.

Interest income on loans (including loan fees) was \$26,715,000 for 2014, representing an increase of \$1,551,000, or 6.2%, from \$25,164,000 for 2013. This compared to an increase in 2013 of \$764,000, or 3.1%, from \$24,400,000 for 2012. The increase in interest income on loans in 2014 over 2013 was the result of a 9.25% increase in loan volume, which was partially offset by a decrease of approximately \$327,000 in loan fees and a 6 basis point decrease in loan yields. Loan fee comparisons were impacted by a net decrease in deferred loan fees and costs of \$125,000 in 2014 and a net decrease of \$427,000 in 2013.

There were no Federal Funds sold at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013. Federal funds are used primarily as a short-term investment to provide liquidity for funding of loan commitments or to accommodate seasonal deposit fluctuations.

Average outstanding due from interest bearing accounts fluctuated during this period, ranging from \$214,902,000 in 2014 to \$144,280,000 in 2013 and \$124,151,000 in 2012. At December 31, 2014, due from interest bearing accounts were \$216,672,000. As with Federal Funds, due from interest bearing accounts are used primarily as a short-term investment to provide liquidity for funding of loan commitments or to accommodate seasonal deposit fluctuations. Due from interest bearing account yields were 0.28%, 0.30%, and 0.29% for 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.

The average total level of investment securities decreased \$31,076,000 in 2014 to \$159,602,000 from \$190,678,000 in 2013 and increased \$7,923,000 in 2013 to \$190,678,000 from \$182,755,000 in 2012. The level of interest income attributable to investment securities increased to \$3,252,000 in 2014 from \$3,107,000 in 2013 and decreased to \$3,107,000 in 2013 from \$3,455,000 in 2012, due to the effects of interest rates and volume. The Bank's strategy in recent years emphasized the use of increased interest yields on the investment portfolio and increased loan volume to partially offset the Bank's decreased investment securities volume and decreased yield on loans. In the future, as loan volume increases, the Bank intends to decrease the reinvestment of maturing securities. Investment securities yields were 2.04%, 1.63%, and 1.89% for 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.

Total interest expense increased to \$1,291,000 in 2014 from \$1,265,000 in 2013, and decreased to \$1,265,000 in 2013 from \$1,802,000 in 2012, representing a 2.1% increase in 2014 over 2013 and a 29.8% decrease in 2013 over 2012. The increase in total interest expense was due to increases in the volume of interest-bearing transaction, savings and money market deposit accounts, which was partially offset by decreases in the interest rates paid on savings, money market and time deposits.

The mix of deposits for the previous three years is as follows (dollars in thousands):

	2014		2013		2012	
	Average Balance	Percent	Average Balance	Percent	Average Balance	Percent
Non-interest-Bearing Demand	\$277,204	32.8 %	\$253,487	33.0 %	\$215,062	30.7 %
Interest-Bearing Demand (NOW)	216,915	25.7 %	196,825	25.6 %	169,475	24.2 %
Savings and MMDAs	260,421	30.8 %	228,748	29.7 %	217,031	31.0 %
Time	90,330	10.7 %	89,803	11.7 %	98,843	14.1 %
Total	\$844,870	100.0 %	\$768,863	100.0 %	\$700,411	100.0 %

The three years ended December 31, 2014 have been characterized by decreasing interest rates. Loan rates and deposit rates decreased in 2014, 2013 and 2012. The net spread between the rate for total earning assets and the rate for interest-bearing deposits and borrowed funds decreased 9 basis points in the period from 2014 to 2013 and 10 basis points in the period from 2013 to 2012.

The Bank's net interest margin (net interest income divided by average earning assets) was 3.32% in 2014, 3.41% in 2013, and 3.55% in 2012. The decrease in net interest margin was due to decreasing loan rates which was only partially offset by increasing investment rates and lower deposit rates. Going forward into the first half of 2015, it is Bank management's belief that there will be continued downward pressure on net interest margin due to the FRB's monetary policies and market conditions.

#### Provision for Loan Losses

The provision for loan losses is established by charges to earnings based on management's overall evaluation of the collectability of the loan portfolio. Based on this evaluation, the provision for loan losses increased to \$1,800,000 in 2014 from \$1,200,000 in 2013, primarily as a result of increased charge-offs. The amount of loans charged-off increased in 2014 to \$2,821,000 from \$1,218,000 in 2013, and recoveries decreased to \$251,000 in 2014 from \$817,000 in 2013. The increase in charge-offs was due to an increase in charge-offs of commercial loans and commercial real estate loans, which was partially offset by a decrease in charge-offs of residential mortgage loans, residential construction loans, and consumer loans. The ratio of the Allowance for Loan Losses to total loans at December 31, 2014 was 1.57% compared to 1.81% at December 31, 2013. The ratio of the Allowance for Loan Losses to total non-accrual loans and loans past due 90 days or more, net of guarantees was 167% at December 31, 2014 compared to 102% at December 31, 2013.

The provision for loan losses decreased to \$1,200,000 in 2013 from \$3,276,000 in 2012, primarily as a result of decreased charge-offs and improved credit quality. The amount of loans charged-off decreased in 2013 to \$1,218,000 from \$5,895,000 in 2012, and recoveries increased to \$817,000 in 2013 from \$765,000 in 2012. The decrease in charge-offs was due to a decrease in charge-offs of all loan categories: commercial, commercial real estate loans, agriculture loans, residential mortgage loans, residential construction loans and consumer loans. The ratio of the Allowance for Loan Losses to total loans at December 31, 2013 was 1.81% compared to 1.91% at December 31, 2012. The ratio of the Allowance for Loan Losses to total non-accrual loans and loans past due 90 days or more, net of governmental guarantees was 102% at December 31, 2013 compared to 120% at December 31, 2012.



## Other Operating Income and Expenses

Other operating income consisted primarily of service charges on deposit accounts, net gains on sales of investment securities, net realized gains on loans held-for-sale, and other income. Service charges on deposit accounts decreased \$221,000 in 2014 over 2013 and decreased \$232,000 in 2013 over 2012. The decrease in 2014 was due, for the most part, to a decrease in service charges assessed on regular and business checking accounts. Realized gains on sale of investment securities increased \$44,000 in 2014 over 2013 and decreased \$4,000 in 2013 over 2012. The increase in 2014 was primarily due to an increase in the number of securities sold. Net realized gains on loans held-for-sale decreased \$624,000 in 2014 over 2013 and decreased \$1,124,000 in 2013 over 2012. The decrease in 2014 was due, for the most part, to decreased sales volume of loans held-for-sale. Gains on sales of other real estate owned decreased \$1,000 in 2014 over 2013 and decreased \$16,000 in 2013 over 2012. The decrease in 2014 was due to there being no recognized gain on the other real estate owned property sold in 2014. Other income decreased \$1,018,000 in 2014 over 2013 and increased \$1,234,000 in 2013 over 2012. The decrease in 2014 was due, for the most part, to decreases in investment & brokerage income, loan servicing income and fiduciary activities, which was partially offset by increases in signature based transaction fees and ATM fees.

Other operating expenses consisted primarily of salaries and employee benefits, occupancy and equipment expense, data processing expense, stationery and supplies expense, advertising and other expenses. Other operating expenses decreased to \$26,569,000 in 2014 from \$27,456,000 in 2013, and increased to \$27,456,000 in 2013 from \$26,254,000 in 2012, representing an decrease of \$887,000, or 3.2% in 2014 over 2013, and a increase of \$1,202,000, or 4.6% in 2013 over 2012.

Following is an analysis of the increase or decrease in the components of other operating expenses (dollars in thousands) during the periods specified:

	2014 over 2013			2013 over 2012		
	Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	\$(1,084 )	(6.5 %)		\$1,196	7.7 %	
Occupancy and Equipment	(155 )	(5.1 %)		229	8.1 %	
Data Processing	76	4.7 %		(20 )	(1.2 %)	
Stationery and Supplies	(46 )	(12.7 %)		6	1.7 %	
Advertising	(30 )	(8.0 %)		1	0.3 %	
Directors Fees	40	18.1 %		(1 )	(0.5 %)	
OREO Expense and Impairment	129	1,075.0 %		(143 )	(92.3 %)	
Impairment on Equity Investment	50	—		—	—	
Other Expense	133	2.7 %		(66 )	(1.3 %)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$(887 )</b>	<b>(3.2 %)</b>		<b>\$1,202</b>	<b>4.6 %</b>	

In 2014, salaries and employee benefits decreased \$1,084,000 to \$15,718,000 from \$16,802,000 for 2013. This increase was primarily due to decreases in commissions expense, contingent compensation expense, and profit sharing expense, which was partially offset by an increase in regular salaries. The increase in regular salaries expense was due to current year salary increases and the increase in staffing. The decrease in contingent compensation was due to the decreased performance results of the Company when compared with budgeted goals for the year. The decrease in profit sharing expense was due to decreased performance results of the Company. The decrease in commissions expense was due to a decrease in real estate mortgage and investment services activity. The decrease in occupancy and equipment expense was primarily due to decreases in rent expense and service contracts. The decrease in rent expense was primarily due to the expiration of leases that were not renewed. The increase in data processing expense

was primarily due to increased volume of activity and rates. The increase in OREO expense and impairment was due to an increase in write-downs and maintenance expenses related to foreclosed real estate properties. The increase in other expenses was primarily due to increases in loan collection expenses.

In 2013, salaries and employee benefits increased \$1,196,000 to \$16,802,000 from \$15,606,000 for 2012. This increase was primarily due to increases in regular salaries expense, contingent compensation expense, and profit sharing expense, which was partially offset by a decrease in commissions expense. The increase in regular salaries expense was due to current year salary increases. The increase in contingent compensation and profit sharing expense was due to increased performance results of the Company. The decrease in commissions expense was due to a decrease in real estate mortgage and investment services activity. The increase in occupancy and equipment expense was primarily due to increases in rent expense and service contracts. The increase in rent expense was primarily due to the opening of a new commercial loan office. The decrease in data processing expense was primarily due to better pricing on service contracts. The decrease in OREO expense and impairment was due to a decrease in write-downs and maintenance expenses related to foreclosed real estate properties. The decrease in other expenses was primarily due to decreases in legal expenses and loan collection expenses, which was partially offset by increases in consulting fees and signature based transaction fees.



### Income Taxes

The provision for income taxes is primarily affected by the tax rate, the level of earnings before taxes and the amount of lower taxes provided by non-taxable earnings. In 2014, tax expense decreased \$64,000 to \$2,790,000 from \$2,854,000 for 2013. In 2013, tax expense increased \$1,131,000 to \$2,854,000 from \$1,723,000 for 2012. The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in taxable income. Non-taxable municipal bond income was \$354,000, \$397,000, and \$413,000 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.

### Liquidity

Liquidity is defined as the ability to generate cash at a reasonable cost to fulfill lending commitments and support asset growth, while satisfying the withdrawal demands of deposit customers and any debt repayment requirements. The Bank's principal sources of liquidity are core deposits and loan and investment payments and prepayments. Providing a secondary source of liquidity is the available-for-sale investment portfolio. As a smaller source of liquidity, the Bank can utilize existing credit arrangements.

The Company's primary source of liquidity on a stand-alone basis is dividends from the Bank. As discussed in Part I (Item 1) of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, dividends from the Bank are subject to regulatory and corporate law restrictions.

As discussed in Part I (Item 1) of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the Bank experiences seasonal swings in deposits, which impact liquidity. Management has sought to address these seasonal swings by scheduling investment maturities and developing seasonal credit arrangements with the Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Reserve Bank and Federal Funds lines of credit with correspondent banks. In addition, the ability of the Bank's real estate department to originate and sell loans into the secondary market has provided another tool for the management of liquidity. As of December 31, 2014, the Company has not created any special purpose entities to securitize assets or to obtain off-balance sheet funding.

The liquidity position of the Bank is managed daily, thus enabling the Bank to adapt its position according to market fluctuations. Liquidity is measured by various ratios, the most common of which is the ratio of net loans (including loans held-for-sale) to deposits. This ratio was 62.8% on December 31, 2014, 63.2% on December 31, 2013, and 60.9% on December 31, 2012. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Bank's ratio of core deposits to total assets was 83.7% and 83.3%, respectively. Core deposits include demand deposits, interest-bearing transaction deposits, savings and money market deposit accounts, and time deposits under \$100,000. Core deposits are important in maintaining a strong liquidity position as they represent a stable and relatively low cost source of funds. The Bank's liquidity position increased in 2014; management believes that the Bank's liquidity position was adequate. This is best illustrated by the change in the Bank's net non-core ratio, which explains the degree of reliance on non-core liabilities to fund long-term assets. At December 31, 2014, the Bank's net core funding dependence ratio, the difference between non-core funds, time deposits of \$100,000 or more and brokered time deposits under \$100,000, and short-term investments to long-term assets, was (23.34%), compared to (12.97%) in 2013. This ratio indicated at December 31, 2014, the Bank did not significantly rely upon non-core deposits and borrowings to fund the Bank's long-term assets, namely loans and investments. The Bank believes that by maintaining adequate volumes of short-term investments and implementing competitive pricing strategies on deposits, it can ensure adequate liquidity to support future growth. The Bank also believes that its liquidity position remains strong to meet both present and future financial obligations and commitments, events or uncertainties that have resulted or are reasonably likely to result in material changes with respect to the Bank's liquidity.

## Contractual Obligations

The Company has various financial obligations, including contractual obligations and commitments that will require future cash payments. The following table presents, as of December 31, 2014, the Company's significant fixed and determinable contractual obligations to third parties by payment date (amounts in thousands):

Contractual Obligations	Total	Payments due by period			
		Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Deposits without a stated maturity (a)	\$770,879	\$770,879	\$—	\$—	\$—
Certificates of Deposit (a)	86,173	72,294	11,760	2,119	—
Operating Leases	2,876	818	763	511	784
Purchase Obligations	1,434	1,434	—	—	—
Total	\$861,362	\$845,425	\$12,523	\$2,630	\$784

(a)Excludes interest

The Company's operating lease obligations represent short-term and long-term lease and rental payments for facilities, certain software and data processing and other equipment. Purchase obligations represent obligations under agreements to purchase goods or services that are enforceable and legally binding on the Company and that specify all significant terms, including: fixed or minimum quantities to be purchased; fixed, minimum or variable price provisions; and the approximate timing of the transaction. The purchase obligation amounts presented above primarily relate to certain contractual payments for services provided for information technology, capital expenditures, and the outsourcing of certain operational activities.

## Commitments

The following table details the amounts and expected maturities of commitments as of December 31, 2014 (amounts in thousands):

Commitments	Total	Maturities by period			
		Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Commitments to extend credit					
Commercial	\$67,608	\$51,536	\$13,929	\$1,345	\$798
Commercial Real Estate	14,184	4,080	2,738	—	7,366
Agriculture	30,669	24,618	3,040	480	2,531
Residential Mortgage	5	—	—	—	5
Residential Construction	2,655	2,655	—	—	—
Consumer	55,898	15,512	4,339	9,912	26,135
Commitments to sell loans	1,230	1,230	—	—	—
Standby Letters of Credit	2,099	2,099	—	—	—
Total	\$174,348	\$101,730	\$24,046	\$11,737	\$36,835

Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a customer as long as there is no violation of any condition established in the contract. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee. Since many of the commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements.



## Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

The Company is a party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of its customers. These financial instruments include commitments to extend credit in the form of loans or through standby letters of credit. These instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amounts recognized in the balance sheet. The contract amounts of those instruments reflect the extent of involvement the Company has in particular classes of financial instruments. These loans have been sold to third parties without recourse, subject to customary default, representations and warranties, recourse for breaches of the terms of the sales contracts and payment default recourse.

Financial instruments, whose contract amounts represent credit risk at December 31 of the indicated years, are as follows (amounts in thousands):

	2014	2013
Undisbursed loan commitments	\$171,019	\$172,563
Standby letters of credit	2,099	2,489
Commitments to sell loans	1,230	3,209
	\$174,348	\$178,261

The Bank expects its liquidity position to remain strong in 2015 as the Bank expects to continue to grow into existing markets. The stock market remained volatile this past year, but with the overall trend being favorable. While the Bank did not experience an outflow of deposits in 2014, the potential of outflows still exists if the stock market values continue to improve. Regardless of the outcome, the Bank believes that it has the means to provide adequate liquidity for funding normal operations in 2015.

## Capital

The Bank believes a strong capital position is essential to the Bank's continued growth and profitability. A solid capital base provides depositors and shareholders with a margin of safety, while allowing the Bank to take advantage of profitable opportunities, support future growth and provide protection against any unforeseen losses.

At December 31, 2014, stockholders' equity totaled \$92.0 million, an increase of \$7.1 million from \$84.9 million at December 31, 2013. The increase was primarily due to net income of \$5.9 million and other comprehensive gain of \$1.1 million, which was partially offset by dividends on preferred stock of \$0.1 million. Other comprehensive gain of \$1.1 million consists of unrealized gains on investment securities available-for-sale and retirement plan equity adjustments. Also affecting capital in 2014 was paid in capital in the amount of \$0.3 million resulting from employee stock purchases and stock plan accruals. The Bank's Tier 1 Leverage Capital ratio was 9.0% and 9.1% at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. See the section entitled "Business – Supervision and Regulation of Bank" beginning on page 8 for additional information.

