

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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In the Matter of )	
)	
)	
)	ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST
SIGNATURE BANK )	
WINDSOR, COLORADO )	
)	FDIC 09-438b
)	
(Insured State Nonmember Bank) )	
_____ )	

Signature Bank, Windsor, Colorado (“Bank”), through its board of directors, having been advised of its right to the issuance and service of a NOTICE OF CHARGES AND OF HEARING detailing the unsafe or unsound banking practices and violations of law and/or regulations alleged to have been committed by the Bank and of its right to a hearing on the alleged charges under section 8(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (“Act”), 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b), and having waived those rights, entered into a STIPULATION AND CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST (“CONSENT AGREEMENT”) with counsel for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) dated October 15, 2009, whereby, solely for the purpose of this proceeding and without admitting or denying the alleged charges of unsafe or unsound banking practices and violations of law and/or regulations, the Bank consented to the issuance of an ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST (“ORDER”) by the FDIC.

The FDIC considered the matter and determined that they had reason to believe that the Bank had engaged in unsafe or unsound banking practices and had violated laws and/or regulations. The FDIC, therefore, accepted the CONSENT AGREEMENT and issued the following:

**ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST**

**IT IS ORDERED**, that the Bank, institution-affiliated parties, as that term is defined in section 3(u) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. § 1813(u), of the Bank and its successors and assigns, cease and desist from the following unsafe or unsound banking practices and violations of laws and/or regulations:

1. Operating the Bank with an inadequate level of capital protection for the kind and quality of assets held by the Bank.
2. Operating the Bank with inadequate net interest margins and earnings to fund growth, support dividend payments and augment capital.
3. Operating the Bank with an excessive level of adversely classified loans or assets.
4. Operating the Bank with an excessive level of delinquent loans.
5. Operating with an inadequate allowance for loan and lease losses for the volume, type and quality of loans and leases held.
6. Refinancing credits to borrowers in weak financial positions without improving collateral margins or establishing structured repayment programs.
7. Creating concentrations of credit.
8. Operating the Bank with rapid growth without regard to capital protection.
9. Operating the Bank with management whose policies and practices are detrimental to the Bank and jeopardize the safety of its deposits.

10. Operating the Bank without adequate supervision and direction by the Bank's board of directors over the management of the Bank to prevent unsafe and unsound banking practices and violations of laws or regulations.
11. Operating the Bank in violation of the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act and the FDIC's Suspicious Activity Reports regulations.
12. Operating the Bank with a heavy reliance on short-term potentially volatile deposits as a source for funding longer-term investments.
13. Operating the Bank without adequate liquidity or proper regard for funds management in light of the Bank's asset and liability mix.
14. Operating the Bank with excessive level of interest rate risk.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Bank, its institution-affiliated parties and its successors and assigns take affirmative action as follows:

**CAPITAL PLAN**

1. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall submit a written capital plan to the Regional Director of the FDIC's Dallas Region ("Regional Director") and the Commissioner of the Colorado Division of Banking ("Commissioner") that requires the Bank, after establishing an Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses ("ALLL"), to achieve and maintain its Tier 1 Leverage Capital ratio equal to or greater than 9% of the Bank's Average Total Assets; to achieve and maintain its Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital ratio equal to or greater than 11% of the Bank's Total Risk-Weighted Assets; and to achieve and maintain its

Total Risk-Based Capital ratio equal to or greater than 13% of the Bank's Total Risk Weighted Assets.

(b) After the Regional Director and the Commissioner respond to the capital plan, the Bank's board of directors shall adopt the capital plan, including any modifications or amendments requested by the Regional Director and the Commissioner. Thereafter, the Bank shall immediately initiate measures detailed in the capital plan, to the extent such measures have not previously been initiated, to effect compliance with the plan within 30 days after the Regional Director and the Commissioner respond to the capital plan.

(c) Such increase in Tier 1 Capital and any increase in Tier 1 Capital necessary to meet the capital ratios required by this ORDER may be accomplished by:

- (1) The sale of securities in the form of common stock; or
- (2) The direct contribution of cash subsequent to June 22, 2009, by the directors and/or shareholders of the Bank or by the Bank's holding company; or
- (3) Receipt of an income tax refund or the capitalization subsequent to June 22, 2009, of a bona fide tax refund certified as being accurate by a certified public accounting firm; or
- (4) Any other method approved by the Regional Director and the Commissioner.

