

First California Financial Group, Inc.

Form 10-Q

November 14, 2007

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2007

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 000-52498

FIRST CALIFORNIA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

38-3737811
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

1880 Century Park East, Suite 800

90067

Edgar Filing: First California Financial Group, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Los Angeles, California
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (310) 277-2265

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 is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer or a non-accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

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

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

11,747,935 shares of Common Stock, \$0.01 par value, as of November 9, 2007

Table of Contents

FIRST CALIFORNIA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

QUARTERLY REPORT ON

FORM 10-Q

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
Item 1 <u>Financial Statements</u>	3
Item 2 <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	15
Item 3 <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	30
Item 4 <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	31
<u>PART II OTHER INFORMATION</u>	
Item 1 <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	31
Item 1A <u>Risk Factors</u>	31
Item 2 <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	31
Item 3 <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>	31
Item 4 <u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>	31
Item 5 <u>Other Information</u>	31
Item 6 <u>Exhibits</u>	31
<u>SIGNATURES</u>	32

Table of Contents**PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements**

FIRST CALIFORNIA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Condensed consolidated balance sheets (unaudited)

<i>(in thousands)</i>	September 30, 2007	December 31, 2006
Cash and due from banks	\$ 28,502	\$ 13,438
Federal funds sold	275	
Securities	204,281	104,414
Loans held for sale	3,567	
Loans, net	748,179	360,978
Premises and equipment, net	18,753	5,725
Goodwill	50,216	3,225
Core deposits and other intangibles	10,015	1,184
Cash surrender value of life insurance	10,827	
Accrued interest receivable and other assets	17,081	12,599
Total assets	\$ 1,091,696	\$ 501,563
Non-interest checking	\$ 200,438	\$ 115,745
Interest checking	37,115	26,372
Money market	192,038	118,704
Savings	59,300	22,463
Certificates of deposit, under \$ 100,000	163,186	17,250
Certificates of deposit, \$100,000 and over	115,160	80,080
Total deposits	767,237	380,614
Borrowings	147,811	55,300
Junior subordinated debentures	26,635	15,464
Accrued interest payable and other liabilities	14,780	5,116
Total liabilities	956,463	456,494
Total shareholders equity	135,233	45,069
Total liabilities and shareholders equity	\$ 1,091,696	\$ 501,563

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

FIRST CALIFORNIA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Condensed consolidated statements of operations (unaudited)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30, 2007	September 30, 2006	September 30, 2007	September 30, 2006
<i>(in thousands, except per share data)</i>				
Interest and fees on loans	\$ 15,275	\$ 7,735	\$ 41,137	\$ 22,326
Interest on securities	2,531	1,408	6,450	3,712
Interest on federal funds sold and interest bearing deposits	68	105	114	174
Total interest income	17,874	9,248	47,701	26,212
Interest on deposits	5,265	2,122	13,169	5,736
Interest on borrowings	1,216	869	3,709	1,744
Interest on junior subordinated debentures	439	396	1,237	1,189
Total interest expense	6,920	3,387	18,115	8,669
Net interest income	10,954	5,861	29,586	17,543
Provision for loan losses		72		144
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	10,954	5,789	29,586	17,399
Service charges on deposit accounts	426	255	1,197	721
Loan sales and commissions	540		1,613	
Gain on sale of bank charters			2,375	
Trading gains (losses) on non-hedge derivatives		550		(267)
Other income	432	23	1,164	215
Total noninterest income	1,398	828	6,349	669
Salaries and employee benefits	4,242	2,131	13,125	6,413
Premises and equipment	1,018	403	2,835	1,191
Loss on early termination of debt			1,564	
Integration and conversion expenses	540		5,443	
Other expenses	2,801	999	5,858	3,480
Total noninterest expense	8,601	3,533	28,825	11,084
Income before provision for income taxes	3,751	3,084	7,110	6,984
Provision for income taxes	1,340	1,328	2,684	3,026
Net income	\$ 2,411	\$ 1,756	\$ 4,426	\$ 3,958
Earnings per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.71
Diluted	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.66

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

FIRST CALIFORNIA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated statements of cash flows (unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended	
<i>(in thousands)</i>	September 30, 2007	2006
Net income	\$ 4,426	\$ 3,958
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization of premises, equipment, leasehold improvements	585	364
Provision for credit losses		144
Trading loss on non-hedge derivatives		267
Stock-based compensation costs	620	290
Accretion of discounts on securities available-for-sale	(580)	(193)
Amortization of premiums on securities held-to-maturity		14
Amortization of intangibles	668	167
Amortization of premium on loans purchased	30	80
Loss (gain) on sale of other real estate owned	59	(48)
Gain on sale of bank charters	(2,375)	
Origination of loans held for sale	(47,585)	
Proceeds from sale and payments received from loans held for sale	66,393	
Increase in cash surrender value of life insurance	(217)	
(Increase) decrease in accrued interest receivable and other assets	(3,743)	1,038
Increase in accrued interest payable and other liabilities	5,250	718
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 23,531	6,799
Purchases of securities available-for-sale	(38,367)	(49,682)
Proceeds from repayment and maturities of securities available-for-sale	20,108	18,408
Proceeds from repayment and maturities of securities held-to-maturity		439
Payment to terminate non-hedge interest rate swap		(842)
Proceeds from sale of Federal Home Loan Bank stock	4,935	
Purchases of Federal Home Loan Bank stock	(2,593)	(444)
Net change in federal funds sold	61,595	
Loan originations and principal collections, net	(43,602)	(19,765)
Proceeds from sale of Bank charters	2,375	
Purchases of premises and equipment	(350)	(326)
Proceeds from sale of other real estate owned		1,104
Net cash and cash equivalents received in acquisition	6,760	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	10,861	(51,108)
Net increase in demand deposits, money market and savings accounts	9,744	20,669
Net decrease in time certificates of deposit	(17,921)	(4,459)
Net increase in securities sold under agreement to repurchase and federal funds purchased		45,000
Net decrease in other borrowings	(13,236)	(20,737)
Issuance of junior subordinated debentures	16,495	
Redemption of junior subordinated debentures	(15,464)	
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	1,054	354
Redemption of fractional shares in 5-for-4 stock split		(1)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(19,328)	40,826

Edgar Filing: First California Financial Group, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Change in cash and due from banks	15,064	(3,483)
Cash and due from banks, beginning of period	13,438	16,192
Cash and due from banks, end of period	\$ 28,502	\$ 12,709

Supplemental cash flow information:

Cash paid for interest	\$ 18,119	\$ 7,365
Cash paid for income taxes	272	1,005

Supplemental disclosure of noncash investing activities:

Issuance of common stock for purchase accounting merger	82,982	
Unrealized gain (loss) on securities available-for-sale, net of tax effect	(314)	43
Unrealized gain (loss) on cash flow hedges, net of tax effect	(154)	30

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

NOTE 1 BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Organization and nature of operations First California Financial Group, Inc., or First California or the Company, was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware on June 7, 2006. The Company was formed as a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Mercantile Bancorp, a California corporation, or National Mercantile, for the purposes of effecting the merger and capital stock exchange with National Mercantile and acquisition of FCB Bancorp, a California corporation, or FCB.

On June 15, 2006, First California, FCB and National Mercantile entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, or the Merger Agreement, providing for the merger of National Mercantile with and into the newly formed holding company, First California, and the conversion of each share of National Mercantile common stock into the right to receive one share of First California common stock and the conversion of each share of FCB common stock into the right to receive 1.7904 shares of First California common stock. In addition, the Merger Agreement provided for the conversion of each share of National Mercantile series B convertible perpetual preferred stock into the right to receive one share of series A convertible perpetual preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share, or First California Preferred Stock, of First California. The merger and acquisition were approved by both National Mercantile and FCB shareholders and regulators.

On March 12, 2007, First California completed the merger and capital stock exchange with National Mercantile and acquisition of FCB pursuant to the Merger Agreement as described above. Concurrent with the merger and acquisition, the number of common shares authorized of First California was increased to 25,000,000 shares and First California authorized the issuance of 2,500,000 shares of preferred stock of which 1,000 shares were designated as series A convertible perpetual preferred stock. In addition, each share of National Mercantile series B convertible perpetual preferred stock was exchanged for one share of series A convertible perpetual preferred stock of First California. As a result of these transactions, First California issued an aggregate of approximately 11.5 million shares of First California common stock to former National Mercantile and FCB shareholders and 1,000 shares of First California preferred stock to former shareholders of National Mercantile series B convertible preferred stock. First California paid cash in lieu of fractional shares of First California common stock issued in connection with the acquisition of FCB.

Upon completion of the merger of National Mercantile into its wholly-owned subsidiary First California and the acquisition of FCB by First California, the separate corporate existence of National Mercantile and FCB ceased, and First California succeeded and assumed all the rights and obligations of National Mercantile and FCB. First California assumed all rights and obligations of National Mercantile, whose principal assets were the capital stock of two bank subsidiaries: Mercantile National Bank, or Mercantile, and South Bay Bank, N.A., or South Bay. As a result of the acquisition of FCB, First California acquired all the rights and obligations of FCB, whose principal assets consisted of the capital stock of First California Bank. As contemplated by the Merger Agreement, First California Bank purchased substantially all the assets and assumed substantially all the liabilities of Mercantile and South Bay, sold the bank charters of Mercantile and South Bay to United Central Bank and The Independent Bankers Bank and recognized a gain of \$2.4 million during the second quarter of 2007. As a result of these transactions, the three former bank subsidiaries of National Mercantile and FCB now operate under the First California Bank brand. First California Bank provides a broad range of banking products and services, including credit, cash management and deposit services through twelve full service banking offices located in Southern California.