The capital of the Bank historically has been maintained at a level that is in excess of regulatory guidelines for a "well capitalized" institution. The policy of annual stock dividends has, over time, allowed the Bank to match capital and asset growth through retained earnings and a managed program of geographic growth.

ITEM 7A – QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Not required.

ITEM 8 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Management’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting	Page 57
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	Page 58
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013	Page 59
Consolidated Statements of Income for Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012	Page 60
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012	Page 61
Consolidated Statement of Stockholders’ Equity for Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012	Page 62
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012	Page 63
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	Page 64

Management's Report

FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARY  
MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

Management of First Northern Community Bancorp and subsidiary (the "Company") is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, the Company conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (1992) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this evaluation under the framework in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (1992), management of the Company has concluded the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 13a-15(f), as of December 31, 2014.

Internal control over financial reporting cannot provide absolute assurance of achieving financial reporting objectives because of its inherent limitations. Internal control over financial reporting is a process that involves human diligence and compliance and is subject to lapses in judgment and breakdowns resulting from human failures. Internal control over financial reporting can also be circumvented by collusion or improper management override. Because of such limitations, there is a risk that material misstatements may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis by internal control over financial reporting. However, these inherent limitations are known features of the financial reporting process. Therefore, it is possible to design into the process safeguards to reduce, though not eliminate, this risk.

Management is also responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements and other financial information contained in this report. The accompanying consolidated financial statements were prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and include, as necessary, best estimates and judgments by management.

/s/ Louise A. Walker

Louise A. Walker  
President/Chief Executive Officer/Director  
(Principal Executive Officer)

/s/ Jeremiah Z. Smith

Jeremiah Z. Smith  
Senior Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer &  
Chief Operating Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

March 10, 2015

57

---

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To The Board of Directors and Stockholders  
First Northern Community Bancorp:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of First Northern Community Bancorp and subsidiary (the "Company") as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall consolidated financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of First Northern Community Bancorp and subsidiary as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of their operations and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

/s/ MOSS ADAMS LLP

Sacramento, California  
March 10, 2015



FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP  
AND SUBSIDIARY  
Consolidated Balance Sheets  
December 31, 2014 and 2013  
(in thousands, except shares and share amounts)

	2014	2013
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$229,052	\$177,254
Investment securities – available-for-sale, at fair value (includes securities pledged to creditors with the right to sell or repledge of \$27,868 at December 31, 2014 and \$28,773 at December 31, 2013)	151,226	173,269
Loans (net of allowance for loan losses of \$8,583 at December 31, 2014 and \$9,353 at December 31, 2013)	537,979	506,850
Loans held-for-sale	491	1,263
Stock in Federal Home Loan Bank and other equity securities, at cost	3,934	3,717
Premises and equipment, net	7,278	7,418
Other real estate owned	736	—
Interest receivable and other assets	27,188	27,898
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$957,884</b>	<b>\$897,669</b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
<b>Deposits:</b>		
Demand	\$287,717	\$274,831
Interest-bearing transaction deposits	219,396	207,879
Savings and MMDAs	263,766	231,491
Time, under \$100,000	30,949	33,467
Time, \$100,000 and over	55,224	56,119
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>857,052</b>	<b>803,787</b>
Interest payable and other liabilities	8,781	8,974
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>865,833</b>	<b>812,761</b>
<b>Commitments and contingencies</b>		
<b>Stockholders' Equity:</b>		
Preferred stock, no par value; \$1,000 per share liquidation preference, 22,847 shares authorized; 12,847 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2014 and 2013	12,847	12,847
Common stock, no par value; 16,000,000 shares authorized; 10,207,043 and 9,495,674 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively	70,015	64,584
Additional paid-in capital	977	977

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

Retained earnings	8,146	7,573
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net	66	(1,073 )
Total Stockholders' Equity	92,051	84,908
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$957,884	\$897,669

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP  
AND SUBSIDIARY

Consolidated Statements of Income  
Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
(in thousands, except per share amounts)

	2014	2013	2012
Interest and dividend income:			
Interest and fees on loans	\$26,715	\$25,164	\$24,400
Due from banks interest bearing accounts	595	431	359
Investment securities:			
Taxable	2,898	2,710	3,042
Non-taxable	354	397	413
Other earning assets	278	157	45
Total interest and dividend income	30,840	28,859	28,259
Interest expense:			
Time deposits \$100,000 and over	262	268	465
Other deposits	1,029	997	1,196
Other borrowings	—	—	141
Total interest expense	1,291	1,265	1,802
Net interest income	29,549	27,594	26,457
Provision for loan losses	1,800	1,200	3,276
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	27,749	26,394	23,181
Other operating income:			
Service charges on deposit accounts	2,245	2,466	2,698
Net gain on sale of available-for-sale securities	48	4	8
Net gain on sale of loans held-for-sale	589	1,213	2,337
Net gain on sale of other real estate owned	—	1	17
Other income	4,598	5,616	4,382
Total other operating income	7,480	9,300	9,442
Other operating expenses:			
Salaries and employee benefits	15,718	16,802	15,606
Occupancy and equipment	2,913	3,068	2,839
Data processing	1,700	1,624	1,644
Stationery and supplies	315	361	355
Advertising	344	374	373
Directors fees	261	221	222
Other real estate owned expense and impairment	141	12	155
Loss on disposal of other equity investment	50	—	—
Other expense	5,127	4,994	5,060
Total other operating expenses	26,569	27,456	26,254
Income before provision for income tax	8,660	8,238	6,369
Provision for income tax	(2,790 )	(2,854 )	(1,723 )
Net income	5,870	5,384	4,646
Preferred stock dividends	(129 )	(677 )	(1,139 )
Net income available to common shareholders	\$5,741	\$4,707	\$3,507
Basic income per share	\$0.57	\$0.47	\$0.35
Diluted income per share	\$0.56	\$0.46	\$0.35

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

60

---

FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP  
AND SUBSIDIARY  
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income  
Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
(in thousands)

	2014	2013	2012
Net income	\$5,870	\$5,384	\$4,646
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:			
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on securities arising during the current period, net of tax effect of \$912, (\$1,646), and \$722 for the years ended December 31, 2014, December 31, 2013, and December 31, 2012, respectively	1,371	(2,471 )	1,081
Reclassification adjustment due to gains realized on sales of securities, net of tax effect of (\$19), (\$2), and (\$3) for the years ended December 31, 2014, December 31, 2013, and December 31, 2012, respectively	(29 )	(2 )	(5 )
Officers' retirement plan equity adjustments, net of tax effect of (\$132), \$125, and (\$110) for the years ended December 31, 2014, December 31, 2013, and December 31, 2012, respectively	(198 )	188	(166 )
Directors' retirement plan equity adjustments, net of tax effect of (\$3), \$25, and (\$0) for the years ended December 31, 2014, December 31, 2013, and December 31, 2012, respectively	(5 )	38	1
Total other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax effect of \$758, (\$1,498), and \$609 for the years ended December 31, 2014, December 31, 2013, and December 31, 2012, respectively	1,139	(2,247 )	911
Comprehensive income	\$7,009	\$3,137	\$5,557

FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP  
AND SUBSIDIARY

Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity  
Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
(in thousands, except share data)

	Preferred Stock		Common Stock		Additional	Retained	Accumulated Other Comprehensive	Total
	Shares	Amounts	Shares	Amounts	Paid-in Capital	Earnings	Income/(Loss)	
Balance at December 31, 2011	22,847	\$22,847	9,144,998	\$62,751	\$ 977	\$864	\$ 263	\$87,702
Net income						4,646		4,646
Other comprehensive income, net of tax							911	911
1% stock dividend			91,052	451		(451 )		—
Dividend on preferred stock						(1,139 )		(1,139 )
Cash in lieu of fractional shares						(3 )		(3 )
Stock-based compensation and related tax benefits				115				115
Common shares issued			36,618	93				93
Balance at December 31, 2012	22,847	\$22,847	9,272,668	\$63,410	\$ 977	\$3,917	\$ 1,174	\$92,325
Net income						5,384		5,384
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax							(2,247 )	(2,247 )
Redemption of preferred stock	(10,000 )	(10,000 )						(10,000 )
2% stock dividend			185,291	1,047		(1,047 )		—
Dividend on preferred stock						(677 )		(677 )
Cash in lieu of fractional shares			(159 )			(4 )		(4 )
Stock-based compensation and related tax benefits				157				157
Tax deficiency related to expired, vested non-qualified stock options				(106 )				(106 )

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

Common shares issued			37,874	76				76
Balance at December 31, 2013	12,847	\$12,847	9,495,674	\$64,584	\$ 977	\$7,573	\$ (1,073 )	\$84,908
Net income						5,870		5,870
Other comprehensive income, net of tax							1,139	1,139
3% stock dividend			284,871	2,065		(2,065 )		—
4% stock dividend declared in 2015			392,578	3,097		(3,097 )		—
Dividend on preferred stock						(129 )		(129 )
Cash in lieu of fractional shares			(145 )			(6 )		(6 )
Stock-based compensation and related tax benefits				185				185
Common shares issued			38,175	84				84
Restricted stock forfeited			(4,110 )					—
Balance at December 31, 2014	12,847	\$12,847	10,207,043	\$70,015	\$ 977	\$8,146	\$ 66	\$92,051

FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP  
AND SUBSIDIARY

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows  
Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
(in thousands)

	2014	2013	2012
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	\$5,870	\$5,384	\$4,646
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Provision for loan losses	1,800	1,200	3,276
Stock plan accruals	185	157	115
Depreciation and amortization of bank premises and equipment	672	692	699
Accretion and amortization of securities, net	2,012	3,298	3,342
Net gain on sale/call of available-for-sale securities	(48 )	(4 )	(8 )
Loss on disposal of other equity investments	50	—	—
Net gain on sale of loans held-for-sale	(589 )	(1,213 )	(2,337 )
Net gain on sale of other real estate owned	—	(1 )	(17 )
Impairment on other real estate owned	48	10	71
Net gain on sale of bank premises and equipment	(48 )	—	(4 )
Provision for deferred income taxes	975	1,665	1,055
Valuation adjustment on mortgage servicing rights	—	(536 )	189
Proceeds from sales of loans held-for-sale	28,648	66,910	90,729
Originations of loans held-for-sale	(27,453 )	(62,401 )	(90,119 )
Decrease in deferred loan origination fees and costs, net	(126 )	(426 )	(577 )
Decrease in interest receivable and other assets	(1,023 )	482	2,692
Net (decrease) increase in interest payable and other liabilities	(531 )	1,003	582
Net cash provided by operating activities	10,442	16,220	14,334
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Proceeds from maturities of available-for-sale securities	21,580	15,060	25,805
Proceeds from sales of available-for-sale securities	12,136	—	1,492
Principal repayments on available-for-sale securities	21,570	33,578	32,097
Purchase of available-for-sale securities	(32,972 )	(44,831 )	(85,183 )
Net increase in stock in Federal Home Loan Bank and other equity securities, at cost	(267 )	(110 )	(532 )
Net increase in loans	(33,835 )	(66,635 )	(12,552 )
Purchases of bank premises and equipment, net	(532 )	(271 )	(480 )
Proceeds from the sale of bank premises and equipment	48	—	—
Proceeds from sales of other real estate owned	414	513	2,402
Net cash used in investing activities	(11,858 )	(62,696 )	(36,951 )
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Net increase in deposits	53,265	72,976	51,853
Redemption of preferred stock	—	(10,000 )	—
Decrease in FHLB advances and other borrowings	—	—	(7,000 )
Dividends on preferred stock	(129 )	(677 )	(1,139 )
Cash dividends paid in lieu of fractional shares	(6 )	(4 )	(3 )
Common stock issued	84	76	93



Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

Net cash provided by financing activities	53,214	62,371	43,804
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	51,798	15,895	21,187
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	177,254	161,359	140,172
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$229,052	\$177,254	\$161,359

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP  
AND SUBSIDIARY

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements  
Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
(in thousands, except shares and share amounts)

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

First Northern Community Bancorp (“Company”) is a bank holding company whose only subsidiary, First Northern Bank of Dixon (“Bank”), a California state chartered bank, conducts general banking activities, including collecting deposits and originating loans, and serves Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, and Contra Costa Counties. All intercompany transactions between the Company and the Bank have been eliminated in consolidation. The consolidated financial statements also include the accounts of Yolano Realty Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank. Yolano Realty Corporation was formed in September, 2009 for the purpose of managing selected other real estate owned properties.

The accounting and reporting policies of the Company conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as of the date of the balance sheet and revenues and expenses for the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates applied in the preparation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements. For the Company, the most significant accounting estimates are the allowance for loan losses, recognition and measurement of impaired loans, other-than-temporary impairment of securities, fair value measurements, share based compensation, valuation of mortgage servicing rights and deferred tax asset realization. A summary of the significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements follows.

(a) Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the consolidated statements of cash flows, the Company considers due from banks, federal funds sold for one-day periods and short-term bankers acceptances to be cash equivalents.

(b) Investment Securities

Investment securities consist of U.S. Treasury securities, U.S. Agency securities, obligations of states and political subdivisions, obligations of U.S. Corporations, mortgage-backed securities and other securities. At the time of purchase of a security the Company designates the security as held-to-maturity or available-for-sale, based on its investment objectives, operational needs, and intent to hold. The Company does not purchase securities with the intent to engage in trading activity.

Held-to-maturity securities are recorded at amortized cost, adjusted for amortization or accretion of premiums or discounts. Available-for-sale securities are recorded at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses, net of the related tax effect, reported as a separate component of stockholders’ equity until realized. The amortized cost of available-for-sale securities is adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts over the life of the related security using the effective interest method. Such amortization and accretion is included in investment income, along with interest and dividends. The cost of securities sold is based on the specific identification method; realized gains and losses resulting from such sales are included in earnings.

Investments with fair values that are less than amortized cost are considered impaired. Impairment may result from either a decline in the financial condition of the issuing entity or, in the case of fixed interest rate investments, from rising interest rates. At each consolidated financial statement date, management assesses each investment to determine if impaired investments are temporarily impaired or if the impairment is other than temporary. This assessment includes consideration regarding the duration and severity of impairment, the credit quality of the issuer and a determination of whether the Company intends to sell the security, or if it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost basis less any current-period credit losses. Other-than-temporary impairment is recognized in earnings if one of the following conditions exists: 1) the Company's intent is to sell the security; 2) it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the security before the impairment is recovered; or 3) the Company does not expect to recover its amortized cost basis. If, by contrast, the Company does not intend to sell the security and will not be required to sell the security prior to recovery of the amortized cost basis, the Company recognizes only the credit loss component of other-than-temporary impairment in earnings. The credit loss component is calculated as the difference between the security's amortized cost basis and the present value of its expected future cash flows. The remaining difference between the security's fair value and the present value of the future expected cash flows is deemed to be due to factors that are not credit related and is recognized in other comprehensive income.

(c) Federal Home Loan Bank stock and other equity securities, at cost

Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) stock represents an equity interest that does not have a readily determinable fair value because its ownership is restricted and it lacks a market (liquidity). FHLB stock and other securities are recorded at cost.

(d) Loans

Loans are reported at the principal amount outstanding, net of deferred loan fees and the allowance for loan losses. A loan is considered impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement, including scheduled interest payments. For a loan that has been restructured, the contractual terms of the loan agreement refer to the contractual terms specified by the original loan agreement, not the contractual terms specified by the restructuring agreement. Restructured loans are loans on which concessions in terms have been granted because of the borrowers' financial difficulties. A restructuring constitutes a troubled debt restructuring, and thus an impaired loan, if the restructuring constitutes a concession and the debtor is experiencing financial difficulties. An impaired loan is measured based upon the present value of future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective rate, the loan's observable market price, or the fair value of collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. Interest on impaired loans is recognized on a cash basis. If the measurement of the impaired loan is less than the recorded investment in the loan, an impairment is recognized by a charge to the allowance for loan losses.

Unearned discount on installment loans is recognized as income over the terms of the loans by the interest method. Interest on other loans is calculated by using the simple interest method on the daily balance of the principal amount outstanding.

Loan fees net of certain direct costs of origination, which represent an adjustment to interest yield are deferred and amortized over the contractual term of the loan using the interest method.

Loans on which the accrual of interest has been discontinued are designated as non-accrual loans. Accrual of interest on loans is discontinued either when reasonable doubt exists as to the full and timely collection of interest or principal or when a loan becomes contractually past due by ninety days or more with respect to interest or principal. When a loan is placed on non-accrual status, all interest previously accrued but not collected is reversed against current period interest income. Interest accruals are resumed on such loans only when they are brought fully current with respect to interest and principal and when, in the judgment of management, the loans are estimated to be fully collectible as to both principal and interest. Accrual of interest on loans that are troubled debt restructurings commence after a sustained period of performance. Interest is generally accrued on such loans in accordance with the new terms.

(e) Loans Held-for-Sale

Loans originated and held-for-sale are carried at the lower of cost or estimated fair value in the aggregate. Net unrealized losses are recognized through a valuation allowance by charges to income.

