

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANCORP  
Form DEF 14A  
April 13, 2015

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

SCHEDULE 14A  
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant   
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:  
 Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-11(c) or § 240.14a-12

Farmers & Merchants Bancorp

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(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)  
Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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- (1) Amount Previously Paid:
  - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  - (3) Filing Party:
  - (4) Date Filed:
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FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANCORP  
111 West Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240

April 13, 2015

Dear Stockholder:

The annual meeting of stockholders of Farmers & Merchants Bancorp (the "Company") will be held this year in the Ole Mettler Grape Pavilion at the Lodi Grape Festival, 413 E. Lockeford Street, Lodi, CA, on Monday, May 18, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. We look forward to your attendance.

The enclosed proxy statement describes the business to be conducted at the annual meeting.

A copy of the Company's 2014 Annual Report to Stockholders is also enclosed.

We hope you will be able to attend the annual meeting in person. We would also like to invite you to be our guest for dinner immediately following the meeting. Please note that the annual meeting is only open to stockholders. Space will be limited and we will not accommodate other guests, only stockholders. We thank you in advance for your understanding on this issue.

The Directors and senior management greatly appreciate the interest expressed by our stockholders. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, it is important that you are represented and that your shares are voted. Accordingly, after reviewing the enclosed proxy statement, we ask you to complete, sign and date the enclosed proxy and return it as soon as possible in the postage-paid envelope that has been provided for your convenience.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kent A. Steinwert

Kent A. Steinwert  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

Enclosures

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FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANCORP  
111 West Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD MAY 18, 2015

To Our Stockholders:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders of Farmers & Merchants Bancorp (the "Company") will be held this year in the Ole Mettler Grape Pavilion at the Lodi Grape Festival, 413 E. Lockeford Street, Lodi, CA, on Monday, May 18, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. to:

1. Vote to elect the following seven (7) Directors:

Stewart C. Adams, Jr.	Gary J. Long	Bruce A. Mettler
Kevin Sanguinetti	Kent A. Steinwert	
Edward Corum, Jr.	Calvin (Kelly) Suess	

2. Act upon such other matters as may properly come before such annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on April 2, 2015 as the record date for determining the holders of the common stock of the Company entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting and any adjournments thereof.

You are encouraged to attend the annual meeting. If you are a beneficial owner of common stock held by a broker, bank or other nominee, you will need proof of ownership to be admitted to the meeting. A recent brokerage statement or a letter from a bank or broker are examples of proof of ownership.

Please complete, sign and date, as promptly as possible, the enclosed proxy and immediately return it in the envelope provided for your use. This is important whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person. The giving of such proxy will not affect your right to revoke such proxy or to vote in person, should you attend the annual meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

/s/ Stephen W. Haley

Stephen W. Haley  
Secretary

Dated: April 13, 2015

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT.  
TO INSURE YOUR VOTE IS REPRESENTED, YOU ARE  
URGED TO COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND PROMPTLY  
RETURN YOUR PROXY.

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PROXY STATEMENT  
FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANCORP  
111 West Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240

## I - INTRODUCTION

This proxy statement is furnished to the stockholders of Farmers & Merchants Bancorp (the "Company") in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of the Company to be used in voting at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on May 18, 2015 in the Ole Mettler Grape Pavilion at the Lodi Grape Festival, 413 E. Lockeford Street, Lodi, CA at 4:00 p.m., and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. All expenses incidental to the preparation and mailing, or otherwise making available to all stockholders of the notice, proxy statement and form of proxy will be paid by the Company. This proxy statement and the enclosed proxy are being mailed to the Company's stockholders on or about April 13, 2015.

For information on how to vote your shares, see the instructions included on the enclosed proxy card and under "Information About Voting and the Annual Meeting."

## II - INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING AND THE ANNUAL MEETING

### Voting Rights and Vote Required

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 2, 2015 (the "record date"), will be entitled to vote in person at the meeting or by proxy. On the record date, there were 785,782 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Holders of common stock of the Company are entitled to one vote for each share held.

With respect to the election of Directors, each stockholder may be eligible to exercise cumulative voting rights and may be entitled to as many votes as shall equal the number of shares of common stock held by such stockholder multiplied by the number of Directors to be elected, and such stockholder may cast all of such votes for a single nominee or may distribute them among two or more nominees. No stockholder shall be entitled to cumulate votes unless the name(s) of the nominee(s) has (have) been placed in nomination prior to the commencement of the voting in accordance with Article III, Section 3.4 of the Company's by-laws and, in accordance with Article II, Section 2.9 of the Company's by-laws, a stockholder has given at least two days written notice to the Secretary of the Company of an intention to cumulate votes prior to the vote. Since the Company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders is expected to be held on May 18, 2015, any stockholder nomination for election to the Board of Directors for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be timely, would need to have been received by the Company not later than April 18, 2015 and not earlier than March 19, 2015. As of the printing of this proxy statement, no stockholder has given such notice. Discretionary authority to cumulate votes in the event of such a nomination is solicited in this proxy statement.

In the election of Directors, the 7 nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be elected. Approval of any other matters which properly come before the meeting, if any, will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares represented and voting at the meeting provided the quorum requirements of Article II, Section 2.7 of the by-laws are met (see "Voting of Proxies"). Abstentions will not count as votes in favor of the election of Directors or any other proposals.

## Voting of Proxies

The shares represented by all properly executed proxies received in time for the meeting will be voted in accordance with the stockholders' choices specified therein; provided, however, that where no choices have been specified, the shares will be voted: (1) "FOR" the election of the 7 nominees for Director recommended by the Board of Directors; and (2) voted at the discretion of the proxy holders on such other matters, if any, which may properly come before the meeting (including any proposal to adjourn the meeting).

A stockholder using the enclosed proxy may revoke the authority conferred by the proxy at any time before it is exercised (i.e., before the vote pursuant to that proxy) by delivering written notice of revocation or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date to the Secretary of the Company, or by appearing and voting by ballot in person at the meeting.

A majority of the shares entitled to vote represented either in person or by properly executed proxies, will constitute a quorum at the meeting. Abstentions and broker "non-votes" are each included in the determination of the number of shares present and voting for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. A broker "non-vote" occurs when a nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that item and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner.

Abstentions will be included in tabulations of the votes cast on proposals presented to the stockholders and therefore will have the effect of a negative vote. Broker "non-votes" will not be counted for purposes of determining the number of votes cast for a proposal.

## Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

To the knowledge of the Company, as of the record date, no person or entity was the beneficial owner of more than five percent (5%) of the outstanding shares of the Company's common stock except as set forth in the following tables. For the purpose of this disclosure and the disclosure of ownership shares by management, shares are considered to be "beneficially" owned if the person has or shares the power to vote or direct the voting of the shares, the power to dispose of or direct the disposition of the shares, or the right to acquire beneficial ownership (as so defined) within 60 days of the record date.

Title of Class	Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class
Common Stock	Joan Rider (1) (2) 111 West Pine Street Lodi, CA, 95240	42,461	5.40%
Common Stock	Cortopassi Family Trust 11292 N. Alpine Road Stockton, CA 95212	50,335	6.41%
Common Stock	Sheila M. Wishek (1) 111 West Pine Street Lodi, CA, 95240	41,357	5.26%

(1) Mail should be sent to these individuals at the Company's address marked "c/o Stockholder Relations."

(2) Shares are beneficially owned, directly and indirectly, together with spouses, and unless otherwise indicated, holders share voting power with their spouses. None of the shares are pledged.



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A complete list of stockholders entitled to vote will be available for inspection by stockholders of record at the office of the Secretary of the Company at 111 West Pine Street, Lodi, CA for the ten days prior to the meeting.

The following table shows the number of common shares and the percentage of the total shares of common stock of the Company beneficially owned by each of the current Directors, by each of the nominees for election to the office of Director, by the Named Executive Officers and by all Directors and Named Executive Officers of the Company and of the Bank as a group as of the record date.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner (1)	Amount of Common Stock Owned and Nature of Beneficial Ownership (2)	Percent of Class
Stewart C. Adams, Jr.	1,571	*
Edward Corum, Jr.	1,174	*
Stephen W. Haley	1,690	*
Deborah E. Skinner	1,276	*
Bruce A. Mettler (3)	64,830	8.25 %
Kevin Sanguinetti	8,706	1.11 %
Kenneth W. Smith	1,277	*
Kent A. Steinwert	10,161	1.29 %
James P. Daugherty	331	*
Jay J. Colombini	1,670	*
Calvin (Kelly) Suess	2,699	*
Gary J. Long	414	*
All Directors, Nominees and Named Executive Officers as a group (12 persons)	95,799	12.19 %

\* Indicates less than 1%.