Consolidation The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, the accounts of the Company and its bank subsidiaries but excludes the accounts of FCB Statutory Trust I and First California Statutory Trust I. Results of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 include operations of FCB from the date of acquisition. The Company's historical balance sheet and results of operations before the mergers are the same as the historical information of National Mercantile. All material intercompany transactions have been eliminated.

Basis of presentation The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and notes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for complete financial statements. In our opinion, all normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair presentation are reflected in the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements. Operating results for the period ended September 30, 2007 are not necessarily indicative of the results for the full year. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's and National Mercantile's 2006 Annual Reports on Form 10-K and Form 10-KSB, respectively.

Management's estimates and assumptions The preparation of the condensed consolidated financial statements, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported

Table of Contents

amounts of assets and liabilities as of the date of the balance sheets, and revenues and expenses for the reporting periods. Actual results could differ significantly from those estimates. Significant estimations made by us primarily involve the calculation of the allowance for loan losses, the carrying amount of deferred tax assets and goodwill and the effectiveness of derivative instruments in offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows of hedged items.

Allowance for loan losses The provisions for loan losses charged to operations reflects our judgment of the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses and are determined through periodic analysis of the loan portfolio, problem loans and consideration of other factors such as the Company's loan loss experience, trends in problem loans, concentrations of credit risk, and economic conditions (particularly in Southern California), as well as the results of the Company's ongoing examination process and its regulatory examinations.

The calculation of the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses is based on a variety of factors, including loan classifications, migration trends and underlying cash flow and collateral values. On a periodic basis, management engages an outside loan review firm to review the Company's loan portfolio, risk grade accuracy and the reasonableness of loan evaluations. Annually, this outside loan review firm analyzes the Company's methodology for calculating the allowance for loan losses based on the Company's loss histories and policies. The Company uses a migration analysis as part of its allowance for loan losses evaluation, which is a method by which specific charge-offs are related to the prior life of the same loan compared to the total loan pools in which the loan was graded. This method allows for management to use historical trends that are relative to the Company's portfolio rather than use outside factors that may not take into consideration trends relative to the specific loan portfolio. In addition, this analysis takes into consideration other trends that are qualitative relative to the Company's marketplace, demographic trends, amount and trends in nonperforming assets and concentration factors.

Goodwill and other intangible assets The Company has goodwill, which represents the excess of purchase price over the fair value of net assets acquired primarily as a result of the merger. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, goodwill is not amortized and is reviewed for impairment on an annual basis or on an interim basis if an event occurs or circumstances change that would reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying value. Trade name intangible represents the fair value of the First California Bank name, which is amortized using the straight-line method over a period of ten years. Core deposit intangibles, which represent the fair value of depositor relationships resulting from deposit liabilities assumed in acquisitions, are amortized using the straight-line method over the projected useful lives of the deposits. Core deposit and trade name intangibles are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Impairment of goodwill and other intangibles is permanently recognized by writing down the asset to the extent that the carrying value exceeds the estimated fair value.

Income Taxes The Company adopted the provisions of FASB Interpretation No. 48 (FIN 48), *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, on January 1, 2007. FIN 48 prescribes a comprehensive model and provides guidance for accounting and disclosure for uncertainty in tax provisions and for the recognition and measurement related to the accounting for income taxes. FIN 48 clarifies the accounting for income taxes by prescribing a minimum recognition threshold a tax position is required to meet before being recognized in the financial statements. The adoption of FIN 48 did not have a material effect on our financial statements. We have concluded that there are no significant uncertain tax positions requiring recognition in our financial statements. Our accounting policy is to recognize interest and penalties as a component of income tax expense.

Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the tax effects of the differences between the book and tax basis of the various balance sheet assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are reflected at currently enacted income tax rates applicable to the period in which the deferred tax assets or liabilities are expected to be realized or settled. As changes in tax laws or rates are enacted, deferred tax assets and liabilities are adjusted through the provision for income taxes. An estimate of probable income tax benefits that will not be realized in future years is required in determining the necessity for a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets. There was no deferred tax asset valuation allowance at September 30, 2007 and no valuation allowance at December 31, 2006.

Derivative instruments and hedging An estimate of the effectiveness of derivative instruments in off-setting changes in fair value or cash flows of hedged items is required to determine the extent to which earnings are affected. Our hedges were effective at September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006.

Common Shares The number of shares outstanding of First California common stock was 11.7 million at September 30, 2007 and the number of common shares of our predecessor, National Mercantile, was 5.6 million shares at December 31, 2006. On March 12, 2007, the number of shares of First California common stock outstanding increased by 5.9 million as a result of the merger.

Table of Contents

Recent accounting pronouncements In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities, which provides companies with an option to report selected financial assets and liabilities at fair value. The objective of SFAS No. 159 is to reduce both complexity in accounting for financial instruments and the volatility in earnings caused by measuring related assets and liabilities differently. SFAS No. 159 established presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between companies that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities and to more easily understand the effect of the company's choice to use fair value on its earnings. SFAS No. 159 also requires entities to display the fair value of the selected assets and liabilities on the face of the balance sheet. SFAS No. 159 does not eliminate disclosure requirements of other accounting standards, including fair value measurement disclosures in SFAS No. 157. This Statement is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year beginning after November 15, 2007. Management does not expect the adoption of SFAS No. 159 to have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

NOTE 2 MERGER

On March 12, 2007, First California completed the acquisition of 100% of the outstanding common stock of FCB pursuant to the Merger Agreement as described in Note 1 above. FCB was the parent company of First California Bank. At the date of acquisition, First California Bank became a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company. As provided by the Merger Agreement, approximately 3.3 million shares representing the then issued and outstanding shares of common stock of FCB were exchanged for approximately 5.9 million shares of the Company's common stock at a calculated exchange ratio of 1.7904. Upon completion of the acquisition, the former shareholders of FCB have an approximate 49.9% interest in the Company. The fair value of \$14.14 for each of the Company's common shares issued to complete the acquisition of FCB on March 12, 2007 was based on the average of the quoted market price per share of National Mercantile's common stock for a period of three days before, the day of and three days after the announcement of the merger on June 15, 2006. In addition, FCB had 160,100 employee stock options outstanding at the acquisition date. On the acquisition date, the Company exchanged the FCB stock options for options to purchase shares of the Company's common stock which resulted in the Company granting a total of 286,643 stock options with a weighted average exercise price of \$10.33 per share to former FCB employees and executives. The fair value of the stock options of \$1.4 million is included in the purchase price.

Under the purchase method of accounting, the estimated cost of approximately \$84.9 million to acquire FCB, including transaction costs, was allocated to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their respective fair values as of the date of acquisition as summarized below (in thousands, except share and per share amounts):

Purchase Price		
Number of shares of Company stock issued for FCB stock	5,868,586	
Price of the Company's stock on the date of Merger Agreement	\$ 14.14	
Total stock consideration		\$ 82,982
Fair value of FCB's stock options converted to Company stock options at acquisition date		1,408
Less: Fair value of unvested options related to future service periods		(804)
Total common stock issued and stock options assumed		83,586
Direct costs of the acquisition		1,338
Total purchase price and acquisition costs		84,924
Allocation of Purchase Price		
FCB's equity	\$ 49,444	
Less: Intangible assets derecognized	(17,152)	
Adjustments to reflect assets acquired and liabilities assumed at fair value:		
Loans	(2,489)	
Core deposit intangibles	5,488	
Other assets	6,983	
Deferred tax liabilities	(3,508)	
Deposits	(624)	
Borrowings	(37)	
Subordinated debt	(200)	
Fair value of net assets acquired		37,905

Estimated goodwill arising from acquisition

\$ 47,019

Table of Contents

The Company has based the allocation of purchase price above on an estimate of the fair values of the assets acquired and the liabilities assumed. Valuations of certain assets and liabilities of FCB were performed with the assistance of independent valuation consultants. None of the resulting goodwill is expected to be deductible for tax purposes.

The following information presents the pro forma results of operations for the three months ended September 30, 2006 and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006, as though the acquisition had occurred on January 1, 2006. The pro forma data was derived by combining the historical consolidated financial information of FCB and National Mercantile using the purchase method of accounting for business combinations. The pro forma results do not necessarily indicate results that would have been obtained had the acquisition actually occurred on January 1, 2006 or the results that may be achieved in the future.

