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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE
CORPORATION, AS RECEIVER OF SILVER
STATE BANK

Case No.: 2:12-CV-209

Plaintiffs,

vs.

COREY L. JOHNSON; DOUGLAS E.
FRENCH; GARY A. GARDNER; and
TIMOTHY S. KIRBY

Defendants,

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

TO THE HONORABLE COURT:

Now comes the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”), in its capacity as Receiver of Silver State Bank (“Silver State” or “the Bank”), and files its Complaint. Its attorneys will comply with LR 1A 10-2 within 45 days.

I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1819(b)(1)-(2)(a) and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345. Supplemental jurisdiction over the FDIC’s state law claims may be exercised by the Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

2. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), venue is proper in the District of Nevada because the claims and causes of action asserted in this Complaint arose in this district.

II. THE PLAINTIFF

3. The FDIC is an instrumentality of the United States, established under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. §§ 1811-1833(e).

4. Silver State, which prior to its demise was headquartered in Henderson, Nevada, and was founded on July 1, 1996. The Bank operated out of its headquarters in Henderson, Nevada, with 12 branch offices in Clark County, Nevada, and 4 branch offices in Maricopa County, Arizona. The Bank also had 12 loan production offices in Nevada, California, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Colorado, and Florida. Silver State was a state nonmember bank that was wholly owned by its holding company, Silver State Bancorp (“Bancorp”), which filed

1 for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection on January 6, 2009. Since its inception, the Bank was
2 jointly examined by the FDIC and the State of Nevada.

3 5. On September 5, 2008, the Bank was closed by the Nevada Financial Institutions
4 Division, and the FDIC was appointed as receiver pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1821(c). As set forth
5 in 12 U.S.C. § 1821(d)(2)(A)(i), the FDIC succeeded to all rights, titles and privileges of Silver
6 State and its stockholders, account holders and depositors.
7

8 III. DEFENDANTS

9 6. Defendant Corey L. Johnson ("Johnson") co-founded the Bank and became a
10 director of the Bank in July 1996. In January 2006, he became the Bank's Chief Executive
11 Officer, Chairman of the Executive Management Committee, and Chairman of the Senior Loan
12 Committee. He served in these capacities during the period of time relevant to this complaint
13 and, in fact, until he resigned in July 2008. Johnson may be served with process through his
14 attorney, John McMillan, Flangas McMillan Law Group, 3275 South Jones Boulevard, Suite
15 105, Las Vegas, Nevada 89146.
16

17 7. Defendant Douglas E. French ("French") was hired in February 1997 as the
18 Bank's Executive Vice President of Real Estate Lending and was a member of the Senior Loan
19 Committee. He served in these capacities during the period of time relevant to this Complaint
20 and, in fact, until he resigned in lieu of termination in May 2008.¹ French may be served with
21 process through his attorney, Patrick J. Egan, Fox Rothschild, 2000 Market Street, 20th Floor,
22 Philadelphia, PA 19103-3222.
23
24

25
26 ¹ The FDIC's Enforcement Section initiated a prohibition and civil money penalties action against French in
27 connection with several multi-million dollar loans, some of which are the loss loans on which the claims herein are
28 based. French has entered into a Consent Agreement with respect to that action.

1 8. Defendant Gary A. Gardner ("Gardner") was hired in March 2006 as a Senior
2 Vice President and loan officer.² He served in those capacities during the period of time
3 relevant to this Complaint and, in fact, until he was terminated by the Board of Directors in May
4 2008. Gardner may be served with process through his attorney, Allen D. Emmel, Coppedge
5 Emmel & Kiegegan, PC, 5586 South Fort Apache, Suite 110, Las Vegas, Nevada 89148.

6
7 9. Defendant Timothy S. Kirby ("Kirby") was hired in July 2006 as an Assistant
8 Vice President and loan officer and was quickly promoted to Vice President. He served in those
9 capacities during the period of time relevant to this Complaint and, in fact, until he was
10 terminated by the Board of Directors in March 2008. Kirby may be served with process through
11 his attorney, Maureen Beyers, Osborn Maledon, The Phoenix Plaza, 2929 North Central
12 Avenue 21st Floor, Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2793.

14 IV. NATURE OF THIS SUIT

15 10. This suit seeks to recover in excess of \$86 million in damages for losses incurred
16 by Silver State in connection with certain loan transactions, as described more particularly
17 below. The losses were caused by the gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duties of the
18 defendants, all of whom were Officers of the Bank and directly involved in the transactions.
19 Johnson was also a member of the Board of Directors and owed fiduciary duties in that
20 capacity.

21
22 11. The damages are based on losses from numerous acquisition, development, and
23 construction ("ADC") loans made between January 2006 and February 2008. All of the
24

25
26 ² The FDIC's Enforcement Section initiated a prohibition and civil money penalties action against Gardner in
27 connection with several multi-million dollar loans, some of which are the loss loans on which the claims herein are
28 based. Gardner has entered into a Consent Agreement with respect to that action.

1 defendants were grossly negligent and breached their fiduciary duties in originating,
2 recommending, approving, and/or administering the loss loans in violation of Silver State's loan
3 policies, applicable regulations, and prudent lending practices. Ultimately, as one witness
4 testified in a sworn statement, the Bank's failure was caused by land loans of this nature.

5 V. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

6 A. Silver State's Background and Growth in Risky Lending Practices

7
8 12. Silver State was a state-chartered, non-member institution established on and
9 FDIC-insured since July 1, 1996. Silver State Bank was 100% owned by Silver State Bancorp
10 (Bancorp), a one-bank holding company, also located in Henderson, Nevada.

11
12 13. In a cash transaction consummated in September 2006, the holding company
13 acquired Choice Bank, a state-chartered non-member bank operating in Arizona. On April 1,
14 2008, Choice Bank merged with Silver State Bank, ultimately returning Bancorp to a one-bank
15 holding company.

16
17 14. In its Call Report as of June 30, 2008, the Bank had total assets of \$1.957
18 billion, total loans of \$1.639 billion, and total deposits of \$1.733 billion. The Bank represented
19 the only operating subsidiary of Bancorp. The stock of Bancorp is closely held, with the
20 principal shareholder being Linda Yanke (the mother-in-law of Director and former-Chairman
21 of the Board Bryan Norby). Bancorp stock was listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market
22 under the symbol "SSBX." Trading in Bancorp stock was halted on September 9, 2008, when
23 the share price dropped to eight cents.

24
25 15. Tod Little ("Little"), a co-founder of Silver State, was Chairman of the Board
26 and CEO during the first ten years of the Bank's existence. Under his guidance, the Bank's
27 growth was steady and controlled, with conservative lending focused on Small Business
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1 Administration ("SBA") loans to qualified borrowers. After ten years, Silver State had grown to
2 \$805 million in assets. In January 2006, Little was forced out of the Bank when Johnson used
3 Little's marital problems to convince the Board to remove him. The Board appointed Johnson
4 as CEO to replace Little.

5
6 16. Johnson abandoned the Bank's prior conservative lending strategy in favor of a
7 high-risk ADC lending strategy funded by brokered deposits. Through this strategy, Johnson
8 planned to grow Silver State into a \$2 billion bank within two years. At Johnson's direction, the
9 Bank increased ADC loans by \$345 million in 2006, \$394 million in 2007, and \$124 million in
10 2008 (before the Bank failed on September 5), and continued to make ADC loans when other
11 similarly sized banks in the same market had virtually ceased making such loans.

12
13 17. To accomplish this, Johnson put French in charge of the ADC lending program.
14 Both Johnson and French pursued this program aggressively despite indications and other
15 warnings, beginning in mid-2005 and continuing until the Bank failed, of declining real estate
16 markets in the Bank's principal lending areas – Las Vegas, Nevada and Phoenix, Arizona.
17 French has testified that he knew that the Las Vegas market was a speculative bubble and that
18 the economy was a "house of cards." Moreover, French has admitted that Silver State should
19 not have made any new loans on Las Vegas residential real estate developments after mid-2007.

20
21 18. By the end of 2007, 67 percent of Silver State's loans were ADC loans. Rather
22 than offsetting the risks associated with this concentration in ADC loans by strengthening the
23 Bank's underwriting and credit administration, Johnson and French openly rejected proposed
24 solutions to address the Bank's known underwriting and credit administration weaknesses, and
25 essentially ignored the risk involved.

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1 19. Contributing to the risks inherent in loans of this nature, the Bank's pay structure
2 for loan officers provided a strong incentive for them to make loans without regard to quality or
3 risk. Loan officers (including French), in addition to their regular salary, earned a commission
4 equal to 10 percent of the Bank's fee income on all loans they originated. French, Kirby, and
5 Gardner earned a substantial portion of their compensation in commissions from 2006 through
6 2008.