(1) Mail should be sent to these individuals at the Company's address marked "c/o Stockholder Relations."

(2) Shares are beneficially owned, directly and indirectly, together with spouses, and, unless otherwise indicated, holders share voting power with their spouses. None of the shares are pledged.

(3) Includes 23,605 shares held by the Ole & Dorothy Mettler Family Trust, of which Bruce Mettler is the sole trustee.

Notice Regarding Electronic Access of Stockholder Meeting Documents

Farmers & Merchants Bancorp is now offering electronic access in lieu of mail delivery of our annual report and proxy statement. Should you want to discontinue receiving a paper copy of our Annual Report and Proxy Statement, please mark the box on the Proxy Card that states "Mark here to enroll in our Electronic Access Program." You may rescind electronic access at any time by contacting the Company at the number below.

If you make this election on the enclosed proxy card, shortly before each annual meeting you will receive a proxy card, along with voting instructions and the web address where you can access that year's annual report and proxy statement.



If you have any questions regarding electronic access, please call Sue Clark, AVP – Stockholder Relations, at (209) 367-2348.

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III - ITEMS TO BE VOTED ON

Proposal #1 – Election of Directors

The Board of Directors recommends a vote for each of the nominees listed below.

At this year's annual meeting, it will be proposed to elect seven (7) Directors of the Company, each to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors shall be elected and qualified. It is the intention of the proxy holders named in the enclosed proxy to vote such proxies (except those containing contrary instructions) for the seven (7) nominees named below.

The following table sets forth the names of each of the nominees for election as a Director, their age, their principal occupation for the past five years and the period during which they have served as a Director of the Company (or the Bank).

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u>	<u>Director Since</u>
Stewart C. Adams, Jr.	77	Retired Attorney	1997
Edward Corum, Jr.	63	Managing General Partner, Corum Real Estate	2003
Bruce A. Mettler	70	Vineyardist	2010
Kevin Sanguinetti	57	Retired President, 1st American Title Company - Stockton	2001
Kent A. Steinwert	62	Chairman, President & C.E.O. of the Company and Bank	1998
Calvin (Kelly) Suess	79	President of ShellPro	1990
Gary J. Long	62	Owner, Gary J. Long Jewelers	2014

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A

VOTE FOR THE NOMINEES

LISTED ABOVE.

Directors are nominated based upon their business experience, knowledge of the Company's key markets and business segments, community involvement and commitment to serving the interests of all stockholders:

Mr. Adams has served as a director for seventeen years, lives and is actively involved in the Lodi market area, and provides legal expertise to the Board.

Mr. Corum has served as a director for eleven years, lives and is actively involved in the Sacramento market area, and provides real estate and financial expertise to the Board.

Mr. Mettler has served as a director for five years, lives and is actively involved in the Lodi market area, and provides agricultural production and processing expertise to the Board.

Mr. Sanguinetti has served as a director for thirteen years, lives and is actively involved in the Stockton market area, and provides real estate and financial expertise to the Board.

Mr. Steinwert has served as a director for sixteen years, and has forty years of business, agriculture, real estate and consumer banking experience.

Mr. Suess has served as a director for twenty-four years, lives and is actively involved in the Lodi market area, and provides agricultural production and processing expertise to the Board.

Mr. Long joined the Board in 2014, lives and is actively involved in the Stockton market area, and provides small business expertise to the Board.

With the exception of Mr. Steinwert who is an employee of the Company, all nominees are considered to be "independent" as such term is defined by Rule 5605(a)(2) of the Nasdaq's current listing rules.

None of the Directors of the Company were selected pursuant to arrangements or understandings other than with the Directors and stockholders of the Company acting within their capacity as such. There are no family relationships among the Directors and executive officers of the Company, and none of the Directors serves as a Director of any company which has a class of securities registered under, or subject to periodic reporting requirements of, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or any company registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

While the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors does not have a written policy regarding diversity in identifying new director candidates, the Committee takes diversity into account in looking for the best available candidates to serve on the Board of Directors. The Committee looks to establish diversity on the Board through a number of demographics, experiences, including operational experience, skills, and viewpoints, all with a view to identify candidates that can assist the Board with its decision making. The Committee believes that the current Board of Directors reflects diversity on a number of these factors.

The Board does not anticipate that any of the nominees will be unable to serve as a Director of the Company, but if that should occur before the meeting, the Board of Directors reserve the right to substitute as nominee another person of their choice in the place and stead of any nominee unable so to serve. Proxy holders would vote to approve the election of such substitute nominee. The proxy holders reserve the right to cumulate votes for the election of Directors and cast all of such votes for any one or more of the nominees, to the exclusion of the others, and in such order of preference as the proxy holders may determine in their discretion, based upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors.

#### IV BOARD MATTERS

##### Code of Ethics

The Company has adopted a Code of Conduct which complies with the Code of Ethics requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission. A copy of the Code of Conduct is posted on the Company's website at <http://www.fmbonline.com>. The Company intends to disclose promptly any amendment to, or waiver from any provision of, the Code of Conduct applicable to executive officers and Directors, on its website.

##### Director Independence

The Company uses Rule 5605(a)(2) of the Nasdaq's current listing rules to determine whether a Director is independent. With the exception of Mr. Steinwert who is an employee of the Company, all nominees are considered to be "independent."

##### Board of Directors Meetings

The Company's principal asset is its wholly-owned subsidiary, Farmers & Merchants Bank of Central California (the "Bank"). The Directors of the Company are also Directors of the Bank. During the calendar year ending December 31, 2014, the Board of Directors of the Company met fourteen (14) times and the Board of Directors of the Bank met fifteen (15) times. Each incumbent Director attended more than 75% of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the committees to which they were named. The Company expects Directors to attend the annual meeting of stockholders and all Directors attended the annual meeting of stockholders in 2014.

##### Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors Leadership Structure

###### Leadership Structure

The Board of Directors has determined that the Chairmanship should reside with the Director who is most familiar with the banking industry, and who is the most capable of setting strategic direction and integrating that direction with the Company's day-to-day business development and risk management activities. Accordingly, since 2010 Mr. Steinwert has been unanimously elected to the position of Chairman in addition to his role since 1997 as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company.

The Board believes that the combination of these positions does not compromise the important "check-and-balance" role that independent Directors play in the oversight of the Company since Mr. Steinwert is not a voting member of the Audit or Personnel Committees of the Board, and therefore key Board decisions and oversight regarding: (1) accounting, financial reporting, and overall risk management; and (2) executive compensation; are made only by "independent" Directors.

As of this date, the Board of Directors has not formally designated a lead independent director.

## Role in Risk Management

The Board of Directors' involvement in risk management centers around the following key roles and responsibilities:

1. The Board approves the annual strategic plan and financial budget, and receives monthly reporting of financial and non-financial performance relative to plan.
2. The Asset and Liability Management Committee is a joint committee of management and the Board. As a result, "independent" Directors are actively involved in interest rate, liquidity and investment risk management processes.  
  
The Loan Committee is a joint committee of management and the Board. The Committee meets weekly to review  
3. all new and renewed loans over \$2 million and evaluate overall portfolio performance and risk. As a result, "independent" Directors are actively involved in the credit risk management process.
4. The Audit Committee is responsible for providing oversight of all internal controls, reviewing the reports of audits and examinations of the Bank and the Company made by independent auditors, internal auditors, credit examiners, and regulatory agencies, and approving all SEC and other regulatory agency reports before they are filed.
5. The Personnel Committee is responsible for all performance evaluation and compensation decisions for the executive management team.

More detail on all Board committees, including the composition and roles and responsibilities of each follows.