(d) If any such capital ratios are less than required by the ORDER, as determined as of the date of any Report of Condition and Income or at an examination by the FDIC or the Colorado Division of Banking ("State"), the Bank shall, within 30 days after receipt of a written notice of the capital deficiency from the Regional Director or the Commissioner,

present to the Regional Director and the Commissioner a new capital plan to increase the Bank's Tier 1 Capital of the Bank or to take such other measures to bring all the capital ratios to the percentages required by this ORDER. After the Regional Director and the Commissioner respond to the new capital plan, the Bank's board of directors shall adopt the new capital plan, including any modifications or amendments requested by the Regional Director and the Commissioner.

(e) Thereafter, the Bank shall immediately initiate measures detailed in the plan, to the extent such measures have not previously been initiated, to increase its Tier 1 Capital by an amount sufficient to bring all the Bank's capital ratios to the percentages required by this ORDER within 30 days after the Regional Director and the Commissioner respond to the new capital plan.

(f) If all or part of the increase in Tier 1 Capital required by this ORDER is to be accomplished by the sale of new securities, the Bank's board of directors shall adopt and implement a plan for the sale of such additional securities, including soliciting proxies and the voting of any shares or proxies owned or controlled by them in favor of the plan. Should the implementation of the plan involve a public distribution of the Bank's securities (including a distribution limited only to the Bank's existing shareholders), the Bank shall prepare offering materials fully describing the securities being offered, including an accurate description of the financial condition of the Bank and the circumstances giving rise to the offering, and any other material disclosures necessary to comply with Federal securities laws. Prior to the implementation of the plan, and in any event, not less than 20 days prior to the dissemination of such materials, the plan and any materials used in the sale of the securities shall be submitted to the FDIC, Accounting and Securities Disclosure Section, Washington, D.C. 20429, for review.

Any changes requested to be made in the plan or the materials by the FDIC shall be made prior to their dissemination. If the increase in Tier 1 Capital is to be provided by the sale of non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock, then all terms and conditions of the issue shall be presented to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for prior approval.

(g) In complying with the provisions of this ORDER and until such time as any such public offering is terminated, the Bank shall provide to any subscriber and/or purchaser of the Bank's securities written notice of any planned or existing development or other change which is materially different from the information reflected in any offering materials used in connection with the sale of the Bank securities. The written notice required by this paragraph shall be furnished within 10 days after the date such material development or change was planned or occurred, whichever is earlier, and shall be furnished to every purchaser and/or subscriber who received or was tendered the information contained in the Bank's original offering materials.

(h) In addition, the Bank shall comply with the FDIC's Statement of Policy on Risk-Based Capital found in Appendix A to Part 325 of the FDIC Rules and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. Part 325, App. A.

(i) For purposes of this ORDER, all terms relating to capital shall be calculated according to the methodology set forth in Part 325 of the FDIC's Rules and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. Part 325.

(j) For purposes of this Order, the terms Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses, Tier 1 Capital, Tier 1 Leverage Capital, Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital Ratio, Total Assets, and Total Risk-Weighted Assets shall be as defined in Part 325 of the FDIC Rules and

Regulations. Average Total Assets shall be calculated according to the methodology set forth in the Call Report instructions.

**CLASSIFIED ASSETS - CHARGE-OFF AND PLAN FOR REDUCTION**

2. (a) Within 30 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall, to the extent that it has not previously done so, eliminate from its books, by charge-off or collection, all assets or portions of assets classified Loss by the FDIC or the State as a result of its examination of the Bank as of June 22, 2009. Elimination or reduction of these assets through proceeds of loans made by the Bank shall not be considered “collection” for the purpose of this paragraph.

(b) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall submit a written plan to the Regional Director and the Commissioner to reduce the remaining assets classified Doubtful and Substandard as of June 22, 2009. The plan shall address each asset so classified with a balance of \$250,000 or greater and provide the following:

- (1) The name under which the asset is carried on the books of the Bank;
- (2) Type of asset;
- (3) Actions to be taken in order to reduce the classified asset; and
- (4) Timeframes for accomplishing the proposed actions.

The plan shall also include, at a minimum:

- (1) A review of the financial position of each such borrower, including the source of repayment, repayment ability, and alternate repayment sources; and

- (2) Evaluation of the available collateral for each such credit, including possible actions to improve the Bank's collateral position.

In addition, the Bank's plan shall contain a schedule detailing the projected reduction of total classified assets on a quarterly basis. Further, the plan shall contain a provision requiring the submission of monthly progress reports to the Bank's board of directors and a provision mandating a review by the Bank's board of directors.

(c) The Bank shall present the plan to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review. Within 30 days after the Regional Director's and the Commissioner's response, the plan, including any requested modifications or amendments shall be adopted by the Bank's board of directors which approval shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Bank's board of directors. The Bank shall then immediately initiate measures detailed in the plan to the extent such measures have not been initiated.