8 20. For example, French's loan origination commissions were \$338,584 in 2006,
9 more than twice his regular salary. In 2007, French earned \$231,658 in commissions on loans
10 that he originated, compared to a salary of \$230,462. This made him second only to former
11 CEO Johnson in compensation. Despite the link between his compensation and the continued
12 involvement of the Bank in loans of this nature, French was one of the main presenters of
13 information regarding the condition of the economy and real estate market to the Board.

15 21. As discussed in detail below, French had serious concerns and doubts about the
16 real estate market and the economy. Yet he failed to share these concerns and doubts with the
17 Board - instead providing it with an optimistic overview of both.

19 22. Johnson, who consulted regularly with French, was privy to French's doubts
20 about the condition of the economy in general and the Las Vegas market in particular. In spite
21 of numerous indications of a declining market, Johnson allowed French to advise the Board and
22 SLC that the Las Vegas market was one with continuing opportunities for growth.

24 23. During this period of significant loan growth, French led the charge into ever-
25 increasing ADC growth, especially loans to fund residential development and construction and
26 land loans. The majority of these were speculative in nature and heavily dependent on the value
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28

1 of the underlying collateral to ensure full payment. French and his department originated the
2 vast majority of the Bank's problem loans.

3 24. By January 2007, however, a significant downturn in real estate values and
4 construction activity had begun in the Bank's primary markets. Non-performing loans increased
5 dramatically, and the Bank began to experience significant losses. Despite this downturn, the
6 defendants continued to make large loans, yet failed to take any measures to assure that the
7 loans were credit-worthy, let alone that the proceeds were used for their intended purposes.
8

9 25. These practices are confirmed by a review of the Bank's Uniform Bank
10 Performance Report (UBPR). The UBPR for the following three semi-annual periods (from
11 June 30, 2007 through June 30, 2008) reveals the numerous issues the Bank was facing. As a
12 general rule, extremely high or low percentiles are typically indicative of an "outlier" and often
13 call for remedial action. The UBPR reveals that Silver State Bank was between the percentiles
14 shown below for the listed category:
15

- 16 - the 96th and 97th percentile for interest income (at the upper end of peers),
- 17
- 18 - the 86th and 94th percentile for interest expense (at the upper end of peers),
- 19
- 20 - the 15th and 24th percentile for non-interest income (toward the low end of peers),
- 21
- 22 - the 90th and 96th percentile for asset growth (at the upper end of peers),
- 23
- 24 - the 90th and 99th percentile for commercial real estate loans (at the upper end of
25 peers),
- 26 - the 94th and 99th percentile for commercial real estate, other construction, and land
27 loans (at the upper end of peers).
28

1 26. These UBPR comparisons indicate that the Institution was earning an above
2 average yield on earning assets and, correspondingly, paying an above average rate on
3 liabilities. This is indicative of an institution which is making high rate—and high-risk—loans
4 and/or charging large fees on the loans and funding growth with volatile funding sources. The
5 defendants were doing all of these things routinely.

6 27. The UBPR shows that the Bank had few sources of non-interest income (fees)
7 and that the defendants aggressively pursued growth well above that of the Bank's peers. As for
8 the make-up of loans, the UBPR bears out what will be the central theme of the bank failure:
9 The defendants pursued loan growth in commercial real estate, other construction, and
10 speculative land without regard for what the rest of the banking industry (particularly in the Las
11 Vegas market) was doing. In fact, defendants pursued growth in these loan categories at a time
12 when most other successful institutions were either maintaining the status quo or "pulling back"
13 on these types of loans.

14 **B. Johnson and French dominated the management of the Bank; led the**
15 **charge for increased speculative ADC lending; and limited the enactment of**
16 **policies governing loan officers' abilities to administer such loans.**

17 28. French was, by all accounts, an intimidating person who was used to getting his
18 way within the Bank. Organizationally, however, Johnson had ample opportunity to control the
19 situation. During the time that aggressive growth was taking place, management was made
20 aware that there were weaknesses in internal controls and processes in the loan department. Yet
21 because of Johnson and French's influence, remedial action was not taken. For example, the
22 following situations, among others of like kind, existed and were brought to management's
23 attention between February and March of 2007:

- 1 • there was no formally documented policy regarding Loan Disbursements;
- 2 • there were too many employees with the ability to print and sign cashier's checks
- 3 (allowing, for example, loan officers to choose and pay appraisers directly); and,
- 4
- 5 • many construction loans were being funded without using the standard voucher
- 6 control company (which would have required, for example, site inspections).
- 7

8 29. In September 2007 a decision was made by a working group at the Bank that the
9 best way to fully close the gaps in internal controls surrounding loan disbursements was to
10 create a loan funding role in the note department. Eventually, however, Johnson and French
11 stopped the newly created loan funding roles. It was their position that this would cause too
12 many obstacles for the loan officers and would interfere with the loan officers' ability to
13 provide the "small, local bank feel" that they believed was vital to maintaining the Bank's
14 position in the community.
15

16 30. Instead, loan officers had permission to print checks for loan draws on approved
17 loans. While these checks were supposed to be supported by construction inspection reports
18 and/or site visitations, the loan officers had authority to approve and authorize these draws
19 without any appropriate controls. In the SBA loan section of the Bank, however, loan officers
20 were removed from the disbursement approval function. Reportedly, Johnson and other
21 executive officers met with loan officers to discuss centralizing disbursement controls, but the
22 loan officers did not like the change and no action was taken. The reason, of course, was that
23 Johnson wanted to keep the "engines" of the Bank happy (i.e., the loan officers). As described
24 below, the engines, French, Kirby, and Gardner, used their authority to breach their duties in
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1 numerous ways, in large part by engaging in the very conduct these controls would have been
2 designed to prevent.

3 31. In any event, as a result of the push by defendants for ADC loans, Silver State
4 increased total loans by \$500 million in 2006 and \$400 million in 2007, which was timed
5 precisely with the downturn in the Las Vegas residential real estate market. French and those
6 under his supervision, such as Gardner and Kirby, originated and managed virtually all of the
7 land, development, and construction loans geared to that market, and the Bank (now the FDIC),
8 paid and continues to pay the price.

10 32. Johnson, as chairman of the SLC, approved those loans, and rejected the
11 occasional objections to French's loans raised by other SLC members. President Regan, who
12 was the most frequent objector to French's loans, was derisively labeled "Dr. No" by French,
13 and Regan's concerns were ignored.

15 33. As such, French was virtually the sole advisor to the Senior Loan Committee
16 ("SLC") and the Board of Directors ("BOD") on the condition of the Las Vegas residential real
17 estate market. French continued to provide the SLC and BOD optimistic reports on the Las
18 Vegas residential real estate market through the first quarter of 2008, and Johnson echoed
19 French's reports.

21 34. In reality the Las Vegas residential real estate market was declining during the
22 years 2006 and 2007, and both French and Johnson were well aware of that fact. In fact, French
23 and Johnson were aware that the decline would be hitting these markets in as early as 2005. And
24 they were certainly aware of the risk the concentration in ADC loans presented to the Bank.

26 35. When the veil covering the Bank's lending practices was lifted, the Bank's
27 twenty largest depositors withdrew \$247 million from Silver State between June 30, 2008 and
28

1 August 5, 2008. In addition, as a result of the Bank's downgrade to "Adequately Capitalized,"
2 \$62 million in brokered money market accounts were withdrawn on or near August 1, 2008.
3 The release of the Bank's second quarter financial statements created additional negative press,
4 and deposit outflows continued and accelerated. The Bank lost its borrowing capacity at the
5 Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), and a \$20 million unsecured Federal Funds line of credit
6 from a correspondent bank was cancelled. A planned stock offering of approximately \$65
7 million was expected to close in July 2008 but did not. Failure was inevitable.
8

9 **C. Kirby and Gardner Joined Forces with Johnson and French to increase the**
10 **Bank's ADC Loan Portfolio**

11 36. In order to grow the ADC portfolio as explosively as they planned, French and
12 Johnson needed help. Thus, French hired Kirby and Gardner as loan officers and each was soon
13 managing a loan portfolio in excess of \$200 million under the supposed supervision of French.
14 French's "supervision," however, consisted of little more than telling Kirby and Gardner to go
15 out and make loans.
16

17 37. Unfortunately, Kirby had little or no experience in credit analysis, appraisal
18 review, or many other routine practices required of a loan officer. French knew this, hired him
19 anyway, and then ignored Kirby's pleas for help and admissions of incompetence. Kirby, in his
20 own right, continued to make loans despite his knowledge of his own inability to satisfy his
21 duties as a Vice President and loan officer - and continued to reap the rewards attendant thereto.
22 He was soon so stressed out by his own incompetence, however, that he began abusing drugs
23 and finally had a nervous breakdown—but not before his incompetence resulted in major losses
24 to the Bank.
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1 38. Gardner, unlike Kirby, was an experienced loan officer. As opposed to Kirby,
2 who just continued on in his position despite his knowledge that he was unable to perform his
3 duties, Gardner knew what his duties were as a Senior Vice-President and Loan Officer but
4 ignored them. Despite a huge loan portfolio, Gardner repeatedly violated the Bank's policies
5 and applicable regulations in his lending practices.