## Committees of the Board

### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee of the Company and the Bank is responsible for the ongoing adequacy of the internal control environment, and oversees the activities of the internal and independent auditors of the Company and the Bank with the aim of ensuring compliance with applicable laws. The Committee's charter was included as Exhibit A to the 2013 proxy statement. The Audit Committee reports to the Boards of Directors of the Bank and the Company, as appropriate. The Audit Committee reviews the reports of audits and examinations of the Bank and the Company made by the independent auditors, internal auditors, credit examiners, and regulatory agencies and reports the results to the Boards of Directors of the Bank and the Company. The Committee met twelve (12) times in 2014 and is comprised of the following members: Messrs. Sanguinetti (Chairman), Corum and Adams. Each of the Directors serving on the Audit Committee has been determined by the Board of Directors to be "independent" as such term is defined by Rule 5605(a) (2) of the Nasdaq's current listing rules and in SEC rules relating to audit committees. Mr. Sanguinetti has been determined by the Board of Directors to be a "financial expert" for purposes of applicable regulations.

### Asset and Liability Management Committee

The Asset and Liability Management Committee of the Company and the Bank is responsible for the formulation, revision and administration of the Bank's policies relating to interest rate, liquidity and investment risk management. The Asset and Liability Committee is a joint committee of management and Directors. The following Directors are voting members: Messrs. Adams, Mettler, Suess and Steinwert. The Committee met five (5) times in 2014.

### Loan Committee

The Loan Committee of the Company and the Bank is responsible for the formulation, revision and administration of the Bank's policy relating to credit and loan risk management. The Loan Committee meets weekly and is responsible for approving all new and renewed loans between \$2 million and \$10 million (over \$10 million requires full Board approval) and reviewing all loans over \$500,000. The Loan Committee is a joint committee of management and Directors. The following Directors are voting members: Messrs. Corum and Steinwert. The Committee met fifty-one (51) times in 2014.

### Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee of the Company and the Bank reviews and examines Bank and Company expenses on a quarterly basis comparing the results with: (1) the established annual budget, the previous quarter and prior year; and (2) selected peer banks and the community banking industry as a whole; and proposes recommendations to management regarding improving financial performance. The Committee met four (4) times in 2014 and is comprised of the following voting members: Messrs. Mettler, Suess and Sanguinetti.

### CRA Committee (Community Reinvestment Act)

The CRA Committee of the Company and the Bank monitors the Bank's efforts and responsibilities to comply with the Community Reinvestment Act. The CRA Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors to assure the Bank is meeting the credit, investment and service needs of the communities it serves. The Committee met eleven (11) times in 2014 and is comprised of the following voting members: Messrs. Suess (Chairman), Mettler and Long.

### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee of the Company and the Bank identifies candidates to serve as Directors of the Bank and the Company in the event of future Board openings. The Committee's charter was included as Exhibit C to the 2013 proxy statement. The Committee is comprised of the following voting members: Messrs. Steinwert (Chairman), Adams, Corum and Suess. The Committee met one (1) time in 2014. Messrs. Corum, Adams and Suess have been determined by the Board of Directors to be "independent" as such term is defined by Rule 5605(a)(2) of the Nasdaq's current listing rules.

### Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee of the Company and the Bank: (1) reviews the Company's overall compensation strategies and practices; (2) reviews the employment contracts of all executive officers; (3) annually establishes executive compensation levels and performance evaluation measures for the Chief Executive Officer and Directors; and (4) reviews the executive compensation levels and performance evaluation measures for the other executive officers of the Company. The Committee's charter was included as Exhibit B to the 2013 proxy statement.

The Company's management: (1) provides information, analysis and recommendations for the Personnel Committee; and (2) manages the ongoing operations of the compensation program.

In fulfilling their duties, the Personnel Committee periodically evaluates information obtained from independent sources regarding competitor banking institutions in California and in similar markets nationally.

The Personnel Committee is comprised of the following voting members: Messrs. Adams (Chairman), Corum and Sanguinetti. The Committee met five (5) times in 2014. Each of the Directors serving on the Personnel Committee has been determined by the Board of Directors to be "independent" as such term is defined by Rule 5605(a)(2) of the Nasdaq's current listing rules.



### Certain Relationships and Related Person Transactions

Certain Directors and Named Executive Officers of the Bank and the Company and corporations and other organizations associated with them and members of their immediate families were customers of and engaged in banking transactions, including loans, with the Bank in the ordinary course of business in 2014. Such loans were made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable loans with borrowers not related to the Company or Bank. These loans did not involve more than the normal risk of collection or have other unfavorable features. All Director and Named Executive Officer loans must be approved by the Board of Directors. With the exception of the previous banking transactions, the Company had no Related Person Transactions as defined by Item 407(a) of Regulation S-K with its Directors or Named Executive Officers.

### Indemnification

The Company's Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws provide for indemnification of officers, Directors, employees and agents to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. Delaware law generally provides for the payment of expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement reasonably incurred by the indemnitees provided such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed not to be opposed to the best interests of the corporation and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding if he or she had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. However, in derivative suits, if the suit is lost, no indemnification is permitted in respect of any claim as to which the prospective indemnitee is adjudged to be liable for misconduct in the performance of his or her duty to the Company and then only if, and only to the extent that, a court of competent jurisdiction determines the prospective indemnitee is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court deems proper. Finally, no indemnification may be provided in any action or suit in which the only liability asserted against a Director is pursuant to a statutory provision proscribing the making of loans, dividends, and distribution of assets under certain circumstances.

The provisions regarding indemnification may not be applicable under certain federal banking and securities laws and regulations.

### Compliance with Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires the Company's Executive Officers and Directors, and persons who own more than ten percent of a registered class of the Company's equity securities, to file reports of ownership on Forms 3, 4 and 5 with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Executive Officers, Directors and greater than ten percent stockholders are required by regulation to furnish the Company with copies of all Forms 3, 4 and 5 they file. Based solely on the Company's review of the copies of such forms it has received, the Company believes that all of its Executive Officers and Directors complied with all filing requirements applicable to them with respect to transactions during 2014. The Company has no greater than ten percent stockholders.

### Communications with Board of Directors

Any person, including any stockholder, desiring to communicate with, or make any concerns known to, the Company, directors generally, non-management Directors or an individual Director only may do so by submitting them in writing to Stephen W. Haley, Secretary of Farmers & Merchants Bancorp, 111 W. Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240. All correspondence must include information to identify the person submitting the communication or concern, including name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if applicable) together with information indicating the relationship of such person to the Company. The Secretary is responsible for maintaining a record of any such communications or concerns and submitting them to the appropriate addressee(s) for potential action or response. The Company may institute appropriate procedures to establish the authenticity of any communication or concern before forwarding. The Company is not obligated to investigate any anonymous submissions.





V – DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE  
COMPENSATION

## Director Compensation

Directors who are employees of the Company or Bank (Kent Steinwert) do not receive additional compensation for their services as Directors.

A Director who is not an employee of the Company or Bank receives a \$2,800 fee for each monthly Bank Board Meeting attended (no additional fees are paid for Company Board meetings), and a \$700 fee for each Committee Meeting attended (Committee Chairmen receive \$900 with the exception of the Audit Committee Chairman who receives \$1,100). In addition, each Director is eligible to receive an annual bonus and participate in the Equity Component of the Executive Retirement Plan (see "Executive Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Qualified and Non-Qualified Retirement Programs").

Directors may elect to defer receipt of some or all Directors' fees under the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan. Directors who are not employees of the Company or Bank are compensated up to \$538 per month to cover a portion of the cost of outside medical insurance. Directors who are not employees of the Company or Bank do not participate in any retirement or medical plans. The summary compensation earned by each Director (other than Mr. Steinwert who is a Named Executive Officer) during 2014 is disclosed in the following "Director Compensation Table".

## 2014 DIRECTOR COMPENSATION TABLE

Name	(1) Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	(2) Stock Awards (\$)	(2) Option Awards (\$)	(5) Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	(3) Change in Pension Value & Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)	(4) All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Kent A. Steinwert	\$-	\$	\$	\$ -	\$	\$ -	\$-
Stewart C. Adams, Jr.	\$53,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 50,094	\$168,894
Edward Corum, Jr. (6)	\$93,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 51,460	\$210,060
Bruce A. Mettler	\$45,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$155,500
Kevin Sanguinetti	\$51,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 51,460	\$168,060
Calvin (Kelly) Suess	\$46,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 50,094	\$161,294
Gary J. Long	\$16,100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$66,100

(1) Mr. Kent Steinwert was an employee of the Company in 2014 and received no additional compensation for his services as a Director. Mr. Kent Steinwert is a Named Executive Officer and his compensation is listed in the Summary Compensation Table. Directors who are not employees receive a \$2,800 monthly Board Meeting Fee and \$700 Committee Meeting Fees (Committee Chairs receive \$900, with the exception of the Audit Committee Chair who receives \$1,100).