(f) Allowance for Loan Losses

The allowance for loan losses is established through a provision charged to expense. It is the Company's policy to charge-off loans when the following exists: management determines that a loss is expected or when specified by regulatory examination; impairment analysis shows an impaired amount, which requires a partial charge-off; interest and/or principal are past due 90 days or more unless the credit is both well secured and in process of collection; consumer loans become 90 days delinquent, except those well secured by real estate collateral and in the process of collection; loan is canceled as part of a court judgment.



The allowance is an amount that management believes will be adequate to absorb losses inherent in existing loans and overdrafts on evaluations of collectability and prior loss experience. The loan portfolio is segregated into loan types to facilitate the assessment of risk to pools of loans based on historical charge-off experience and internal and external factors. Individual loans are reviewed for impairment, while all other loans, including individually evaluated loans determined not to be impaired, are collectively evaluated for impairment. The evaluations take into consideration internal and external factors such as trends in portfolio volume, maturity and composition, overall portfolio quality, loan concentrations, levels of and trends in charge-offs and recoveries, current and anticipated economic conditions that may affect the borrowers' ability to pay and national and local economic trends and conditions. While management uses these evaluations to determine the allowance for loan losses, additional provisions may be necessary based on changes in the factors used in the evaluations.

Material estimates relating to the determination of the allowance for loan losses are particularly susceptible to significant change in the near term. Management believes that the allowance for loan losses is adequate at December 31, 2014. While management uses available information to recognize losses on loans, future additions to the allowance may be necessary based on changes in economic conditions and other factors. In addition, various regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination process, periodically review the Bank's allowance for loan losses. Such agencies may require the Bank to recognize additional allowance based on their judgment about information available to them at the time of their examination.

(g) Premises and Equipment

Premises and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed substantially by the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the improvements or the terms of the related leases, whichever is shorter. The useful lives used in computing depreciation are as follows:

Buildings and improvements	15 to 50 years
Furniture and equipment	3 to 10 years

(h) Other Real Estate Owned

Other real estate acquired by foreclosure is carried at fair value less estimated selling costs. Prior to foreclosure, the value of the underlying loan is written down to the fair value of the real estate to be acquired by a charge to the allowance for loan losses, if necessary. Fair value of other real estate owned is generally determined based on an appraisal of the property. Any subsequent operating expenses or income, reduction in estimated values and gains or losses on disposition of such properties are included in other operating expenses.

Gain recognition on the disposition of real estate is dependent upon the transaction meeting certain criteria relating to the nature of the property sold and the terms of the sale. Under certain circumstances, revenue recognition may be deferred until these criteria are met.

The Bank held other real estate owned ("OREO"), net of valuation allowance, in the amount of \$736 and \$0 as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

(i) Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and Long-Lived Assets to Be Disposed Of

Long-lived assets and certain identifiable intangibles are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to future net cash flows expected to be

generated by the asset. If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets. Assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell.

(j) Gain or Loss on Sale of Loans and Servicing Rights

Transfers and servicing of financial assets and extinguishments of liabilities are accounted for and reported based on consistent application of a financial-components approach that focuses on control. Transfers of financial assets that are sales are distinguished from transfers that are secured borrowings. A sale is recognized when the transaction closes and the proceeds are other than beneficial interests in the assets sold. A gain or loss is recognized to the extent that the sales proceeds and the fair value of the servicing asset exceed or are less than the book value of the loan. Additionally, a normal cost for servicing the loan is considered in the determination of the gain or loss.

The Company recognizes a gain and a related asset for the fair value of the rights to service loans for others when loans are sold. The Company sold substantially all of its conforming long-term residential mortgage loans originated during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 for cash proceeds equal to the fair value of the loans.

Mortgage servicing rights (MSR) in loans sold are measured by allocating the previous carrying amount of the transferred assets between the loans sold and retained interest, if any, based on their relative fair value at the date of transfer. The Company determines its classes of servicing assets based on the asset type being serviced along with the methods used to manage the risk inherent in the servicing assets, which includes the market inputs used to value the servicing assets. The Company measures and reports its residential mortgage servicing assets initially at fair value and amortizes the servicing rights in proportion to, and over the period of, estimated net servicing revenues. Management assesses servicing rights for impairment as of each financial reporting date. Fair value adjustments that encompass market-driven valuation changes and the runoff in value that occurs from the passage of time are each separately reported.

In determining the fair value of the MSR, the Company uses quoted market prices when available. Subsequent fair value measurements are determined using a discounted cash flow model. In order to determine the fair value of the MSR, the present value of expected future cash flows is estimated. Assumptions used include market discount rates, anticipated prepayment speeds, delinquency and foreclosure rates, and ancillary fee income. This model is periodically validated by an independent external model validation group. The model assumptions and the MSR fair value estimates are also compared to observable trades of similar portfolios as well as to MSR broker valuations and industry surveys, as available. Key assumptions used in measuring the fair value of MSR as of December 31 were as follows:

	2014		2013		2012	
Constant prepayment rate	12.12	%	9.09	%	25.58	%
Discount rate	10.06	%	10.05	%	11.05	%
Weighted average life (years)	6.25		7.05		3.41	

The expected life of the loan can vary from management's estimates due to prepayments by borrowers, especially when rates fall. Prepayments in excess of management's estimates would negatively impact the recorded value of the mortgage servicing rights. The value of the mortgage servicing rights is also dependent upon the discount rate used in the model, which we base on current market rates. Management reviews this rate on an ongoing basis based on current market rates. A significant increase in the discount rate would reduce the value of mortgage servicing rights.

(k) **Income Taxes**

The Company accounts for income taxes under the asset and liability method. Under the asset and liability method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax credit carry forwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

In 2002, the Bank made a \$2,355 equity investment in a partnership, which owns low-income affordable housing projects that generate tax benefits in the form of federal and state housing tax credits. In 2004, the Bank transferred the amortized cost of the equity investment to a similar equity investment partnership which owns low-income affordable housing projects that generate tax benefits in the form of federal and state tax credits. In 2008, 2009 and 2010 the Bank made equity investments totaling \$1,000 in a partnership which owns low-income affordable housing projects that generate tax benefits in the form of federal and state tax credits. As a limited partner investor in these



partnerships, the Company receives tax benefits in the form of tax deductions from partnership operating losses and federal and state income tax credits. The federal and state income tax credits are earned over a 10-year period as a result of the investment property meeting certain criteria and are subject to recapture for non-compliance with such criteria over a 15-year period. The expected benefit resulting from the low-income housing tax credits is recognized in the period for which the tax benefit is recognized in the Company's consolidated tax returns. These investments are accounted for using the effective yield method and are recorded in other assets on the consolidated balance sheets. Under the effective yield method, the Company recognizes tax credits as they are allocated and amortizes the initial cost of the investment to provide a constant effective yield over the period that tax credits are allocated to the Company. The effective yield is the internal rate of return on the investment, based on the cost of the investment and the guaranteed tax credits allocated to the Company. Any expected residual value of the investment was excluded from the effective yield calculation. Cash received from operations of the limited partnership or sale of the property, if any, will be included in earnings when realized or realizable.

(l) Share Based Compensation

The Company accounts for stock-based payment transactions whereby the Company receives employee services in exchange for equity instruments, including stock options and restricted stock. The Company recognizes in the consolidated statements of income the grant-date fair value of stock options and other equity-based forms of compensation issued to employees over their requisite service period (generally the vesting period). The fair value of options granted is determined on the date of the grant using a Black-Sholes-Merton pricing model using various assumptions. The grant date fair value of restricted stock is determined by the closing market price of the day prior to the grant date. The Company issues new shares of common stock upon the exercise of stock options. See Note 14 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (page 98).

(m) Earnings Per Share (“EPS”)

Basic EPS includes no dilution and is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the period, excluding non-vested restricted shares. Diluted EPS reflects the potential dilution of securities that could share in the earnings of an entity. The number of potential common shares included in annual diluted EPS is a year to date average of the number of potential common shares included in each quarter’s diluted EPS computation under the treasury stock method. The calculation of weighted average shares includes two classes of the Company’s outstanding common stock: common stock and restricted stock awards. Holders of restricted stock also receive non-forfeitable dividends at the same rate as common shareholders and they both share equally in undistributed earnings. See Note 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (page 96).

(n) Advertising costs

Advertising costs were \$344, \$374, and \$373 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. Advertising costs are expensed as incurred.

(o) Comprehensive Income

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require that recognized revenue, expenses, gains, and losses be included in net income. Although certain changes in assets and liabilities, such as unrealized gain and losses on available-for-sale securities and directors’ and officers’ retirement plans, are reported as a separate component of the equity section of the consolidated balance sheet, such items, along with net income, are components of comprehensive income.

(p) Fiduciary Powers

On July 1, 2002, the Bank received trust powers from applicable regulatory agencies and on that date began to offer fiduciary services for individuals, businesses, governments, and charitable organizations in the Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado County areas. The Bank’s full-service asset management and trust department, which offers and manages such fiduciary services, is located in downtown Sacramento.

(q) Stock Dividend

On January 23, 2014, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had declared a 3% stock dividend which resulted in 284,871 shares, which was paid on March 31, 2014 to shareholders of record as of February 28, 2014. On January 22, 2015, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had declared a 4% stock dividend which will result in an estimate of 392,578 shares, which will be paid on March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015. Company announced that its Board of Directors had declared a 4% stock dividend which will result in an estimate of 392,578 shares, which will be paid on March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015.

The earnings per share data for all periods presented have been adjusted to give retroactive effect to stock dividends and stock splits, including the 4% stock dividend declared on January 22, 2015. December 31, 2014 figures included in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity have been adjusted to reflect the estimated impact of the 2015 stock dividend. Figures that have been adjusted include common stock shares issued and outstanding, Common stock balance and Retained earnings balance. The December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 balances included in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity have not been adjusted to retroactively reflect the stock dividends, but instead show the historical rollforward of stock dividends declared.

(r) Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In February 2013, FASB issued ASU 2013-04, Obligations Resulting from Joint and Several Liability Arrangements for Which the Total Amount of the Obligation Is Fixed at the Reporting Date, which provides guidance for the recognition, measurement, and disclosure of obligations resulting from joint and several liability arrangements for which the total amount of the obligation is fixed at the reporting date. Examples of obligations within the scope of this guidance include debt arrangements, other contractual obligations, and settled litigation and judicial rulings. This guidance is effective for interim and annual periods beginning on January 1, 2014 and must be retroactively applied to prior periods presented. Early adoption is permitted. Adoption of the new guidance did not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In July 2013, FASB issued ASU 2013-11, Presentation of an Unrecognized Tax Benefit When a Net Operating Loss Carryforward, a Similar Tax Loss, or a Tax Credit Carryforward Exists. The amendments in this ASU provide that an unrecognized tax benefit, or a portion thereof, should be presented in the financial statements as a reduction to a deferred tax asset for a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward, except to the extent that a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward is not available at the reporting date to settle any additional income taxes that would result from disallowance of a tax position, or the tax law does not require the entity to use, and the entity does not intend to use, the deferred tax asset for such purpose, then the unrecognized tax benefit should be presented as a liability. The amendments are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2013. Early adoption and retrospective application is permitted. Adoption of the new guidance did not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In January 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-01, Investments – Equity Method and Joint Ventures. The amendments in this ASU permit reporting entities to make an accounting policy election to account for their investments in qualified affordable housing projects using the proportional amortization method if certain conditions are met. Disclosures for a change in accounting principle are required upon transition. The amendments should be applied retrospectively to all periods presented. A reporting entity that uses the effective yield method to account for its investments in qualified affordable housing projects before the date of adoption may continue to apply the effective yield method for those preexisting investments. The amendments in this ASU are effective for public business entities for annual periods and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2014. Early adoption is permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial

statements.

In January 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-04, Receivables – Troubled Debt Restructurings by Creditors. The amendments in this ASU clarify that an in substance repossession or foreclosure occurs, and a creditor is considered to have received physical possession of residential real estate property collateralizing a consumer mortgage loan, upon either (1) the creditor obtaining legal title to the residential real estate property upon completion of a foreclosure or (2) the borrower conveying all interest in the residential real estate property to the creditor to satisfy that loan through completion of a deed in lieu of foreclosure or through a similar legal agreement. Additionally, the amendments require interim and annual disclosure of both (1) the amount of foreclosed residential real estate property held by the creditor and (2) the recorded investment in consumer mortgage loans collateralized by residential real estate property that are in the process of foreclosure according to local requirements of the applicable jurisdiction. The amendments in this ASU are effective for public business entities for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2014. An entity can elect to adopt the amendments in this ASU using either a modified retrospective transition method or a prospective transition method. Early adoption is permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In January, 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-05, Service Concession Arrangements. The amendments specify that an operating entity should not account for a service concession arrangement that is within the scope of this ASU as a lease in accordance with Topic 840. An operating entity should refer to other Topics as applicable to account for various aspects of a service concession arrangement. The amendments also specify that the infrastructure used in a service concession arrangement should not be recognized as property, plant, and equipment of the operating entity. The amendments in this ASU should be applied on a modified retrospective basis to service concession arrangements that exist at the beginning of an entity's fiscal year of adoption. The modified retrospective approach requires the cumulative effect of applying this ASU to arrangements existing at the beginning of the period of adoption to be recognized as an adjustment to the opening retained earnings balance for the annual period of adoption. The amendments are effective for a public business entity for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2014. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In August, 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-14, Receivables- Troubled Debt Restructuring by Creditors: Classification of Certain Government-Guaranteed Mortgage Loans upon Foreclosure. The amendment affects creditors that hold government-guaranteed mortgage loans, including those guaranteed by the FHA and the VA. It requires that a mortgage loan be derecognized and a separate other receivable be recognized upon foreclosure if the following conditions are present:

- The loan has a government guarantee that is not separable from the loan before foreclosure.
- At the time of foreclosure, the creditor has the intent to convey the real estate property to the guarantor and make a claim on the guarantee, and the creditor has the ability to recover under that claim.
- At the time of foreclosure, any amount of the claim that is determined on the basis of the fair value of the real estate is fixed.

Upon foreclosure, the separate other receivable should be measured based on the amount of the loan balance (principal and interest) expected to be recovered from the guarantor. The amendments are effective for a public business entity for annual periods and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2014.

In August, 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-15, Presentation of Financial Statements- Going Concern: Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern. The amendment defines management's responsibility to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about an organization's ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. Under GAAP, financial statements are prepared under the presumption that the reporting organization will continue to operate as a going concern, except in limited circumstances. The going concern basis of accounting is critical to financial reporting because it establishes the fundamental basis for measuring and classifying assets and liabilities. Currently, GAAP lacks guidance about management's responsibility to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about the organization's ability to continue as a going concern or to provide related footnote disclosures. This ASU provides guidance to an organization's management, with principles and definitions that are intended to reduce diversity in the timing and content of disclosures that are commonly provided by organizations today in the financial statement footnotes. The amendments are effective for a public business entity for annual periods ending after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

## (s) Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior years' consolidated financial statements to conform to the current year's presentation.

## (2) Cash and Due from Banks

The Bank is required to maintain reserves with the Federal Reserve Bank based on a percentage of deposit liabilities. No aggregate reserves were required at December 31, 2014 and 2013. The Bank has met its average reserve requirements during 2014 and 2013 and the minimum required balance at December 31, 2014 and 2013.

## (3) Investment Securities

The amortized cost, unrealized gains and losses and estimated fair values of investments in debt and other securities at December 31, 2014 are summarized as follows:

	Amortized cost	Unrealized gains	Unrealized losses	Estimated fair value
Investment securities available-for-sale:				
Securities of U.S. government agencies and corporations	\$28,787	\$17	\$(375 )	\$28,429
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	20,236	579	(52 )	20,763
Collateralized mortgage obligations	12,541	37	(25 )	12,553
Mortgage-backed securities	88,491	1,144	(154 )	89,481
Total debt securities	\$150,055	\$1,777	\$(606 )	\$151,226

The amortized cost, unrealized gains and losses and estimated fair values of investments in debt and other securities at December 31, 2013 are summarized as follows:

	Amortized cost	Unrealized gains	Unrealized losses	Estimated fair value
Investment securities available-for-sale:				
Securities of U.S. government agencies and corporations	\$53,960	\$8	\$(1,283 )	\$52,685
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	27,528	409	(550 )	27,387
Collateralized mortgage obligations	5,359	46	—	5,405
Mortgage-backed securities	87,486	718	(412 )	87,792
Total debt securities	\$174,333	\$1,181	\$(2,245 )	\$173,269

Gross realized gains from sales and calls of available-for-sale securities were \$293, \$4, and \$20 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. Gross realized losses from sales of available-for-sale securities were \$245, \$0, and \$12 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. Gross realized losses from other equity securities was \$50, \$0 and \$0 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.



