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WESTAMERICA BANCORPORATION

Form 8-K

September 02, 2009

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT
TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):
September 2, 2009

WESTAMERICA BANCORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

CALIFORNIA

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

001-9383 94-2156203

(Commission File Number) (IRS Employer Identification No.)

1108 Fifth Avenue, San Rafael, California 94901

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

(707) 863-6000

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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Exhibits

99.1 Press release dated September 2, 2009

Item 8.01: Other Events

On September 2, 2009 Westamerica Bancorporation announced a redemption of preferred stock and approval of a common stock repurchase plan. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

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Signatures

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

Westamerica Bancorporation

/s/ JOHN "ROBERT" THORSON

John "Robert" Thorson
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
September 2, 2009

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| Exhibit No. ----- | Description ----- | Sequentially Number Page ----- |
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Exhibit 99.1:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 2, 2009

WESTAMERICA BANCORPORATION REDEEMS PREFERRED STOCK

San Rafael, CA: Westamerica Bancorporation (NASDAQ: WABC) today redeemed 41,863 shares of its Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A (Preferred Stock) at \$1,000 per share. This \$42 million redemption represents fifty percent of the Preferred Stock issued to the United States Department of the Treasury on February 13, 2009. This redemption will require a one-time after-tax charge of \$538 thousand, equivalent to approximately \$0.02 diluted earnings per common share (EPS), to accelerate the Preferred Stock discount accretion. Quarterly Preferred Stock dividends and discount accretion will decline \$553 thousand following the redemption, increasing quarterly EPS by approximately \$0.02.

"Westamerica is pleased to begin repaying the preferred stock, and intends to complete full redemption using our operating earnings. Our healthy capital position and asset quality provide the financial strength to retire the preferred stock," stated Chairman, President and CEO David Payne. "The County Bank systems conversions and final branch consolidations were completed on our timeline over the weekend of August 15, 2009. Our operating earnings will benefit from the reduced cost structure following the integration," concluded Payne.

On August 27, 2009, Westamerica's Board of Directors approved the repurchase of up to two million shares of the Company's common stock from time to time prior to September 1, 2010. This plan replaces the existing two million share repurchase program, under which 1,955 thousand shares remained available to purchase as of June 30, 2009. Under the terms of the Preferred Stock, common stock repurchases are restricted. "This stock repurchase program provides management with the flexibility to continue optimizing the Company's capital following full redemption of the preferred stock," stated Chairman, President and CEO David Payne.

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At September 1, 2009, Westamerica Bancorporation, through its wholly owned subsidiary, Westamerica Bank, operates 99 branches and two trust offices throughout Northern and Central California.

Westamerica Bancorporation Web Address: www.westamerica.com

For additional information contact:

Westamerica Bancorporation
Robert A. Thorson - SVP & Chief Financial Officer
707-863-6840

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION:

This press release contains forward-looking statements about Westamerica Bancorporation for which it claims the protection of the safe harbor provisions contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to: (i) projections of revenues, expenses, income or loss, earnings or loss per share, the payment or nonpayment of dividends, capital structure and other financial items; (ii) statements of plans, objectives and expectations of the Company or its management or board of directors, including those relating to products or

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services; (iii) statements of future economic performance; and (iv) statements of assumptions underlying such statements. Words such as "believes", "anticipates", "expects", "intends", "targeted", "projected", "continue", "remain", "will", "should", "may" and other similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements.

These forward-looking statements are based on Management's current knowledge and belief and include information concerning the Company's possible or assumed future financial condition and results of operations. A number of factors, some of which are beyond the Company's ability to predict or control, could cause future results to differ materially from those contemplated. The Company's most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2009 and annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission describe some of these factors. These factors include but are not limited to (1) the length and severity of current difficulties in the national and California economies and the effects of federal and state government efforts to address those difficulties; (2) continued low liquidity levels in capital markets; (3) fluctuations in asset prices including, but not limited to, stocks, bonds, real estate, and commodities; (4) the effect of acquisitions and integration of acquired businesses including the recently acquired County Bank; (5) economic uncertainty created by terrorist threats and attacks on the United States, the actions taken in response, and the uncertain effect of these events on the national and regional economies; (6) changes in the interest rate environment; (7) changes in the regulatory environment; (8) significantly increasing competitive pressure in the banking industry; (9) operational risks including data processing system failures or fraud; (10) volatility of rate sensitive loans, deposits and investments; (11) asset/liability management risks and liquidity risks; and (12) changes in the securities markets. The Company undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date forward-looking statements are made.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made.

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