6 39. Further exacerbating the problem was the compensation package for not only
7 Kirby and Gardner, but also French. Near the time of the Bank's failure, examiners reviewed
8 several target loans. One of their observations was that the loan officer compensation program
9 appeared to contribute to the low-quality assets being booked. Loan officers received a
10 percentage of the origination fees booked without regard to credit quality, encouraging them to
11 disregard prudent underwriting guidelines. In addition, it appeared that incomplete information
12 was used to conceal material facts from the Board. For example, in several instances loan
13 officers pulled numbers from an appraisal to improve the "perceived" collateral protection
14 afforded a loan, leading the way to approval by the SLC.

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17 **D. French Predicted the Decline Yet Defendants Continued Lending to**
18 **Developers.**
19

20 40. French, who has a keen interest in economics, testified that the cause of the
21 Bank's failure was that low interest rates spurred people to buy houses, creating housing
22 shortages and exploding prices. This, in turn, caused developers to buy land and begin
23 development, using debt every step of the way. As the market overheated more and more, banks
24 got in the land loan business despite the inherent risk in land lending.

25
26 41. Beginning in 2005-2006, however, the Federal Reserve raised the federal funds
27 rate dramatically, which multiplied the cost of funds for developers. As carrying costs
28

1 increased, loans to developers began staying on the Bank's books longer. By mid-2007, many
2 of the Bank's major developer borrowers were in workout situations and French was routinely
3 waiving late fees for the growing number of problem borrowers. In fact, French and his team
4 admit that no new money should have been advanced after July 1, 2007.

5
6 42. If that was not enough to show the writing on the wall, French's own writings, as
7 well as the commentary of other market observers, stated that the Las Vegas residential market
8 was declining and predicted greater troubles ahead - in other words French and others foresaw
9 exactly what happened. In fact, French testified in a sworn statement that, as of 2005, his view
10 was that the market could get no better and likely only worse in 2006 and 2007.

11
12 43. On July 11, 2005, French wrote an article entitled Condo Mania, which stated
13 that real estate values were already inflated beyond reason, discussed the carrying costs of
14 holding property for years with no resale, and stated that French was putting his spare cash in
15 gold and paying off his mortgage. French commented that condos are the last segment to catch
16 fire and the first to go down in a bust and he felt the bust was close. (emphasis added).

17
18 44. Then, on March 6, 2006, French wrote an article quoting Countrywide Mortgage
19 CEO Angelo Mozilo's statements that Las Vegas is an overheated market that may plunge 40%.
20 French also reported that net sales per subdivision were down 20% according to Home Builders
21 Research. Furthermore, French reported, Builders had told him that their traffic was half what it
22 was in the prior year, and that cancellations were soaring because buyers could not qualify for
23 mortgages. Of course, those borrowers who could qualify for mortgages were using that
24 leverage to obtain free options and upgrades. As one realtor told French, the market was a blood
25 bath.
26

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1 45. On September 22, 2006, French read a Las Vegas Review Journal article stating
2 that Las Vegas housing analyst Dennis Smith expected to see some fairly significant price cuts
3 in the resale segment of the market in the next few months to move some of the 20,384 homes
4 listed for sale in the Valley. French followed this by writing an October 3, 2006 article entitled
5 “Boom Madness.” French stated that in 2004 there were only 2,500 homes listed for resale on
6 the MLS, but that number had now risen to 20,000, and that builders were giving away
7 thousands of dollars in incentives to entice homebuyers to take the plunge. According to French,
8 for those who believed the way to riches was buying as many houses as possible with no money
9 down, “reality now bites.” French also rejected the views of the Wall Street Journal that there
10 was no housing bubble. After writing that article, French read a December 7, 2006 Las Vegas
11 Review Journal article stating that residential home sales continued to decline dramatically.
12
13

14 46. Of course all this meant little to French and Johnson. Then, on January 24, 2007,
15 Tom Russell, Executive V.P. of Credit, and Kirk Viau issued Silver State’s Quarterly Loan Loss
16 Reserve Analysis and discussed the Las Vegas residential real estate. The analysis stated that
17 “[b]uilders are offering purchase incentives, with incentive packages ranging from \$10,000 to
18 \$100,000,” “with contract cancellations reaching 42% in some subdivisions, builders are cutting
19 staff and prices of new homes by tens of thousands of dollars,” and a “full 40 percent of all the
20 area’s homes for resale aren’t even occupied—a **sign of a market that has been inflated by
21 speculative fever.**” (emphasis added).
22
23

24 47. Despite this, French attended the Silver State BOD meeting on February 27,
25 2007 and essentially rejected the negative findings of his own writings and the January 2007
26 Loan Loss Reserve Analysis. As set forth in the minutes for that meeting, “[t]he Board also
27 reviewed economic factors relating to the local economy, including local real estate market and
28

1 home sales. Mr. French pointed out that although economists are reporting housing troubles, the
2 Las Vegas housing market, as well as the Phoenix market is upbeat.”

3 48. After providing that report, however, French read an April 20, 2007, Business
4 Las Vegas article stating that “Las Vegas housing slump worsens; prices plummet as existing
5 home inventory hurts new sales. The price on new homes has tumbled nearly 10% this year, the
6 inventory of existing homes has reached an all time high, and bank repossessions accounted for
7 a greater percentage of existing home sales in Las Vegas.” On the same day, the Las Vegas
8 Review Journal reported, “[h]ome sales stats bleak; closings from bank repossessions rise, but
9 resale prices remain fairly constant.”
10

11 49. Then, on July 21, 2007, French wrote an article titled “The Unbloody Streets of
12 Las Vegas.” French stated that the market was “en fuego” in 2005 with 60-70 people per week
13 visiting subdivisions looking for homes, but that the number had now dropped to 20. He also
14 mentioned that the MLS had 23,642 homes listed in June, of which 40% were vacant and likely
15 owned by speculators, as well as the belief among housing analysts that Las Vegas was the
16 poster child of the housing bust. Contrary to what he and Johnson had been advising the BOD
17 and the SLC, French stated that they were in a housing slump that had begun in April 2006.
18

19 50. French followed this with an August 4, 2007 article called “When It Hits the
20 Fan.” French discussed the views of Peter Schiff, who believed that the U.S. Economy was a
21 house of cards built on excess money creation by the Fed. Schiff noted that while all looks well
22 now, economic disaster is right around the corner. In French’s words, “Schiff doesn’t know,
23 but, when the bubble is this big, there are just so many potential pins that it is impossible to
24 guess which one it will find first. Ignore Mr. Schiff at your financial peril.”
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1 51. Finally, on January 7, 2008, French wrote an article called “Booms, Busts and
2 Construction Cranes,” which focused on the fact that the building of skyscrapers goes in tandem
3 with bubbles. French opined that the creation of liquidity by the world’s central banks had led to
4 frenzied high-rise construction. According to French, however, before the construction party
5 ends the economy wakes up with a bad hangover. As put by French, “[b]etter stock up on
6 aspirin. There is a lot of pain coming.” French provided most, if not all, of the articles to Corey
7 Johnson at or near the date of the articles.
8

9 52. Gardner also testified in a sworn statement that there was a downturn in the Las
10 Vegas residential real estate market in the beginning of 2007, if not before. Both Gardner and
11 French discussed the downturn in the market throughout 2007, yet did nothing.
12

13 53. Despite these obvious and repeated warnings, French’s own writings regarding
14 the economic downturn, and Gardner and French’s agreement regarding the downturn in the
15 market, defendants continued lending at the same pace as before.
16