The amortized cost and estimated fair value of debt and other securities at December 31, 2014, by contractual maturity, are shown in the following table:

	Amortized cost	Estimated fair value
Due in one year or less	\$1,164	\$1,168
Due after one year through five years	126,172	126,918
Due after five years through ten years	20,783	21,070
Due after ten years	1,936	2,070
	\$150,055	\$151,226

Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties. Securities due after one year through five years included mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations with expected maturities totaling \$95,715 as of December 31, 2014. The maturities on these securities were based on the average lives of the securities.

An analysis of gross unrealized losses of the available-for-sale investment securities portfolio as of December 31, 2014, follows:

	Less than 12 months		12 months or more		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized losses	Fair Value	Unrealized losses	Fair Value	Unrealized losses
Securities of U.S. government agencies and corporations	\$1,474	\$(4 )	\$21,729	\$(371 )	\$23,203	\$(375 )
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	1,927	(28 )	1,530	(24 )	3,457	(52 )
Collateralized mortgage obligations	2,881	(25 )	—	—	2,881	(25 )
Mortgage-backed securities	9,786	(55 )	9,128	(99 )	18,914	(154 )
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,068</b>	<b>\$(112 )</b>	<b>\$32,387</b>	<b>\$(494 )</b>	<b>\$48,455</b>	<b>\$(606 )</b>

No decline in value was considered “other-than-temporary” during 2014. Fourteen securities, all considered investment grade, which had a fair value of \$16,068 and a total unrealized loss of \$112 have been in an unrealized loss position for less than twelve months as of December 31, 2014. Twenty five securities, all considered investment grade, which had a fair value of \$32,387 and a total unrealized loss of \$494 have been in an unrealized loss position for more than twelve months as of December 31, 2014. The declines in market value were primarily attributable to changes in interest rates. As the Company does not intend to sell the securities and it is not more likely than not that we will be required to sell these securities prior to their anticipated recovery, these investments are not considered other-than-temporarily impaired.





An analysis of gross unrealized losses of the available-for-sale investment securities portfolio as of December 31, 2013, follows:

	Less than 12 months Fair Value	Unrealized losses	12 months or more Fair Value	Unrealized losses	Total Fair Value	Unrealized losses
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	\$46,654	\$(1,283 )	\$—	\$—	\$46,654	(1,283 )
Collateralized mortgage obligations	11,871	(550 )	—	—	11,871	(550 )
Mortgage-backed securities	19,155	(243 )	6,932	(169 )	26,087	(412 )
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$77,680</b>	<b>\$(2,076 )</b>	<b>\$6,932</b>	<b>\$(169 )</b>	<b>\$84,612</b>	<b>\$(2,245 )</b>

Investment securities carried at \$27,868 and \$28,773 at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, were pledged to secure public deposits or for other purposes as required or permitted by law.

## (4) Loans

The composition of the Company's loan portfolio, by loan class, at December 31, is as follows:

	2014	2013
Commercial	\$ 120,751	\$ 110,644
Commercial Real Estate	256,955	235,296
Agriculture	61,144	51,730
Residential Mortgage	50,511	52,809
Residential Construction	5,963	10,444
Consumer	49,911	54,079
	545,235	515,002
Allowance for loan losses	(8,583 )	(9,353 )
Net deferred origination fees and costs	1,327	1,201
Loans, net	\$ 537,979	\$ 506,850

The Company manages asset quality and credit risk by maintaining diversification in its loan portfolio and through review processes that include analysis of credit requests and ongoing examination of outstanding loans and delinquencies, with particular attention to portfolio dynamics and loan mix. The Company strives to identify loans experiencing difficulty early enough to correct the problems, to record charge-offs promptly based on realistic assessments of collectability and current collateral values and to maintain an adequate allowance for loan losses at all times. Asset quality reviews of loans and other non-performing assets are administered using credit risk rating standards and criteria similar to those employed by state and federal banking regulatory agencies.

Commercial loans, whether secured or unsecured, generally are made to support the short-term operations and other needs of small businesses. These loans are generally secured by the receivables, equipment, and other real property of the business and are susceptible to the related risks described above. Problem commercial loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns, and payment history of the borrower. Based on this information, the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors. Notwithstanding, when repayment becomes unlikely based on the borrower's income and cash flow, repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral may become necessary. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank-approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation.

Commercial real estate loans generally fall into two categories, owner-occupied and non-owner occupied. Loans secured by owner occupied real estate are primarily susceptible to changes in the market conditions of the related business. This may be driven by, among other things, industry changes, geographic business changes, changes in the individual financial capacity of the business owner, general economic conditions and changes in business cycles. These same risks apply to commercial loans whether secured by equipment, receivables or other personal property or unsecured. Losses on loans secured by owner occupied real estate, equipment, or other personal property generally are dictated by the value of underlying collateral at the time of default and liquidation of the collateral. When default is driven by issues related specifically to the business owner, collateral values tend to provide better repayment support and may result in little or no loss. Alternatively, when default is driven by more general economic conditions, underlying collateral generally has devalued more and results in larger losses due to default. Loans secured by

non-owner occupied real estate are primarily susceptible to risks associated with swings in occupancy or vacancy and related shifts in lease rates, rental rates or room rates. Most often, these shifts are a result of changes in general economic or market conditions or overbuilding and resulting over-supply of space. Losses are dependent on the value of underlying collateral at the time of default. Values are generally driven by these same factors and influenced by interest rates and required rates of return as well as changes in occupancy costs. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank-approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, sales invoices, or other appropriate means.

Agricultural loans, whether secured or unsecured, generally are made to producers and processors of crops and livestock. Repayment is primarily from the sale of an agricultural product or service. Agricultural loans are generally secured by inventory, receivables, equipment, and other real property. Agricultural loans primarily are susceptible to changes in market demand for specific commodities. This may be exacerbated by, among other things, industry changes, changes in the individual financial capacity of the business owner, general economic conditions and changes in business cycles, as well as adverse weather conditions such as the recent drought conditions in California. Problem agricultural loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns, crop budgets, payment history, and crop inspections. Based on this information, the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors. Notwithstanding, when repayment becomes unlikely based on the borrower's income and cash flow, repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral may become necessary.

Residential mortgage loans, which are secured by real estate, are primarily susceptible to four risks; non-payment due to diminished or lost income, over-extension of credit, a lack of borrower's cash flow to sustain payments, and shortfalls in collateral value. In general, non-payment is usually due to loss of employment and follows general economic trends in the economy, particularly the upward movement in the unemployment rate, loss of collateral value, and demand shifts.

Construction loans, whether owner occupied or non-owner occupied residential development loans, are not only susceptible to the related risks described above but the added risks of construction, including cost over-runs, mismanagement of the project, or lack of demand and market changes experienced at time of completion. Losses are primarily related to underlying collateral value and changes therein as described above. Problem construction loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns and payment history of the borrower. Based on this information the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors, or repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank-approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation.

Consumer loans, whether unsecured or secured are primarily susceptible to four risks; non-payment due to diminished or lost income, over-extension of credit, a lack of borrower's cash flow to sustain payments, and shortfall in collateral value. In general, non-payment is usually due to loss of employment and will follow general economic trends in the economy, particularly the upward movements in the unemployment rate, loss of collateral value, and demand shifts.

Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank-approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation. Collateral valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically thereafter (generally every 3 – 6 months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

As of December 31, 2014, approximately 47% in principal amount of the Company's loans were secured by commercial real estate, which consists primarily of loans secured by commercial properties and construction and land development loans. Approximately 9% in principal amount of the Company's loans were residential mortgage loans. Approximately 1% in principal amount of the Company's loans were residential construction loans. Approximately 11% in principal amount of the Company's loans were for agriculture and 22% in principal amount of the Company's loans were for general commercial uses including professional, retail and small businesses. Approximately 10% in principal amount of the Company's loans were consumer loans.

Once a loan becomes delinquent and repayment becomes questionable, a Company collection officer will address collateral shortfalls with the borrower and attempt to obtain additional collateral or a principal payment. If this is not forthcoming and payment in full is unlikely, the Company will consider the loan to be impaired and will estimate its probable loss, using the present value of future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective rate, the loan's observable market price, or the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. For collateral dependent loans, the Company will obtain an updated valuation of the underlying collateral less estimated costs of sale, and charge-off the loan down to the estimated net realizable amount. Depending on the length of time until final collection, the Company may periodically revalue the underlying collateral and take additional charge-offs as warranted. Revaluations may occur as often as every 3-12 months depending on the underlying collateral and volatility of values. Final charge-offs or recoveries are taken when collateral is liquidated and actual loss is known. Unpaid balances on loans after or during collection and liquidation may also be pursued through legal action and attachment of wages or judgment liens on the borrower's other assets.

At December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, all loans were pledged under a blanket collateral lien to secure actual and potential borrowings from the Federal Home Loan Bank and the Federal Reserve Bank.



## Non-accrual and Past Due Loans

The Company's non-accrual loans by loan class, at December 31, are as follows:

	2014	2013
Commercial	\$2,151	\$2,609
Commercial Real Estate	672	2,607
Agriculture	—	1,590
Residential Mortgage	1,691	2,166
Residential Construction	71	93
Consumer	652	505
	\$5,237	\$9,570

Non-accrual loans amounted to \$5,237 at December 31, 2014 and were comprised of six residential mortgage loans totaling \$1,691, two residential construction loans totaling \$71, five commercial real estate loans totaling \$672, seven commercial loans totaling \$2,151 and five consumer loans totaling \$652. Non-accrual loans amounted to \$9,570 at December 31, 2013 and were comprised of seven residential mortgage loans totaling \$2,166, two residential construction loans totaling \$93, nine commercial real estate loans totaling \$2,607, three agricultural loans totaling \$1,590, nine commercial loans totaling \$2,609 and five consumer loans totaling \$505. It is generally the Company's policy to charge-off the portion of any non-accrual loan for which the Company does not expect to collect by writing the loan down to estimated net realizable value of the underlying collateral.

An aging analysis of past due loans, segregated by loan class, as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 is as follows:

	30-59 Days Past Due	60-89 Days Past Due	90 Days or more Past Due	Total Past Due	Current	Total Loans
December 31, 2014						
Commercial	\$—	\$—	\$82	\$82	\$120,669	\$120,751
Commercial Real Estate	—	—	239	239	256,716	256,955
Agriculture	—	—	—	—	61,144	61,144
Residential Mortgage	1,172	—	457	1,629	48,882	50,511
Residential Construction	—	—	—	—	5,963	5,963
Consumer	2	1	472	475	49,436	49,911
Total	\$1,174	\$1	\$1,250	\$2,425	\$542,810	\$545,235
December 31, 2013						
Commercial	\$200	\$96	\$269	\$565	\$110,079	\$110,644
Commercial Real Estate	49	341	531	921	234,375	235,296
Agriculture	—	—	—	—	51,730	51,730
Residential Mortgage	207	—	99	306	52,503	52,809
Residential Construction	40	8	—	48	10,396	10,444
Consumer	26	—	23	49	54,030	54,079
Total	\$522	\$445	\$922	\$1,889	\$513,113	\$515,002

The Company had no loans 90 days past due and still accruing at December 31, 2014 and 2013. Included in the aging loan category labeled “current” are non-accrual loans that were not delinquent with respect to contractual principal and interest payments as of December 31, 2014 or 2013. These loans are categorized as non-accrual loans and are not accruing interest as of December 31, 2014 and 2013. Non-accrual loans outstanding at December 31, 2014 and 2013 are disclosed in the table above.



## Impaired Loans

A loan is considered impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement, including scheduled interest payments. Loans to be considered for impairment include non-accrual loans, troubled debt restructurings and loans with a risk rating of 6 (substandard) or worse. Once identified, impaired loans are measured individually for impairment using one of three methods: present value of expected cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate; the loan's observable market price; fair value of collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. In general, any portion of the recorded investment in a collateral dependent loan in excess of the fair value of the collateral that can be identified as uncollectible, and is, therefore, deemed a confirmed loss, should be promptly charged-off against the allowance for loan losses.

Impaired loans, segregated by loan class, as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 were as follows:

	Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance	Recorded Investment with no Allowance	Recorded Investment with Allowance	Total Recorded Investment	Related Allowance
December 31, 2014					
Commercial	\$ 2,803	\$ 2,147	\$ 531	\$ 2,678	\$ 39
Commercial Real Estate	990	672	304	976	45
Agriculture	—	—	—	—	—
Residential Mortgage	5,666	1,691	2,956	4,647	646
Residential Construction	1,065	71	826	897	107
Consumer	1,506	780	726	1,506	23
Total	\$ 12,030	\$ 5,361	\$ 5,343	\$ 10,704	\$ 860
December 31, 2013					
Commercial	\$ 5,794	\$ 5,010	\$ 656	\$ 5,666	\$ 83
Commercial Real Estate	3,746	2,607	1,122	3,729	63
Agriculture	1,878	1,591	—	1,591	—
Residential Mortgage	6,524	2,166	3,409	5,575	701
Residential Construction	1,115	94	849	943	254
Consumer	1,621	563	690	1,253	24
Total	\$ 20,678	\$ 12,031	\$ 6,726	\$ 18,757	\$ 1,125

The average recorded investment in impaired loans and the amount of interest income recognized on impaired loans during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 was as follows:

	December 31, 2014		December 31, 2013		December 31, 2012	
	Average Recorded Investment	Interest Income Recognized	Average Recorded Investment	Interest Income Recognized	Average Recorded Investment	Interest Income Recognized
Commercial	\$ 3,292	\$ 53	\$ 3,937	\$ 38	\$ 3,639	\$ 44
Commercial Real Estate	2,632	291	3,351	85	4,438	113
Agriculture	257	75	398	—	737	35
Residential Mortgage	5,157	124	5,455	136	4,312	107
Residential Construction	914	38	989	42	1,166	52

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

Consumer	1,545	54	1,005	39	1,003	38
Total	\$13,797	\$ 635	\$15,135	\$ 340	\$15,295	\$ 389

None of the interest on impaired loans was recognized using a cash basis of accounting for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012.

## Troubled Debt Restructurings

The Company's loan portfolio includes certain loans that have been modified in a Troubled Debt Restructuring ("TDR"), which are loans on which concessions in terms have been granted because of the borrowers' financial difficulties. These concessions may include reductions in the interest rate, payment extensions, forgiveness of principal, forbearance, or other actions. Certain TDRs are placed on non-accrual status at the time of restructure and may only be returned to accruing status after considering the borrower's sustained repayment performance for a reasonable period, generally six months.

When a loan is modified, it is measured based upon the present value of future cash flows discounted at the contractual interest rate of the original loan agreement, or the fair value of collateral less selling costs if the loan is collateral dependent. If the value of the modified loan is less than the recorded investment in the loan, impairment is recognized through a specific allowance or a charge-off of the loan.

The Company had \$6,712 and \$9,929 in TDR loans as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. Specific reserves for TDR loans totaled \$860 and \$1,096 as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. TDR loans performing in compliance with modified terms totaled \$5,467 and \$6,750 as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. There are no commitments to advance more funds on existing TDR loans as of December 31, 2014.

Loans modified as troubled debt restructurings during the year ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 were as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		
	Number of Contracts	Pre-modification outstanding recorded investment	Post-modification outstanding recorded investment
Commercial	2	\$ 151	\$ 151
Residential Mortgage	1	102	102
Consumer	2	498	498
Total	5	\$ 751	\$ 751

	Year Ended December 31, 2013		
	Number of Contracts	Pre-modification outstanding recorded investment	Post-modification outstanding recorded investment
Commercial	2	\$ 393	\$ 393
Residential Mortgage	1	568	377
Consumer	5	388	388
Total	8	\$ 1,349	\$ 1,158

	Year Ended December 31, 2012		
	Number of Contracts	Pre-modification outstanding recorded investment	Post-modification outstanding recorded investment

Commercial	5	\$ 470	\$ 470
Consumer	7	633	633
Total	12	\$ 1,103	\$ 1,103

The loan modifications generally involved reductions in the interest rate, payment extensions, forgiveness of principal, and forbearance. There was one consumer loan with a recorded investment of \$49 that was modified as a troubled debt restructuring within the previous 12 months and for which there was a payment default during the year ended December 31, 2014. There were no troubled debt restructurings modified within the previous 12 months and for which there was a payment default during the year ended December 31, 2013.

There was one commercial loan with a recorded investment of \$136 that was modified as a troubled debt restructuring within the previous 12 months and for which there was a payment default during the year ended December 31, 2012. The Company considers a loan to be in payment default when it is 90 days or more past due.

#### Credit Quality Indicators

All new loans are rated using the credit risk ratings and criteria adopted by the Company. Risk ratings are adjusted as future circumstances warrant. All credits risk rated 1, 2, 3 or 4 equate to a Pass as indicated by Federal and State regulatory agencies; a 5 equates to a Special Mention; a 6 equates to Substandard; a 7 equates to Doubtful; and 8 equates to a Loss. General definitions for each risk rating are as follows:

**Risk Rating “1” – Pass (High Quality):** This category is reserved for loans fully secured by Company CD’s or savings accounts and properly margined (as defined in the Company’s Credit Policy) and actively traded securities (including stocks, as well as corporate, municipal and U.S. Government bonds).

