



F&M BANK RECEIVES HIGHEST RATINGS FOR FINANCIAL SAFETY AND STRENGTH

DATELINE: *Lodi, Calif., May 21, 2010...* Kent A. Steinwert, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Farmers & Merchants Bank of Central California proudly announced that F&M Bank has been recognized as one of California's safest and most secure banks by several national rating firms.

BauerFinancial, Inc., one of the most respected national bank rating firms, announced that F&M Bank has earned the highest 5-Star Superior rating for financial strength and stability based upon 2009 year-end financials. This is the 74th consecutive quarter that F&M Bank has earned this honor, only 7% of the nation's banks can claim this distinction.

The Findley Companies, California's preeminent bank advisory and consulting firm, recognizes F&M Bank for achieving "Super Premier Performance," their highest rating. Only a few California banks received this distinction.

TheStreet.com Ratings. Inc., recognizes F&M Bank with an "A" (Excellent Financial Strength) safety rating, their highest rating, which only 4 California banks received based upon 2009 year-end financials.

VERIBANC,[®] awards F&M Bank the "Blue Ribbon Bank Commendation of Excellence," their highest rating, based upon 2009 year-end financials. This is the 55th consecutive quarter that F&M Bank has earned this honor.

"The Board of Directors and Management Team's number one priority is to keep Farmers & Merchants Bank safe and secure for years to come. Thus, we are extremely proud F&M Bank has been recognized as one of the strongest banks in California. These enviable ratings acknowledge the Board of Directors and Management's success in building F&M Bank into one of California's most secure and safe financial institutions," stated Steinwert.

Founded in 1916, Farmers & Merchants Bank of Central California, also known as F&M Bank, is a full service, locally owned and operated community bank with over \$1.7 billion in assets. F&M Bank proudly serves California's Great Central Valley through 24 convenient locations from Sacramento to Merced.

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