(d) For purposes of the plan, the reduction of adversely classified assets as of June 22, 2009 shall be detailed using quarterly targets expressed as a percentage of the Bank's Tier 1 Capital plus the Bank's Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses (ALLL) and may be accomplished by:

- (1) Charge-off;
- (2) Collection;
- (3) Sufficient improvement in the quality of adversely classified assets so as to warrant removing any adverse classification, as determined by the FDIC or the State; or
- (4) Increase in the Bank's Tier 1 Capital.



(e) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall eliminate from its books, by charge-off or collection, all assets or portions of assets classified Loss as determined at any future examination conducted by the FDIC or the State.

**RESTRICTION ON ADVANCES TO CLASSIFIED BORROWERS**

3. (a) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall not extend, directly or indirectly, any additional credit to or for the benefit of any borrower whose existing credit has been classified Loss by the FDIC or the State as the result of its examination of the Bank, either in whole or in part, and is uncollected, or to any borrower who is already obligated in any manner to the Bank on any extension of credit, including any portion thereof, that has been charged off the books of the Bank and remains uncollected. The requirements of this paragraph shall not prohibit the Bank from renewing credit already extended to a borrower after full collection, in cash, of interest due from the borrower.

(b) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall not extend, directly or indirectly, any additional credit to or for the benefit of any borrower whose extension of credit is classified Doubtful and/or Substandard by the FDIC or the State as the result of its examination of the Bank, either in whole or in part, and is uncollected, unless the Bank's board of directors has signed a detailed written statement giving reasons why failure to extend such credit would be detrimental to the best interests of the Bank. The statement shall be placed in the appropriate loan file and included in the minutes of the applicable Bank's board of directors' meeting.

## **BUDGET AND PROFIT PLAN**

4. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall formulate and submit to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment a written profit plan and a realistic, comprehensive budget for all categories of income and expense for calendar year 2010. The plan required by this paragraph shall contain formal goals and strategies, be consistent with sound banking practices, reduce discretionary expenses, improve the Bank's overall earnings and net interest income, and shall contain a description of the operating assumptions that form the basis for major projected income and expense components.

(b) The written profit plan shall address, at a minimum:

- (1) An analysis of the Bank's pricing structure; and
- (2) A recommendation for reducing the Bank's cost of funds.

(c) Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter following completion of the profit plan and budget required by this paragraph, the Bank's board of directors shall evaluate the Bank's actual performance in relation to the written profit plan and budget, record the results of the evaluation, and note any actions taken by the Bank in the minutes of the board of directors' meeting when such evaluation is undertaken.

(d) A written profit plan and budget shall be prepared for each calendar year for which this ORDER is in effect and shall be submitted to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment within 30 days after the end of each year. Within 30 days after receipt of all such comments from the Regional Director and the Commissioner and after adoption of any recommended changes, the Bank shall approve the written profit plan and

budget, which approval shall be recorded in the minutes of a board of directors' meeting.

Thereafter, the Bank shall implement and follow the plan.

### **CONCENTRATIONS – PLAN FOR REDUCTION**

5. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall formulate and submit to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment a written plan to reduce each of the loan concentrations of credit identified on page 29 in the Report of Examination as of June 22, 2009. Such plan shall prohibit any additional advances that would increase the concentrations or create new concentrations and shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Dollar levels to which the Bank shall reduce each concentration;  
and
- (2) Provisions for the submission of monthly written progress reports to the Bank's board of directors for review and notation in minutes of the meetings of the Bank's board of directors.

(b) For purposes of the plan, "reduce" means to:

- (1) Charge-off;
- (2) Collect; or
- (3) Increase Tier 1 Capital.

(c) After the Regional Director and the Commissioner have responded to the plan, the Bank's board of directors shall adopt the plan as amended or modified by the Regional Director and the Commissioner. The plan shall be implemented immediately to the extent that the provisions of the plan are not already in effect at the Bank.

## **CORRECTION OF BANK SECRECY ACT-RELATED VIOLATIONS**

6. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall eliminate and/or correct all violations of the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act, 31 U.S.C § 5311 et seq., the Bank Secrecy Act (“BSA”), the rules and regulations implementing the BSA issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury, 31 C.F.R. Part 103, noted in the Report of Examination.

(b) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall eliminate and/or correct all violations of the FDIC’s Suspicious Activity Reports regulations, 12 C.F.R Part 353, noted in the Report of Examination.