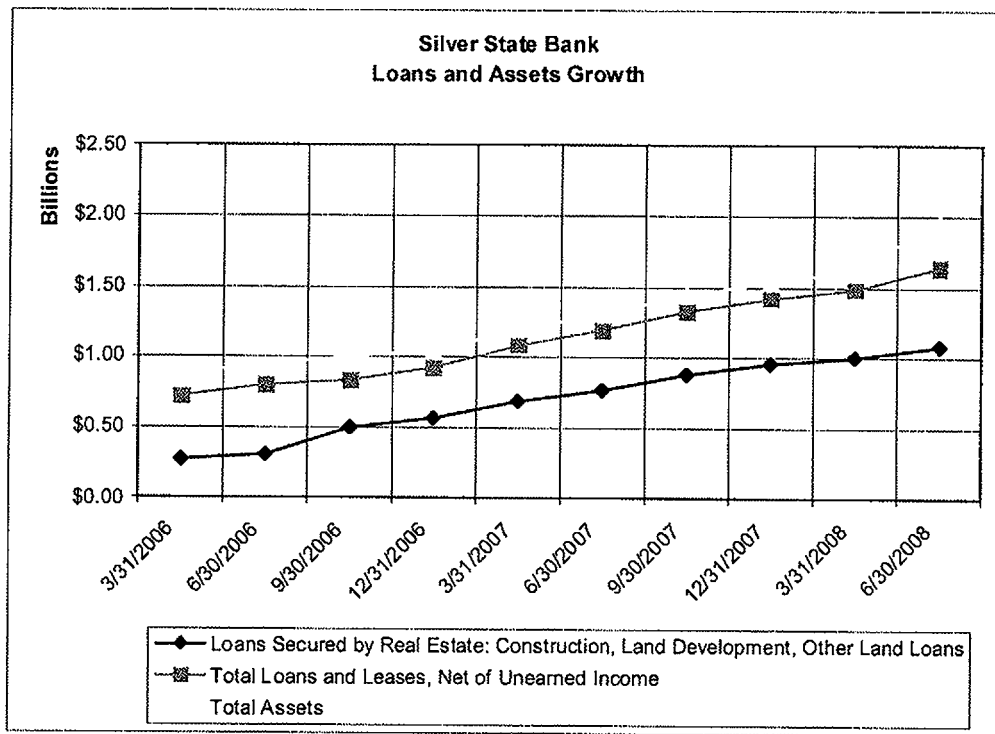
17 **E. Bank Examiners also Warned Defendants Repeatedly of the Risks Involved**
18 **in Defendants’ Loan Strategy**

19 54. Between 1997 and 2005, the Bank was examined eight times jointly by both the
20 FDIC and the Nevada Financial Institutions Division (NFID) and was given a CAMELS “2”
21 rating at each examination. Additionally, the Bank was visited four times during this period; at
22 three of the visits, the bank was given a CAMELS rating of “2,” while no rating was given at
23 the most recent visit—in 2002.
24

25 55. Since 2005, however, the Bank has been jointly examined three times by the
26 FDIC and the NFID—in 2006, 2007, and 2008. In addition, the Bank was visited once and has
27 been the subject of at least two Regional Office Problem Bank Memoranda. As discussed
28

1 below, concerns regarding the defendants' lending practices were raised repeatedly—and
 2 ignored.

3 56. The following graph (of information taken from the Institution's quarterly Call
 4 Reports) is provided for reference in reviewing examination comments regarding the bank's
 5 level of investment in Construction, Land Development, and Other Land Loans (all secured by
 6 real estate) and relating that number to total loans and total assets of the Institution at various
 7 dates.
 8 dates.



23 57. Included below are synopses of all the examinations completed.

24 58. A Joint FDIC and NFID examination was performed as of March 31, 2006, with
 25 the formal report issued on May 30, 2006. As stated by examiners, although asset quality and
 26 capital adequacy continued to be satisfactory, there was a concern over the high level of
 27 investment in commercial real estate (CRE) and loans extended for speculative purposes. The
 28

1 examiners noted that the CRE portfolio approximated 913.43% of Tier I Capital. Further, CRE
2 loans extended to finance construction and development (C&D) and loans extended for
3 speculative purposes were in excess of Board-approved parameters (as a percent of Tier I
4 Capital).

5 59. In the 2006 examination, examiners also cautioned that there had been an
6 increase in the Bank's credit risk profile due to an increase in the extension of loans secured by
7 raw land and those extended for speculative purposes. The examiners further found several
8 problems in loan underwriting and credit administration practices, including the need to adopt
9 policy guidelines addressing the use of interest reserves.
10

11 60. In response to the examiner's concerns over the high levels of CRE loans (which
12 includes permanent CRE financing, construction loans, acquisition and development credit, and
13 various land loans), Johnson stated that the Board did not plan to increase approved CRE
14 lending limitations, but that it would be looking to either maintain the current parameters or
15 reduce them should marked changes in the CRE market become evident. In addition, Johnson
16 stated that the Board had given management until the end of third quarter 2006 to reduce
17 exposure down to the currently approved limit levels. In the exit meeting with examiners,
18 Johnson stated that, in a timely manner, management would review and consider all policy and
19 procedure recommendations from examiners. Specifically, Johnson stated that management and
20 the Board would address the deficiencies noted, "especially those related to management's
21 efforts to effectively measure and monitor CRE concentrations."
22
23

24 61. Notably, the regulators reminded the Bank of the inherent risk that is generally
25 associated with CRE concentrations, specifically concentrations in loans secured by raw land
26 and those extended for speculative purposes, and the ongoing concerns about the direction of
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1 the local CRE market. Johnson replied by stating that management was of the opinion that the
2 overall real estate market was returning to a more stable rate of growth compared to what was
3 experienced during the last several years, and that management did not believe the overall
4 market would experience a significant correction in values. Johnson also attempted to reassure
5 the examiners by stating that a portion of the “speculative loans” were incorrectly categorized
6 and when the ongoing concentration project was completed, the volume of such loans would
7 decline due to proper categorization.
8

9 62. A Joint FDIC and NFID examination was next performed as of March 31, 2007,
10 with the formal report issued on May 14, 2007. Examiners stated that concentrations in CRE
11 lending remained at heightened levels. In fact, examiners noted that the loan portfolio remained
12 highly concentrated in CRE loans, with total CRE loans and unfunded commitments
13 representing 898% of Total Risk Based Capital. There was also discussion of the ongoing need
14 to address interest reserves, limits on their use, and the failure to monitor the volume of loans
15 being paid with interest reserves. The examiners further stated that management and the Board
16 should expand the Bank’s liquidity contingency plan to provide more comprehensive discussion
17 and funding guidelines for various types of potential liquidity stress events.
18
19

20 63. The next Joint FDIC and NFID examination was performed as of March 31,
21 2008, with the formal report issued on June 9, 2008. Examiners stated that the overall condition
22 of the Bank had deteriorated significantly and was now deemed to be critically deficient. The
23 level of problem assets had increased dramatically in the past year, while the ability to maintain
24 adequate liquidity and overall liquidity position had decreased significantly - to a “woefully
25 insufficient” crisis level - and was jeopardizing the Bank’s ability to meet its ongoing
26 obligations and the demands of its depositors. In addition, bank earnings performance declined
27
28

1 as the need to adequately fund the Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses dramatically
2 increased.

3 64. Examiners also discussed management concerns within the June 9, 2008 Report
4 of Examination. As set forth therein, the majority of the problems were a by-product of the
5 Bank's high-risk business operating plan. The plan allowed management to undertake a number
6 of high-risk operating strategies and utilize potentially problematic banking practices. These
7 strategies allowed management to operate the Bank with an elevated risk profile, and resulted in
8 the origination of a very high volume of CRE loans, including a high volume of residential and
9 commercial construction, residential land development, raw land loans, and loans funded for
10 speculative purposes; and the origination of a very high volume of land development and raw
11 land loans with associated interest reserves.
12
13

14 65. Examiners further noted that construction draw controls and administration of
15 construction loans was weak. In fact, the report noted that the Bank's external auditor cited a
16 significant internal control deficiency for weaknesses in the administration and monitoring of
17 construction loans while performing audit procedures after the first quarter of 2008. While
18 reviewing the Silver Dollar loans, which are a part of the claims in this suit, the examiners
19 determined that almost all of the draws were funded without accompanying inspection reports,
20 and the circumvention of procedures led to the possibly fraudulent extension of two additional
21 loans to construct homes on the purportedly finished lots.
22
23

24 66. The construction budget review process was also discussed. It was considered
25 weak and the reallocation of construction budgets to create interest reserves was considered
26 "unacceptable." As noted by examiners, such imprudent use of budget allocations results in the
27 masking of the borrower's inability to perform, an understatement of the true delinquency and
28

1 troubled asset levels, overstated income, depleted funds to complete the project, and increased
2 losses through the eventual write-off of capitalized interest.

