



F&M BANK IS AWARDED AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANT FOR MODESTO

DATELINE: *Lodi, Calif., Feb 16, 2012...* Kent A. Steinwert, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Farmers & Merchants Bank of Central California is pleased to announce that F&M Bank has been awarded a \$199,000 grant from the **Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco**. This grant will be used to rehabilitate an existing transitional housing development for homeless persons with mental illness and their families in Modesto. F&M Bank will work in collaboration with the **Stanislaus County Affordable Housing Corporation** to implement the grant.

“We are extremely proud that F&M Bank has been awarded this grant money and congratulate our team of experienced and knowledgeable professionals whose efforts made this happen. We are proud to continue our longstanding commitment to enhance the overall quality of life, through a partnership with Stanislaus County Affordable Housing Corporation, in this worthwhile and necessary cause,” noted Steinwert.

“Typically, only one-third of applicants in this competitive grant process ever receive awards. This award demonstrates the Bank’s support of our community, our customers, and the Community Reinvestment Act,” stated Cassandra Burroughs, Community Reinvestment Officer for F&M Bank.

“Since 1997, F&M Bank has partnered with the Federal Home Loan Bank and has been awarded over \$2.4 million in total grants,” continued Steinwert. “Reinvesting in the communities we serve has been a priority throughout F&M Bank’s 96 year history,” Steinwert added.

The Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco helps meet the borrowing needs of communities by providing wholesale credit products and services to member financial institutions. They are part of a network of 12 regional Federal Home Loan Banks chartered by Congress in 1932 to provide low-cost credit to residential housing lenders.

Stanislaus County Affordable Housing Corporation promotes the construction and development of affordable housing opportunities for residents of Stanislaus County. They are committed to activities such as Transitional Housing to assist the homeless, Housing Advocacy for renters, and the development of affordable housing. The program's objective is to transition program participants from the streets, to temporary housing, with the eventual goal of independent and permanent living arrangements.

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Central California was founded in 1916 and operates as F&M Bank, a full service, locally owned and operated community bank with over \$1.9 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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