(c) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall implement procedures to ensure future compliance with all applicable BSA laws and regulations.

## **MAINTENANCE OF ALLOWANCE FOR LOAN AND LEASE LOSSES**

7. Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank must use Financial Accounting Standards Board Statements Numbers 5 and 114 for determining the Bank’s ALLL reserve adequacy. Provisions for loan losses must be based on the inherent risk in the Bank’s loan portfolio and should also consider the recommendations made in the Report of Examination on page 8. The directorate must document with written reasons any decision not to require provisions for loan losses in the board minutes.

## **REDUCTION OF DELINQUENCIES**

8. (a) Within 90 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall formulate and submit to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment a written plan for the reduction and collection of delinquent loans. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, provisions which:

- (1) Prohibit the extension of credit for the payment of interest;
- (2) Delineate areas of responsibility for implementing and monitoring the Bank's collection policies;
- (3) Establish specific collection procedures to be instituted at various stages of a borrower's delinquency;
- (4) Establish dollar levels to which the Bank shall reduce delinquencies; and
- (5) Provide for the submission of monthly written progress reports to the Bank's board of directors for review and notation in minutes of the meetings of the Bank's board of directors.

(b) For purposes of the plan, "reduce" means to:

- (1) Charge-off; or
- (2) Collect.

(c) After the Regional Director and the Commissioner have responded to the plan, the Bank's board of directors shall adopt the plan as amended or modified by the Regional Director and the Commissioner. The plan will be implemented immediately to the extent that the provisions of the plan are not already in effect at the Bank.

### **DIVIDEND RESTRICTION**

9. As of the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall not declare or pay any cash dividend without the prior written consent of the Regional Director and the Commissioner.

### **GROWTH PLAN**

10. While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall not increase its Total Assets by more than 10 percent during any calendar year without providing, at least 30 days prior to its implementation, a growth plan to the Regional Director and the Commissioner. Such growth plan, at a minimum, shall include the funding source to support the projected growth, as well as the anticipated use of funds. This growth plan shall not be implemented without the prior written consent of the Regional Director and the Commissioner.

### **INTEREST RATE RISK**

11. Within 90 days after the effective date of the ORDER, the Bank shall develop, adopt, and implement an interest rate risk policy and procedures that shall include, at a minimum:

(a) Measures designed to control the nature and amount of interest rate risk the Bank takes including those that specify risk limits and defines lines of responsibilities and authority for managing risk;

(b) A system for identifying and measuring interest rate risk;

(c) A system for monitoring and reporting risk exposures; and

(d) A system of internal controls, review, and audit to ensure the integrity of the overall risk management process.

(e) Establishing procedures for managing the Bank's sensitivity to interest rate risk which comply with the Joint Agency Statement of Policy on Interest Rate Risk (June 26, 1996), and the Supervisory Policy Statement on Investment Securities and End-user Derivative Activities (April 23, 1998).

### **LIQUIDITY/ASSET/LIABILITY MANAGEMENT**

12. (a) Within 90 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall develop and submit to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment a written plan addressing liquidity. Annually thereafter, while this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall review this plan for adequacy and, based upon such review, shall make necessary revisions to the plan to maintain adequate provisions to meet the Bank's liquidity needs. The initial plan shall include, at a minimum, provisions:

- (1) Establishing a reasonable range for its net non-core funding ratio as computed in the Uniform Bank Performance Report;
- (2) Identifying the source and use of borrowed and/or volatile funds;
- (3) Establishing lines of credit at correspondent banks, including the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, that would allow the Bank to borrow funds to meet depositor demands if the Bank's other provisions for liquidity proved to be inadequate;

- (4) Requiring the retention of securities and/or other identified categories of investments that can be liquidated within one day in amounts sufficient (as a percentage of the Bank's total assets) to ensure the maintenance of the Bank's liquidity posture at a level consistent with short- and long-term liquidity objectives;
- (5) Establishing a minimum liquidity ratio and defining how the ratio is to be calculated;
- (6) Establishing contingency plans by identifying alternative courses of action designed to meet the Bank's liquidity needs;
- (7) Addressing the use of borrowings (i.e., seasonal credit needs, match funding mortgage loans, etc.) and providing for reasonable maturities commensurate with the use of the borrowed funds; addressing concentration of funding sources; and addressing pricing and collateral requirements with specific allowable funding channels (i.e., brokered deposits, internet deposits, Fed funds purchased and other correspondent borrowings); and

(b) Within 30 days after the receipt of all such comments from the Regional Director and the Commissioner, and after revising the plan as necessary, the Bank shall adopt the plan, which adoption shall be recorded in the minutes of a board of directors' meeting.