3 67. Ultimately, management, such as Johnson and French, failed to ensure that
4 adequate risk identification, measurement, and management systems were established. During
5 the examination, inadequacies were noted in the following areas: internal loan review and
6 problem loan identification; management loan approval practices and authorities; ALLL
7 adequacy and methodology review; and, audit coverage of loan disbursement controls.
8

9 68. Under the direction of Johnson, the practices utilized by management to
10 implement the business plan were found to be unsatisfactory in a number of instances.
11 Inappropriate and objectionable practices noted during the examination included the following:
12 the origination of loans without adequate analysis of borrower and guarantor cash flow and
13 liquidity; the excessive origination of collateral dependent loans with associated interest
14 reserves; an over reliance on the reported value of underlying collateral and
15 contractor/developer past performance to support loan origination decisions; the origination of a
16 high volume of speculative construction and land development loans; the origination of loans in
17 excess of established loan-to-value guidelines; the failure to discontinue the advancement of
18 funds to pay loan interest when the viability of the underlying real estate project was
19 questionable; the extension of additional credit to problem borrowers without adequate analysis
20 of the borrower's ability to repay the loan; and, the allowing of originating loan officers to
21 revise approved budgets associated with construction loans.
22
23
24

25 69. Some of the aforementioned management practices led to the dramatic increase
26 in the level of problem loans held by the Bank. As the condition of the real estate market
27 declined, especially the residential sector, a significant number of the Bank's customers who
28

1 obtained loans to fund construction and development faced a dramatic decline in the level of
2 product sales. The financial problems of many of these contractors and developers were masked
3 for a period of time while the interest payments associated with their loans were kept current
4 through the use of draws from other budget line items. This allowed the Bank to continue to
5 generate interest income on a number of these loans, delayed the recognition of a potentially
6 impaired loan, and deferred the establishment of an adequate loan loss reserve to reflect any
7 identified impairment.
8

9 70. It was stated that, since the last examination, the policies and practices of the
10 management team led directly to a dramatic increase in the level of problem loans held by the
11 bank.
12

13 71. Notwithstanding the inadequacy of the bank's business operating plan and the
14 inappropriateness of a number of management policies and practices, examiners also noted that
15 bank management failed to realize the depth of the weakness in the real estate markets and the
16 potential level of exposure to the financial viability of the bank. The inability to recognize the
17 change in the market and the bank's exposure to this change in a timely manner severely limited
18 the Board and management's ability to effect corrective action. Examples of these failures
19 included the following: the initial mention of potential weakness in the local real estate market
20 and the bank's potential level of exposure were not mentioned in the Board meeting minutes
21 until October 2007; while management noted that the condition of the real estate markets were
22 discussed at each meeting, they concluded that the overall condition of their real estate markets
23 were satisfactory because the level of loan growth continued through the end of the fourth
24 quarter of 2007; and, at least \$170.7 million of total classified loans were originated by
25 management since the beginning of 2007.
26
27
28

1 72. Examiners further observed that most of the bank's locally domiciled
2 competitors (greater than \$1 billion) had dramatically reduced or all together discontinued the
3 origination of new construction and development loans by this time. While management had
4 marginally increased its monthly provision expense level during 2007, it was not significantly
5 increased until the Bank's external auditor required a marked increase in the provision level at
6 the end of the fourth quarter of 2007, citing significant weaknesses associated with, among
7 other things, internal problem loan recognition and loan grading and construction loan
8 disbursement controls.
9

10 73. Thereafter, management began to make changes to address these issues,
11 whereupon it recognized its increasing level of problem loans. It was not until then that re-
12 appraisal of the underlying collateral of a significant number of impaired and/or collateral
13 dependent loans was ordered.
14

15 74. Despite all this, the bank continued to fund the payment of interest through
16 approved interest reserves on a number of impaired loans, which is an objectionable practice. In
17 addition to masking borrower financial problems, the continued payment of interest on these
18 loans inflated bank interest income and net income. Management was advised that this practice
19 should be discontinued and interest earned since the loan became impaired should be reversed.
20

21 75. If management had acted appropriately on its own accord to establish adequate
22 practices, these risk measurement and management and internal control deficiencies and
23 weaknesses could have been addressed.
24

25 76. As a result of these issues, Silver State Bank was closed by the Nevada Financial
26 Institutions Division, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation was appointed as Receiver.
27

28 ///

1 **F. Loan Approval Process and Procedures at Silver State Bank**

2 77. While examiners noted many deficiencies in the Bank's policies and procedures,
3 defendants ignored even those policies that were in place. As an initial matter, the Bank's Code
4 of Ethics required that all employees become familiar with all laws and regulations applicable to
5 the Bank, "as such laws and regulations relate to daily work requirements and professional
6 responsibilities." In addition, it provided that "all employees, officers and directors shall carry
7 out their responsibilities in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and policy statements."
8 Furthermore, all "directors, officers and employees owe Silver State a duty of loyalty" and they
9 "are expected to make business decisions on behalf of Silver State free from conflicting outside
10 interest." In short, "[i]t is a violation of this Code and of Silver State policy to foster personal or
11 business interests (or those of others with whom such persons have a personal or business
12 relationship) at the expense of Silver State."
13
14

15 78. Silver State's Loan Manual also included policies, although not entirely
16 adequate, to ensure that the Bank's lending was conducted prudently, as well as provisions
17 acknowledging a need for diversification and limits on speculative lending. Specifically, the
18 Manual provided that all loans should have a "sound, non-speculative purpose" and that "Silver
19 State Bank strives to maintain a diverse loan portfolio as a means of limiting the undue build up
20 of risk in any one particular loan type or industry."
21

22 79. The Manual also provided that "[t]he percentage of the construction budget
23 disbursed should be supported by a commensurate amount of work completed at the project,"
24 which is also required under federal regulations, and that an appraisal should be performed by a
25 state-certified appraiser in compliance with FDIC regulations for any loans above \$1 million. It
26 also had specific and detailed requirements regarding borrower analysis, project analysis,
27
28

1 repayment source analysis, minimum loan-to-value (“LTV”) ratios, and appraisal evaluation.
2 For example, for an ADC loan, the Manual required that the LTV ratio be based on the lower of
3 the income or cost approach valuation set forth in the appraisal.

4 80. The Manual further provided that: “Voting members cannot be present to vote
5 on a loan to their customer in the loan committee. If you do vote, you are not eligible to receive
6 an incentive on that loan.” As one example of the numerous policy violations by defendants,
7 French was present and voted for the loss loans that he originated and recommended.
8 Notwithstanding that he voted to approve his own loans, French nevertheless received his
9 standard 10 percent commission on the loan origination fee.
10

11 81. Furthermore, under the Bank’s policies, loan officers were responsible for
12 preparing the analyses and presentation packets for the SLC. The loan presentation packets
13 included a loan summary and approval sheet; a form identifying exceptions to policy; an
14 affiliated debt and deposit schedule; a written narrative describing the action requested, details
15 of the loan, and a justification for making the loan; analysis of the borrower and guarantor
16 financial status; and identification of the collateral. Notably, copies of any appraisals related to
17 the loans were not included in the loan presentation packets for the loss loans, although the
18 Bank’s Loan Manual specifically required them.
19
20

21 82. The Bank’s Real Estate Lending Policy also provided requirements relating to
22 construction loan disbursements and loan officer responsibilities. With respect to construction
23 loans, in addition to requiring a commensurate amount of work to be performed in relation to
24 each disbursement, progress payment inspections were required to be performed by qualified
25 outside vendors. The inspections were required to include pictures and an estimation of the
26 percentage of completion of the line items being drawn from, as well as an estimated overall
27
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1 project percentage completed. A loan officer other than the originating officer was also required
2 to review appraisals to determine if the appraiser met Bank standards and that the appraisal had
3 been performed properly and met all requirements of Part 323 of the FDIC Rules and
4 Regulations, FIRREA and USPAP.

5
6 83. With respect to loan officer responsibilities, the policy required loan officers to
7 comply with all regulatory requirements, review appraisals to determine compliance with Bank
8 policies, Part 323 of the FDIC Rules and Regulations, FIRREA, and USPAP, and provide
9 subordination information in the CAM. The loan officer was responsible for accurate
10 completion of all documentation, analysis of evidence of a borrower's financial capacity and
11 ability to repay a loan, maintenance of credit quality and identification of credit deterioration,
12 and approval of only those draws that were commensurate with the amount of work completed
13 on the project.
14

15 84. Despite these internal procedural requirements, defendants consistently made
16 loans without complying with the loan policies and without proper underwriting or credit
17 administration. As a result, loans were made to borrowers with insufficient equity in the project
18 and/or insufficient liquidity, and draws were approved with little or no oversight.
19

20 **G. The Loss Transactions**

21 85. Defendants, in originating and approving the loss loans, engaged in the following
22 misconduct: they failed to disclose and/or provide material information to the Bank's SLC and
23 Board to be used as an informed and integral part of their decision-making process; they failed
24 to calculate accurate loan-to-value ratios; they failed to use appropriate appraisals and appraisal-
25 related information and, as a result, did not comply with FDIC regulations, regulatory appraisal
26 guidelines, the Financial Institution Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act ("FIRREA") and
27
28

1 the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice ("USPAP"); they failed to comply
2 with provisions of the Bank's 2005-2008 Loan Policies; they failed to disclose a conflict of
3 interest involving French; and, they failed to conduct an adequate financial analysis of the
4 borrowers and their interests.