(2) The Company has no stock based award programs.

(3) The Company has no Defined Benefit Pension Program. All earnings on Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan balances are assumed to be at market rates (see Footnote 4 in the Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Table).

(4) All Directors received a \$45,000 bonus in 2014 with the exception of Mr. Long who joined the Board in July 2014 and received \$20,000. Non-employee Directors are compensated up to \$538 per month towards the cost of outside medical insurance.

(5) Contributions to the Executive Retirement Plan - Equity Component. No contributions were made in the 2013 plan year, and two contributions were made in 2014 to cover both years. Each Director, with the exception of Mr. Long, received a \$60,000 contribution in 2014 for the 2013 plan year which is not reflected in this table. See Plan description in Executive Compensation Discussion and Analysis - Qualified and Non-Qualified Retirement Programs for further details.

(6) Mr. Corum is a member of the Loan Committee which meets weekly, resulting in his Fees Earned exceeding those of the other Directors whose Committee responsibilities are monthly in frequency.

## Executive Compensation Discussion and Analysis

### Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Directors, operating both on its own and through its Personnel Committee: (1) reviews the Company's overall compensation strategies and practices; (2) reviews the employment contracts of all Named Executive Officers (the CEO, CFO and four other most highly compensated executive officers); (3) annually establishes compensation levels and performance evaluation measures for the Chief Executive Officer (the CEO does not participate in these discussions) and the other Named Executive Officers.

The role of the Company's management is to: (1) provide information, analysis and recommendations for the Personnel Committee's consideration; and (2) manage the ongoing operations of the compensation program.

In fulfilling their duties, the Personnel Committee: (1) has the authority to retain and fund compensation consultants, independent legal counsel and other compensation advisors; (2) considers those factors that impact the independence of such advisors prior to their selection; and (3) periodically evaluates information obtained from independent sources regarding competitor banks in California and in similar markets nationally. No outside compensation consultants or other advisors were used in 2014.

### Executive Compensation Strategy and Programs

The objective of the Company's compensation strategy is to attract and retain talented individuals who can implement the Company's strategic plan and maximize long-term stockholder value.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Board has structured a compensation program that includes three major components: (1) annual base salary; (2) annual performance-based bonus; and (3) qualified and non-qualified retirement plans.

### Say On Pay Vote

In accordance with the requirements of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, in the 2014 proxy statement the Company asked stockholders to provide advisory (nonbinding) approval of executive compensation as described in the "Executive Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section of the 2014 proxy statement. The results of the election were that 93.1% of stockholders voting approved the Company's current executive compensation.

Based on this 2014 stockholder advisory vote the Board of Directors determined that no material changes were required to current compensation strategies and programs.

## Performance Evaluation Measures

In evaluating the performance of each Named Executive Officer, the Personnel Committee considers a combination of objective and subjective factors, including the following:

1. the Company's annual financial performance (relative to both the current year's budget and the overall performance of a select group of peer community banks as well as the community bank industry as a whole) as measured by Return on Assets; Return on Equity; Efficiency Ratios; and Net Income performance;
2. progress towards achieving the Company's five year strategic plan;
3. results of the Company's and Bank's regulatory examinations; and
4. current economic and industry conditions.

These performance measurement factors are evaluated at least annually. Both the annual budget and strategic plan are approved in advance by the Board of Directors and reevaluated during the year. The Board periodically evaluates information obtained from independent sources regarding peer banking institutions in California and in similar markets nationally, and makes recommendations regarding changes to compensation programs.

## Impact of Compensation Practices on the Company's Risk Profile

The Company is a "traditional" community bank that generates the majority of its income from the margin generated between taking customer deposits and making customer loans. Furthermore, credit risk is centrally controlled as reflected by: (1) no loan approval authority resides in the branches, therefore, all loans must be approved by Credit Administration personnel, and none of Credit Administration's compensation is tied to loan volume or production; and (2) the Loan Committee, which includes outside Directors, must approve all loans over \$2 million.

We do not have non-traditional fee-based or proprietary trading financial business units that could materially increase this risk profile. Nor do we have any business units where employees with loan approval authority generate any substantial amount of their total compensation based upon generating large volumes of activity or taking significant risks.

In order to ensure that the Company's compensation strategies and programs do not result in inappropriate risk taking on the part of executive management, the Board has determined that:

1. Annual Performance Based Bonuses must include consideration of the results of the Company's and Bank's regulatory examinations by the FRB, FDIC and California Department of Business Oversight, all of which involve a review of the Company's and Bank's risk management practices and resulting risk profile.

2. All parts of the Company's non-qualified retirement programs are structured such that the benefits cannot be withdrawn by the participant, or paid out by the Company, until the participant retires. This results in a significant portion of each executive's compensation remaining at risk during their employment, so as to encourage adopting a long-term perspective and conservative risk management practices. This is in contrast to most stock option plans where once the options vest they can be exercised and the stock sold, allowing participants to realize cash compensation based upon shorter-term financial results.

As a result, the Board has determined that the Company's compensation practices are not likely to have a material adverse impact on the Company's risk profile.



## Annual Compensation Program

### Base Salary and Annual Performance-Based Bonus

Each Named Executive Officer receives a monthly base salary and is eligible for an annual performance-based bonus. Given that at the present time the Company does not offer stock options or restricted stock compensation, in order to be competitive, total levels of Annual Compensation for each Named Executive Officer are targeted at the top range of competitor institutions, which increasingly include regional and national banks and other financial services companies that we compete against for talent.

Salaries are determined largely based upon: (1) positions of similar responsibility in competitor institutions in California; and (2) individuals with similar experience and expertise. Merit salary adjustments are evaluated periodically based on Company and individual performance. Goals and objectives are established annually for each officer with performance evaluated at least annually.

Annual bonus compensation is paid according to the Company's Executive Management Incentive Compensation Plan. Bonus compensation is awarded based primarily on actual results against budgeted goals for the particular year including performance ratios and net income. Broad award guidelines are established annually for each level of Senior Management (0-200% of base salary for the CEO and 0-100% of base salary for Executive Vice Presidents). The Board reserves some discretion with regard to these guidelines when: (1) the Company's profit performance exceeds budget; (2) the Company's profit performance exceeds other peer banking institutions in California; and/or (3) an individual's performance in a given year was beyond expectation.

It is important to understand that the Company's annual compensation program is not formula driven and relies substantially on subjective analysis. Senior Management is assigned specific performance goals and objectives on a yearly basis but these individual goals and objectives are not tied to specific targeted compensation levels. Performance evaluation measures are not prioritized or otherwise assigned a specific weighting. Indeed, some of the measures, such as results of regulatory examinations and local economic conditions, do not lend themselves to a weighted or formula approach.

Although the Board has established broad bonus payout guidelines, the Board has purposely avoided establishing either: (1) hard targets for any performance factors; or (2) a weighting or formula as to how much each performance factor will contribute to the ultimate annual bonus for each named executive officer. This philosophy has evolved based upon the Board's belief that all banks operate in volatile financial markets amidst external conditions that Senior Management has little or no control over. Accordingly, before making annual bonus or other compensation decisions, it is important for the Board to evaluate and weight all key performance factors in the context of the current financial services environment and how Senior Management's current year's performance against those factors has influenced the Company's progress toward achieving both short- and long-term financial goals.

Since the Company has consistently been one of the highest performing bank holding companies in California over the past 10 years, a reflection of what the Board considers well balanced compensation practices that caused Senior Management to carefully consider the risks it assumed in the context of long term financial performance, the Board believes that its approach to "pay-for-performance" has achieved, and will continue to achieve, the desired results.

Each Named Executive Officer's salary and annual bonus amounts for the last three years are disclosed in the "Summary Compensation Table." All base salaries and annual bonuses are paid in cash and fully expensed in the current year.

### Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan

Each Named Executive Officer is eligible to participate in the Company's non-qualified Deferred Compensation Plan. Under the Plan, participants may voluntarily elect to defer a maximum amount of one hundred percent (100%) of their base salary and annual bonus. All contributions are made by the participant, the Company makes no contributions to this plan. Benefits become payable after either: (1) a participant's in service distribution election period is reached; (2) the participant's employment at the Company terminates; or (3) there has been a "Change in Control" as defined in the Plan. The Plan also allows for hardship distributions upon the occurrence of an "unforeseen financial emergency" as defined in Treasury Regulations Section 1.457-2(h) (4). Once a participant makes a contribution to the Plan, they become an unsecured creditor of the Company until distributions occur. Voluntary deferrals under the Deferred Compensation Plan are disclosed in the participant's Executive Voluntary Deferrals of Salary and Bonus in Last Fiscal Year in the "Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Table."

Upon a Change in Control, each participant receives only those balances in their account including any net earnings or losses thereon. Payments are made in accordance with prior participant elections made in compliance with Internal Revenue Code Section 409A.

### Qualified and Non-Qualified Retirement Programs

In developing the various parts of a long-term compensation program, the Board has determined that at the present time it will not seek stockholder approval to offer stock options or restricted stock awards as part of the compensation package. This decision has been made because the Board believes that it is important that all compensation should be: (1) fully transparent; (2) expensed in the year incurred; and (3) not have the potential for future dilution of stockholder value. However, recognizing that stock based incentives are a major compensation component of many of the Company's competitors, the Board has developed what it believes is an effective and competitive retirement program.

The objectives of the Company's retirement program are to: (1) successfully attract and retain talented individuals; and (2) align long-term compensation directly with stockholder interests by rewarding prudent risk taking and creation of long-term stockholder value through generation of high quality and sustainable financial performance.

The Company's retirement program has been structured to provide benefits as follows:

1. Profit Sharing Plan ... which provides qualified retirement benefits.
2. Executive Retirement Plan ... which provides supplemental non-qualified retirement benefits and has the following components:
  - a. Salary Component ... which makes Plan contributions based upon each participant's salary level;
  - b. Performance Component ... which makes Plan contributions based upon the Company's long-term growth in net income and increase in market capitalization; and
  - c. Equity Component ... which makes discretionary cash contributions based upon Board approval, and contributions are invested primarily in the stock of the Company.
3. Bank-Owned Life Insurance Program ... which provides for a division of life insurance death proceeds between the Company and each participant's designated beneficiary.

All of the Company's qualified and non-qualified retirement plans are structured as defined contribution plans to avoid the uncertain future financial liabilities that can exist under defined benefit plans. The entire cost of these plans is expensed annually.





### Qualified Profit Sharing Plan

Substantially all full-time employees of the Company, including each Named Executive Officer, participate in the Company's qualified Profit Sharing Plan. Two levels of contributions are made to the Profit Sharing Plan: (1) contributions equal to 5% of eligible salaries (subject to Internal Revenue Service limits) calculated according to criteria set forth in the Plan; and (2) additional discretionary contributions authorized by the Board of Directors. None of these contributions are dependent upon the employee contributing to the Plan (i.e., the Plan does not require "matching"). Benefits pursuant to the Profit Sharing Plan vest 0% during the first year of participation, 25% per full year thereafter and after five years such benefits are fully vested. Benefits under the Profit Sharing Plan are disclosed in the participant's Company Contributions to Qualified Retirement and 401(k) Plans in the "All Other Compensation Table."

Upon a Change in Control, each participant receives only those balances in their account, including any net earnings or losses thereon.

### Non-Qualified Executive Retirement Plan

This Plan is a non-qualified plan where contributions cannot be withdrawn until the participant retires from the Company, and all contributions are subject to the claims of the Company's creditors in the event of insolvency. This results in a significant portion of each executive's compensation remaining at risk during their employment, so as to encourage adopting a long-term perspective and conservative risk management practices. The Executive Retirement Plan is intended to be compliant with the provisions of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code. All balances are held in a Master Trust. General investment parameters are established by the Company, including allowable investment instruments and approved investment manager(s). Participants can then work with the investment managers(s) to request investment of their vested balances according to their own risk profile, with no guarantees of principal provided by the Company. Although contributions to the Equity Component of this Plan have always been invested primarily in the stock of the Company, in 2014 the Company began issuing new shares of its common stock to other Plan components (see Notes 14 and 22 to Item 8. - Financial Statements and Supplementary Data - in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the year ended December 31, 2014). The Board believes that this increased ownership further encourages key executives to operate consistent with long-term stockholder objectives.

Salary Component ... to compensate for the contribution ceilings placed on all qualified retirement plans (which includes the Company's Profit Sharing Plan) by the Internal Revenue Service, the Board developed the Salary Component to provide levels of total retirement compensation that are competitive in the banking industry. Each Named Executive Officer is eligible to participate in the Plan.

An account is established for each participant that is credited annually with a defined contribution determined based upon the individual's compensation at the time they became a participant and the number of years of service remaining to age 65. The balance in each participant's account is 0% vested during the first five years of employment and becomes fully vested after five years of employment. Benefits are disclosed in the participant's Company Contributions to Non-Qualified Retirement Plans in the "All Other Compensation Table" as well as Registrant Contributions in Last Fiscal Year in the "Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Table."

Benefits under the Salary Component of the Executive Retirement Plan become payable to participants after either: (1) the participant has become vested and his or her employment at the Company terminates (including retirement); or (2) there has been a "Change in Control" as defined in the Plan.

Upon a Change in Control, each participant receives: (1) those amounts already contributed for past years of service including any net earnings or losses thereon; and (2) the present value (using a discount factor equal to the treasury rate for the remaining years to participant's age 65) of forecasted contributions over the remaining years to

participant's age 65, which as of December 31, 2014 would be as follows: Mr. Steinwert \$1.04 million; Mr. Haley \$742,000; Ms. Skinner \$2.16 million; and Mr. Smith \$1.22 million. Payments are made in accordance with prior participant elections made in compliance with IRC Section 409A.

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Performance Component ... to compensate for the lack of a stock option program, the Board developed the Performance Component to reward participants based upon the Company's long-term growth in net income and market capitalization. Each Named Executive Officer is eligible to participate in the Plan. Participants receive benefits based on the Company's long-term cumulative profitability and the resulting impact on the increase in market capitalization in excess of the increase in book value. Participants do not receive compensation for increases in market capitalization above a P/E ratio of 20 times EPS.

Contributions are calculated using a bonus factor or "carry" determined by the Personnel Committee for each participant (currently 1.65% for the President and C.E.O. and up to 0.32% for each Executive Vice President). The total "carry" for all current program participants is 3.16%, a level that the Personnel Committee believes is conservative when compared to a typical range of 5-10% of outstanding shares authorized in employee stock options by other similar banking institutions in California.

Benefits pursuant to the Performance Component vest 50% during the first year of participation, and 50% during the second year of participation. Benefits are disclosed in the participant's Company Contributions to Non-Qualified Retirement Plans in the "All Other Compensation Table" as well as Registrant Contributions in Last Fiscal Year in the "Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Table."

Benefits under the Performance Component of the Executive Retirement Plan become payable to participants after either: (1) the participant has become vested and his or her employment at the Company terminates (including retirement); or (2) there has been a "Change in Control" as defined in the Plan.

Upon a Change in Control, each participant receives: (1) those amounts already contributed for past years of service including net earnings or losses thereon; and (2) an amount equal to the difference (if any) between the purchase price and twenty times EPS which as of December 31, 2014 would be zero for all Named Executive Officers. Payments are made in accordance with prior participant elections made in compliance with IRC Section 409A.

Equity Component ... to encourage key executives to adopt a long-term perspective and conservative risk management practices consistent with stockholder objectives, the Board developed the Equity Component where cash contributions to the plan are invested primarily in Company stock.

Each Named Executive Officer is eligible to participate in the Plan, along with members of the Board of Directors. Plan contributions are discretionary, subject to Board of Directors approval. Plan balances are held in a Master Trust with the trustee responsible for investing these balances in a mix of Company stock and liquid assets.

Benefits under the Equity Component immediately vest when awarded. Benefits are disclosed in the participant's Company Contributions to Non-Qualified Retirement Plans in the "All Other Compensation Table" as well as Registrant Contributions in Last Fiscal Year in the "Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Table."

Benefits under the Equity Component of the Executive Retirement Plan become payable to participants after either: (1) the participant's employment at the Company terminates (including retirement); or (2) there has been a "Change of Control" as defined in the Plan.