Thereafter, the Bank shall implement the plan.



**LOAN COMMITTEE/LOAN REVIEW REQUIREMENTS/  
LOAN ADMINISTRATION**

13. (a) Within 30 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank's board of directors shall establish a loan review committee to periodically review the Bank's loan portfolio and identify and categorize problem credits. The committee shall file a report with the Bank's board of directors at each board meeting. This report shall include the following information:

- (1) The overall quality of the loan portfolio;
- (2) The identification, by type and amount, of each problem or delinquent loan;
- (3) The identification of all loans not in conformance with the Bank's lending policy; and
- (4) The identification of all loans to officers, directors, principal shareholders or their related interests.

(b) At least 50 percent of the members of the loan review committee shall be directors not employed in any capacity by the Bank other than as a director.

(c) The loan committee should also implement corrective measures regarding the loan administration issues noted on pages 7 and 8 of the Report regarding commercial real estate monitoring, as well as the appropriate analysis and use of global cash flow analysis and interest reserves.

## **MANAGEMENT – BOARD SUPERVISION**

14. Within 30 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank's board of directors shall increase its participation in the affairs of the Bank by assuming full responsibility for the approval of the Bank's policies and objectives and for the supervision of the Bank's management, including all the Bank's activities. The board's participation in the Bank's affairs shall include, at a minimum, monthly meetings in which the following areas shall be reviewed and approved by the board: reports of income and expenses; new, overdue, renewed, insider, charged-off, delinquent, nonaccrued, and recovered loans; investment activities; operating policies; and individual committee actions. The Bank's board of directors' minutes shall document the board's reviews and approvals, including the names of any dissenting directors.

## **MANAGEMENT**

15. (a) The Bank shall have and retain qualified management. Each member of management shall possess qualifications and experience commensurate with his or her duties and responsibilities at the Bank. The qualifications of management personnel shall be evaluated on their ability to:

- (1) Comply with the requirements of the ORDER;
- (2) Operate the Bank in a safe and sound manner;
- (3) Comply with applicable laws and regulations; and
- (4) Restore all aspects of the Bank to a safe and sound condition, including improve the Bank's asset quality, capital adequacy,

earnings, management effectiveness, liquidity, and its sensitivity to market risk.

(b) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall notify the Regional Director and the Commissioner in writing of any changes in management. The notification must include the name(s) and background(s) of any replacement personnel and must be provided 60 days prior to the individual(s) assuming the new position(s).

### **COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

16. Within 30 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank's board of directors shall establish a subcommittee of the board of directors charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the Bank complies with the provisions of this ORDER. The subcommittee shall report monthly to the entire board of directors of the Bank, and a copy of the report and any discussion related to the report or the ORDER shall be included in the minutes of the Bank's board of directors' meeting. Nothing contained herein shall diminish the responsibility of the entire board of directors of the Bank to ensure compliance with the provisions of this ORDER.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

17. Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter following the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall furnish to the Regional Director and the Commissioner written Progress Reports signed by each member of the Bank's board of directors, detailing the actions taken to secure compliance with the ORDER and the results thereof. Such Progress Reports may be discontinued when the corrections required by this ORDER have been accomplished and the

Regional Director and the Commissioner have released, in writing, the Bank from making further reports.

### **NOTIFICATION TO SHAREHOLDERS**

18. After the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall send a copy of this ORDER, or otherwise furnish a description of this ORDER, to its shareholders (1) in conjunction with the Bank's next shareholder communication, and also (2) in conjunction with its notice or proxy statement preceding the Bank's next shareholder meeting. The description shall fully describe the ORDER in all material respects. The description and any accompanying communication, statement, or notice shall be sent to the FDIC Accounting and Securities Disclosure Section, Washington, D.C. 20429 and the Commissioner of the Colorado Division of Banking, 1560 Broadway, Suite 975, Denver, Colorado 80202 for review at least 20 days prior to dissemination to shareholders. Any changes requested by the FDIC shall be made prior to dissemination of the description, communication, notice, or statement.

This ORDER shall be binding upon the Bank, its successors and assigns, and all institution-affiliated parties of the Bank. The provisions of this ORDER shall remain effective and enforceable except to the extent that, and until such time as, any provision of this ORDER shall have been modified, terminated, superseded, or set aside by the FDIC.

This ORDER will become effective upon its issuance by the FDIC.

Pursuant to delegated authority.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2009.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas J. Dujenski  
Regional Director  
Dallas Region  
Division of Supervision and Consumer Protection  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation