



Member FDIC

March 23, 2009

Mr. Robert E. Feldman
Executive Secretary
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20429

Attention: Comments

Re: 12 CFR Part 327: RIN 3064-AD35; Assessments

Dear Mr. Feldman:

First of all, SouthWest Bank appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) interim rule that proposes the imposition of a 20 basis point emergency special assessment on June 30, 2009. SouthWest Bank is a \$170 million locally owned community bank located in Odessa, Texas. In addition to 3 branches in the Odessa community, we also have a branch in a local community with a population of approximately 300 as well as a branch in Lubbock, Texas.

We definitely understand the importance of having a financially sound FDIC insurance fund. However, our bank is concerned about how the FDIC fund will be restored. We were not a part of the subprime lending that has caused so much economic strain on our economy. SouthWest Bank serves the communities in which they are located, and strive to help the small businesses and consumers located within our service boundaries.

The proposed special assessment is a significant cost to our current budget. As an example, last year our Assessment accounted for 1.5% of our overall budget. The new proposed assessment will raise this figure to 7.6%! This will have a tremendous affect to our challenge of increasing capital in a volatile economy that we are facing. This increase has caused us to look at ways of lowering other expenses which include the sponsorship of local community activities as well as donations to non-profit organizations which so desperately need our funds during these times.

Again, we are all in favor of doing our part! Our part, and not being expected to compensate for the banks that were the cause of the housing debacle with irresponsible lenders and borrowers. Surely there is another alternative in restoring the FDIC insurance fund without causing the huge impact that the special assessment does to a small community bank – like SouthWest Bank.

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Thank you for this opportunity to express our opinions on the proposed assessment. We stand ready to accommodate the FDIC fund in whichever way the FDIC board chooses to take in their April meeting. Should you have questions, or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at (432) 552-1010 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dewey Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "B".

Dewey Bryant
President/CEO