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California Independent Bankers Name Bank of Alameda President/CEO Steve Andrews as 2004 CIB President

Newport Beach, CA (Feb. 2, 2004)— The California Independent Bankers (CIB) tapped an industry veteran with deep Northern California /Bay Area ties, appointing Steve Andrews as President of the industry trade group.

Andrews the current President and CEO of NorCal Community Bancorp and its subsidiary, Bank of Alameda, has presided over two other Bay Area community banks - Lamorinda National Bank and East County Bank, N.A. during his successful banking career; and will continue in the footsteps of his CIB predecessors in promoting the mission of California Community Bankers.

“Andrews is uniquely qualified for his role in leading California Bankers, having presided over a mature bank, a turn-a-round banking situation, and his current position heading a de novo institution,” CIB Executive Director Craig Hudson said. “Andrews has already proven his metal testifying against Wal-Mart, facing aggressive questioning from Sacramento lawmakers and for his efforts in D.C. promoting industry issues in front of California and Finance Committee legislators.”

For the last six years, Bank of Alameda, which has been led by Andrews since inception, has occupied Andrews’ attention, when he is not working on industry trade issues. The Bank serves the East Bay with branch offices in Alameda, Emeryville, and its new branch addition scheduled to open in Oakland. The assets of the Bank at year-end totaled \$182 million, and produced a respectable ROA of 1.04% and ROE of 16.25%, rivaling the performance of more mature institutions. In addition the stock of NorCal Community Bancorp, which has been split twice in its short history, is trading around \$19 per share, providing original shareholders with a return in excess of 425%.

Hudson said he and Andrews plan to hit the road running. “In the first quarter of 2004, we will be hosting the Independent Community Bankers of America in San Diego, as well as play host to an international contingent from China,” Hudson said. Additionally, as part of an industry exchange, both Hudson and Andrews will find themselves in China for a short visit and information-sharing trip.

Other items on the plate for 2004 include continued work in Sacramento related to Privacy and the continued separation of banking and commerce. On the national front, issues will include deposit insurance reform, bankruptcy, equal access to payment systems, S-Corp reform, and other industry issues as they arise.

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The California Independent Bankers (CIB) is a not-for-profit trade association politically active on behalf of more than 160 financial institutions in California. There are six banking trade associations, but only one, CIB, is politically active in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. on behalf of community banks. CIB is also the California affiliate of the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), which has over 5,000 independent bank members nationwide.

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