5
6 86. Furthermore, defendants paid inappropriate, unsubstantiated, and/or non-
7 construction related expenses from loan funds without appropriate approval, permitted the
8 reallocation of construction budget line items without analysis of the adverse effect of the
9 reallocation on the loan and the underlying project, and consistently and improperly disbursed
10 loan proceeds without required third-party construction reports.

11
12 87. In addition, defendants' poor underwriting practices were evident in connection
13 with each of the loss loans and, once the loans were made, poor loan administration practices
14 magnified losses associated with each of them. Defendants caused loan funds to be disbursed
15 repeatedly for an array of inappropriate and unauthorized purposes which were not at all
16 consistent with loan approval terms, caused multiple budget reallocations to occur within a
17 project without questioning their need or analyzing their ultimate adverse effect on the project,
18 and caused loan funds to be disbursed over and over again without required inspections –
19 inspections which would have revealed that, because actual construction had not progressed,
20 additional funds should not have been disbursed.

21
22 88. These repeated violations of the Bank's loan policies and prudent lending
23 practices occurred at the origination, approval, and credit administration stages. The officers
24 who originated the loans – Kirby, Gardner, and French – were grossly negligent and breached
25 their fiduciary duties in recommending approval because they failed to disclose all material
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27
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1 information necessary for the SLC to make informed decisions, and then they disbursed loan
2 funds after approval in violation of loan conditions, Bank policy, and applicable regulations.

3 89. Johnson's and French's approvals were grossly negligent and breached their
4 fiduciary duties because, for each loss loan, Johnson and French received information in their
5 loan packets that identified deficiencies in the loans. For example, the LTV ratios presented in
6 the loan packets violated Bank loan policy for almost every loan, many of the loans were
7 identified as "speculative" with no "non-speculative" purpose identified, and most of the loan
8 packets lacked meaningful analysis of project viability, which was especially critical in light of
9 Johnson's and French's knowledge of the declining real estate market. Notwithstanding these
10 red flags, as well as objections by other SLC members, Johnson and French voted to approve
11 each of the loss loans.
12

13
14 90. Moreover, Johnson and French knew that Gardner and Kirby were advancing
15 funds on loans without progress inspections because the regulators had warned Johnson and
16 French in 2006 about this very problem. Johnson and French refused, however, to implement
17 controls to prevent such disbursements. In fact, French regularly violated this policy in
18 connection with his own loans. Ultimately, most, if not all, of the loss loans were fully
19 disbursed but the loan projects were never completed.
20

21 91. The following loans caused significant loss to the Bank, although the FDIC's
22 investigation continues to reveal additional loans in which the defendants engaged in similar
23 misconduct.
24

25 92. Ultimately, each of the loans were originated, recommended, and/or approved by
26 defendants in violation of the duties they owed to the Bank. The following chart illustrates the
27 specific loan transactions on which defendants are being sued, as well as an overview of the
28

misconduct involved. Following the chart is a more detailed description of each of the loans.

Loan	Loan Relationship	Date	Kirby	Gardner	French	Johnson	Deficiencies (key follows table)
Tangelo	Stapley	09/06/06	O/R		A	A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Happy Valley	Kohner	02/21/07	O/R		A	A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
		06/13/07	O/R		A	A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Mineral Creek	Dragoo	05/30/07	O/R		A	A	1, 2, 3, 4
Carefree Equestrian	Petrie	06/13/07	O/R		A	A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Silver Dollar	Rexroad	03/06/07		O/R	A	A	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
		06/22/07		O/R	A	A	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
Desert Mesa		06/27/07		O/R	A	A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
		06/27/07		O/R	A	A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Speedway	Jurbala	02/06/08			O/R/A	A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Mazmel		02/16/06			O/R/A	A	1, 2, 3, 6
		05/16/06			O/R/A	A	1, 2, 3, 6
		09/20/07			O/R/A	A	1, 2, 3, 6
Santa Fe		08/10/06			O/R/A	A	1, 2, 3, 6
Red Vistas		01/31/06			O/R/A	A	1, 2, 3, 6
		04/09/07			O/R/A	A	1, 2, 3, 6

O = Originating loan officer; R= Recommended for approval; A = approval

Deficiency Description	
1. Insufficient analysis of viability of proposed project	4. Speculative loan in violation of loan policy
2. Failure to determine borrower's ability to repay	5. Excessive interest reserve
3. Insufficient collateral and/or exceeds allowed LTV ratio	6. Credit administered in violation of loan policy, including improper and unauthorized disbursements

93. In addition, an additional loss loan, Robindale Villas, is addressed separately in subsection K below.

///

1 **H. Happy Valley 160, L.L.C.**

2 94. Kirby originated and recommended approval of a \$20,145,000 loan to Happy
3 Valley 160 LLC ("Happy Valley") on February 21, 2007 in order to acquire and develop a 157-
4 acre residential project in Peoria, Arizona, despite his knowledge that the project was not viable.

5 95. A portion of the loan was intended to refinance an existing loan by Mortgages
6 L.T.D. That loan, which was paid with loan proceeds, was based on a raw land acquisition in
7 the amount of \$8,500,000, and the payoff was budgeted at \$13,800,000 due to draws on the
8 previous loan's construction and development budget. Although the borrower had pledged both
9 the land at issue and other property in support of its previous loan, Kirby refinanced 100% of
10 that loan, as well as 162% of the acquisition cost, but did not get a lien on all of the property
11 that had previously been provided as collateral for the Mortgages L.T.D. loan.
12

13 96. In the CAM presented to the SLC, Kirby used the projected income value of the
14 property of \$57 million, rather than the cost value of \$30 million, which had itself been inflated
15 by the use of improper comparables in the appraisal. Furthermore, Kirby did not disclose that no
16 "as is" appraisal had been performed.
17

18 97. The Bank's 2005 Loan Policy, however, requires that a loan officer be
19 responsible for the accurate completion of all loan documentation; that the loan officer comply
20 with applicable regulatory requirements and, specifically regarding appraisals, that "the loan
21 officer will review the appraisal to determine if the appraisal meets bank standards and has been
22 performed properly and that it meets all requirements of Part 323 of the FDIC Rules and
23 Regulations, FIRREA, and USPAP" as "it is the intent of the Bank, and responsibility of all loan
24 officers to conform to all standards of FIRREA and USPAP."
25
26
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28

1 98. Section D.1. and D.2. of USPAP's Statement on Appraisal Standards No. 10
2 ("SMT-10") (2005 Edition), however, requires an appraisal to include "as is" information and an
3 "as is" value. Kirby failed to obtain and disclose this additional information and value to the
4 SLC in its consideration of the loan. In addition, by utilizing the projected income approach,
5 Kirby did not provide an accurate LTV ratio to the SLC and the appraisal violated USPAP and
6 related regulatory requirements. In fact, the following regulations and guidelines required
7 Kirby to obtain and employ a "bulk sales" value (derived by discounting retail values to present
8 value by appropriate discount) in calculating the LTV ratio: Section 4(c)-(d) of Part 323 of
9 FDIC Rules and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. § 323.4(c), 323.4(d); 1994 Interagency Appraisal and
10 Evaluation Guidelines used to support real estate-related financial transactions; FIL-90-2005 re:
11 Residential Tract Development Lending FAQs; USPAP Standard 1-4(e). Each of these sources
12 requires an analysis and reporting of appropriate deductions and discounts for tract
13 developments with unsold units.
14
15

16 99. Kirby also admitted that he did not verify borrower assets prior to loan approval,
17 which in and of itself is a violation of the Bank's loan policies and regulatory requirements.
18

19 100. Happy Valley was also provided with a \$3,500,000 line of credit. When an
20 increase to \$7,850,000 was presented to the SLC in June 2007, Kirby failed, in violation of
21 FDIC Regulations, to obtain a new appraisal, and the combined loans – the original loan and the
22 increase – exceeded the Bank's authorized LTV ratio as well as applicable regulations.
23

24 101. Kirby recommended and obtained approval of the increase of the line of credit
25 despite the fact that the developer told him: "Development of the A&D component has
26 stagnated due to current market conditions but the borrower still intends to move forward with
27
28

1 develop [sic] of the project. They are waiting for the market conditions to rebound before
2 starting to market finished residential home lots.”

3 102. Notably, an October 2009 appraisal shows that despite the approval and
4 disbursement of funds, the property has never been developed. Thus, the disbursements
5 violated both the Bank’s policies and regulatory requirements, including requirements that
6 disbursements are commensurate with completion, as well as site inspection requirements.
7

8 103. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$22,000,000 from the loan and
9 increased line of credit.

