

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Written Agreement by and between

FIRST SOUTHWEST BANCORPORATION,
INC.
Alamosa, Colorado

and

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF
KANSAS CITY
Kansas City, Missouri

Docket No. 10-207-WA/RB-HC

WHEREAS, First Southwest Bancorporation, Inc. (“BHC”), a registered bank holding company, owns and controls First Southwest Bank, Alamosa, Colorado (the “Bank”), a state-chartered nonmember bank;

WHEREAS, it is the common goal of BHC and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (the “Reserve Bank”) to maintain the financial soundness of BHC so that BHC may serve as a source of strength to the Bank;

WHEREAS, BHC and the Reserve Bank have mutually agreed to enter into this Written Agreement (the “Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2010, the board of directors of BHC, at a duly constituted meeting, adopted a resolution authorizing and directing David E. Broyles to enter into this Agreement on behalf of BHC, and consenting to compliance with each and every provision of this Agreement by BHC and its institution-affiliated parties, as defined in

sections 3(u) and 8(b)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended (the “FDI Act”) (12 U.S.C. §§ 1813(u) and 1818(b)(3)).

NOW, THEREFORE, BHC and the Reserve Bank agree as follows:

Source of Strength

1. The board of directors of BHC shall take appropriate steps to fully utilize BHC’s financial and managerial resources, pursuant to section 225.4(a) of Regulation Y of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Board of Governors”) (12 C.F.R. § 225.4(a)), to serve as a source of strength to the Bank, including, but not limited to, taking steps to ensure that the Bank complies with the Consent Order entered into with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation on April 6, 2010, and any other supervisory action taken by the Bank’s federal or state regulator.

Dividends

2. (a) BHC shall not declare or pay any dividends without the prior written approval of the Reserve Bank and the Director of the Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation of the Board of Governors.

(b) BHC shall not directly or indirectly take dividends or any other form of payment representing a reduction in capital from the Bank without the prior written approval of the Reserve Bank.

(c) All requests for prior approval shall be received by the Reserve Bank at least 30 days prior to the proposed dividend declaration date. All requests shall contain, at a minimum, current and projected information on BHC’s capital, earnings, and cash flow; the Bank’s capital, asset quality, earnings, and allowance for loan and lease losses; and identification of the sources of funds for the proposed payment. BHC must also demonstrate that the requested

declaration or payment of dividends is consistent with the Board of Governors' Policy Statement on the Payment of Cash Dividends by State Member Banks and Bank Holding Companies, dated November 14, 1985 (Federal Reserve Regulatory Service, 4-877 at page 4-323).

Debt and Stock Redemption

3. (a) BHC shall not, directly or indirectly, incur, increase, or guarantee any debt without the prior written approval of the Reserve Bank. All requests for prior written approval shall contain, but not be limited to, a statement regarding the purpose of the debt, the terms of the debt, and the planned source(s) for debt repayment, and an analysis of the cash flow resources available to meet such debt repayment.

(b) BHC shall not, directly or indirectly, purchase or redeem any shares of its stock without the prior written approval of the Reserve Bank.

Cash Flow Projections

4. Within 60 days of this Agreement, BHC shall submit to the Reserve Bank a written statement of its planned sources and uses of cash for debt service, operating expenses and other purposes ("Cash Flow Projection") for 2011. BHC shall submit to the Reserve Bank a Cash Flow Projection for each calendar year subsequent to 2011 at least one month prior to the beginning of that calendar year.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

5. (a) In appointing any new director or senior executive officer, or changing the responsibilities of any senior executive officer so that the officer would assume a different senior executive officer position, BHC shall comply with the notice provisions of section 32 of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. § 1831i) and Subpart H of Regulation Y of the Board of Governors (12 C.F.R. §§ 225.71 *et seq.*).

(b) BHC shall comply with the restrictions on indemnification and severance payments of section 18(k) of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. § 1828(k)) and Part 359 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's regulations (12 C.F.R. Part 359).

Progress Reports

6. Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter following the date of this Agreement, the board of directors shall submit to the Reserve Bank written progress reports detailing the form and manner of all actions taken to secure compliance with the provisions of this Agreement and the results thereof, and a parent company only balance sheet, income statement, and, as applicable, report of changes in stockholders' equity.

Communications

7. All communications regarding this Agreement shall be sent to:

- (a) Susan E. Zubradt
Vice President
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
1 Memorial Drive
Kansas City, Missouri 64198
- (b) David E. Broyles
Director
First Southwest Bancorporation, Inc.
720 Main Street, P.O. Box 1139
Alamosa, Colorado 81101

Miscellaneous

8. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement, the Reserve Bank may, in its sole discretion, grant written extensions of time to BHC to comply with any provision of this Agreement.

9. The provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon BHC and its institution-affiliated parties, in their capacities as such, and their successors and assigns.

10. Each provision of this Agreement shall remain effective and enforceable until stayed, modified, terminated, or suspended in writing by the Reserve Bank.

11. The provisions of this Agreement shall not bar, estop, or otherwise prevent the Board of Governors, the Reserve Bank, or any other federal or state agency from taking any other action affecting BHC, the Bank, any nonbank subsidiary of BHC, or any of their current or former institution-affiliated parties and their successors and assigns.

12. Pursuant to section 50 of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. § 1831aa), this Agreement is enforceable by the Board of Governors under section 8 of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. § 1818).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the 20th day of October, 2010.

FIRST SOUTHWEST BANCORPORATION,
INC.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF KANSAS CITY

By: /s/ David E. Broyles
David E. Broyles
Director

By: /s/ Susan E. Zubradt
Susan E. Zubradt
Vice President