<i>(in thousands, except per share data)</i>	Pro forma Results of Operations		
	Three Months Ended	Nine Months Ended	
	September 30, 2006	September 30, 2006	September 30, 2007
Net interest income	\$ 11,301	\$ 34,367	\$ 32,871
Noninterest income	1,461	2,356	6,765
Noninterest expense	(8,189)	(24,409)	(31,858)
Provision for loan losses	(378)	(153)	
Income before tax	4,951	12,467	7,778
Provision for income taxes	(2,000)	(5,055)	(3,063)
Net income	\$ 2,951	\$ 7,412	\$ 4,715
Pro forma earnings per share			
Basic	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.41
Diluted	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.40
Pro forma weighted average shares			
Basic	11,415	11,415	11,605
Diluted	11,903	11,915	11,715

Table of Contents**NOTE 3 SECURITIES**

The amortized cost and estimated fair values of securities available-for-sale are summarized as follows:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	September 30, 2007			Estimated Fair Value
	Amortized	Unrealized	Unrealized	
	Cost	Gains	Losses	
U.S. Treasury notes	\$ 1,621	\$ 4	\$	\$ 1,625
U.S. government agency notes	14,901	80	(8)	14,973
U.S. government agency mortgage-backed securities	98,261	182	(842)	97,601
Collateralized mortgage obligations	71,942	456	(337)	72,061
Municipal securities	18,094	13	(86)	18,021
Securities available-for-sale	\$ 204,819	\$ 735	\$ (1,273)	\$ 204,281

	December 31, 2006			Estimated Fair Value
	Amortized	Unrealized	Unrealized	
	Cost	Gains	Losses	
U.S. Treasury notes	\$ 599	\$	\$ (4)	\$ 595
U.S. government agency notes	8,985	2	(65)	8,922
U.S. government agency mortgage-backed securities	58,067	108	(607)	57,568
Collateralized mortgage obligations	6,417	41	(8)	6,450
Municipal securities	28,991	153	(252)	28,892
Securities available-for-sale	\$ 103,059	\$ 304	\$ (936)	\$ 102,427

At September 30, 2007, there were no securities held-to-maturity. At December 31, 2006, securities-held-to-maturity at amortized cost was \$1,987 with an aggregate fair value of \$1,947. Gross unrealized losses on securities held-to-maturity was \$40 at December 31, 2006. Securities held-to-maturity was comprised of FHLMC/FNMA-issued mortgage pass-through certificates.

Table of Contents**NOTE 4 LOANS AND ALLOWANCE FOR LOAN LOSSES**

Loans consist of the following:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	At September 30, 2007	At December 31, 2006
Commercial mortgage	\$ 295,194	\$ 140,636
Construction and land development	170,033	83,188
Commercial loans and lines of credit	170,743	105,862
Multifamily mortgage	36,591	17,602
Home mortgage	43,394	8,790
Home equity loans and lines of credit	24,972	
Installment & credit card	15,337	9,640
Total loans	756,264	365,718
Allowance for loan losses	(8,085)	(4,740)
Loans, net	\$ 748,179	\$ 360,978
Loans held for sale	\$ 3,567	\$

At September 30, 2007, loans held for sale were \$3.6 million and consisted of commercial and multifamily mortgages originated for sale into the secondary market as well as SBA 7(a) loans, the government guaranteed portion of which will be sold into the secondary market. Loans held for sale are carried at the lower of aggregate cost or market value. Loan sale gains or losses are recorded in noninterest income based on the difference between loan sale proceeds and carrying value.

Most of the Company's lending activity is with customers located in Ventura, Orange and Los Angeles Counties. The Company has no significant credit exposure to any individual customer; however, the economic condition in Southern California could adversely affect customers. A significant portion of our loans are collateralized by real estate. Changes in the economic condition in Southern California could adversely affect the value of real estate.

Table of Contents

Changes in the allowance for loan losses were as follows:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30, 2007	September 30, 2006	September 30, 2007	September 30, 2006
Beginning balance	\$ 8,296	\$ 4,648	\$ 4,740	\$ 4,468
Provision for loan losses		72		144
Addition from the merger			3,531	
Loans charged-off	(283)	(21)	(289)	(22)
Transfers to undisbursed commitment allowance		(38)	18	71
Recoveries on loans charged-off	72		85	
Ending balance	\$ 8,085	\$ 4,661	\$ 8,085	\$ 4,661
Allowance to loans	1.07%	1.30%	1.07%	1.30%

Nonperforming loans and assets were as follows:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	At September 30,	At December 31,
	2007	2006
Accruing loans past due 90 days or more	\$ 890	\$
Nonaccrual loans	\$ 5,720	\$
Foreclosed assets	\$ 244	\$ 303

NOTE 5 GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill of \$50.2 million at September 30, 2007 includes \$47.0 million representing the excess of the purchase price over the fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the acquisition of FCB. At December 31, 2006, goodwill was \$3.2 million. No impairment loss was recognized for the periods ended September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006.

Core deposit intangibles, net of accumulated amortization, was \$6.2 million at September 30, 2007 and \$1.2 million at December 31, 2006. Amortization expense for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2007 was \$142,000 and \$435,000, respectively. Amortization expense for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2006 was \$56,000 and \$167,000, respectively.

Other intangibles includes trade name, net of accumulated amortization, of \$3.8 million, representing the fair value of the First California Bank name recorded as part of the merger. Amortization expense for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2007 was \$100,000 and \$233,000, respectively.

NOTE 6 JUNIOR SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES

In July 2001, the Company issued \$15.5 million aggregate principal amount of 10.25% fixed rate junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures due July 25, 2031 (Junior Subordinated Debentures) that paid interest each January 26 and July 26. The Junior Subordinated Debentures were held by National Mercantile Capital Trust I (the Trust), a Delaware business trust, formed by the Company for the sole purpose of issuing certain securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the Trust and

Table of Contents

investing the proceeds thereof in the Junior Subordinated Debentures. The Trust Preferred Securities were redeemed and the Junior Subordinated Debentures were repaid in January 2007 from the net proceeds of First California Capital Trust I securities, as described below. The redemption price of the Junior Subordinated Debentures was 107.6875% of the principal amount, plus accrued interest, or a total of \$17.3 million. As a result of the redemption, the Company incurred a charge during the first quarter of 2007 of \$1.6 million. The charge reflects the redemption premium and the write-off of the unamortized Debenture issuance costs.

On January 24, 2007, the Company and its newly formed subsidiary, First California Capital Trust I (First California Trust), a Delaware statutory trust, issued \$16.5 million of the First California Trust's capital securities, liquidation amount \$1,000 per capital security. The capital securities represent undivided beneficial interests in the First California Trust's assets, which consist primarily of the Company's Fixed/Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures described below. The First California Trust's capital securities mature on March 15, 2037, and are redeemable, at par, at the Company's option at any time on or after March 15, 2012.

The holders of the First California Trust's capital securities are entitled to quarterly distributions at a fixed annual rate of 6.80% for the first five years, and a variable annual rate thereafter, which resets quarterly, equal to the 3-month LIBOR rate, plus 1.60% per annum, of the liquidation amount of \$1,000 per capital security, subject to the Company's right to defer interest payments under the Fixed/Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures as described below.

The Company purchased \$495,000 of the First California Trust's common securities, liquidation amount \$1,000 per common security. In connection with the First California Trust's sale of the capital securities, the Company entered into a Guarantee Agreement pursuant to which it guaranteed, on a subordinated basis, all distributions and payments under the First California Trust's capital securities upon liquidation, redemption, or otherwise, but only to the extent the First California Trust fails to pay such distributions from payments under the Fixed/Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures it holds from the Company.

The First California Trust used the proceeds from the sale of its capital securities and its common securities to purchase from the Company \$16.5 million aggregate principal amount of Fixed/Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures due 2037. The Debentures bear interest at the same rates as the First California Trust's capital securities. So long as no event of default (as defined in the Indenture relating to the Debentures) has occurred, First California will have the right to defer the payment of interest on the Debentures for up to 20 consecutive quarterly periods, except that no extension period may extend beyond the maturity of the Debentures. During any deferral period, the Company may not pay dividends or make certain other distributions or payments as provided in the Indenture. The Debentures mature on March 15, 2037, and are redeemable at par, at the Company's option, at any time on or after March 15, 2012. Upon any redemption by the Company of the Debentures, the First California Trust must redeem a like amount of its capital securities.

Payments under the Debentures are subordinated and junior in right of payment to the prior payment of all other indebtedness of the Company that, by its terms, is not similarly subordinated.

The Debentures may be declared immediately due and payable at the election of the trustee under the Indenture or the holders of 25% of aggregate principal amount of the First California Trust's outstanding capital securities if the Company defaults in the payment of interest (subject to its right to defer interest payments as described above) or principal under the Debentures and upon the occurrence of other events of defaults described in the Indenture.

As a result of the merger, the Company assumed \$10,310,000 Junior Subordinated Debentures of FCB, having an estimated fair value of \$10,110,000. The Debentures are due December 15, 2035 and the interest rate is fixed at 6.145% to December, 2010 at which time the interest rate will float at the three-month LIBOR rate plus 1.55%.