Upon a Change in Control, each participant receives only those balances in their account, including any net earnings or losses thereon.

This plan component is not a "stock option or other stock-based compensation program", rather it is a deferred compensation program where cash contributions made by the Company are invested by the independent trustee of the Master Trust primarily in Company stock. Participants have no voting rights in the shares until post-retirement distributions are made.

During 2013 the Company expensed \$890,000 for this plan component for both Executive Officers and Board Members. However, no contributions were made to individual participant accounts until 2014 since the plan component was amended in the 4th quarter of 2013 to require that contributions for plan years after 2013 be forfeited if, within one year of leaving the Company's employ, the participant were to: (1) become employed with a competitor bank, or (2) solicit the Company's employees or customers. During 2014 the Company contributed \$995,000 for this plan component for both Executive Officers and Board Members. As a result the amounts included in this year's "All Other Compensation Table" reflect the contributions made for both 2013 and 2014 with the table amounts for the year 2013 updated from last year's presentation.

### Bank-Owned Life Insurance Program

The Company has a Bank-Owned Life Insurance ("BOLI") program under which it has purchased single premium life insurance policies on the lives of the Named Executive Officers as well as certain other senior officers of the Company. The Company is both the owner of, and beneficiary under, the policies. These policies provide: (1) financial protection to the Company in the event of the death of an officer and; (2) significant income to the Company to offset the expense associated with the Company's employee benefits since the interest earned on the cash surrender value of the policies is tax free as long as the policies are used to finance employee benefits.

As compensation to each participant for agreeing to allow the Company to purchase an insurance policy on his or her life, split dollar agreements have been entered into with each participant. These agreements provide for a division of the life insurance death proceeds between the Company and each participant's designated beneficiary or beneficiaries. Participants have an interest only in the death benefits of the policies, not in any cash surrender value that exists prior to death. Participants fully vest in their split dollar agreements after eight years of service or upon a Change in Control. If the participant leaves the employ of the Company after vesting occurs (other than as part of a Change in Control) they cannot become employed by another financial institution and retain their vesting. The dollar value of premiums relating to that portion of the death proceeds that would be payable to the participant's beneficiary or beneficiaries in the event of his or her death, as well as the tax gross-up payments related thereto, are disclosed in the participant's Tax Reimbursements in the "All Other Compensation Table."

### Post-Termination Compensation

The Company's approach to post-termination compensation depends upon the circumstances surrounding the Named Executive Officer's termination and has been designed by the Board to be competitive with industry-wide practices in order to attract and retain key executives.

1. If the Named Executive Officer takes retirement, or their employment is terminated due to death or disability, no supplemental payments are made. They are entitled to all vested balances in qualified and non-qualified plans (see "Deferred Compensation Table"), and in the case of death, their designated beneficiaries would be entitled to their split dollar life insurance death benefits.

2. If the Named Executive Officer is terminated for cause, all benefits in the Company's non-qualified Executive Retirement Plan, whether vested or not, are forfeited in their entirety. No other payments are made, but the Named Executive Officer is entitled to all vested balances in the non-qualified Deferred Compensation Plan and all qualified plans.

3. If the Named Executive Officer is terminated without cause, the terms of each individual's employment contract call for the Company to provide lump sum payments of up to two years' salary and bonus (see "Summary Compensation Table"). In addition they are entitled to all vested balances in qualified and non-qualified plans (see "Deferred Compensation Table").

In the case of a Change in Control the Company has "single trigger" clauses in each Named Executive Officer's employment contract. This means that termination payments are made regardless of whether the Named Executive Officer remains in the employ of the buyer. In addition to all vested balances in qualified and non-qualified plans (see "Deferred Compensation Table"), each Named Executive Officer is eligible to receive: (1) a lump sum payment of up to two years' salary, bonus and non-qualified plan contributions (see "Summary Compensation Table"); (2) lump sum payment of up to three years' medical premiums (which range up to \$79,000 per Named Executive Officer); (3) acceleration of benefits under the Executive Retirement Plan – Salary Component as more fully described under "Non-Qualified Executive Retirement Plan"; and (4) lump sum tax gross-up payments to cover excise taxes under IRC Section 280G which as of December 31, 2014 are estimated as follows: Mr. Steinwert \$0; Mr. Haley \$1.57 million; Ms. Skinner \$2.48 million; Mr. Smith \$1.86 million; Mr. Colombini \$426,000 and Mr. Daugherty \$0. None of these payments are subject to any material contractual conditions such as non-compete, non-solicitation or other types of agreements.

#### Employment Contracts

The Company has employment agreements with each of its Named Executive Officers. These agreements are generally structured for an initial three year period and then renew automatically for successive two year terms unless terminated by either party. The agreements provide for (i) a base salary (see "Summary Compensation Table"), (ii) salary increases at the discretion of the Board of Directors based upon performance, (iii) participation in the Company's annual performance-based bonus program, (iv) participation in certain non-qualified deferred compensation and retirement plans, (v) use of a Company-owned automobile or automobile allowance, and (vi) certain insurance benefits. Under certain circumstances, in the event of termination of employment, each Named Executive Officer may be entitled to receive severance compensation (see "Post Termination Compensation").

#### Report of the Personnel Committee of the Board of Directors on Executive Compensation

The Personnel Committee has reviewed the Compensation Discussion & Analysis included herein with management and based upon those reviews and discussions has recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion & Analysis be included in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K and this proxy statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Stewart C. Adams

Stewart C. Adams, Jr., Chairman

#### Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Messrs. Sanguinetti, Corum and Adams served in 2014 as members of the Personnel Committee. No member is or has been an officer or employee of the Company. During 2014, certain members of the Personnel Committee had loans or other extensions of credit outstanding from the Bank. These loans were made in the ordinary course of business and on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable loans with borrowers not related to the Company or Bank. These loans are exempt from the loan prohibitions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and did not involve more than the normal risk of collection or have other unfavorable features.

## Executive Officer Compensation

The following tables provide details regarding the various forms of remuneration paid by the Company for the services performed in all capacities by each Named Executive Officer.

Since the Company does not offer: (1) stock options or other stock-based compensation; or (2) defined benefit plans, the following tables are not included herein: Grants of Plan-Based Awards, Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End, Option Exercises and Stock Vesting and Pension Benefits.

## 2014 SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal Position	Year	(1) Salary (\$)	(1) Bonus (\$)	(2) Stock Awards (\$)	(2) Option Awards (\$)	(3) Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	(3) Change in Pension Value & Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)	(4) All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Kent A. Steinwert Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer of the Company & Bank	2014	\$695,016	\$900,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,166,522	\$2,761,538
	2013	\$695,016	\$800,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 933,758	\$2,428,774
	2012	\$708,381	\$800,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,093,232	\$2,601,613
Stephen W. Haley Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary of the Company & Bank	2014	\$300,000	\$250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 380,830	\$930,830
	2013	\$268,758	\$235,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 405,053	\$908,811
	2012	\$259,904	\$210,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 335,377	\$805,281
James P. Daugherty Executive Vice President, Wholesale Banking Manager of the Bank	2014	\$235,014	\$190,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 132,100	\$557,114
	2013	\$187,926	\$100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 121,578	\$409,504
	2012	\$181,431	\$65,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 88,673	\$335,104
Jay J. Colombini Executive Vice President, Wholesale Banking Manager of the Bank	2014	\$230,016	\$180,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120,043	\$530,059
	2013	\$178,756	\$100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 132,363	\$411,119
	2012	\$165,000	\$65,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,445	\$315,445



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Deborah E. Skinner Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer of the Bank	2014	\$273,758	\$215,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 318,042	\$806,800
	2013	\$258,758	\$200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 298,000	\$756,758
	2012	\$254,816	\$185,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 286,690	\$726,506
Kenneth W. Smith Executive Vice President, Senior Credit Officer of the Company & Bank	2014	\$312,000	\$200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 287,986	\$799,986
	2013	\$268,678	\$180,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 319,121	\$767,799
	2012	\$255,008	\$165,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 259,559	\$679,567

(1) Includes base salary, unused vacation pay, car allowance and annual bonus. See Annual Compensation Program and Employment Contracts.

(2) The Company has no stock based award programs.

(3) The Company has no Defined Benefit Pension Program. All earnings on Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan balances are assumed to be at market rates (see Footnote 4 in the Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Table).