10 **I. RED VISTAS, LLC**

11 **1. Red Vistas 1**

12
13 104. One of the purposes of Red Vistas 1 was to pay off a previous loan but, in
14 establishing the value of the property being acquired from that loan, French used an "as
15 completed" appraised value and failed to disclose the "as is" value to the SLC, resulting in the
16 overfunding of Red Vistas 1.
17

18 105. The Bank's 2005 Loan Policy requires that a loan officer be responsible for the
19 accurate completion of all loan documentation; that the loan officer comply with applicable
20 regulatory requirements and, specifically regarding appraisals, that "the loan officer will review
21 the appraisal to determine if the appraisal meets bank standards and has been performed
22 properly and that it meets all requirements of Part 323 of the FDIC Rules and Regulations,
23 FIRREA, and USPAP" as "it is the intent of the Bank, and responsibility of all loan officers to
24 conform to all standards of FIRREA and USPAP."
25

26
27 106. The December 15, 2005 appraisal of the property underlying Red Vistas 1
28 provides both an "as completed" and "as is" value of the property being acquired in paying off

1 the previous loan. In the Credit Authorization Memo ("CAM") that French prepared and
2 presented to the SLC for approval of Red Vistas 1, French chose to use the "as completed"
3 value as the pay off amount and failed to disclose the "as is" value to the SLC. The "as is" value
4 would have revealed a higher Loan to Value ("LTV") ratio and would have alerted the SLC that
5 the pay off amount exceeded the Bank's internal LTV ratio of 75% for development loans as
6 well as regulatory policy statement guidelines (Part 365 Appendix A of FDIC Rules and
7 Regulations).

9 107. Section D.1. and D.2. of USPAP's Statement on Appraisal Standards No. 10
10 ("SMT-10") (2005 Edition) requires an appraisal to include "as is" information and an "as is"
11 value. French failed to disclose this additional information and value to the SLC in its
12 consideration of the loan. As a result of French's actions, the loan was overfunded and increased
13 the risk to the Bank that the remaining construction funds for the Red Vistas 1 loan would not
14 be sufficient to construct the condominium units underlying the loan. In fact, none of the
15 condominiums were subsequently built.

17 108. French, by calculating the Red Vistas 1 LTV ratio based on individual retail sales
18 of completed units, did not provide an accurate LTV ratio to the SLC. French's calculation of a
19 69% LTV ratio in Red Vistas 1 was based on the individual retail sales of completed units.
20 However, both Section E.3. of USPAP' s SMT-10 (2005 Edition) and Financial Institution
21 Letter ("FIL") dated March 22, 2005 ("FIL-90-2005") re: Residential Tract Development
22 Lending FAQs (Question 12) prohibit the use of retail valuations as the market value to
23 calculate an LTV ratio.

24 109. Instead, the following regulations and guidelines required French to obtain and
25 employ a "bulk sales" value (derived by discounting retail values to present value by
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27
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1 appropriate discount) in calculating the LTV ratio: Section 4(c)-(d) of Part 323 of FDIC Rules
2 and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. § 323.4(c), 323.4(d); 1994 Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation
3 Guidelines used to support real estate-related financial transactions; FIL-90-2005 re: Residential
4 Tract Development Lending FAQs (Questions 2, 4, 8,9); USPAP Standard 1-4(e).

5
6 110. Each of these sources requires an analysis and reporting of appropriate
7 deductions and discounts for tract developments with unsold units, as in the case of the
8 condominiums to be constructed in connection with Red Vistas 1. French, by not providing an
9 accurate LTV ratio to the SLC in the CAM, caused the SLC to approve the loan in excess of the
10 Bank's internal LTV ratio of 75% for development loans and in non-compliance with regulatory
11 policy statement guidelines (Part 365 of FDIC Rules and Regulations).

12
13 111. French also failed to disclose to the SLC the existence of a superior lien. The
14 Bank's Loan Policy states that a loan officer is to include subordination information in a CAM
15 to be presented for approval of a loan. However, French states only in the CAM that the Bank is
16 in the first lien position on the property taken as collateral for the loan. French failed to disclose
17 the existence of any superior lien, and failed to disclose that the Bank was able to take a first
18 lien position only because the lien holder had agreed to subordinate their lien position to the
19 Bank. French's failure to disclose to the SLC this material information prevented the SLC from
20 considering the effect of the subordination in its decision to approve Red Vistas 1.
21

22
23 112. French further failed to develop and analyze Jurbala's global cash flow position
24 and projections in connection with Red Vistas 1. The Bank's 2005 Loan Policy requires
25 evidence and analysis of a borrower's financial capacity and ability to repay a loan. In the CAM
26 that French prepared and presented to the SLC for approval of Red Vistas 1 French, although
27 required by the Bank's Loan Policy to establish that Jurbala had sufficient net worth and cash
28

1 flow to support the loan, failed to significantly analyze or request sufficient information that
2 would have allowed him to determine Jurbala's finances and ability to repay (French notes in
3 the CAM that he completed the financial analysis without the benefit of audited financial
4 statements) and, by doing so, prevented the SLC from obtaining an accurate picture of Jurbala's
5 financial capacity.

6
7 113. After Red Vistas 1 was approved by the SLC, French was aware of or approved
8 disbursements of loan proceeds to pay for inappropriate, unsubstantiated and/or non-
9 construction expenses from Red Vistas 1 loan proceeds without disclosure to, or approval by,
10 the SLC.

11
12 114. Between February 2006 and April 2007, French was aware of or approved loan
13 draw requests and disbursements for the following: \$287,880.00 disbursement on February 27,
14 2006 for insurance; \$41,200.00 disbursement on April 11, 2006 for insurance; \$53,724.33
15 disbursement on August 30, 2006 for insurance; \$43,724.33 disbursement on September 21,
16 2006 for insurance; \$230,000.00 disbursement on February 1, 2007 for another Jurbala loan;
17 \$105,103.00 disbursement on February 26, 2007 to increase interest reserve; \$40,435.00
18 disbursement on March 27, 2007 to increase interest reserve; \$89,440.00 disbursement on April
19 20, 2007 to increase interest reserve.

20
21 115. French's disbursements of Red Vistas 1 loan proceeds for these purposes all but
22 insured that the construction of the condominium units underlying the loan would not be
23 completed according to the loan terms of Red Vistas 1. In fact, none of the condominiums were
24 subsequently built.

25
26 116. French also was aware of or approved the reallocation of loan construction
27 budget items without analysis of the effect on the underlying project.
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1 117. From February, 2006 through February, 2007, French was aware of or approved
2 the following draw requests from Jurbala for the reallocation of loan construction budget items:
3 \$35,805.33 reallocation on February 17, 2006; (\$30,000.00 reallocated from appliances to
4 contingency, \$5,805.33 reallocated from flooring to contingency); \$41,200.00 reallocation on
5 April 11, 2006 (\$22,005.33 reallocated from permits/water to contingency, \$19,194.67
6 reallocated from flooring to contingency); \$53,724.33 reallocation on August 24, 2006
7 (\$25,000.00 reallocated from permits to contingency, \$28,724.33 reallocated from finished carp.
8 to contingency); \$60,000.00 reallocation on September 7, 2006 (\$20,000.00 reallocated from
9 permits to contingency, \$5,000.00 reallocated from carports to contingency, \$5,000.00
10 reallocated from int. clean to contingency, \$10,000.00 reallocated from drywall to contingency,
11 \$10,000.00 reallocated from supervision to contingency, \$10,000.00 reallocated from plumbing
12 to contingency); \$144,971.09 reallocation on September 19, 2006 (\$39,971.09 reallocated from
13 plumbing to G&A; \$50,000.00 reallocated from framing to utilities/paving, \$30,000.00
14 reallocated from stucco to utilities/paving, \$25,000.00 reallocated from drywall to
15 utilities/paving); \$94,240.10 reallocation on October 11, 2006 (\$697.12 reallocated from
16 permits to G&A; \$93,542.98 reallocated from framing to utilities/grading); \$56,331.90
17 reallocation on October 25, 2006 (\$56,331.90 reallocated from framing to utilities/grading);
18 and, a \$34,665.00 reallocation on November 20, 2006 (\$15,000 reallocated from flatwork to
19 utilities/paving, \$19,665.00 reallocated from foundation to utilities/paving); \$18,563.04
20 reallocation on February 23, 2007 (\$18,563.04 reallocated from plumbing to contingency).

21 118. There is no indication that French ever questioned the basis for, or frequency of,
22 these multiple budget reallocations or engaged in any analysis regarding how the reallocations
23 would affect the ability to complete the construction with the remaining funds available,
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1 especially considering the fact that the reallocations were made within the hard cost portion of
2 the Red Vistas 1 loan construction budget with the majority of funds reallocated to development
3 and non-vertical related construction costs.

4 119. Ultimately, French allowed Jurbala to manipulate the Red Vistas 1 loan project
5 budget by obtaining multiple budget reallocations and diverting loan funds.