Table of Contents**NOTE 7 EARNINGS PER SHARE**

Basic earnings per share excludes dilution and is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per share reflect the potential dilution that could occur if common shares were issued pursuant to the exercise of common stock options under the Company's stock option plans and if common shares were issued from the conversion of the convertible preferred stock. The following table illustrates the computations of basic and diluted earnings per share for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended				Nine Months Ended			
	September 30,		September 30,		September 30,		September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
<i>(in thousands, except per share data)</i>	<i>Diluted</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Diluted</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Diluted</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Diluted</i>	<i>Basic</i>
Income available to common shareholders	\$ 2,411	\$ 2,411	\$ 1,756	\$ 1,756	\$ 4,426	\$ 4,426	\$ 3,958	\$ 3,958
Weighted average common shares outstanding Basic	11,715	11,715	5,546	5,546	10,079	10,079	5,536	5,536
Options	268		196		340		238	
Convertible preferred stock	263		244		262		234	
Weighted average common shares outstanding Diluted	12,246		5,986		10,681		6,008	
Earnings per share	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.71

NOTE 8 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Comprehensive income is the change in equity during a period from transactions and other events and circumstances from nonowner sources. Total comprehensive income was as follows:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
<i>(in thousands)</i>				
Unrealized gain (loss) on interest rate swaps used in cash flow hedges	\$ 711	\$ 761	\$ 725	\$ (60)
Unrealized gain (loss) on interest rate floors used in cash flow hedges	60	29	14	(219)
Unrealized holding gain on securities available-for-sale arising during the period	2,940	2,295	134	90
Total other comprehensive income (loss), before tax	3,711	3,085	873	(189)
Income tax expense related to items of other comprehensive income	(1,540)	(1,256)	(362)	(103)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	2,171	1,829	511	(292)
Net income	2,411	1,756	4,426	3,958
Total comprehensive income	\$ 4,582	\$ 3,585	\$ 4,937	\$ 3,666

NOTE 9 SUBSEQUENT EVENT

The Company announced on November 7, 2007 that its board of directors authorized a repurchase of up to \$5 million of the Company's common stock. The Company is authorized until November, 2008 to purchase shares from time-to-time in open market or privately negotiated

transactions, depending on market conditions.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Cautionary Statement

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains certain forward-looking statements about the Company and its subsidiaries, which statements are intended to be covered by the safe harbor for forward-looking statements provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. Such statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and are generally beyond the control of the Company. Readers are cautioned that a number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in, implied or projected by, such forward-looking statements. Risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to:

relative cost savings cannot be realized or realized within the expected time frame;

revenues are lower than expected;

an increase in the provision for loan losses resulting from credit quality deterioration;

competitive pressure among depository institutions increases significantly;

the Company's ability to integrate the operations of Mercantile National Bank, South Bay Bank, N.A., and First California Bank and to achieve expected synergies, operating efficiencies or other benefits within expected time-frames or at all, or within expected cost projections;

the possibility that personnel changes will not proceed as planned;

the cost of additional capital is more than expected;

a change in the interest rate environment reduces interest margins;

asset/liability repricing risks and liquidity risks;

general economic conditions, either nationally or in the market areas in which the Company does or anticipates doing business, are less favorable than expected;

volatility in the credit or equity markets;

the economic and regulatory effects of the continuing war on terrorism and other events of war, including the war in Iraq;

legislative or regulatory requirements or changes adversely affect the Company's business; and

changes in the securities markets.

If one or more of the factors affecting our forward-looking information and statements proves incorrect, then our actual results, performance or achievements could differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements contained in this document. Therefore, we caution you not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking information and statements. The forward-looking statements are made as of the date of this document and we do not intend, and assume no obligation, to update the forward-looking statements or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements contained in this document, and all subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf, are expressly qualified by these cautionary statements.

Critical accounting policies

The discussion and analysis of our consolidated results of operations and financial condition are based upon our unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements and our audited consolidated financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these consolidated financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expense, and the related disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of these consolidated financial statements. We believe these estimates and assumptions to be reasonably accurate; however, actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or circumstances. The following are our critical accounting policies.

Allowance for loan losses

An estimate of probable losses incurred in the loan portfolio is necessary in determining the amount of the allowance for loan losses which is presented as a reduction of our loan balances. The provision for loan losses, charged to operations, is the amount that is necessary to establish the allowance. The information used by us to make this estimate is described later in this section and in the notes to the consolidated financial statements. The allowance for loan losses was \$8,085,000 at September 30, 2007 and \$4,740,000 at December 31, 2006.

Table of Contents

Income taxes

An estimate of probable income tax benefits that will not be realized in future years is required in determining the necessity for a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets. The information used by us to make this estimate is described later in this section and in the notes to the financial statements. There were no net deferred tax assets at September 30, 2007; however there were net deferred tax assets of \$1,663,000 at December 31, 2006. There was no valuation allowance at December 31, 2006.

Goodwill

An estimate of probable impairment loss is required in determining the carrying value of goodwill. An impairment loss is the condition that exists when the carrying amount of goodwill exceeds its implied fair value. The information used by us to make this estimate is described later in this section and in the notes to the consolidated financial statements. Goodwill was \$50,216,000 at September 30, 2007 and was \$3,225,000 at December 31, 2006; there was no impairment loss at either period end.

Derivative instruments and hedging

An estimate of the effectiveness of derivative instruments in off-setting changes in fair value or cash flows of hedged items is required to determine the extent to which earnings are affected. Our hedges were effective at September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006.

Overview

We were a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Mercantile Bancorp, or National Mercantile, formed to facilitate the reincorporation merger with National Mercantile and the merger with FCB Bancorp, or FCB. Accordingly, our historical balance sheet and results of operations before the merger are the same historical information of National Mercantile. We accounted for the FCB merger using the purchase method of accounting; accordingly, our balance sheet includes preliminary estimates of the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed from FCB. Our results of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 include the operations of FCB from the date of acquisition.

For the third quarter of 2007, we had net income of \$2.4 million, compared with net income of \$1.8 million for the third quarter of 2006. For the nine months ended September 30, 2007, we had net income of \$4.4 million compared with \$4.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2006. Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 included a pre-tax charge of \$1.6 million related to a refinancing of trust preferred securities we completed in the first quarter. The trust preferred refinancing should save us approximately \$500,000 per year in pre-tax interest expense. In addition, we completed an integration program among our three banks that combined the banks under a single brand First California Bank. The integration program resulted in pre-tax charges of approximately \$0.5 million for the third quarter of 2007 and \$5.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Also, we sold the remaining two bank charters in the second quarter of 2007 for a pretax gain of \$2.4 million.

Our 2007 third quarter net income on a diluted per share basis was \$0.20 compared with \$0.29 for the same quarter a year ago. For the first nine months of 2007, net income on a diluted per share basis was \$0.41 compared with \$0.66 for the same period last year. Our per share data for 2007 reflect the increase in outstanding weighted average shares that resulted from our issuance of 5.9 million common shares and 0.3 million stock options in connection with the merger with FCB Bancorp.

Results of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006

Net interest income is the difference between interest and fees earned on loans, securities and federal funds sold (these asset classes are commonly referred to as interest-earning assets) and the interest paid on deposits, borrowings and debentures (these liability classes are commonly referred to as interest-bearing funds). Net interest margin is net interest income expressed as a percentage of average interest-earning assets.

Our net interest income for third quarter of 2007 was \$11.0 million, up 86% from \$5.9 million for the same quarter a year ago. Our 2007 third quarter net interest margin (tax equivalent) was 4.77%, compared to 5.09% for the same quarter last year. Net interest income for the first nine months of 2007 was \$29.6 million, up 69% from \$17.5 million for the same period a year ago. Our 2007 year-to-date net interest margin (tax equivalent) was 4.89%, compared to 5.22% for the same period a year ago. The increase in our net interest income reflects the increase in our interest-earning assets from the merger with FCB and from the growth in our lending

Table of Contents

activities. The decrease in our third quarter net interest margin reflects primarily the decline in the average yield on interest-earning assets. The decrease in our year-to-date net interest margin reflects primarily the increase in the rate paid on interest-bearing funds.

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Three Months Ended September 30,					
	2007			2006		
	Interest			Interest		
	Income /		Income /			
	Average	Expense	Average	Average	Expense	Average
	Balance		Rate/Yield	Balance		Rate/Yield
Loans	\$ 742,821	\$ 15,275	8.16%	\$ 348,738	\$ 7,735	8.80%
Securities	183,276	2,531	6.04%	100,310	1,408	5.57%
Federal funds sold	5,048	62	4.87%	4,396	58	5.23%
Deposits with banks	791	6	3.01%	3,216	47	5.80%
Total earning assets	931,936	17,874	7.72%	456,660	9,248	8.03%
Non earning assets	108,898			29,676		
Total assets	\$ 1,040,834	\$ 17,874		\$ 486,336	\$ 9,248	
Interest bearing deposits	\$ 567,845	\$ 5,265	3.68%	\$ 258,310	\$ 2,122	3.26%
Borrowings	92,932	1,216	5.19%	55,517	869	6.21%
Junior subordinated debentures	26,321	439	6.62%	15,464	396	10.16%
Total interest bearing funds	687,098	6,920	4.00%	329,291	3,387	4.08%
Noninterest checking	210,776			114,790		
Other liabilities	8,755			1,399		
Shareholders equity	134,205			40,856		
Total liabilities and shareholder s equity	\$ 1,040,834	\$ 6,920		\$ 486,336	\$ 3,387	
Net interest income		\$ 10,954			\$ 5,861	
Net interest margin (tax equivalent) ¹			4.77%			5.09%

