



F&M BANK OPENS NEW BRANCH OFFICE IN MERCED

DATELINE: Lodi, California, April 29, 2009. . . Kent A. Steinwert, President and Chief Executive Officer of F&M Bank, is pleased to announce that F&M Bank has expanded its service area to include Merced. The new F&M Bank Branch Office in Merced, located at 2936 G Street, opened for business in February 2009.

“F&M has been serving California’s Great Central Valley since 1916, and has strategically planned to extend the service area further south along the Highway 99 corridor to Merced for some time. Merced is a wonderful community and we are excited to be a part of it. We are thrilled to continue to build the F&M Bank franchise, add value to our shareholders, and be an important part of the community,” stated Steinwert.

The Merced Branch opened under the capable leadership of **Bruce McClellan**, a seasoned banking veteran, who will serve as Vice President and Merced Market Manager. Bruce has extensive expertise in Commercial Lending, Branch Management, and Community Development. In addition to McClellan, the experienced professional staff of the new Merced Office includes **Chris Winek**, Commercial Lending Officer; **Leslie Vax**, Retail Branch Manager; and **Natalie Aponte**, Teller Operations Supervisor.

“We are particularly proud that F&M Bank is still growing and generating record profits during some of the toughest economic conditions in decades. F&M Bank has long been acknowledged as one of the safest and most secure banks in the United States and has consistently received the highest possible ratings from nationally recognized bank rating firms,” stated Steinwert.

“All of us at F&M Bank continue to be very pleased with the Company’s financial performance and are proud that F&M Bank was recently named the **Best Performing Large Bank in California** for 2008 by The Findley Group, California’s preeminent bank advisory and rating firm,” Steinwert continued.

"We're happy that they've chosen Merced as a location for a branch. That decision shows Farmers & Merchants Bank believes in the future of this community. We welcome them to Merced and think they make a nice addition to this City," stated Ellie Wooten, The Honorable Mayor of Merced.

“Please stop by the branch to meet the staff and enjoy refreshments. You may also call me at 209.626.4118 to discuss your personal and business banking needs. I look forward to getting to know you and promise to make banking easy for you,” stated Bruce McClellan, Vice President and Merced Market Manager.

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 \$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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