(4) See All Other Compensation Table for additional details.

## 2014 ALL OTHER COMPENSATION TABLE

Name	Year	(1) Personal Use of Company Car (\$)	(2) Tax Reimbursements (\$)	Insurance Premiums (\$)	Club Dues (\$)	(3) Company Contributions to Non-Qualified Retirement Plans (\$)	(4) Company Contributions to Retirement & 401(k) Plans (\$)	Total (\$)
Kent A. Steinwert	2014	\$ 4,438	\$ 16,457	\$ 2,376	\$ 6,557	\$ 1,108,929	\$ 27,765	\$ 1,166,522
	2013	\$ 8,428	\$ 14,005	\$ 2,376	\$ 5,168	\$ 875,996	\$ 27,785	\$ 933,758
	2012	\$ 1,336	\$ 12,411	\$ 2,376	\$ 5,053	\$ 1,044,867	\$ 27,189	\$ 1,093,232
Stephen W. Haley	2014	\$ 9,698	\$ 13,733	\$ 1,980	\$ -	\$ 327,654	\$ 27,765	\$ 380,830
	2013	\$ 7,841	\$ 12,498	\$ 1,980	\$ -	\$ 354,949	\$ 27,785	\$ 405,053
	2012	\$ 4,418	\$ 11,395	\$ 1,290	\$ -	\$ 291,085	\$ 27,189	\$ 335,377
James P. Daugherty	2014	\$ 9,607	\$ -	\$ 2,419	\$ 5,330	\$ 86,979	\$ 27,765	\$ 132,100
	2013	\$ 9,367	\$ -	\$ 2,405	\$ 870	\$ 81,151	\$ 27,785	\$ 121,578
	2012	\$ 9,129	\$ -	\$ 2,405	\$ -	\$ 49,950	\$ 27,189	\$ 88,673
Jay J. Colombini	2014	\$ 3,501	\$ 950	\$ 848	\$ -	\$ 86,979	\$ 27,765	\$ 120,043
	2013	\$ 1,695	\$ 884	\$ 848	\$ -	\$ 101,151	\$ 27,785	\$ 132,363
	2012	\$ 1,631	\$ 827	\$ 848	\$ -	\$ 54,950	\$ 27,189	\$ 85,445
Deborah E. Skinner	2014	\$ 6,101	\$ 4,562	\$ 828	\$ -	\$ 278,786	\$ 27,765	\$ 318,042
	2013	\$ 6,164	\$ 4,093	\$ 828	\$ -	\$ 259,130	\$ 27,785	\$ 298,000
	2012	\$ 6,049	\$ 3,787	\$ 828	\$ -	\$ 248,837	\$ 27,189	\$ 286,690
Kenneth W. Smith	2014	\$ -	\$ 5,106	\$ 1,580	\$ -	\$ 253,535	\$ 27,765	\$ 287,986
	2013	\$ -	\$ 4,513	\$ 859	\$ -	\$ 285,964	\$ 27,785	\$ 319,121
	2012	\$ -	\$ 3,864	\$ 848	\$ -	\$ 227,658	\$ 27,189	\$ 259,559

(1) Certain executives receive a car allowance as opposed to the use of a company car. Car allowance amounts are included in Salary in the Summary Compensation Table.

(2) Represent tax gross-up payments to reimburse executive for split-dollar life insurance premiums under the Company's BOLI program.

(3) Includes Non-Qualified Executive Retirement Plan contributions for the current year. 2013 amounts have been adjusted from the prior year's table to include contributions made during 2014 for the 2013 plan year. See Plan description in Executive Compensation Discussion and Analysis - Qualified and Non-Qualified Retirement Programs for further details. Investment earnings or losses generated from investing prior year balances are reflected in the Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Table.

(4) Includes contributions to the Company's Profit Sharing Plan.



## 2014 NON-QUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION TABLE

(Includes both vested and unvested balances - see Footnote 1)

Name	Aggregate Plan Balances at Last Fiscal Year-End						
	(2) Executive Voluntary Deferrals of Salary and Bonus in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	(3) Registrant Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	(4) Aggregate Investment Earnings (Losses) in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	Aggregate Withdrawals / Distributions (\$)	(2)(5) Executive Voluntary Deferrals of Salary and Bonus (\$)	(3)(5) Registrant Contributions (\$)	(6) Total of Executive Voluntary Deferrals and Registrant Contributions (\$)
Kent A. Steinwert	\$ -	\$ 1,108,929	\$ 708,323	\$ -	\$ 3,408,374	\$ 7,832,709	\$ 11,241,083
Stephen W. Haley	\$ -	\$ 327,654	\$ 157,287	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,293,864	\$ 3,293,864
James P. Daugherty	\$ -	\$ 86,979	\$ 11,467	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 247,227	\$ 247,227
Jay J. Colombini	\$ -	\$ 86,979	\$ 14,319	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 285,261	\$ 285,261
Deborah E. Skinner	\$ -	\$ 278,786	\$ 53,303	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,715,033	\$ 2,715,033
Kenneth W. Smith	\$ -	\$ 253,535	\$ 61,298	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,541,442	\$ 2,541,442

(1) The Company expenses all deferred compensation in the year earned, even if it is not yet vested. As of December 31, 2014 unvested balances totaled \$37,220. See Post Termination Compensation for details regarding unvested balances upon the occurrence of certain triggering events.

(2) Includes voluntary deferrals of earned salary or annual bonus. See Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan for details regarding the types of compensation deferred, measures of calculating plan earnings and terms of payouts, withdrawals and other distributions. Current year contributions are included in the Summary Compensation Table (see footnote 1).

(3) Includes Company contributions. See Non-Qualified Executive Retirement Plan for details regarding the types of compensation deferred, measures of calculating plan earnings and terms of payouts, withdrawals and other distributions. Current year contributions are included in the All Other Compensation Table.

(4) All balances are held in a Master Trust which is subject to the claims of the Company's creditors in the event of insolvency. General investment parameters are established by the Company, including allowable investment instruments and approved investment manager(s). Participants can then work with the investment manager(s) to request investment of their vested balances according to their own risk profile, with no guarantees of principal provided by the Company.

(5) Represents the cumulative amount of the current and all previous years' contributions and earnings or losses.

(6) See Note 3 to the All Other Compensation Table. "Aggregate Plan Balances at Last Fiscal Year-End" from the 2013 table must be adjusted for contributions made in 2014 for the 2013 plan year.



## VI -AUDIT RELATED MATTERS

### Report of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

The Audit Committee oversees relevant accounting, risk assessment, risk management and regulatory matters. It meets with the Bank's and the Company's internal auditors and the independent auditors to review the scope of their work as well as to review quarterly and annual financial statements and regulatory and public disclosures with the officers in charge of financial reporting, control and disclosure functions. After reviewing the independent auditor's qualifications, partner rotation and independence, the Audit Committee also makes an annual decision regarding selection of the independent auditors. In addition, the Audit Committee reviews reports of examination conducted by regulatory agencies and follows up with management concerning recommendations and required corrective action.

The Audit Committee reports regularly to the Boards of Directors of the Bank and the Company and has the authority to select, retain, terminate and approve the fees and other retention terms of special counsel or other experts or consultants as it deems appropriate and necessary to perform its duties.

In performing its functions, the Audit Committee acts in an oversight capacity and necessarily relies on the work and assurances of management, which has the primary responsibility for financial statements and reports, and of the independent auditors, who, in their report, express an opinion on the conformity of the Company's annual financial statements to generally accepted accounting principles.

In connection with the December 31, 2014 financial statements of the Company, the Audit Committee: (1) reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management and the independent auditors; (2) discussed with the independent auditors the matters required by AS 16; and (3) received and discussed with the independent auditors the matters required by PCAOB requirements. The Audit Committee has also considered whether the independent auditors' provision of non-audit services to the Company is compatible with maintaining the auditors' independence. Based upon these reviews and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the year ended December 31, 2014.

The Board of Directors has approved a written charter of the Audit Committee which was included as Exhibit A in the 2013 Proxy Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Kevin Sanguinetti  
Kevin Sanguinetti, Chairman

### Audit Fees

The aggregate fees billed by Moss Adams LLP for performance of the audit and review of the Company's quarterly and annual financial statements for fiscal year 2013 were \$195,000 and fiscal year 2014 were \$200,500.