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Nine Months Ended September 30,					
	2007			2006		
	Interest			Interest		
	Income /		Income /			
	Average	Expense	Average	Average	Expense	Average
	Balance		Rate/Yield	Balance		Rate/Yield
Loans	\$ 658,193	\$ 41,137	8.36%	\$ 349,061	\$ 22,326	8.55%
Securities	164,711	6,450	5.74%	95,730	3,712	5.18%
Federal funds sold	2,544	92	4.84%	1,933	76	5.26%
Deposits with banks	912	22	3.23%	2,776	98	4.72%
Total earning assets	\$ 826,360	\$ 47,701	7.82%	\$ 449,500	\$ 26,212	7.80%
Non earning assets	73,019			30,911		
Total assets	\$ 899,379	\$ 47,701		\$ 480,411	\$ 26,212	
Interest bearing deposits	492,714	13,169	3.57%	261,666	5,736	2.93%
Borrowings	93,541	3,709	5.30%	44,744	1,744	5.21%
Junior subordinated debentures	24,278	1,237	6.81%	15,464	1,189	10.28%

Edgar Filing: First California Financial Group, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Total interest bearing funds	610,533	18,115	3.97%	321,874	8,669	3.60%
Noninterest checking	192,608			114,183		
Other liabilities	6,724			4,594		
Shareholders' equity	89,514			39,760		
Total liabilities and shareholder's equity	899,379	18,115		\$ 480,411	\$ 8,669	
Net interest income		\$ 29,586			\$ 17,543	
Net interest margin (tax equivalent) ¹			4.89%			5.22%

¹ Includes tax equivalent adjustments primarily related to tax-exempt income on securities.

Table of Contents

Our net interest income changes with the level and mix of average interest-earning assets and average interest-bearing funds. We call the changes between periods in interest-earning assets and interest-bearing funds balance changes. We measure the effect on our net interest income from balance changes by multiplying the change in the average balance between the current period and the prior period by the prior period average rate.

Our net interest income also changes with the average rate earned or paid on interest-earning assets and interest-bearing funds. We call the changes between periods in average rates earned and paid rate changes. We measure the effect on our net interest income from rate changes by multiplying the change in average rates earned or paid between the current period and the prior period by the prior period average balance.

We allocate the change in our net interest income attributable to both balance and rate on a pro rata basis to the change in average balance and the change in average rate.

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Three Months Ended September 30,		
	2007 to 2006 due to		
	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Volume</i>	<i>Total</i>
Interest income			
Interest on loans	\$ (602)	\$ 8,142	\$ 7,540
Interest on securities	104	1,019	1,123
Interest on Federal funds sold	(4)	8	4
Interest on deposits with banks	(16)	(25)	(41)
Total interest income	(518)	9,144	8,626
Interest expense			
Interest on deposits	305	2,838	3,143
Interest on borrowings	(162)	509	347
Interest on junior subordinated debentures	(170)	213	43
Total interest expense	(27)	3,560	3,533
Net interest income	\$ (491)	\$ 5,584	\$ 5,093

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2007 to 2006 due to		
	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Volume</i>	<i>Total</i>
Interest income			
Interest on loans	\$ (507)	\$ 19,318	\$ 18,811
Interest on securities	357	2,381	2,738
Interest on Federal funds sold	(6)	22	16
Interest on deposits with banks	(24)	(52)	(76)
Total interest income	(180)	21,669	21,489
Interest expense			
Interest on deposits	1,475	5,958	7,433
Interest on borrowings	31	1,934	1,965
Interest on junior subordinated debentures	(486)	534	48
Total interest expense	1,020	8,426	9,446

Edgar Filing: First California Financial Group, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Net interest income	\$ (1,200)	\$ 13,243	\$ 12,043
---------------------	------------	-----------	-----------

We have historically experienced positive asset quality measures – low levels of delinquencies, low levels of nonaccrual loans, and low levels of net loan charge-offs – for an extended period of time. In view of this, and our continued critical evaluation of other relevant data, we did not increase the allowance for loan losses through a provision charged to operations in the first, second or third quarters of 2007. For the first, second and third quarters of 2006, our provision for loan losses were \$32,000, \$40,000 and \$72,000, respectively.

Table of Contents

Our service charges, fees and other income for the third quarter of 2007 increased 209% to \$858,000 from \$278,000 for the same quarter of 2006 as a result of the merger.

We recognize trading gains and losses on our non-hedging interest rate swaps and floors in noninterest income. For the first nine months of 2006, we had trading losses of \$267,000 from an interest rate swap associated with our fixed rate junior subordinated debentures. We terminated that interest rate swap in the third quarter of 2006.

Our merger with FCB introduced a new source of revenue from the origination and sale of commercial and multi-family property mortgages. In the third quarter of 2007, our Commercial Mortgage Division sold \$19.6 million of mortgages for a gain of \$496,000. In addition, our Division brokered loans for commissions of \$44,000. At the end of the 2007 third quarter, commercial and multi-family loans held for sale were \$3.6 million. We had no loans held for sale at the end of the year ago quarter. For the nine months ended September 30, 2007, our Commercial Mortgage Division sold \$65.8 million of mortgages for a gain of \$1,473,000. In addition, our Division brokered loans for commissions of \$140,000.

Our noninterest expense for the three months ended September 30, 2007 was \$8.6 million compared with \$3.5 million for the same period last year. Our noninterest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 was \$28.8 million compared with \$11.1 million for the same period last year. The increase primarily reflects integration-related expenses and the loss on the early termination of debt and other operating expenses due to the merger.

We launched an integration program shortly after the merger which combined our three banks under a single brand – First California Bank. We recognized integration program pre-tax charges of \$0.5 million and \$5.4 million for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively. These charges primarily include \$2.3 million severance for the former chief executive officer, chief financial officer, and chief credit officer of National Mercantile and \$1.8 million to exit National Mercantile technology. The charge incurred in the third quarter of 2007 related to the severance of the former chief credit officer. During this integration, the three banks combined under a single charter which freed two national bank charters. On June 18, 2007, we sold these national bank charters and selected assets to United Central Bank and The Independent Bankers Bank, both of Texas. The sale generated a pre-tax gain of approximately \$2.4 million in the second quarter of 2007. We installed the existing First California Bank technology in all Mercantile National Bank and South Bay Bank offices and incurred selective staff reductions. We believe the integration program created operating efficiencies and eliminated redundancies.

In January 2007, we elected to redeem all of the \$15.5 million outstanding 10.25% fixed rate junior subordinated debentures due July 25, 2031. The debentures were redeemable at a price of 107.6875% of the principal amount outstanding plus accrued interest. As a result, we incurred a pre-tax charge of \$1.6 million in the first quarter of 2007.

To redeem the July 2031 debentures, we issued \$16.5 million 6.80% fixed/floating rate junior subordinated debentures due March 15, 2037. For the first five years, the interest rate is fixed. Thereafter, the interest rate resets quarterly to the 3-month LIBOR rate plus 1.60%. These debentures are redeemable at par, in whole or in part, any time on or after March 15, 2012. We expect to save approximately \$500,000 per year in pre-tax interest expense from the early redemption of the former and the issuance of the new debentures.

Our efficiency ratio was 63% for the third quarter of 2007 compared with 52% for the same quarter in prior year. For the nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006, the efficiency ratio was 63% and 60%, respectively. The efficiency ratio is the percentage relationship of noninterest expense, excluding amortization of intangibles, to the sum of net interest income and noninterest income. The 2007 year-to-date efficiency ratio of 63% reflects the impact of our integration/conversion and debt prepayment expenses.

Financial position – September 30, 2007 compared with December 31, 2006

Lending and credit risk

We provide a variety of loan and credit-related products and services to meet the needs of borrowers primarily located in the California counties of Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura. Business loans, represented by commercial real estate loans, commercial loans and construction loans comprise the largest portion of our loan portfolio. Consumer or personal loans, represented by home mortgage, home equity and installment loans, comprise a smaller portion of our loan portfolio.

Credit risk is the risk to earnings or capital arising from an obligor's failure to meet the terms of any contract with us or otherwise to perform as agreed. Credit risk is found in all activities in which success depends on counterparty, issuer, or borrower performance. Credit risk is present any time funds are extended, committed, invested, or otherwise exposed through actual or implied contractual agreements, whether reflected on or off the balance sheet.

Table of Contents

All categories of loans present credit risk. Major risk factors applicable to all loan categories include changes in international, national and local economic conditions such as interest rates, inflation, unemployment levels, consumer and business confidence and the supply and demand for goods and services.

Commercial real estate loans rely upon the cash flow originating from the underlying real property. Commercial real estate is a cyclical industry that is affected not only by general economic conditions but also by local supply and demand. In the office sector, the demand for office space is highly dependent on employment levels. In the retail sector, the demand for retail space and the levels of retail rents are affected by consumer spending and confidence. The industrial sector has exposure to the level of exports, defense spending and inventory levels. Vacancy rates, location and other factors affect the amount of rental income for commercial property. Tenants may relocate, fail to honor their lease or go out of business. In the multifamily residential sector, the demand for apartments is heavily influenced by the affordability of ownership housing, employment conditions and the vacancy of existing inventory. Population growth or decline and changing demographics, such as increases in the level of immigrants or retirees, are also factors influencing the multifamily residential sector.

