



**BANK  
OF THE  
SIERRA**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** April 18, 2008  
**Contact:** Matthew Hessler, CFMP  
**Title:** Marketing Coordinator  
**Phone:** (559) 782-4900 or (888) 454-BANK  
**NASDAQ Symbol:** BSRR  
**Website Address:** [www.bankofthesierra.com](http://www.bankofthesierra.com)

**SBA Names Bank of the Sierra Preferred Lender**

**PORTERVILLE, CA** — Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce that the U.S. Small Business Administration has awarded the bank a two year renewal in the Preferred Lender Program (PLP). In order to maintain preferred lender status, a bank must have a history of outstanding performance in processing, closing, and servicing SBA loans. As banks continue to face greater challenges in the current economy, two year PLP membership renewals are becoming less common.

Jim Holly, President and CEO of Bank of the Sierra, noted, “Janice A. Castle, Senior Vice President and Manager, SBA Loan Center, was instrumental in earning this renewal. As a locally owned community bank, we have made a concerted effort to serve the small businesses in our service areas. As we move forward, we will continue to maintain a level of exceptional SBA lending performance.”

**About Bank of the Sierra**

With over \$1.2 billion in assets and strong performance ratios, Bank of the Sierra is the largest independently owned community bank headquartered in Southern San Joaquin Valley’s Heartland. The bank serves 15 different communities with 21 branches, two Ag Centers, one SBA Center and an online “virtual” branch. For more information visit the web site at [www.bankofthesierra.com](http://www.bankofthesierra.com) or call (888) 454-BANK.

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