



**SIERRA
BANCORP**

Corporate Offices 86 N. Main Street - Porterville, CA 92357

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts: Kenneth Taylor, Chief Financial Officer or
Matthew Hessler, CFMP, Director Marketing
Phone: (559) 782-4900 or (888) 454-BANK
NASDAQ Symbol: BSRR
Website Addresses: www.sierrabancorp.com, www.bankofthesierra.com

**Sierra Bancorp Ranks 8th in California
Among Community Banks**

PORTERVILLE, CA - Sierra Bancorp (NASDAQ:BSRR), the holding company for Bank of the Sierra, today announced it has been ranked as the 8th best performing community bank in California with assets less than \$2 billion. The rankings were published in U.S. Banker magazine’s June 2011 edition, as part of an annual listing of the top-performing financial institutions in the country based on three-year average Return on Equity (ROE).

“Since our beginning in 1977, we have endeavored to provide superior service and innovative products within a positive, constructive work environment,” stated James C. Holly, President & C.E.O. “This focus has helped us as we strive to fulfill our fundamental mission, which in large part consists of being responsible stewards for our shareholders by providing a superior return on equity,” Holly added.

About Sierra Bancorp

Sierra Bancorp is the holding company for Bank of the Sierra, now in its 34th year of operations. For more information please visit www.sierrabancorp.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

About Bank of the Sierra

With \$1.3 billion in assets and strong performance ratios, Bank of the Sierra operates as the largest independent community bank headquartered in Southern San Joaquin Valley’s Heartland. The bank serves 17 different communities with 25 branches, an Agricultural Credit Center, an SBA Center and an online “virtual” branch. For more information visit www.bankofthesierra.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

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