### Audit-Related Fees

The aggregate fees billed by Moss Adams LLP for services that were reasonably related to the performance of the audit and review of the Company's quarterly and annual financial statements for fiscal year 2013 were \$15,000 and fiscal year 2014 were \$15,500.

#### Tax Fees

The aggregate fees billed by Moss Adams LLP for professional services for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning for fiscal year 2013 were \$29,000 and fiscal year 2014 were \$30,000.

#### All Other Fees

There were no other fees billed by Moss Adams LLP in 2013 or 2014.

#### Pre-approval of Services by the Company's External Auditor

The Audit Committee has adopted a policy for pre-approval of audit and permitted non-audit services by the Company's external auditor. The Audit Committee will consider annually and, if appropriate, approve the provision of audit services by its independent auditor and consider, and if appropriate, pre-approve the provision of certain defined audit and non-audit services. The Audit Committee will also consider on a case-by-case basis and, if appropriate, approve specific engagements that are not otherwise pre-approved.

Any proposed engagement that does not fit within the definition of a pre-approved service may be presented to the Audit Committee for consideration at its next regular meeting or, if earlier consideration is required, to the Audit Committee or one or more of its members. The member or members to whom such authority is delegated shall report any specific approval of services at its next regular meeting. The Audit Committee will regularly review summary reports detailing all services being provided by its external auditor.

The Company does not require that its external auditor attend the annual meeting.

#### VII OTHER INFORMATION

##### Annual Report

Together with this proxy statement, the Company has distributed to each of its stockholders an Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2014. The annual report contains the consolidated financial statements of the Company and the unqualified reports thereon of Crowe Horwath LLP, the Company's independent public accountants for 2012 and Moss Adams LLP, the Company's independent public accountants for 2013 and 2014.

Upon written request by any person entitled to vote at the meeting, addressed to Stephen W. Haley, Secretary of the Company, at 111 West Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240, we will provide, without charge, a copy of the Company's 2014 Annual Report, including the financial statements and the schedules thereto filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You can also obtain a copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K and other periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission through the F&M Bank website. The website address is <http://www.fmbonline.com>. The link to the Securities and Exchange Commission is on the About Us page.

##### Stockholder Nominations, Notices and Proposals

Article III, Section 3.4 of the By-Laws of the Company provides a procedure for nomination for election of members of the Board of Directors of the Company. Nominations for election to the Board of Directors may be made by the Board of Directors or by any holder of any outstanding class of capital stock of the Company entitled to vote for the election of Directors. Nominations, other than those made by the Board of Directors, shall be made by notification in writing delivered or mailed to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee at 111 West Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240, not less than thirty (30) days or more than sixty (60) days prior to any meeting of stockholders called for election of Directors, provided, however, that if less than twenty-one (21) days notice of the meeting is given to stockholders, such nomination shall be mailed or delivered to the President of the Company not later than the close of business on

the seventh (7th) day following the day on which the notice of meeting was mailed. If the Company's 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is held on the third Monday of May (as it will be in 2015), any stockholder nomination, to be timely, must be received by the Company not later than April 18, 2016 and not earlier than March 17, 2016.

Notification must contain certain information as to each proposed nominee and as to each person acting alone or in conjunction with one or more persons, in making such nomination or in organizing, directing or financing such nomination. The Chairman of the meeting may, in his or her discretion, determine and declare to the meeting that a nomination not made in accordance with the foregoing procedure shall be disregarded. A copy of the By-Laws of the Company can be obtained by written request to the Secretary of the Company, Stephen W. Haley, 111 West Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240. A copy of the Nominating Committee's charter, which outlines the Committee's nominating process, including the standards and qualifications to be considered for Board membership, was included as Exhibit C to the 2013 proxy statement.



Pursuant to Article II, Section 2.6 of the Company's By-Laws, in order for other business to be properly brought before a meeting by a stockholder, the stockholder must have given timely notice thereof in writing to the Secretary of the Company and must have been a stockholder of record at the time such notice is given. To be timely, a stockholder's notice shall be delivered to or mailed (by United States registered mail, return receipt requested) and received at the principal executive offices of the Company not less than seventy (70) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the first anniversary date of the preceding year's annual meeting; provided, however, that in the event that the date of the annual meeting is advanced by more than twenty (20) days, or delayed by more than seventy (70) days, from such anniversary date, notice by a stockholder to be timely must be so delivered or mailed (by U.S. registered mail, return receipt requested) and received not earlier than the ninetieth (90th) day prior to such annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the seventieth (70th) day prior to such annual meeting or the tenth (10th) day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made. Notice of any stockholder proposal by a stockholder to properly bring business before the 2016 annual meeting, to be timely, must be received by the Company no later than March 9, 2016, and no earlier than February 18, 2016. Such stockholder's notice to the Secretary must contain certain additional information, which is more particularly described in Article II, Section 2.6 of the Company's By-Laws. No business shall be conducted at an annual meeting of stockholders unless proposed in accordance with the foregoing procedures. The Chairman of the meeting shall, if the factors warrant, determine and declare to the meeting that business was not properly brought before the meeting in accordance with the foregoing procedure and such business shall not be transacted.

Under the Rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, if a stockholder intends to include a proposal in the Company's proxy statement and form of proxy for presentation at the Company's 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the proposal must be received by the Company at its principal executive offices by December 21, 2015. In addition to these advance notice requirements, there are other requirements that a stockholder must meet in order to have a proposal included in the Company's proxy statement under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### Other Matters

The Management and Directors of the Company are not aware of any other matters to be presented for consideration at the meeting to be held on May 18, 2015 or any adjournments or postponements thereof. If any other matters should properly come before the meeting, it is intended that the persons named in the enclosed proxy will vote the shares represented thereby in accordance with their best business judgment, pursuant to the discretionary authority granted therein.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

/s/ Stephen W. Haley  
Stephen W. Haley  
Secretary

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F&M FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANCORP 111 W. Pine Street Lodi, California 95240 IMPORTANT ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION Using a black ink pen, mark your votes with an X as shown in this example. Please do not write outside the designated areas. X 020UFD 1 U PX +q PLEASE FOLD ALONG THE PERFORATION, DETACH AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. Q Annual Meeting Proxy Card Authorized Signatures — This section must be completed for your vote to be counted. — Date and Sign Below When shares are held by joint tenants, both should sign. Executors, administrators, trustees, etc. should give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer. Date (mm/dd/yyyy) — Please print date below. Signature 1 — Please keep signature within the box. Signature 2 — Please keep signature within the box. A Proposals — The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR all the nominees listed. 1. Election of Directors: + Mark here to WITHHOLD vote from all nominees Mark here to vote FOR all nominees For All EXCEPT - To withhold authority to vote for any nominee(s), write the name(s) of such nominee(s) below. 01 - Stewart C. Adams, Jr. 02 - Edward Corum, Jr. 03 - Gary J. Long 04 - Bruce A. Mettler 05 - Kevin Sanguinetti 06 - Kent A. Steinwert 07 - Calvin (Kelly) Suess 2. In their discretion, the Proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting. B Authorized Signatures — This section must be completed for your vote to be counted. — Date and Sign Below When shares are held by joint tenants, both should sign. Executors, administrators, trustees, etc. should give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer. Date (mm/dd/yyyy) — Please print date below. -/-Signature 1 — Please keep signature within the box. Signature 2 — Please keep signature within the box. 1UPX 2332992 +

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REVOCABLE PROXY — FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANCORP ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS MAY 18, 2015 This Proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors The signer hereby appoint(s) Edward Corum, Jr., Kevin Sanguinetti and Kent A. Steinwert and any of them, each with full power of substitution as Proxy of the signer, to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Farmers & Merchants Bancorp to be held at Lodi, California, at 4:00 p.m., on May 18, 2015 and any adjournment thereof, and to vote the number of shares the signer would be entitled to vote if personally present as indicated heron: THIS PROXY WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED WILL BE VOTED IN THE MANNER DIRECTED BY THE STOCKHOLDER. IF NO DIRECTION IS MADE THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED “FOR” ALL NOMINEES LISTED UNDER ITEM 1. THIS PROXY CONFERS ON THE PROXYHOLDERS THE POWER OF CUMULATIVE VOTING AS DESCRIBED IN THE PROXY STATEMENT.

PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN, AND MAIL THIS PROXY CARD IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE

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