**Risk Rating “2” – Pass (Above Average Quality):** This category is reserved for borrowers with strong balance sheets that are well structured with manageable levels of debt and good liquidity. Cash flow is sufficient to service all debt, including the Company’s, as agreed. Historical earnings, cash flow, and payment performance have all been strong and trends are positive and consistent. Collateral protection is better than the Company’s Credit Policy guidelines.

**Risk Rating “3” – Pass (Average Quality):** Credits within this category are considered to be of average, but acceptable, quality. Loan characteristics, including term and collateral advance rates, meet the Company’s Credit Policy guidelines; unsecured lines to borrowers with above average liquidity and cash flow may be considered for this category; the borrower’s financial strength is well documented, with adequate, but consistent, cash flow to meet all obligations. Liquidity should be sufficient and leverage should be moderate. Monitoring of collateral may be required, including a borrowing base or construction budget. Alternative financing is typically available.

**Risk Rating “4” – Pass (Below Average Quality):** Credits within this category are considered sound, but merit additional attention due to industry concentrations within the borrower’s customer base, problems within their industry, deteriorating financial or earnings trends, declining collateral values, increased frequency of past due payments and/or overdrafts, discovery of documentation deficiencies which may impair our borrower’s ability to repay, or the Company’s ability to liquidate collateral. Financial performance is average but inconsistent. There also may be changes of ownership, management or professional advisors, which could be detrimental to the borrower’s future performance.

**Risk Rating “5” – Special Mention (Criticized):** Loans in this category are currently protected by their collateral value and have no loss potential identified, but have potential weaknesses which may, if not monitored or corrected, weaken our ability to collect payments from the borrower or satisfactorily liquidate our collateral position. Loans where terms have been modified due to their failure to perform as agreed may be included in this category. Adverse trends in the borrower’s operation, such as reporting losses or inadequate cash flow, increasing and unsatisfactory leverage, or an adverse change in economic or market conditions may have weakened the borrower’s business and impaired their ability to repay based on original terms. The condition or value of the collateral has deteriorated to the point where adequate protection for our loan may be jeopardized in the future. Loans in this category are in transition and, generally, do not remain in this category beyond 12 months. During this time, efforts are focused on strategies aimed at upgrading the credit or locating alternative financing.

**Risk Rating “6” – Substandard (Classified):** Loans in this category are inadequately protected by the borrower’s net worth, capacity to repay or collateral pledged, if any. Loans so classified have a well-defined weakness or weaknesses that jeopardize the repayment of the debt. There exists a strong possibility of loss if the deficiencies are not corrected. Loans that are dependent on the liquidation of collateral to repay are included in this category, as well as

borrowers in bankruptcy or where legal action is required to effect collection of our debt.

Risk Rating “7” – Doubtful (Classified): Loans in this category indicate all of the weaknesses of a Substandard classification, however, collection of loan principal, in full, is highly questionable and improbable; possibility of loss is very high, but there is still a possibility that certain collection strategies may, yet, be successful, rendering a definitive loss difficult to estimate, at this time. Loans in this category are in transition and, generally, do not remain in this category more than 6 months.

## Risk Rating “8” – Loss (Classified):

Active Charge-Off. Loans in this category are considered uncollectible and of such little value that their removal from the Company’s books is required. The charge-off is pending or already processed. Collateral positions have been or are in the process of being liquidated and the borrower/guarantor may or may not be cooperative in repayment of the debt. Recovery prospects are unknown at this time, but we are still actively engaged in the collection of the loan.

Inactive Charge-Off. Loans in this category are considered uncollectible and of such little value that their removal from the Company’s books is required. The charge-off is pending or already processed. Collateral positions have been liquidated and the borrower/guarantor has nothing of any value remaining to apply to the repayment of our loan. Any further collection activities would be of little value.

The following table presents the risk ratings by loan class as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.

	Pass	Special Mention	Substandard	Doubtful	Loss	Total
December 31, 2014						
Commercial	\$112,751	\$3,255	\$4,745	\$—	\$—	\$120,751
Commercial Real Estate	240,808	10,607	5,540	—	—	256,955
Agriculture	61,144	—	—	—	—	61,144
Residential Mortgage	46,043	997	3,471	—	—	50,511
Residential Construction	5,386	467	110	—	—	5,963
Consumer	46,234	944	2,733	—	—	49,911
Total	\$512,366	\$16,270	\$16,599	\$—	\$—	\$545,235
December 31, 2013						
Commercial	\$98,755	\$2,762	\$9,127	\$—	\$—	\$110,644
Commercial Real Estate	218,884	5,978	10,434	—	—	235,296
Agriculture	50,139	—	1,591	—	—	51,730
Residential Mortgage	48,519	539	3,751	—	—	52,809
Residential Construction	7,823	1,167	1,454	—	—	10,444
Consumer	48,903	2,585	2,591	—	—	54,079
Total	\$473,023	\$13,031	\$28,948	\$—	\$—	\$515,002

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

Allowance for Loan Losses

The following table details activity in the allowance for loan losses by loan category for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

	Commercial	Commercial Real Estate	Agriculture	Residential Mortgage	Residential Construction	Consumer	Unallocated	Total
Balance as of December 31, 2013	\$ 3,199	\$ 2,290	\$ 557	\$ 1,216	\$ 441	\$ 1,023	\$ 627	\$9,353
Provision for loan losses	2,612	(396 )	23	36	(366 )	149	(258 )	1,800
Charge-offs	(2,288 )	(69 )	—	(71 )	—	(393 )	—	(2,821 )
Recoveries	58	—	—	—	86	107	—	251
Net charge-offs	(2,230 )	(69 )	—	(71 )	86	(286 )	—	(2,570 )
Ending Balance	3,581	1,825	580	1,181	161	886	369	8,583
Period-end amount allocated to:								
Loans individually evaluated for impairment	39	45	—	646	107	23	—	860
Loans collectively evaluated for impairment	3,542	1,780	580	535	54	863	369	7,723
Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ 3,581	\$ 1,825	\$ 580	\$ 1,181	\$ 161	\$ 886	\$ 369	\$8,583

	Commercial	Commercial Real Estate	Agriculture	Residential Mortgage	Residential Construction	Consumer	Unallocated	Total
Balance as of December 31, 2012	\$ 2,899	\$ 1,723	\$ 915	\$ 1,148	\$ 724	\$ 1,110	\$ 35	\$8,554
Provision for loan losses	91	533	(360 )	244	(201 )	301	592	1,200
Charge-offs	(168 )	(17 )	(1 )	(333 )	(127 )	(572 )	—	(1,218 )
Recoveries	377	51	3	157	45	184	—	817
Net charge-offs	209	34	2	(176 )	(82 )	(388 )	—	(401 )
Ending Balance	3,199	2,290	557	1,216	441	1,023	627	9,353
Period-end amount allocated to:								
Loans individually evaluated for impairment	83	63	—	701	254	24	—	1,125
Loans collectively evaluated for	3,116	2,227	557	515	187	999	627	8,228



impairment

Balance as of

December 31, 2013	\$ 3,199	\$ 2,290	\$ 557	\$ 1,216	\$ 441	\$ 1,023	\$ 627	\$9,353
-------------------	----------	----------	--------	----------	--------	----------	--------	---------

81

---

	Commercial	Commercial Real Estate	Agriculture	Residential Mortgage	Residential Construction	Consumer	Unallocated	Total
Balance as of								
December 31, 2011	\$ 3,598	\$ 1,747	\$ 1,934	\$ 1,135	\$ 1,198	\$ 796	\$ —	\$ 10,408
Provision for loan losses	2,493	351	(907 )	877	(648 )	1,075	35	3,276
Charge-offs	(3,498 )	(375 )	(116 )	(864 )	(167 )	(875 )	—	(5,895 )
Recoveries	306	—	4	—	341	114	—	765
Net charge-offs	(3,192 )	(375 )	(112 )	(864 )	174	(761 )	—	(5,130 )
Ending Balance	2,899	1,723	915	1,148	724	1,110	35	8,554
Period-end amount allocated to:								
Loans individually evaluated for impairment	95	26	—	417	433	101	—	1,072
Loans collectively evaluated for impairment	2,804	1,697	915	731	291	1,009	35	7,482
Balance as of								
December 31, 2012	\$ 2,899	\$ 1,723	\$ 915	\$ 1,148	\$ 724	\$ 1,110	\$ 35	\$ 8,554

The Company's investment in loans as of December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 related to each balance in the allowance for loan losses by loan category and disaggregated on the basis of the Company's impairment methodology was as follows:

	Commercial	Commercial Real Estate	Agriculture	Residential Mortgage	Residential Construction	Consumer	Total
December 31, 2014							
Loans individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 2,678	\$ 976	\$ —	\$ 4,647	\$ 897	\$ 1,506	\$ 10,704
Loans collectively evaluated for impairment	118,073	255,979	61,144	45,864	5,066	48,405	534,531
Ending Balance	\$ 120,751	\$ 256,955	\$ 61,144	\$ 50,511	\$ 5,963	\$ 49,911	\$ 545,235
December 31, 2013							
Loans individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 5,666	\$ 3,729	\$ 1,591	\$ 5,575	\$ 943	\$ 1,253	\$ 18,757
	104,978	231,567	50,139	47,234	9,501	52,826	496,245

Loans collectively evaluated for impairment							
Ending Balance	\$ 110,644	\$ 235,296	\$ 51,730	\$ 52,809	\$ 10,444	\$ 54,079	\$ 515,002
December 31, 2012							
Loans individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 3,288	\$ 3,042	\$ —	\$ 4,823	\$ 1,097	\$ 1,131	\$ 13,381
Loans collectively evaluated for impairment	85,522	185,384	52,747	46,443	6,489	58,262	434,847
Ending Balance	\$ 88,810	\$ 188,426	\$ 52,747	\$ 51,266	\$ 7,586	\$ 59,393	\$ 448,228

(5)

## Mortgage Operations

Mortgage servicing rights are initially measured at fair value and amortized in proportion to, and over the period of, estimated net servicing revenues. The Company assesses capitalized mortgage servicing rights for impairment based upon the fair value of those rights at each reporting date. For purposes of measuring impairment, the rights are stratified based upon the product type, term and interest rates. Fair value is determined by discounting estimated net future cash flows from mortgage servicing activities using discount rates that approximate current market rates and estimated prepayment rates, among other assumptions. The amount of impairment recognized, if any, is the amount by which the capitalized mortgage servicing rights for a stratum exceeds their fair value. Impairment, if any, is recognized through a valuation allowance for each individual stratum. Changes in the carrying amount of mortgage servicing rights through impairment charges or recoveries in fair value are reported in earnings as other non-interest income.

The Company had \$491 and \$1,263 of mortgage loans held-for-sale at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. At December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the Company serviced real estate mortgage loans for others totaling \$238,974 and \$243,299, respectively.

The following table summarizes the activity related to the Company's mortgage servicing rights assets for the years ended December 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012. Mortgage servicing rights are included in Interest Receivable and Other Assets on the consolidated balance sheets.

	December 31, 2013	Additions	Reductions	December 31, 2014
Mortgage servicing rights	\$1,968	\$244	\$(350)	\$1,862
Valuation allowance	—	—	—	—
Mortgage servicing rights, net of valuation allowance	\$1,968	\$244	\$(350)	\$1,862

	December 31, 2012	Additions	Reductions	December 31, 2013
Mortgage servicing rights	\$1,760	\$625	\$(417)	\$1,968
Valuation allowance	(536)	—	536	—
Mortgage servicing rights, net of valuation allowance	\$1,224	\$625	\$119	\$1,968

	December 31, 2011	Additions	Reductions	December 31, 2012
Mortgage servicing rights	\$1,636	\$667	\$(543)	\$1,760
Valuation allowance	(347)	(189)	—	(536)
Mortgage servicing rights, net of valuation allowance	\$1,289	\$478	\$(543)	\$1,224

The Company received contractually specified servicing fees of \$606, \$617, and \$562 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. Contractually specified servicing fees are included in Other Income on the consolidated statements of income.

## (6) Premises and Equipment

Premises and equipment consist of the following at December 31 of the indicated years:

	2014	2013
Land	\$3,003	\$3,003
Buildings	6,109	6,042
Furniture and equipment	11,023	11,425
Leasehold improvements	2,026	1,945
	22,161	22,415
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	14,883	14,997
	\$7,278	\$7,418

Depreciation and amortization expense, included in occupancy and equipment expense, was \$672, \$692, and \$699 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.

## (7) Other Assets

Other assets consisted of the following at December 31 of the indicated years:

	2014	2013
Interest receivable	\$2,650	\$2,636
Software, net of amortization	107	72
Officer's Life Insurance	14,437	13,984
Investment in Limited Partnerships	719	1,094
Deferred tax assets, net (see Note 10)	4,414	6,149
Prepaid and other	4,861	3,963
	\$27,188	\$27,898

The Company amortizes capitalized software costs on a straight-line basis using a useful life from three to five years.

Software amortization expense, included in other operating expense, was \$66, \$118, and \$142 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.

(8)

## Fair Value Measurement

The Company utilizes fair value measurements to record fair value adjustments to certain assets and liabilities and to determine fair value disclosures. Securities available-for-sale are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. Additionally, from time to time, the Company may be required to record at fair value other assets on a non-recurring basis, such as loans held-for-sale, loans held-for-investment and certain other assets. These non-recurring fair value adjustments typically involve application of lower of cost or market accounting or impairments of individual assets. Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are recognized on the actual date of the event or circumstances that caused the transfer, which generally corresponds with the Company's quarterly valuation process.

### Fair Value Hierarchy

The Company groups assets and liabilities at fair value in three levels, based on the markets in which the assets and liabilities are traded and the reliability of the assumptions used to determine fair value. These levels are:

- Level 1 Valuation is based upon quoted prices for identical instruments traded in active markets.
- Level 2 Valuation is based upon quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active and model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.
- Level 3 Valuation is generated from model-based techniques that use at least one significant assumption not observable in the market. These unobservable assumptions reflect estimates of assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Valuation techniques include use of option pricing models, discounted cash flow models, and similar techniques and include management judgment and estimation which may be significant.

Following is a description of valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities recorded at fair value.

### Investment Securities Available-for-Sale

Investment securities available-for-sale are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. Fair value measurement is based upon quoted market prices, if available. If quoted market prices are not available, fair values are measured using independent pricing models or other model-based valuation techniques such as the present value of future cash flows, adjusted for the security's credit rating, prepayment assumptions, and other factors such as credit loss assumptions. Level 1 securities include those traded on an active exchange, such as the New York Stock Exchange, U.S. Treasury securities that are traded by dealers or brokers in active over-the-counter markets and money market funds. Level 2 securities include mortgage-backed securities issued by government sponsored entities, municipal bonds and corporate debt securities. Securities classified as Level 3 include asset-backed securities in less liquid markets.

### Loans Held-for-Sale

Loans held-for-sale are carried at the lower of cost or fair value. The fair value of loans held-for-sale is based on what secondary markets are currently offering for portfolios with similar characteristics. As such, the Company classifies

loans subjected to non-recurring fair value adjustments as Level 2. At December 31, 2014 there were no loans held-for-sale that required a write-down.

#### Impaired Loans

The Company does not record loans at fair value on a recurring basis. However, from time to time, a loan is considered impaired and an allowance for loan losses is established. Loans for which it is probable that payment of interest and principal will not be made in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement are considered impaired. Once a loan is identified as individually impaired, the Company measures impairment. The fair value of impaired loans is estimated using one of several methods, including collateral value, market value of similar debt, enterprise value, liquidation value and discounted cash flows. Inputs include external appraised values, management assumptions regarding market trends or other relevant factors, selling and commission costs ranging from 6% to 7%, and amount and timing of cash flows based upon current discount rates. Those impaired loans not requiring an allowance represent loans for which the fair value of the expected repayments or collateral exceed the recorded investments in such loans.



At December 31, 2014, certain impaired loans were considered collateral dependent and were evaluated based on the fair value of the underlying collateral securing the loan. Impaired loans where an allowance is established based on the fair value of collateral require classification in the fair value hierarchy. When a loan is evaluated based on the fair value of the underlying collateral securing the loan, the Company records the impaired loan as non-recurring Level 3.

#### Other Real Estate Owned

Other real estate assets (“OREO”) acquired through, or in lieu of, foreclosure are held-for-sale and are initially recorded at the lower of cost or fair value, less selling costs. Any write-downs to fair value at the time of transfer to OREO are charged to the allowance for loan losses, subsequent to foreclosure. Appraisals or evaluations are then done periodically thereafter charging any additional write-downs or valuation allowances to the appropriate expense accounts. Values are derived from appraisals of underlying collateral and discounted cash flow analysis, adjusted for management assumptions regarding market trends or other relevant factors and selling and commission costs. OREO is classified within Level 3 of the hierarchy.

#### Loan Servicing Rights

Loan servicing rights are subject to impairment testing. The Company utilizes a third party service provider to calculate the fair value of the Company’s loan servicing rights. Loan servicing rights are measured at fair value as of the date of sale. The Company uses quoted market prices when available. Subsequent fair value measurements are determined using a discounted cash flow model. In order to determine the fair value of the loan servicing rights, the present value of expected future cash flows is estimated. Assumptions used include market discount rates, anticipated prepayment speeds, delinquency and foreclosure rates, and ancillary fee income. At December 31, 2014, the discount rate and constant prepayment rate used in measuring the fair value of the Company’s loan servicing rights was 10.06% and 12.12%, respectively.