Construction loans provide developers or owners with funds to build or improve properties that will ultimately be sold or leased. Construction loans are generally considered to involve a higher degree of risk than other loan categories because they rely upon the developer's or owner's ability to complete the project within specified cost and time limits. Cost overruns can cause the project cost to exceed the project sales price or exceed the amount of the committed permanent funding. Construction projects also can be delayed for a number of reasons such as poor weather, material or labor shortages, labor difficulties, or substandard work that must be redone to pass inspection.

Commercial loans rely upon the cash flow originating from the underlying business activity of the enterprise. The manufacture, distribution or sale of goods or sale of services are not only affected by general economic conditions but also by the ability of the enterprise's management to adjust to local supply and demand conditions, maintain good labor, vendor and customer relationships, as well as market, price and sell their goods or services for a profit. Customer demand for goods and services of the enterprise may change because of competition or obsolescence.

Home mortgages and home equity loans and lines of credit are secured by first or second trust deeds on a borrower's real estate property, typically their principal residence. These loans are dependant on a person's ability to regularly pay the principal and interest due on the loan and, secondarily, on the value of real estate property that serves as collateral for the loan. Home mortgages are generally considered to involve a lower degree of risk than other loan categories because of the relationship of the loan amount to the value of the residential real estate and a person's reluctance to forego their principal place of residence. Home real estate values however are not only affected by general economic conditions but also on local supply and demand. Installment loans and credit card lines are also dependent on a person's ability to regularly pay principal and interest on a loan; however, these loans generally are not secured by collateral or, if they are secured, the collateral value can rapidly decline as is the case for automobiles. A person's ability to service debt is highly dependent upon their continued employment or financial stability. Job loss, divorce, illness and bankruptcy are just a few of the risks that may affect a person's ability to service their debt.

Since the risks in each category of loan changes based on a number of factors, it is not possible to state whether a particular type of lending carries with it a greater or lesser degree of risk at any specific time in the economic cycle. In a stabilized economic environment, it is generally considered that home mortgage loans have the least risk, followed by home equity loans, multifamily property loans, commercial property loans, commercial loans and lines and finally construction loans. However, this ordering may vary from time to time and the degree of risk from the credits with the least risk to those with the highest risk profile may expand or contract with the general economy.

We manage credit risk through Board approved policies and procedures. These policies are reviewed and approved at least annually by the Directors. Lending policies provide us with a framework for consistent loan underwriting and a basis for sound credit decisions. Lending policies specify, among other things, the parameters for the type or purpose of the loan, the required debt service coverage and the required collateral requirements. Credit limits are also established and certain loans require approval by the Directors' Loan Committee. The Directors Audit Committee also engages a third party to perform a credit review of the loan portfolio to ensure compliance with policies and assist in the evaluation of the credit risk inherent in the loan portfolio.

Loans

Loans, excluding loans held for sale, increased 107% to \$756.3 million at September 30, 2007 from \$365.7 million at December 31, 2006. The loan growth was primarily the result of our merger and to a lesser extent the growth from our business lending activity.

Table of Contents

<i>(in thousands)</i>	At September 30, 2007	At December 31, 2006
Commercial mortgage	\$ 295,194	\$ 140,636
Construction and land development	170,033	83,188
Commercial loans and lines of credit	170,743	105,862
Multifamily mortgage	36,591	17,602
Home mortgage	43,394	8,790
Home equity loans and lines of credit	24,972	
Installment & credit card	15,337	9,640
Total loans	756,264	365,718
Allowance for loan losses	(8,085)	(4,740)
Loans, net	\$ 748,179	\$ 360,978
Loans held for sale	\$ 3,567	\$

The loan categories above are derived from bank regulatory reporting standards for loans secured by real estate; however, a portion of the commercial mortgage loans above are loans that we consider to be a commercial loan for which we have taken real estate collateral as additional support or from an abundance of caution. In these instances, we are not looking to the real property as its primary source of repayment, but rather as a secondary or tertiary source of repayment.

Commercial mortgage loans, the largest segment of our portfolio, were 39% of total loans at September 30, 2007 compared with 38% at December 31, 2006. At September 30, 2007 we had approximately 351 commercial mortgage loans with an average balance of \$951,800. Commercial mortgage loans are collateralized by many different commercial property types. Our top three categories have been office, industrial, and retail. Owner-occupied commercial mortgage properties represent 18% of our commercial mortgages at September 30, 2007. In addition, most of our commercial property lending is in Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties. The following is a table of our commercial mortgage lending by county.

Table of Contents

Region/county	At September 30,
<i>(in thousands)</i>	2007
Southern California	
Los Angeles	\$ 156,020
Orange	23,857
Ventura	90,160
Imperial	498
Riverside	8,210
San Bernardino	6,605
Santa Barbara	241
San Diego	4,365
Total Southern California	289,956
Northern California	
Contra Costa	1,270
Fresno	1,381
Kern	1,215
Kings	518
Madera	565
Solano	289
Total Northern California	5,238
Total	\$ 295,194

Commercial mortgage loans are underwritten with a maximum loan-to-value of 70% and a minimum debt service coverage ratio of 1.25. These criteria may become more conservative depending on the type of property. We focus on cash flow; consequently, regardless the value of the collateral, the commercial real estate project must provide sufficient cash flow, or alternatively the principals must supplement the project with other cash flow, to service the debt. We generally require the principals to guarantee the loan. We also stress-test commercial mortgage loans to determine the potential effect changes in interest rates, vacancy rates, and lease or rent rates would have on the cash flow of the project. Additionally, at least on an annual basis, we require updates on the cash flow of the project and, where practicable, we visit the properties.

Construction loans were 22% of total loans at September 30, 2007 compared with 23% at December 31, 2006. At September 30, 2007 we had approximately 75 projects with an average commitment of \$3,098,000. Construction loans represent single-family, multifamily and commercial building projects as well as land development loans. At September 30, 2007, 33% of these loans represent 1 to 4 family residential construction projects, 33% were other residential construction projects and 34% were commercial construction or land development projects. Construction loans are typically short term, with maturities ranging from 12 to 18 months. For commercial projects, we have a maximum loan-to-value requirement of 70% of the Federal Institutions Reform Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA) conforming appraised value. For residential projects, the maximum loan-to-value ranges from 80% on loans under \$500,000 to 70% on loans of \$1,000,000 or more. We require the borrower to provide in cash at least 20% of the cost of the project. At the borrower's expense, we use a third party vendor for funds control, lien releases and inspections. In addition, we regularly monitor the marketplace and the economy for evidence of deterioration in real estate values. Below is a table of our residential construction loans by county.

Table of Contents

County <i>(in thousands)</i>	At September 30, 2007	
	Commitment	Outstanding
Los Angeles	\$ 99,565	\$ 69,494
Orange	6,310	3,827
Ventura	12,204	11,740
Monterey	4,600	3,715
Riverside	3,626	3,298
Santa Barbara	21,470	18,654
Total	\$ 147,775	\$ 110,728

We are mindful of the recent developments in our marketplace and have supplemented our regular monitoring practices by updating project appraisals, re-evaluating estimated project marketing time and re-evaluating the sufficiency of the original loan commitment to absorb interest charges (i.e., interest reserves). We are also re-evaluating the project sponsor, where applicable, to successfully complete other projects funded by other institutions. In circumstances where the interest reserve was not sufficient the project sponsor has made payments to us from their general resources or the project sponsor placed with us the proceeds from a portion of the project sale. In addition, where supported by a current appraisal, loan-to-value requirements, and the ability of the project sponsor, we increased the project commitment. At September 30, 2007 we had one non-accrual land development loan for \$5.7 million. While we believe that our monitoring practices are adequate we cannot assure you that there will not be further delinquencies, lengthened project marketing time or declines in real estate values.

Commercial loans were 23% of total loans at September 30, 2007, down from 29% at December 31, 2006. At September 30, 2007, we had approximately 695 commercial loans and lines with an average commitment of \$490,900. Commercial loans are made for the purpose of providing working capital, equipment purchases and business expansion. Commercial loans may be unsecured or secured by assets such as equipment, inventory, accounts receivables, and real property. Personal guarantees of the business owner may also be present. Additionally, these loans may also have partial guarantees from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) or other federal or state agencies. The commercial loan portfolio is made up of broadly diversified business sectors with the largest sectors in real estate/construction, finance and insurance, healthcare, manufacturing and professional services.

Commercial loans are underwritten with maturities not to exceed seven years and we generally require the loan to be fully amortized within the term of the loan. Traditional working capital lines are underwritten for a 12 month period and have a 30-day out-of-debt requirement. Accounts receivable and inventory financing revolving lines of credit have an annual maturity date, a maximum advance rate, and an annual field audit for lines of \$200,000 or more. Field audits are performed by third-party vendors. The maximum advance rate for accounts receivable is 75% and the maximum advance rate for eligible inventory is 25%.

Multifamily residential mortgage loans were 5% of total loans at September 30, 2007 compared with 5% at December 31, 2006. At September 30, 2007 we had approximately 66 multifamily mortgage loans with an average balance of \$703,600. Multifamily mortgage loans are collateralized by apartments mostly located in our tri-county market area. Multifamily mortgage loans are underwritten in a fashion similar to commercial mortgage loans described above. Below is a table of our multifamily mortgage loans by county.

Table of Contents

Region/county	At September 30,
<i>(in thousands)</i>	2007
Southern California	
Los Angeles	\$ 12,925
Orange	12,114
Ventura	3,300
Imperial	
Riverside	889
San Bernardino	3,146
San Diego	
Santa Barbara	1,186
Total	33,560
Northern California	
Calaveras	1,410
Fresno	530
Mendocino	402
Merced	689
Total	3,031
Total multifamily mortgage	\$ 36,591

Allowance for loan losses

We maintain an allowance for loan losses to provide for inherent losses in the loan portfolio. Additions to the allowance are established through a provision charged to expense. All loans which are judged to be uncollectible are charged against the allowance while any recoveries are credited to the allowance. It is our policy to charge off any known losses at the time of determination. Any unsecured loan more than 90 days delinquent in payment of principal or interest and not in the process of collection is charged off in total. Secured loans are evaluated on a case by case basis to determine the ultimate loss potential to us subsequent to the liquidation of collateral. In those cases where we are inadequately protected, a charge off will be made to reduce the loan balance to a level equal to the liquidation value of the collateral.

Our loan policy provides procedures designed to evaluate and assess the risk factors associated with our loan portfolio, to enable us to assess such risk factors prior to granting new loans and to evaluate the sufficiency of the allowance for loan losses. We conduct an assessment of the allowance on a monthly basis and undertake a more critical evaluation quarterly. At the time of the monthly review, the Board of Directors will examine and formally approve the adequacy of the allowance. The quarterly evaluation includes an assessment of the following factors: any external loan review and any regulatory examination, estimated probable loss exposure on each pool of loans, concentrations of credit, value of collateral, the level of delinquency and non-accruals, trends in the portfolio volume, effects of any changes in the lending policies and procedures, changes in lending personnel, present economic conditions at the local, state and national level, the amount of undisbursed off-balance sheet commitments, and a migration analysis of historical losses and recoveries for the prior eight quarters.

Our evaluation of the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses includes a review of individual loans to identify specific probable losses and also assigns estimated loss factors to specific groups or types of loans to calculate possible losses. These are referred to as quantitative considerations. Our evaluation also considers subjective factors such as changes in local and regional economic and business conditions, financial improvement or deterioration in business sectors and industries, changes in lending practices, changes in personnel, changes in the volume and level of past due and nonaccrual loans and concentrations of credit. These are referred to as qualitative considerations.

We have historically experienced positive asset quality measures – low levels of delinquencies, low levels of nonaccrued loans and low levels of net charge-offs – for an extended period of time. As a result, there was no provision for loan losses in the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

The ratio of the allowance for loan losses to loans was 1.07% at September 30, 2007 compared with 1.30% at December 31, 2006. While we believe that our allowance for loan losses was adequate at September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006, the determination of the allowance is a highly judgmental process and we cannot assure you that we will not further increase or decrease the allowance or that bank regulators will not require us to increase or decrease the allowance in the future.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the allowance for loan losses:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30, 2007	September 30, 2006	September 30, 2007	September 30, 2006
Beginning balance	\$ 8,296	\$ 4,648	\$ 4,740	\$ 4,468
Provision for loan losses		72		144
Addition from the merger			3,531	
Loans charged-off	(283)	(21)	(289)	(22)
Transfers to undisbursed commitment allowance		(38)	18	71
Recoveries on loans charged-off	72		85	
Ending balance	\$ 8,085	\$ 4,661	\$ 8,085	\$ 4,661

Allowance to loans 1.07% 1.30% 1.07% 1.30%

The allowance for losses on undisbursed commitments was \$399,000 at September 30, 2007 compared with \$521,000 at December 31, 2006. There have been no charges to the allowance since year end 2006. The allowance for losses on undisbursed commitments is included among other liabilities on the balance sheet.

The following table presents the allocation of the allowance to each loan category and the percentage relationship of loans in each category to total loans:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	September 30, 2007		December 31, 2006	
	Amount	Percent of Loans in Category to Total Loans	Amount	Percent of Loans in Category to Total Loans
Commercial mortgage	\$ 2,637	39%	\$ 1,545	38%
Multifamily mortgage	245	5%	265	5%
Commercial loans and lines of credit	2,028	23%	1,384	29%
Construction and land development	2,544	22%	1,252	23%
Home equity loans and lines of credit	58	3%	162	
Home mortgage	443	6%	132	2%
Installment & credit card	130	2%		3%
Total loan allowance	\$ 8,085	100%	\$ 4,740	100%

The allocation presented above should not be interpreted as an indication that charges to the allowance will be incurred in these amounts or proportions. The amounts attributed to each loan category are based on the analysis described above.

The following table presents our nonperforming loans and assets. The increase in nonaccrual loans since year-end represents a matured real estate secured loan. We anticipate full repayment of this loan with interest and do not anticipate a loss.

Nonperforming loans and assets were as follows:

Table of Contents

<i>(in thousands)</i>	At September 30, 2007	At December 31, 2006
Accruing loans past due 90 days or more	\$ 890	\$
Nonaccrual loans	\$ 5,720	\$
Foreclosed assets	\$ 244	\$ 303

Investing, funding and liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk to earnings or capital arising from the inability to meet obligations when they come due without incurring unacceptable losses. Liquidity risk includes the inability to manage unplanned decreases or changes in funding sources as well as the failure to recognize or address changes in market conditions that affect the ability to liquidate assets quickly and with minimal loss in value.

We manage bank liquidity risk through Board approved policies and procedures. These policies are reviewed and approved at least annually by the Directors. Liquidity risk policies provide us with a framework for consistent evaluation of risk and establish risk tolerance parameters. Management's Asset and Liability Committee meets regularly to evaluate liquidity risk, review and establish deposit interest rates, review loan and deposit in-flows and out-flows and reports quarterly to the Directors' Balance Sheet Management Committee on compliance with policies. The Directors' Audit Committee also engages a third party to perform a review of management's asset and liability practices to ensure compliance with policies.

We enjoy a large base of core deposits (representing checking, savings and certificates of deposits under \$100,000). At September 30, 2007, core deposits totaled \$652.1 million. At December 31, 2006 core deposits totaled \$300.5 million. Core deposits represent a significant low-cost source of funds that support our lending activities and represent a key part of our funding strategy. We seek and stress the importance of both loan and deposit relationships with customers in our business plans.

Alternative funding sources include certificates of deposits of \$100,000 or more, brokered deposits, federal funds purchased from other institutions, and borrowings. Total alternative funds used at September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006 were \$263.0 million and \$135.4 million, respectively. Brokered deposits totaled \$40.0 million at September 30, 2007 and \$50.0 million at December 31, 2006. State of California certificates of deposit were \$75.0 million at September 30, 2007. There were no State of California certificates of deposit at year end.

In addition, we have lines of credit with other financial institutions providing for federal funds facilities up to a maximum of \$14.0 million. The lines of credit support short-term liquidity needs and cannot be used for more than 30 consecutive days. These lines are unsecured, have no formal maturity date and can be revoked at any time by the granting institutions. There were no borrowings under these lines of credit at September 30, 2007 or December 31, 2006.

The primary sources of liquidity for the Company, on a stand-alone basis, include the dividends from our bank subsidiary and, historically, our ability to issue trust preferred securities and secure outside borrowings. The ability of the Company to obtain funds for its cash requirements, including payments on the junior subordinated debentures underlying our outstanding trust preferred securities, is largely dependent upon our bank's earnings. First California Bank is subject to restrictions under certain federal and state laws and regulations which limit its ability to transfer funds to the Company through intercompany loans, advances or cash dividends. Dividends paid by state banks, such as First California Bank, are regulated by the California Department of Finance Institutions, or DFI, under its general supervisory authority as it relates to a bank's capital requirements. A state bank may declare a dividend without the approval of the DFI as long as the total dividends declared in a calendar year do not exceed either the retained earnings or the total

Table of Contents

of net profits for three previous fiscal years less any dividends paid during such period. During the nine months ended September 30, 2007, we received \$3.0 million in dividends from our bank subsidiaries. The amount of dividends available for payment by our remaining bank subsidiary to the holding company at September 30, 2007 was \$534,000 without prior approval from bank regulators. The Company has \$10.1 million in cash on deposit with its bank subsidiary.

Junior subordinated debentures were \$26.6 million at September 30, 2007, up from \$15.5 million at December 31, 2006. The increase principally reflects the debentures of FCB assumed in the merger.

Securities

Securities are classified as available-for-sale for accounting purposes and, as such, are recorded at their fair or market values in the balance sheet. Fair values are based on quoted market prices. Changes in the fair value of securities (that is, unrealized holding gains or losses) are reported as other comprehensive income or loss, net of tax and carried as accumulated comprehensive income or loss within shareholders' equity until realized.

Available-for-sale securities, at fair value, increased to \$204.3 million, or 99.5 percent, at September 30, 2007 from \$102.4 million at December 31, 2006. The increase in securities primarily reflects the merger; however in the third quarter of 2007 we purchased approximately \$30 million of private label hybrid adjustable rate mortgage pass-through securities.

Net unrealized holding losses on available-for-sale securities at September 30, 2007 and at December 31, 2006 were \$538,000 and \$632,000, respectively. Securities are comprised largely of U.S. Government Agency obligations, mortgage-backed securities and California municipal general obligation bonds. We have evaluated the unrealized losses of these securities and determined, as of September 30, 2007, that they were temporary and were related to the fluctuation in market interest rates since purchase.