The model used to calculate the fair value of the Company’s loan servicing rights is periodically validated by an independent external model validation group. The model assumptions and the loan servicing rights fair value estimates are also compared to observable trades of similar portfolios as well as to loan servicing rights broker valuations and industry surveys, as available. If the valuation model reflects a value less than the carrying value, loan servicing rights are adjusted to fair value through a valuation allowance as determined by the model. As such, the Company classifies loan servicing rights subjected to non-recurring fair value adjustments as Level 3.

#### Assets Recorded at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

The tables below present the recorded amount of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

December 31, 2014	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Securities of U.S. government agencies and corporations	\$28,429	—	\$28,429	—
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	20,763	—	20,763	—
Collateralized mortgage obligations	12,553	—	12,553	—
Mortgage-backed securities	89,481	—	89,481	—
Total investments at fair value	\$151,226	\$—	\$151,226	\$—



December 31, 2013	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Securities of U.S. government agencies and corporations	\$52,685	\$—	\$52,685	\$—
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	27,387	—	27,387	—
Collateralized mortgage obligations	5,405	—	5,405	—
Mortgage-backed securities	87,792	—	87,792	—
Total investments at fair value	\$173,269	\$—	\$173,269	\$—

#### Assets Recorded at Fair Value on a Non-recurring Basis

Assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis are included in the table below by level within the fair value hierarchy as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

December 31, 2014	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Impaired loans	\$568	\$—	\$—	\$568
Other real estate owned	736	—	—	736
Total assets at fair value	\$1,304	\$—	\$—	\$1,304

December 31, 2013	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Impaired loans	\$1,095	\$—	\$—	\$1,095
Loan servicing rights	1,968	—	—	1,968
Total assets at fair value	\$3,063	\$—	\$—	\$3,063

Key methods and assumptions used in measuring the fair value of impaired loans and loan servicing rights as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 were as follows:

	Method	Assumption Inputs
Impaired loans	Collateral, market, income, enterprise, liquidation and discounted cash flows	External appraised values, management assumptions regarding market trends or other relevant factors; selling costs ranging 6% to 7%.
Other real estate owned	Collateral	External appraised values, management assumptions regarding market trends or other relevant factors; selling costs ranging 6% to 11%.
Loan servicing rights	Discounted cash flows	Present value of expected future cash flows is estimated using a discount rate factor of 10.06% and 10.05% as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013,

respectively. A constant prepayment rate of 12.12% and 9.09% as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively, was utilized.

(9)

Supplemental Compensation Plans

EXECUTIVE SALARY CONTINUATION PLAN

Pension Benefit Plans

The Company and the Bank maintain an unfunded non-contributory defined benefit pension plan (“Salary Continuation Plan”) and related split dollar plan for a select group of highly compensated employees. The plan provides defined annual benefit levels between \$50 and \$125 depending on responsibilities at the Bank. The retirement benefits are paid for 10 years following retirement at age 65. Reduced retirement benefits are available after age 55 and 10 years of service.

Eligibility to participate in the Salary Continuation Plan is limited to a select group of management or highly compensated employees of the Bank that are designated by the Board.

Additionally, the Company and the Bank adopted a supplemental executive retirement plan (“SERP”) in 2006. The SERP is intended to integrate the various forms of retirement payments offered to executives. There are currently three participants in the SERP.

The SERP benefit is calculated using 3-year average salary plus 7-year average bonus (average compensation). For each year of service, the benefit formula credits 2% of average compensation (2.5% for the Chief Executive Officer) up to a maximum of 50%. Therefore, for an executive serving 25 years (20 for the CEO), the target benefit is 50% of average compensation.

The target benefit is reduced for other forms of retirement income provided by the Bank. Reductions are made for 50% of the social security benefit expected at age 65 and for the accumulated value of contributions the Bank makes to the executive’s profit sharing plan. For purposes of this reduction, contributions to the profit sharing plan are accumulated each year at a 3-year average of the yields on 10-year treasury securities. Retirement benefits are paid monthly for 120 months, plus 6 months for each full year of service over 10 years, up to a maximum of 180 months.

Reduced benefits are payable for retirement prior to age 65. Should retirement occur prior to age 65, the benefit determined by the formula described above is reduced 5% for each year payments commence prior to age 65. Therefore, the new SERP benefit is reduced 50% for retirement at age 55. No benefit is payable for voluntary terminations prior to age 55.

The Bank uses a December 31 measurement date for these plans.

For the Year Ended December 31,  
2014            2013            2012

Change in benefit obligation			
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$3,515	\$3,590	\$3,132
Service cost	150	170	146
Interest cost	154	117	124
Plan loss (gain)	433	(186 )	364
Benefits Paid	(176 )	(176 )	(176 )
Benefit obligation at end of year	4,076	3,515	3,590
Change in plan assets			
Employer Contribution	176	176	176
Benefits Paid	(176 )	(176 )	(176 )
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	\$—	\$—	\$—
Reconciliation of funded status			
Funded status	\$(4,076 )	\$(3,515 )	\$(3,590 )
Unrecognized net plan loss	877	459	683
Unrecognized prior service cost	252	340	429
Net amount recognized	\$(2,947 )	\$(2,716 )	\$(2,478 )
Amounts recognized in the consolidated balance sheets consist of:			
Accrued benefit liability	\$(4,076 )	\$(3,515 )	\$(3,590 )
Accumulated other comprehensive income	1,129	799	1,112
Net amount recognized	\$(2,947 )	\$(2,716 )	\$(2,478 )

	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2014		2013		2012	
<b>Components of net periodic benefit cost</b>						
Service cost	\$	150	\$	170	\$	146
Interest cost		154		117		124
Amortization of prior service cost		88		88		88
Recognized actuarial loss		14		38		—
Net periodic benefit cost		406		413		358
Additional amounts recognized		—		—		—
Total benefit cost	\$	406	\$	413	\$	358
<b>Additional Information</b>						
Minimum benefit obligation at year end	\$	4,076	\$	3,515	\$	3,590
Increase (decrease) in minimum liability included in other comprehensive income	\$	330	\$	(313)	\$	276
Assumptions used to determine benefit obligations at December 31		2014		2013		2012
Discount rate used to determine net periodic benefit cost for years ended December 31		4.30	%	3.20	%	3.90
						%
Discount rate used to determine benefit obligations at December 31		3.50	%	4.30	%	3.20
						%
Future salary increases		4.00	%	4.00	%	4.00
						%

#### Plan Assets

The Bank informally funds the liabilities of the Salary Continuation Plan through life insurance purchased on the lives of plan participants. This informal funding does not meet the definition of “plan assets” under pension accounting standards. Therefore, assets held for this purpose are not disclosed as part of the Salary Continuation Plan.

#### Cash Flows

#### Contributions and Estimated Benefit Payments

For unfunded plans, contributions to the Salary Continuation Plan are the benefit payments made to participants. The Bank paid \$176 in benefit payments during fiscal 2014. The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, are expected to be paid in future fiscal years:

Year ending December 31,	Pension Benefits
2015	\$226
2016	281
2017	272
2018	272

2019	272
2020-2024	1,543

Disclosure of settlements and curtailments:

There were no events during fiscal 2014 that would constitute a curtailment or settlement.



## DIRECTORS' RETIREMENT PLAN

## Pension Benefit Plans

On July 19, 2001, the Company and the Bank approved an unfunded non-contributory defined benefit pension plan ("Directors' Retirement Plan") and related split dollar plan for the directors of the Bank. The plan provides a retirement benefit equal to \$1 per year of service as a director, up to a maximum benefit amount of \$15. The retirement benefit is payable for 10 years following retirement at age 65. Reduced retirement benefits are available after age 55 and 10 years of service.

The Bank uses a December 31 measurement date for the Directors' Retirement Plan.

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Change in benefit obligation			
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 715	\$ 743	\$ 701
Service cost	16	25	24
Interest cost	30	24	27
Plan loss (gain)	6	(62)	(1)
Benefits paid	(15)	(15)	(8)
Benefit obligation at end of year	\$ 752	\$ 715	\$ 743
Change in plan assets			
Employer contribution	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 8
Benefits paid	(15)	(15)	(8)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	\$—	\$—	\$—
Reconciliation of funded status			
Funded status	\$(752)	\$(715)	\$(743)
Unrecognized net plan loss	(67)	(75)	(12)
Net amount recognized	\$(819)	\$(790)	\$(755)
Amounts recognized in the statement of financial position consist of:			
Accrued benefit liability	\$(752)	\$(715)	\$(743)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(67)	(75)	(12)
Net amount recognized	\$(819)	\$(790)	\$(755)

	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2014		2013		2012	
<b>Components of net periodic benefit cost</b>						
Service cost	\$16		\$25		\$24	
Interest cost	30		24		27	
Recognized actuarial gain	(2	)	—		—	
Net periodic benefit cost	44		49		51	
Additional amounts recognized	—		—		—	
Total benefit cost	\$44		\$49		\$51	
<b>Additional Information</b>						
Minimum benefit obligation at year end	\$752		\$715		\$743	
Increase (decrease)in minimum liability included in other comprehensive loss	\$8		\$(63	)	\$(1	)
Assumptions used to determine benefit obligations at December 31	2014		2013		2012	
Discount rate used to determine net periodic benefit cost for years ended December 31	4.10	%	3.20	%	3.80	%
Discount rate used to determine benefit obligations at December 31	4.00	%	4.10	%	3.20	%

#### Plan Assets

The Bank informally funds the liabilities of the Directors' Retirement Plan through life insurance purchased on the lives of plan participants. This informal funding does not meet the definition of "plan assets" under pension accounting standards. Therefore, assets held for this purpose are not disclosed as part of the Directors' Retirement Plan.

#### Cash Flows

##### Contributions and Estimated Benefit Payments

For unfunded plans, contributions to the Directors' Retirement Plan are the benefit payments made to participants. The Bank paid \$15 in benefit payments during fiscal 2014. The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, are expected to be paid in future fiscal years:

Year ending December 31,	Pension Benefits
2015	\$16
2016	30
2017	44
2018	55
2019	60
2020-2024	361

Disclosure of settlements and curtailments:

There were no events during fiscal 2014 that would constitute a curtailment or settlement.

EXECUTIVE ELECTIVE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN — 2001 EXECUTIVE DEFERRAL PLAN

On July 19, 2001, the Bank approved a revised Executive Elective Deferred Compensation Plan, (“2001 Executive Deferral Plan”) for certain officers to provide them the ability to make elective deferrals of compensation due to tax law limitations on benefit levels under qualified plans. Deferred amounts earn interest at an annual rate determined by the Bank’s Board. The plan is a non-qualified plan funded with Bank owned life insurance policies taken on the lives of the participating officers. During the year ended December 31, 2001, the Bank purchased insurance making a single-premium payment aggregating \$1,125, which is reported in other assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The Bank is the beneficiary and owner of the policies. The cash surrender value of the related insurance policies as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 totaled \$2,289 and \$2,225, respectively. The increase in accrued liability for the 2001 Executive Deferral Plan during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 totaled \$30 and \$35, respectively. The expenses for the 2001 Executive Deferral Plan for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 totaled \$30, \$35, and \$45, respectively.

DIRECTOR ELECTIVE DEFERRED FEE PLAN — 2001 DIRECTOR DEFERRAL PLAN

On July 19, 2001, the Bank approved a Director Elective Deferred Fee Plan (“2001 Director Deferral Plan”) for directors to provide them the ability to make elective deferrals of fees. Deferred amounts earn interest at an annual rate determined by the Bank’s Board. The plan is a non-qualified plan funded with Bank owned life insurance policies taken on the lives of the participating directors. The Bank is the beneficiary and owner of the policies. The cash surrender value of the related insurance policies as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 totaled \$124 and \$120, respectively. The increase in accrued liability for the 2001 Director Deferral Plan during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 totaled \$1 and \$1, respectively. The expenses for the 2001 Director Deferral Plan for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 totaled \$1, \$1, and \$1, respectively.

## (10) Income Taxes

The provision for income tax expense consists of the following for the years ended December 31:

	2014	2013	2012
Current:			
Federal	\$ 1,254	\$ 1,145	\$ 666
State	561	44	2
	1,815	1,189	668
Deferred:			
Federal	674	1,243	472
State	301	422	583
	975	1,665	1,055
	\$ 2,790	\$ 2,854	\$ 1,723

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities at December 31, 2014 and 2013 consist of:

	2014	2013
Deferred tax assets:		
Allowance for loan losses	\$ 3,858	\$ 4,176
Deferred compensation	243	316
Retirement compensation	1,525	1,423
Stock option compensation	264	252
Post retirement benefits	425	290
Current state franchise taxes	186	15
Non-accrual interest	230	141
Net operating loss	—	63
Tax credit carryovers	937	1,720
Investment securities unrealized loss	—	426
Other	32	19
Deferred tax assets	7,700	8,841
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Fixed assets depreciation	1,364	1,291
FHLB dividends	260	260
Tax credit – loss on pass-through	155	223
Deferred loan costs	1,038	918
Investment securities unrealized gain	469	—
Total deferred tax liabilities	3,286	2,692
Net deferred tax assets (see Note 7)	\$ 4,414	\$ 6,149

Based upon the level of historical taxable income and projections for future taxable income over the periods during which the deferred tax assets are deductible, management believes it is more-likely-than-not the Company will realize the benefits of these deductible differences.

At December 31, 2014, the Company had no state net operating loss carry forwards and \$937 of federal tax credit carry forwards expiring on various dates ranging from 2028 through 2034.

A reconciliation of income taxes computed at the federal statutory rate of 34% and the provision for income taxes is as follows:

	2014	2013	2012
Income tax expense at statutory rates	\$2,944	\$2,801	\$2,166
Reduction for tax exempt interest	(165 )	(191 )	(166 )
State franchise tax, net of federal benefit	569	457	408
Cash surrender value of life insurance	(154 )	(154 )	(155 )
Solar credit amortization	(179 )	(201 )	(359 )
Other	(225 )	142	(171 )
	\$2,790	\$2,854	\$1,723

#### Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes

The Company had unrecognized tax benefits of \$12 for the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013. The Company did not recognize a change in unrecognized tax benefits during 2014. The Company does not anticipate any significant increase or decrease in unrecognized tax benefits during 2015. If recognized, the entire amount of the unrecognized tax benefits would affect the effective tax rate.

The Company classifies interest and penalties as a component of the provision for income taxes. At December 31, 2014, unrecognized interest and penalties were \$1. The tax years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, and 2010 remain subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The tax years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, and 2010 remain subject to examination by the California Franchise Tax Board. The deductibility of these tax positions will be determined through examination by the appropriate tax authorities or the expiration of the tax statute of limitations.

## (11) Outstanding Shares and Earnings Per Share

All income per share amounts have been adjusted to give retroactive effect to stock dividends and stock splits, including the 4% stock dividend declared on January 22, 2015, payable March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015.

## Earnings Per Share

Basic and diluted earnings per share for the years ended December 31, were computed as follows:

	(in thousands, except per share amounts)		
	2014	2013	2012
Basic earnings per share:			
Net income	\$5,870	\$5,384	\$4,646
Preferred stock dividend	(129 )	(677 )	(1,139 )
Net income available to common shareholders	\$5,741	\$4,707	\$3,507
Weighted average common shares outstanding	10,117,006	10,088,802	10,060,724
Basic earnings per share	\$0.57	\$0.47	\$0.35
Diluted earnings per share:			
Net income	\$5,870	\$5,384	\$4,646
Preferred stock dividend	(129 )	(677 )	(1,139 )
Net income available to common shareholders	\$5,741	\$4,707	\$3,507
Net (loss) income available to common shareholders			
Weighted average common shares outstanding	10,117,006	10,088,802	10,060,724
Effect of dilutive shares	52,830	38,543	27,454
Adjusted weighted average common shares outstanding	10,169,836	10,127,345	10,088,178
Diluted earnings per share	\$0.56	\$0.46	\$0.35

Options not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because they would have had an anti-dilutive effect amounted to 234,410 shares, 325,379 shares, and 380,351 shares for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. Non-vested shares of restricted stock not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because they would have had an anti-dilutive effect amounted to 6,137 shares, 2,154 shares, and 0 shares for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.



## (12) Related Party Transactions

The Bank, in the ordinary course of business, has loan and deposit transactions with directors and executive officers. In management's opinion, these transactions were on substantially the same terms as comparable transactions with other customers of the Bank. The amount of such deposits totaled approximately \$6,767, \$7,886 and \$6,471 at December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.

The following is an analysis of the activity of loans to executive officers and directors for the years ended December 31:

	2014	2013	2012
Outstanding balance, beginning of year	\$2,250	\$2,086	\$2,331
Credit granted	3,651	3,956	4,025
Repayments / Reductions	(3,537 )	(3,792 )	(4,270 )
Outstanding balance, end of year	\$2,364	\$2,250	\$2,086

## (13) Profit Sharing Plan

The Bank maintains a profit sharing plan for the benefit of its employees. Employees who have completed 12 months and 1,000 hours of service are eligible. Under the terms of this plan, a portion of the Bank's profits, as determined by the Board of Directors, will be set aside and maintained in a trust fund for the benefit of qualified employees. Contributions to the plan, included in salaries and employee benefits in the consolidated statements of income, were \$877, \$1,004 and \$502 in 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.

(14)

## Stock Compensation Plans

As of December 31, 2014, the Company has the following share-based compensation plans:

The Company has one fixed stock option plan. Under the 2006 Stock Incentive Plan, the Company may grant option grants, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, or stock units to an employee for an amount up to 25,000 total shares in any calendar year. With respect to awards granted to non-employee directors under the Plan, no outside director can receive option grants, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, or stock units in excess of 3,000 total shares in any calendar year. There are 982,926 shares authorized under the plan. The total number of shares authorized has been adjusted to give retroactive effect to stock dividends and stock splits, including the 4% stock dividend declared on January 22, 2015, payable March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015. The plan will terminate March 15, 2016. The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors is authorized to prescribe the terms and conditions of each option, including exercise price, vestings, or duration of the option. Generally, option grants vest at a rate of 25% per year after the first anniversary of the date of grant and restricted stock awards vest at a rate of 100% after four years. Options are granted with an exercise price of the fair value of the related common stock on the date of grant.

Stock option activity for the Company's Stock Incentive Plan during the year ended December 31, 2014 is as follows:

	Stock Options	
	Number of shares	Weighted average exercise price
Balance at December 31, 2013	382,904	\$11.06
Granted	19,726	6.99
Exercised	—	—
Cancelled	—	—
Expired	(89,114 )	8.53
Balance at December 31, 2014	313,516	\$11.53

All number of shares and weighted average exercise price amounts have been adjusted to give retroactive effect to stock dividends and stock splits, including the 4% stock dividend declared on January 22, 2015, payable March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015.

The 2006 Stock Incentive Plan permits stock-for-stock exercises of shares. During 2014, employees tendered no mature shares in stock-for-stock exercises. Matured shares are those held by employees longer than six months.

The following table presents information on stock options for the year ended December 31, 2014:

	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Aggregate Intrinsic Value	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term
--	------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------	---

Options exercised	—	\$—	\$—	
Stock options outstanding and expected to vest:	313,516	\$11.53	\$268	2.95
Stock options vested and currently exercisable:	263,396	\$12.60	\$179	1.95

The weighted average grant date fair value per share of options granted during the years ended December 31 was \$2.91 in 2014, \$2.56 in 2013, and \$2.19 in 2012. All weighted average grant date fair value per share amounts have been adjusted to give retroactive effect to stock dividends and stock splits, including the 4% stock dividend declared on January 22, 2015, payable March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015.

At December 31, 2014, the range of exercise prices for all outstanding options ranged from \$3.85 to \$21.48. The range of exercise prices have been adjusted to give retroactive effect to stock dividends and stock splits, including the 4% stock dividend declared on January 22, 2015, payable March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015.

As of December 31, 2014, there was \$89 of total unrecognized compensation related to non-vested stock options. This cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.5 years.

For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 there was \$48, \$39, and \$29, respectively of recognized compensation related to stock options.

The Company determines fair value at grant date using the Black-Scholes-Merton pricing model that takes into account the stock price at the grant date, the exercise price, the risk-free interest rate, the volatility of the underlying stock and the expected life of the option.

The weighted average assumptions used in the pricing model are noted in the following table. The expected term of options granted is derived from historical data on employee exercise and post-vesting employment termination behavior. The risk-free rate for periods within the contractual life of the option is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of the grant. Expected volatility is based on both the implied volatilities from the traded option on the Company's stock and historical volatility on the Company's stock.

The Company expenses the fair value of the option on a straight line basis over the vesting period. The Company estimates forfeitures and only recognizes expense for those shares that actually vest.

The following table shows our weighted average assumptions used in valuing stock options granted for the years ended December 31:

	2014		2013		2012	
Risk-Free Interest Rate	1.53	%	0.86	%	0.87	%
Expected Dividend Yield	0.00	%	0.00	%	0.00	%
Expected Life in Years	5.00		5.00		5.00	
Expected Price Volatility	45.93	%	54.36	%	53.06	%

In addition to stock options, the Company also grants restricted stock awards to directors, certain officers and employees. The restricted shares awarded become fully vested after one to four years of continued employment or service from the date of grant. Restricted shares are forfeited if officers and employees terminate prior to the lapsing of restrictions.

The following table presents information about non-vested restricted stock awards outstanding for the year ended December 31, 2014:

	Restricted Stock Awards
	Weighted
	average
Number of	grant date
shares	fair value

Balance at December 31, 2013	64,003	\$4.68
Granted	25,886	6.99
Vested	(11,636 )	3.85
Cancelled/Forfeited	(4,399 )	4.55
Balance at December 31, 2014	73,854	\$5.63

All number of shares and weighted average grant date fair value amounts have been adjusted to give retroactive effect to stock dividends and stock splits, including the 4% stock dividend declared on January 22, 2015, payable March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015.

The aggregate intrinsic value of restricted stock awards vested in calendar year 2014, 2013, and 2012 was \$79, \$50, and \$59, respectively.

The weighted average fair value per share of restricted stock awards granted during the years ended December 31 was \$6.99 in 2014, \$5.48 in 2013, and \$4.56 in 2012. All weighted average grant date fair value per share amounts have been adjusted to give retroactive effect to stock dividends and stock splits, including the 4% stock dividend declared on January 22, 2015, payable March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015.

As of December 31, 2014, there was \$209 of total unrecognized compensation related to non-vested restricted stock awards. This cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.6 years.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 there was \$112, \$73, and \$58, respectively of recognized compensation related to restricted stock awards.

#### Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Under the First Northern Community Bancorp 2006 Amended Employee Stock Purchase Plan (“Plan”), the Company is authorized to issue to an eligible employee shares of common stock. There are 322,385 shares (adjusted for the 4% stock dividend declared on January 22, 2015, payable March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015) authorized under the Plan. The Plan will terminate March 15, 2016. The Plan is implemented by participation periods of not more than twenty-seven months each. The Board of Directors determines the commencement date and duration of each participation period. An eligible employee is one who has been continually employed for at least ninety (90) days prior to commencement of a participation period. Under the terms of the Plan, employees can choose to have up to 10 percent of their compensation withheld to purchase the Company’s common stock each participation period. The purchase price of the stock is 85 percent of the lower of the fair value on the last trading day before the Date of Participation or the fair value on the last trading day during the participation period. Approximately 49 percent of eligible employees are participating in the Plan in the current participation period, which began November 24, 2014 and will end November 23, 2015.

Under the Plan, at the annual stock purchase date of November 23, 2014, there were \$83 in contributions, and 14,009 shares were purchased at an average price of \$5.96. For the year ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 there was \$25, \$45, and \$28, respectively of recognized compensation related to ESPP issuances. Compensation cost is reported in salaries and employee benefits expense in the consolidated statements of income.

## (15) Short-Term and Long-Term Borrowings

The Company had no secured borrowings from the U.S. Treasury and no Federal Funds purchased at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.

Additional short-term borrowings available to the Company consist of a line of credit and advances with the Federal Home Loan Bank (“FHLB”) secured under terms of a blanket collateral agreement by a pledge of FHLB stock and certain other qualifying collateral such as commercial and mortgage loans. At December 31, 2014, the Company had a current collateral borrowing capacity with the FHLB of \$212,916. The Company also has unsecured formal lines of credit totaling \$57,000 with correspondent banks.

The Company had no long-term borrowings at December 31, 2014 and 2013. Average outstanding balances of long-term borrowings consisting of FHLB advances were \$0, during 2014 and 2013. The weighted average interest rate paid was 0% in 2014 and 2013.

## (16) Commitments and Contingencies

The Company is obligated for rental payments under certain operating lease agreements, some of which contain renewal options. Total rental expense for all leases included in net occupancy and equipment expense amounted to approximately \$1,048, \$1,194, and \$1,111 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. At December 31, 2014, the future minimum payments under non-cancelable operating leases with initial or remaining terms in excess of one year were as follows:

Year ending December 31:

2015	\$818
2016	410
2017	353
2018	291
2019	220
Thereafter	784
	\$2,876

At December 31, 2014, the aggregate maturities for time deposits were as follows:

Year ending December 31:

2015	\$72,294
2016	7,049
2017	4,711
2018	1,572
2019	367
Thereafter	180
	\$86,173

The Company is subject to various legal proceedings in the normal course of its business. In the opinion of management, after having consulted with legal counsel, the outcome of the pending legal proceedings should not have a material adverse effect on the consolidated financial condition or results of operations of the Company.



## (17) Financial Instruments with Off-Balance Sheet Risk

The Company is a party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of its customers. These financial instruments include commitments to extend credit in the form of loans or through standby letters of credit. These instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amounts recognized in the balance sheet. The contract amounts of those instruments reflect the extent of involvement the Company has in particular classes of financial instruments.

The Bank's exposure to credit loss in the event of non-performance by the other party to the financial instrument for commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit is represented by the contractual notional amount of those instruments. The Bank uses the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as it does for on-balance sheet instruments.

Financial instruments, whose contract amounts represent credit risk at December 31 of the indicated periods, were as follows:

	2014	2013
Undisbursed loan commitments	\$171,019	\$172,563
Standby letters of credit	2,099	2,489
Commitments to sell loans	1,230	3,209
	\$174,348	\$178,261

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

Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments issued by the Bank to guarantee the performance of a customer to a third party. The credit risk involved in issuing letters of credit is essentially the same as that involved in extending loan facilities to customers. The Bank issues both financial and performance standby letters of credit. The financial standby letters of credit are primarily to guarantee payment to third parties. At December 31, 2014, there were no financial standby letters of credit outstanding. The performance standby letters of credit are typically issued to municipalities as specific performance bonds. At December 31, 2014, there was \$2,099 issued in performance standby letters of credit and the Bank carried no liability. The Bank has experienced no draws on these letters of credit, and does not expect to in the future; however, should a triggering event occur, the Bank either has collateral in excess of the letter of credit or imbedded agreements of recourse from the customer. The Bank has set aside a reserve for unfunded commitments in the amount of \$793 at December 31, 2014, which is recorded in "interest payable and other liabilities" on the consolidated balance sheets.

Commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit bear similar credit risk characteristics as outstanding loans. As of December 31, 2014, the Company has no off-balance sheet derivatives requiring additional disclosure.

Mortgage loans sold to investors may be sold with servicing rights retained, for which the Company makes only standard legal representations and warranties as to meeting certain underwriting and collateral documentation standards. In the past two years, the number of loans the Company has had to repurchase due to deficiencies in underwriting or loan documentation is not significant. Management believes that any liabilities that may result from such recourse provisions are not significant.

## (18) Capital Adequacy and Restriction on Dividends

The Company is subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by the federal banking agencies. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can initiate mandatory and possibly additional discretionary actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, the Company and the Bank must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of the Company's and the Bank's assets, liabilities, and certain off-balance-sheet items as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. The Company's capital amounts and classification are also subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk-weightings, and other factors.

Quantitative measures established by regulation to help ensure capital adequacy require the Bank to maintain minimum amounts and ratios (set forth in the table below).

First, a bank must meet a minimum Tier I Capital ratio (as defined in the regulations) ranging from 3% to 5% based upon the bank's CAMELS (capital adequacy, asset quality, management, earnings, liquidity and sensitivity to market risk) rating.

Second, a bank must meet minimum Total Risk-Based Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio of 8%. Risk-based capital and asset guidelines vary from Tier I capital guidelines by redefining the components of capital, categorizing assets into different risk classes, and including certain off-balance sheet items in the calculation of the capital ratio. The effect of the risk-based capital guidelines is that banks with high risk exposure will be required to raise additional capital while institutions with low risk exposure could, with the concurrence of regulatory authorities, be permitted to operate with lower capital ratios. In addition, a bank must meet minimum Tier I Leverage Capital to average assets ratio.

Management believes, as of December 31, 2014, that the Bank meets all capital adequacy requirements to which it is subject. As of December 31, 2014, the most recent notification from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") categorized the Bank as "well capitalized" under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. To be categorized as well capitalized the Bank must meet the minimum ratios as set forth above. As of the date hereof, there have been no conditions or events since that notification that management believes have changed the institution's category.

The Company and the Bank had Tier I Leverage, Tier I risk-based and Total Risk-Based capital above the "well capitalized" levels at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, as set forth in the following tables (calculated in accordance with the U.S. Basel I capital rules):

	2014		The Company		2013		Adequately Capitalized	
	Capital	Ratio	Capital	Ratio	Capital	Ratio	Ratio	
Tier 1 Leverage Capital (to Average Assets)	\$91,799	9.4	%	\$85,316	9.6	%	4.0	%
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	91,799	15.7	%	85,316	15.3	%	4.0	%
Total Risk-Based Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	99,137	17.0	%	92,308	16.6	%	8.0	%

	2014		The Bank		2013		Adequately Capitalized Ratio	Well Capitalized Ratio		
	Capital	Ratio	Capital	Ratio	Capital	Ratio				
Tier 1 Leverage Capital (to Average Assets)	\$87,903	9.0	%	\$81,478	9.1	%	4.0	%	5.0	%
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	87,903	15.0	%	81,478	14.7	%	4.0	%	6.0	%
Total Risk-Based Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	95,241	16.3	%	88,470	15.9	%	8.0	%	10.0	%

Cash dividends declared by the Bank are restricted under California State banking laws to the lesser of the Bank's retained earnings or the Bank's net income for the latest three fiscal years, less dividends previously declared during that period.

The Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation approved final capital rules in July 2013, that substantially amend the existing capital rules for banks. These new rules reflect, in part, certain standards initially adopted by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in December 2010 (which standards are commonly referred to as "Basel III") as well as requirements contemplated by the Dodd-Frank Act.

Under the new capital rules, the Company will be required to meet certain minimum capital requirements that differ from current capital requirements. The rules implement a new capital ratio of common equity Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets. Common equity Tier 1 capital generally consists of retained earnings and common stock (subject to certain adjustments) as well as accumulated other comprehensive income ("AOCI"), except to the extent that the Company exercises a one-time irrevocable option to exclude certain components of AOCI as of March 31, 2015. The Company will also be required to establish a "conservation buffer," consisting of a common equity Tier 1 capital amount equal to 2.5% of risk-weighted assets to be phased in by 2019. An institution that does not meet the conservation buffer will be subject to restrictions on certain activities including payment of dividends, stock repurchases, and discretionary bonuses to executive officers.

The prompt corrective action rules are modified to include the common equity Tier 1 capital ratio and to increase the Tier 1 capital ratio requirements for the various thresholds. For example, the requirements for the Company to be considered well-capitalized under the rules will be a 5.0% leverage ratio, a 6.5% common equity Tier 1 capital ratio, an 8.0% Tier 1 capital ratio, and a 10.0% total capital ratio. To be adequately capitalized, those ratios are 4.0%, 4.5%, 6.0%, and 8.0%, respectively.

The rules modify the manner in which certain capital elements are determined. The rules make changes to the methods of calculating the risk-weighting of certain assets, which in turn affects the calculation of the risk-weighted capital ratios. Higher risk weights are assigned to various categories of assets, including commercial real estate loans, credit facilities that finance the acquisition, development or construction of real property, certain exposures or credit that are 90 days past due or are nonaccrual, securitization exposures, and in certain cases mortgage servicing rights and deferred tax assets.

The Company is required to comply with the new capital rules on January 1, 2015, with a measurement date of March 31, 2015. The conservation buffer will be phased-in beginning in 2016, and will take full effect on January 1, 2019. Certain calculations under the rules will also have phase-in periods.

(19) Fair Values of Financial Instruments

The following methods and assumptions were used by the Company in estimating its fair value disclosures for financial instruments which are not carried at fair value on the consolidated balance sheets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The carrying amounts reported in the consolidated balance sheets for cash and short-term instruments are a reasonable estimate of fair value. The carrying amount is a reasonable estimate of fair value because of the relatively short term between the origination of the instrument and its expected realization. Therefore, the Company believes the measurement of fair value of cash and cash equivalents is derived from Level 1 inputs.

Other Equity Securities

The carrying amounts reported in the consolidated balance sheets approximate fair value as the shares can only be redeemed by the issuing institution. The Company believes the measurement of the fair value of other equity securities is derived from Level 2 inputs.

Loans Receivable

For variable-rate loans that reprice frequently and with no significant change in credit risk, fair values are based on carrying values. The fair values for other loans (e.g., commercial real estate and rental property mortgage loans, commercial and industrial loans, and agricultural loans) are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, using interest rates currently being offered for loans with similar terms to borrowers of similar credit quality. The allowance for loan losses is considered to be a reasonable estimate of loan discount due to credit risks. Given that there are loans with specific terms that are not readily available, the Company believes the fair value of loans receivable is derived from Level 3 inputs.

Loans Held-for-Sale

For loans held for sale, the fair value is based on what secondary markets are currently offering for portfolios with similar characteristics. See Note 8, Fair Value Measurement.