Deposits

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Nine months ended September 30,			
	2007		2006	
	Average Balance	Rate	Average Balance	Rate
Noninterest bearing checking	\$ 192,608		\$ 114,183	
Interest checking	38,533	0.77%	31,964	0.69%
Savings and money market accounts	216,207	3.27%	119,802	2.58%
Certificates of deposits less than \$100,000	157,302	4.28%	23,741	3.26%
Certificates of deposits of \$100,000 or more	80,672	4.44%	86,159	4.16%
Total average deposits	\$ 685,322	2.58%	\$ 375,849	2.04%

Borrowings

Borrowings are comprised of Federal Home Loan Bank, or FHLB, advances and securities sold under agreements to repurchase. At September 30, 2007, we had \$147.8 million of borrowings outstanding, of which \$45.0 million was comprised of securities sold under agreements to repurchase and \$102.8 million of FHLB advances. For our overnight FHLB advances, the following table presents the amounts and weighted average interest rates outstanding.

Borrowings

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007		Year Ended December 31, 2006	
	Federal Home Loan		Federal Home Loan	
	Bank Advances	Weighted average interest rate	Bank Advances	Weighted average interest rate
Amount outstanding at end of period	\$ 41,908	5.09%	\$ 54,695	5.03%

Edgar Filing: First California Financial Group, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Maximum amount outstanding at any month-end during the period	\$ 41,908	5.09%	\$ 57,001	5.08%
Average amount outstanding during the period	\$ 15,780	5.26%	\$ 37,639	4.70%

Table of Contents

The following table presents the maturities of FHLB term advances at September 30, 2007.

Amount <i>(in thousands)</i>	Maturity	Weighted Average
	Year	Interest Rate
\$ 3,900	2007	4.65%
14,000	2008	5.04%
9,500	2009	5.06%
13,500	2010	4.55%
10,000	2012	4.37%
10,000	2014	4.47%
\$ 60,900		

The following table presents maturities of securities sold under agreements to repurchase at September 30, 2007

Amount <i>(in thousands)</i>	Maturity	Weighted Average
	Year	Interest Rate
\$ 15,000	2008	5.45%
30,000	2009	5.52%
\$ 45,000		

Capital resources

The following table presents, at the date indicated, certain information regarding the regulatory capital and required minimum amounts of regulatory capital for the period.

Table of Contents

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Actual		Adequacy Purposes		To be Well	
	Amount	Ratio	For Capital		Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective	
			Amount	Ratio	Action Provision Amount	Ratio
September 30, 2007						
Total capital (to risk weighted assets)						
First California Financial Group, Inc.	\$ 114,982	12.86%	\$ 71,529	≥ 8.00%		
First California Bank	100,968	11.34%	71,252	≥ 8.00%	89,066	≥ 10.00%
Tier I capital (to risk weighted assets)						
First California Financial Group, Inc.	106,498	11.91%	35,765	≥ 4.00%		
First California Bank	92,484	10.38%	35,626	≥ 4.00%	53,439	≥ 6.00%
Tier I capital (to average assets)						
First California Financial Group, Inc.	106,498	9.29%	45,845	≥ 4.00%		
First California Bank	92,484	9.42%	39,274	≥ 4.00%	49,092	≥ 5.00%
December 31, 2006						
Total capital (to risk weighted assets)						
First California Financial Group, Inc.	\$ 62,029	14.88%	\$ 33,336	≥ 8.00%		
Mercantile National Bank	28,305	13.34%	16,973	≥ 8.00%	21,216	≥ 10.00%
South Bay Bank, N.A.	25,476	11.58%	17,594	≥ 8.00%	21,992	≥ 10.00%
Tier I capital (to risk weighted assets)						
First California Financial Group, Inc.	56,820	13.63%	16,668	≥ 4.00%		
Mercantile National Bank	25,706	12.12%	8,486	≥ 4.00%	12,730	≥ 6.00%
South Bay Bank, N.A.	22,814	10.37%	8,797	≥ 4.00%	13,195	≥ 6.00%
Tier I capital (to average assets)						
First California Financial Group, Inc.	56,820	12.24%	18,573	≥ 4.00%		
Mercantile National Bank	25,706	9.34%	11,014	≥ 4.00%	13,767	≥ 5.00%
South Bay Bank, N.A.	22,814	9.83%	9,286	≥ 4.00%	11,608	≥ 5.00%

Table of Contents

We recognize that a strong capital position is vital to growth, continued profitability, and depositor and investor confidence. Our policy is to maintain sufficient capital at not less than the well-capitalized thresholds established by banking regulators.

We announced on November 7, 2007 that our board of directors authorized a repurchase of up to \$5 million of the company's common stock. The company is authorized until November, 2008 to purchase shares from time-to-time in open market or privately negotiated transactions, depending on market conditions.

Commitments, contingent liabilities, contractual obligations and off-balance commitments

In the normal course of business, we make commitments to extend credit or issue letters of credit to customers. We generally do not recognize these commitments in our balance sheet. These commitments do involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit risk; however, we use the same credit policies and procedures as we do for on-balance sheet credit facilities. Commitments to extend credit were \$259.2 million at September 30, 2007 compared with \$129.8 million at December 31, 2006. Commercial and stand-by letters of credit were \$3.4 million and \$1.2 million at September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006, respectively.

<i>(in thousands)</i>	September 30, 2007				Total
	Less Than One Year	One to Three Years	Three to Five Years	Greater Than Five Years	
FHLB overnight advances	\$ 41,908	\$	\$	\$	\$ 41,908
FHLB term advances	14,900	26,000	10,000	10,000	60,900
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	15,000	30,000			45,000
Salary continuation benefits				522	522
Deferred compensation benefits	550	244	308		1,102
Severance benefits	1,209	456	404		2,069
Junior subordinated debentures				26,635	26,635
Operating lease obligations	1,542	2,649	1,971	3,096	9,258
Total	\$ 75,109	\$ 59,349	\$ 12,683	\$ 40,253	\$ 187,394

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**Interest rate risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk to earnings or capital arising from movements in interest rates. Interest rate risk arises from differences between the timing of rate changes and the timing of cash flows (re-pricing risk), from changing the rate relationships among different yield curves affecting bank activities (basis risk), from changing rate relationships across the spectrum of maturities (yield curve risk), and from interest-related options embedded in loans and products (options risk).

We manage interest risk through Board approved policies and procedures. These policies are reviewed and approved at least annually by the Directors. Interest rate risk policies provide management with a framework for consistent evaluation of risk and establish risk tolerance parameters. Management's Asset and Liability Committee meets regularly to evaluate interest rate risk, engages a third party to assist in the measurement and evaluation of risk and reports quarterly to the Directors' Balance Sheet Management Committee on compliance with policies. The Directors' Audit Committee also engages a third party to perform a review of management's asset and liability practices to ensure compliance with policies.

We use simulation modeling techniques that apply alternative interest rate scenarios to periodic forecasts of future business activity and assess the potential changes to net interest income. In our most recent simulation, we estimated that net interest income would decrease approximately 0.3% within a 12-month time horizon for an assumed 200 basis point decrease in prevailing interest rates or increase approximately 0.5% for an assumed 200 basis point increase in prevailing interest rates. These estimated changes were within the policy limits established by the Board.

Table of Contents

Our simulation model includes assumptions about anticipated prepayments on mortgage-related instruments, the estimated cash flow on loans and deposits, and our future business activity. These assumptions are inherently uncertain and, as a result, our modeling techniques cannot precisely estimate the effect of changes in net interest income. Actual results will differ from simulated results due to the timing, magnitude and frequency of interest rate changes, cash flow and business activity.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this report, an evaluation was carried out by First California's management, with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of First California's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that these disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

There have not been any changes in First California's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) during our most recent fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2007 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, First California's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

The nature of our business causes us to be involved in routine legal proceedings from time to time. We are not aware of any pending or threatened legal proceedings expected to have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flow that arose during the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2007 or any material developments in our legal proceedings previously reported in Item 3 to Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes from risk factors as previously disclosed in the Risk Factors section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2006, filed with the SEC on April 2, 2007.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

None.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

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

None.

Item 5. Other Information

None.

Item 6. Exhibits

The following Exhibits are filed as a part of this report:

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description
2.1	Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 15, 2006, by and among First California Financial Group, Inc., FCB Bancorp and National Mercantile Bancorp (Appendix A to the Joint Proxy Statement-Prospectus filed on February 21, 2007 by First California Financial Group, Inc. and incorporated herein by this reference).
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of First California Financial Group, Inc. (Exhibit 3.1 to Form 10-Q filed on August 13, 2007 by First California Financial Group, Inc. and incorporated herein by this reference).
3.2	Amended and Restated By-Laws of First California Financial Group, Inc. (Exhibit 3.2 to Form 10-Q filed on August 13, 2007 by First California Financial Group, Inc. and incorporated herein by this reference).
31.1	Certification of CEO Pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14 as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	Certification of CFO Pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14 as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1	Certification of CEO and CFO Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

First California Financial Group, Inc.

Date: November 14, 2007

By: /s/ Romolo Santarosa
Romolo Santarosa
(Principal Financial Officer and Duly Authorized Officer)