Interest Receivable and Payable

The carrying amount of interest receivable and payable approximates its fair value. The Company believes the measurement of the fair value of interest receivable and payable is derived from Level 2 inputs.

Mortgage Servicing Rights

The Company uses quoted market prices when available. Subsequent fair value measurements are determined using a discounted cash flow model. In order to determine the fair value of the MSR, the present value of expected future cash flows is estimated. Assumptions used include market discount rates, anticipated prepayment speeds, delinquency and foreclosure rates, and ancillary fee income. This model is periodically validated by an independent external model validation group. The model assumptions and the MSR fair value estimates are also compared to observable trades of similar portfolios as well as to MSR broker valuations and industry surveys, as available.

Deposit Liabilities

The Company measures fair value of deposits using Level 2 and Level 3 inputs. The fair value of deposits were derived by discounting their expected future cash flows back to their present values based on the FHLB yield curve, and their expected decay rates for non maturing deposits. The Company is able to obtain FHLB yield curve rates as of the measurement date, and believes these inputs fall under Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy. Decay rates were developed through internal analysis, and are supported by recent years of the Bank's transaction history. The inputs used by the Company to derive the decay rate assumptions are unobservable inputs, and therefore fall under Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

#### Limitations

Fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on relevant market information and information about the financial instrument. These estimates do not reflect any premium or discount that could result from offering for sale at one time the Company's entire holdings of a particular financial instrument. Because no market exists for a significant portion of the Company's financial instruments, fair value estimates are based on judgments regarding future expected loss experience, current economic conditions, risk characteristics of various financial instruments, and other factors. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgment and therefore cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could significantly affect the estimates.

Fair value estimates are based on existing on-and off-balance sheet financial instruments without attempting to estimate the value of anticipated future business and the value of assets and liabilities that are not considered financial instruments. Other significant assets and liabilities that are not considered financial assets or liabilities include deferred tax liabilities and premises and equipment. In addition, the tax ramifications related to the realization of the unrealized gains and losses can have a significant effect on fair value estimates and have not been considered in many of the estimates.

The estimated fair values of the Company's financial instruments for the years ended December 31 are approximately as follows:

		2014		2013	
	Level	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
Financial assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	1	\$229,052	\$229,052	\$177,254	\$177,254
Other equity securities	2	3,934	3,934	3,717	3,717
Loans receivable:					
Net loans	3	537,979	535,018	506,850	503,605
Loans held-for-sale	2	491	509	1,263	1,290
Interest receivable	2	2,650	2,650	2,636	2,636
Mortgage servicing rights	3	1,862	2,068	1,968	2,326
Financial liabilities:					
Deposits	3	857,052	837,150	803,787	789,841
Interest payable	2	70	70	71	71

#### (20) Preferred Stock

On September 15, 2011, the Company issued to the U.S. Treasury under the United States Department of Treasury Small Business Lending Fund (SBLF) 22,847 shares of the Company's Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A (SBLF Shares), having a liquidation preference per share equal to \$1, for an aggregate purchase price of \$22,847.

On September 15, 2011, the Company redeemed from the U.S. Treasury, using the partial proceeds from the issuance of the SBLF Shares, all 17,390 outstanding shares of its Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, liquidation amount \$1,000 per share, for a redemption price of \$17,390, plus accrued but unpaid dividends at the date of redemption.

On February 8, 2013, the Company redeemed \$10,000 of the \$22,847 in preferred stock it issued to the U.S. Treasury under the SBLF program.



## (21) Supplemental Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows Information

Supplemental disclosures to the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, are as follows:

	2014	2013	2012
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:			
Cash paid during the year for:			
Interest	\$1,292	\$1,288	\$1,842
Income taxes	\$2,137	\$1,816	\$1,774
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing and financing activities:			
Stock dividend distributed	\$2,065	\$1,047	\$451
Fair value adjustment of securities available for sale, net of tax of \$893, (\$1,648), and \$719 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively	\$1,342	\$(2,473)	\$1,076
Loans held-for-investment transferred to other real estate owned	\$1,198	\$—	\$2,193
Loans held-for-sales transferred to loans held-for investment	\$166	\$—	\$—
Financed sale of other real estate owned	\$—	\$(540)	\$—
Tax deficiency related to expired, vested non-qualified stock options	\$—	\$(106)	\$—

## (22) Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

The following table details activity in accumulated other comprehensive income for the year ended December 31, 2014.

	Unrealized Gains on Securities	Officers' retirement plan	Directors' retirement plan	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income/(loss)
Balance as of December 31, 2013	\$(639 )	\$(480 )	\$46	\$ (1,073 )
Current period other comprehensive income	1,342	(198 )	(5 )	1,139
Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$703	\$(678 )	\$41	\$ 66

The following table details activity in accumulated other comprehensive loss for the year ended December 31, 2013.

	Unrealized Losses on Securities	Officers' retirement plan	Directors' retirement plan	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income/(loss)
Balance as of December 31, 2012	\$1,834	\$(668 )	\$8	\$ 1,174
Current period other comprehensive loss	(2,473 )	188	38	(2,247 )
Balance as of December 31, 2013	\$(639 )	\$(480 )	\$46	\$ (1,073 )

The following table details activity in accumulated other comprehensive income for the year ended December 31, 2012.

	Unrealized Gains on Securities	Officers' retirement plan	Directors' retirement plan	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income/(loss)
Balance as of December 31, 2011	\$758	\$(502 )	\$7	\$ 263
Current period other comprehensive income	1,076	(166 )	1	911
Balance as of December 31, 2012	\$1,834	\$(668 )	\$8	\$ 1,174

(23)

## Parent Company Financial Information

This information should be read in conjunction with the other notes to the consolidated financial statements. The following presents summary balance sheets and summary statements of income and cash flows information for the years ended December 31:

Balance Sheets	2014	2013
Assets		
Cash	\$3,928	\$3,982
Investment in wholly owned subsidiary	88,155	81,070
Total assets	\$92,083	\$85,052
Liabilities and stockholders' equity		
Other liabilities	32	144
Stockholders' equity	92,051	84,908
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$92,083	\$85,052

Statements of Income	2014	2013	2012
Dividends from subsidiary	—	10,000	—
Other operating expenses	(130 )	(113 )	(106 )
Income tax benefit	54	46	44
(Loss) income before undistributed earnings of subsidiary	(76 )	9,933	(62 )
Equity in undistributed earnings of subsidiary	5,946	(4,549 )	4,708
Net income	\$5,870	\$5,384	\$4,646

Statements of Cash Flows	2014	2013	2012
Net income	\$5,870	\$5,384	\$4,646
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities			
Decrease in other liabilities	(112 )	(141 )	(54 )
Equity in undistributed earnings of subsidiary	(5,946 )	4,549	(4,708 )
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	(188 )	9,792	(116 )

## Cash flows from financing activities:

Redemption of preferred stock	—	(10,000 )	—
Dividend on preferred stock	(129 )	(677 )	(1,139 )
Common stock issued and stock based compensation	269	233	208
Cash in lieu of fractional shares	(6 )	(4 )	(3 )
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	134	(10,448 )	(934 )

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

Net change in cash	(54 )	(656 )	(1,050 )
Cash at beginning of year	3,982	4,638	5,688
Cash at end of year	\$3,928	\$3,982	\$4,638

109

---

ITEM 9 - CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A – CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure controls and procedures

The Company maintains “disclosure controls and procedures,” as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and Rule 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”), that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in reports that the Company files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Company’s chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. The Company’s disclosure controls and procedures have been designed to meet and management believes that they meet reasonable assurance standards. Based on their evaluation as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the chief executive officer and chief financial officer have concluded that the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures were effective to ensure that material information relating to the Company, including its consolidated subsidiary, is made known to them by others within those entities.

Internal controls over financial reporting

As required by Rule 13a-15(d), management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, conducted an evaluation of our internal control over financial reporting to determine whether any changes occurred during the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting. Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that there has been no such change during the last quarter of the fiscal year covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting. See “Management’s Report” included in Item 8 for management’s report on the adequacy of internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B – OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III

ITEM 10 – DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The information called for by this item with respect to director and executive officer information is incorporated by reference herein from the sections of the Company’s proxy statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders entitled “Executive Officers,” “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management,” “Executive Compensation” “Report of Audit Committee,” “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Compliance” and “Nomination and Election of Directors.”

The Company has adopted a Code of Conduct, which complies with the Code of Ethics requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission. A copy of the Code of Conduct is posted on the “Investor Relations” page of the Company’s website, or is available, without charge, upon the written request of any shareholder directed to Devon Camara-Soucy, Corporate Secretary, First Northern Community Bancorp, 195 North First Street, Dixon, California 95620. The Company intends to disclose promptly any amendment to, or waiver from any provision of, the Code of Conduct applicable to senior financial officers, and any waiver from any provision of the Code of Conduct applicable to directors, on the “Investor Relations” page of its website.

The Company’s website address is [www.thatsmybank.com](http://www.thatsmybank.com).

ITEM 11 - EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information called for by this item is incorporated by reference herein from the sections of the Company’s proxy statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders entitled “Nomination and Election of Directors,” “Transactions with Related Persons,” “Director Compensation,” and “Executive Compensation.”

## ITEM 12 - SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Information concerning ownership of the equity stock of the Company by certain beneficial owners and management is incorporated herein by reference from the sections of the Company's proxy statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders entitled "Security Ownership of Management" and "Nomination and Election of Directors."

### Stock Purchase Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table shows the Company's equity compensation plans approved by security holders. The table also indicates the number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, non-vested restricted stock and the number of securities remaining available for future issuance under the Company's equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2014. All amounts have been adjusted to give retroactive effect to stock dividends and stock splits, including the 4% stock dividend declared on January 22, 2015, payable March 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 27, 2015. The plans included in this table are the Company's 2000 Stock Option Plan and 2006 Stock Incentive Plan. See "Stock Compensation Plans" Note 14 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (page 98) included in this report.

Plan category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities to be issued upon vesting of restricted stock	Weighted-average grant date fair value of restricted stock	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in the first column)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	313,516	\$ 11.53	73,854	\$ 5.63	693,873
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>313,516</b>	<b>\$ 11.53</b>	<b>73,854</b>	<b>\$ 5.63</b>	<b>693,873</b>

## ITEM 13 - CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information called for by this item is incorporated herein by reference from the sections of the Company's proxy statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders entitled "Director Independence" and "Transactions with Related Persons."

ITEM 14 – PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information called for by this item is incorporated herein by reference from the section of the Company’s proxy statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders entitled “Audit and Non-Audit Fees.”

112

---



PART IV

ITEM 15 – EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a)(1) Financial Statements:

Reference is made to the Index to Financial Statements under Item 8 in Part II of this Form 10-K.

(a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules:

All schedules to the Company’s Consolidated Financial Statements are omitted because of the absence of the conditions under which they are required or because the required information is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or accompanying notes.

(a)(3) Exhibits:

The following is a list of all exhibits filed as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K:

Exhibit Number	Exhibit
3.1	Amended Articles of Incorporation of First Northern Community Bancorp (“Company”) – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006
3.2	Certificate of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Company – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 9, 2009
3.3	Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 15, 2005
10.1	First Northern Community Bancorp 2000 Stock Option Plan – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company’s Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated May 25, 2000*
10.2	First Northern Community Bancorp Outside Directors 2000 Non-statutory Stock Option Plan – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of the Company’s Registration Statement dated Form S-8 on May 25, 2000*
10.3	Amended First Northern Community Bancorp Employee Stock Purchase Plan – incorporated herein by reference to

Appendix B of the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for its 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

- 10.4 First Northern Community Bancorp 2000 Stock Option Plan Forms "Incentive Stock Option Agreement" and "Notice of Exercise of Stock Option" – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated May 25, 2000\*
- 10.5 First Northern Community Bancorp 2000 Outside Directors 2000 Non-statutory Stock Option Plan Forms "Non-statutory Stock Option Agreement" and "Notice of Exercise of Stock Option" – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated May 25, 2000\*
- 10.6 First Northern Community Bancorp 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan Forms "Participation Agreement" and "Notice of Withdrawal" – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.6 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated May 25, 2000\*
- 10.7 Amended and Restated Employment Agreement entered into as of July 23, 2001 by and between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Don Fish – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001\*
- 10.8 Employment Agreement entered into as of July 23, 2001 by and between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Owen J. Onsum – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001\*

- 10.9 Employment Agreement for Louise A. Walker, President and Chief Executive Officer – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended June 30, 2012\*
- 10.10 Employment Agreement entered into as of July 23, 2001 by and between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Robert Walker – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001\*
- 10.11 Form of Director Retirement and Split Dollar Agreements between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Lori J. Aldrete, Frank J. Andrews Jr., John M. Carbahal, Gregory DuPratt, John F. Hamel, Diane P. Hamlyn, Foy S. McNaughton, William Jones, Jr. and David Schulze – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001\*
- 10.12 Form of Salary Continuation and Split Dollar Agreement between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Owen J. Onsum, Louise A. Walker, Don Fish, and Robert Walker – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001\*
- 10.13 Amended Form of Director Retirement and Split Dollar Agreements between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Lori J. Aldrete, Frank J. Andrews Jr., John M. Carbahal, Gregory DuPratt, John F. Hamel, Diane P. Hamlyn, Foy S. McNaughton, William Jones, Jr. and David Schulze – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004\*
- 10.14 Amended Form of Salary Continuation and Split Dollar Agreement between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Owen J. Onsum, Louise A. Walker, Don Fish, and Robert Walker – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004\*
- 10.15 Form of Salary Continuation Agreement between Pat Day and First Northern Bank of Dixon – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006\*
- 10.16 Form of Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan Agreement between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Owen J. Onsum and Louise A. Walker – provided herewith\*
- 10.17 First Northern Bancorp 2006 Stock Incentive Plan – incorporated by reference to Appendix A of the Company’s Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for its 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders\*
- 10.18 First Northern Bank Annual Incentive Compensation Plan – incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006\*

- 10.20 First Northern Community Bancorp 2006 Stock Option Plan Forms “Stock Option Agreement” and “Notice of Exercise of Stock Option” incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to the Company’s Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2009 \*
- 10.21 First Northern Community Bancorp 2006 Stock Incentive Plan “Restricted Stock Agreement incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 to the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 \*
- 10.22 Employment Agreement for Jeremiah Z. Smith, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2012\*
- 10.23 Employment Agreement for Patrick S. Day, Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2012\*
- 11.1 Statement of Computation of Per Share Earnings (See Page 93 of this Form 10-K)
- 21.1 Subsidiaries of the Company – provided herewith

23.1	Consent of independent registered public accounting firm – provided herewith
31.1	Rule 13(a) – 14(a) / 15(d) –14(a) Certification of the Company’s Chief Executive Officer – provided herewith
31.2	Rule 13(a) – 14(a) / 15(d) –14(a) Certification of the Company’s Chief Financial Officer – provided herewith
32.1**	Section 1350 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer – provided herewith
32.2**	Section 1350 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer – provided herewith
101	Pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T, the following financial information from the Registrant’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the twelve months ended December 31, 2014, is formatted in XBRL interactive data files: (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets; (ii) Consolidated Statements of Operations; (iii) Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income; (iv) Consolidated Statements of Stockholders’ Equity; (v) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows; and (vi) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

\* Management contract or compensatory plan, contract or arrangement.

\*\* In accordance with Item 601(b)(32)(ii) of Regulation S-K and SEC Release No. 34-47986, the certifications furnished in Exhibits 32.1 and 32.2 hereto are deemed to accompany this Form 10-K and will not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act. Such certifications will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, on March 10, 2015.

FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP

By: /s/ Louise A. Walker

Louise A. Walker  
President/Chief Executive Officer/Director  
(Principal Executive Officer)

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

Name	Title	Date
/s/ Louise A. Walker Louise A. Walker	President/Chief Executive Officer/Director (Principal Executive Officer)	March 10, 2015
/s/ Jeremiah Z. Smith Jeremiah Z. Smith	Senior Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer & Chief Operating Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	March 10, 2015
/s/ Nathan Davis Nathan Davis	Vice President/Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)	March 10, 2015
/s/ LORI J. ALDRETE Lori J. Aldrete	Director	March 10, 2015
/s/ FRANK J. ANDREWS, JR. Frank J. Andrews, Jr.	Director	March 10, 2015
/s/ PATRICK R. BRADY Patrick R. Brady	Director	March 10, 2015
/s/ JOHN M. CARBAHAL John M. Carbahal	Director and Chairman of the Board	March 10, 2015
/s/ GREGORY DUPRATT Gregory DuPratt	Director	March 10, 2015
/s/ DIANE P. HAMLYN Diane P. Hamlyn	Director	March 10, 2015
/s/ RICHARD M. MARTINEZ Richard M. Martinez	Director	March 10, 2015
/s/ FOY S. MCNAUGHTON Foy S. McNaughton	Director and Vice Chairman of the Board	March 10, 2015
/s/ OWEN J. ONSUM Owen J. Onsum	Director	March 10, 2015
/s/ DAVID W. SCHULZE David W. Schulze	Director	March 10, 2015