6
7 120. Further, French was aware of or approved the disbursement of construction
8 loan funds without timely third party construction progress reports. On at least the following
9 three occasions between April, 2006 and November, 2006, French was aware of or approved the
10 disbursement of construction loan funds without first obtaining an inspection report:
11 disbursement on April 11, 2006 with inspection allegedly occurring on July 5, 2006;
12 disbursement on August 29, 2006 with inspection allegedly occurring on September 5, 2006;
13 and disbursement on October 11, 2006 with inspection allegedly occurring on November 21,
14 2006.
15

16 **2. Red Vistas 2**
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18 121. French, by calculating the Red Vistas 2 LTV ratio based on individual retail
19 sales of completed units, did not provide an accurate LTV ratio to the SLC.
20

21 122. The Bank's 2006-2007 Loan Policy requires that an originating loan officer
22 comply with applicable regulatory requirements and, specifically regarding appraisals, that the
23 Bank and its loan officers comply with, and conform to, all requirements and standards of Part
24 323 of the FDIC Rules and Regulations, FIRREA, and USPAP, and that it is the intent of the
25 Bank, and responsibility of all loan officers, to conform to all standards of FIRREA and
26 USPAP. French's calculation of a 79% LTV ratio was based on the individual retail sales of
27 completed units. However, both Section E.3. of USPAP's SMT-10 (2006 Edition) and FIL-90-
28

1 2005 re: Residential Tract Development Lending FAQs (Question 12) prohibit the use of retail
2 valuations as the market value to calculate the LTV ratio.

3 123. Instead, the following regulations and guidelines required French to obtain and
4 employ a "bulk sales" value (derived by discounting retail values to present value by
5 appropriate discount) in calculating the LTV ratio: Section 4(c)-(d) of Part 323 of FDIC Rules
6 and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. § 323.4(c), 323.4(d); 1994 Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation
7 Guidelines used to support real-estate related financial transactions; FIL-90-2005 re: Residential
8 Tract Development Lending FAQs (Questions 2, 4, 8,9); USPAP Standard 1-4(e).

9
10 124. Each of these sources requires an analysis and reporting of appropriate
11 deductions and discounts for tract developments with unsold units, as in the case of the
12 condominiums to be constructed in connection with Red Vistas 2. French, by not providing an
13 accurate LTV ratio to the SLC in the CAM, caused the SLC to approve the loan in excess of the
14 Bank's internal LTV ratio of 75% for development loans and in non-compliance with regulatory
15 policy statement guidelines (Part 365 of FDIC Rules and Regulations).

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17
18 125. French also failed to disclose to the SLC that the purpose of Red Vistas 2 was to
19 construct the very same 16 condominiums that Red Vistas 1 was intended to construct.

20 126. Both Red Vistas 1 and Red Vistas 2 were intended for the vertical
21 construction of the same 16 condominium units. Despite significant disbursements from the
22 construction budget of Red Vistas 1, no vertical construction of the 16 condominiums had taken
23 place at the time that French presented the Red Vistas 2 CAM to the SLC. However, French,
24 did not disclose to the SLC the complete lack of vertical construction, did not explain how it
25 had come to pass, and did not explain and justify why the Bank should be funding the same
26 construction yet again.
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1 127. French further failed to comply with FDIC Rules and Regulations regarding the
2 appraisal relied upon to support the loan amount of Red Vistas 2. French was required to
3 comply with Part 323.4 of the FDIC Rules and Regulations regarding minimum appraisal
4 standards. Part 323.4 states as follows:

5 For federally related transactions, all appraisals shall, at a minimum:

- 6
- 7 (a) Conform to generally accepted appraisal standards as evidenced by the Uniform
8 Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) promulgated by the
9 Appraisal Standards Board of the Appraisal Foundation, 1029 Vermont Ave.,
10 NW., Washington, DC 2005, unless principles of unsafe and unsound banking
11 require compliance with stricter standards;
- 12
- 13
- 14 (b) Be written and contain sufficient information and analysis to support the
15 institution's decision to engage in the transaction;
- 16
- 17 (c) Analyze and report appropriate deductions and discounts for proposed
18 construction or renovation, partially leased buildings, non-market lease terms, and
19 tract developments with unsold units;
- 20
- 21 (d) Be based upon the definition of market value as set forth in the part; and
- 22
- 23 (e) Be performed by state licensed or certified appraisers in accordance with
24 requirements set forth in this part.
- 25

26 12 C.F.R. § 323.4.

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1 128. The January 29, 2007 appraisal relied upon by French was an update of the
2 December 15, 2005 appraisal used to support Red Vistas 1. The updated appraisal was deficient,
3 however, and did not comply with Part 323.4. For example, it did not provide enough detail on
4 the condition of the partially completed lots or changes in the market that occurred in 2006 to
5 support the extension of additional funds to finish lot development and begin vertical
6 construction, and it did not provide an "as is" value of the 16 condominium lots or an estimation
7 of the amount of funds that would be required to complete their development.
8

9 129. French also failed to disclose to the SLC that another appraisal regarding Red
10 Vistas 2 had been completed which contained material information integral to the SLC's
11 decision-making process. French had received an appraisal dated June 16, 2006 that had been
12 completed for another financial institution. The June 16, 2006 appraisal valued four (4) partially
13 completed condominium pads at a bulk value of \$835,000 and provided an "as completed" bulk
14 value to the condominiums of \$2,604,000, an amount substantially below the approximately
15 \$3.5 million that French had represented the completed collateral to be worth. French's failure to
16 either utilize and/or to disclose in the CAM the material information existing in the June 16,
17 2006 appraisal prevented this information from being considered by the SLC in its decision-
18 making process and, in essence, caused the SLC to approve an inadequately secured loan.
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21 130. French further failed to disclose to the SLC the existence of a superior lien.
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23 131. In the CAM, French states that the Bank is in the first lien position on the
24 property taken as collateral for the loan and fails to disclose to the SLC that a prior lien existed
25 in the amount of over \$500,000 by virtue of the prior lien holder's apparent refusal to
26 subordinate its lien in connection with Red Vistas 2. When the SLC approved Red Vistas 2 on
27 January 29, 2007, the prior lien was still in place, as well as on April 9, 2007, when Red Vistas
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1 2 was booked. On that day, a suspense account in an amount of just over \$500,000 was
2 created against the Red Vistas 2 loan and, on April 23, 2007, funds were wired to the prior lien
3 holder. French did not disclose to the SLC the need to obtain a second subordination, did not
4 disclose that construction loan proceeds would be used to do so, and permitted the loan to go
5 forward with the Bank holding only a second lien position.

6
7 132. French also failed to develop and analyze Jurbala's global cash flow position and
8 projections in connection with Red Vistas 2.

9 133. After Red Vistas 2 was approved by the SLC, French was aware of or approved
10 disbursements of loan proceeds to pay for inappropriate, non-substantiated and/or non-
11 construction expenses without disclosure to, or approval by, the SLC. Between April 23, 2007
12 and August 28, 2007, French was aware of or approved loan draw requests and payments for the
13 following: \$523,553.00 disbursement on April 23, 2007 to Vestin Originations, Inc. (holder of a
14 prior lien on the collateral); \$26,657.08 disbursement on May 1, 2007 for insurance; \$50,724.33
15 disbursement on May 1, 2007 for insurance; \$50,724.33 disbursement on May 18, 2007 for
16 insurance; \$50,724.33 disbursement on June 11, 2007 for insurance; \$205,614 disbursement
17 into Alabruj LTD Partnership account on June 29, 2007 (characterized on the draw sheet as an
18 extra reduction to Red Vistas 1); \$93,742.35 disbursement into Robindale Villas account on
19 June 29, 2007 (characterized on the draw sheet as an extra reduction to Red Vistas 1);
20 \$50,724.33 disbursement on July 25, 2007 for insurance; \$40,910.56 disbursement on August 7,
21 2007 for insurance; and a \$43,724.33 disbursement on August 28, 2007 for insurance.

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25 134. French's disbursements of Red Vistas 2 loan proceeds for these purposes all but
26 insured that the construction of the condominium units underlying the loan would not be
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1 completed according to the terms of the Red Vistas 2 loan. In fact, none of the condominiums
2 were subsequently built.

3 135. French was also aware of or approved the disbursement of construction loan
4 funds without timely third party construction progress reports. On at least the following two
5 occasions, French was aware of or approved the disbursement of construction loan funds
6 without first obtaining an inspection report: funds were disbursed on May 7, 2007 with no
7 inspection; and funds were disbursed on June 26, 2007 with a July 17, 2007 inspection date.
8

9 136. All of these actions violated applicable loan policies, applicable regulations, and
10 prudent lending practices.

11 137. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$4,157,000 from these loans.

12
13 **J. MAZMEL, LLC**

14 **1. Mazmel 1**

15 138. In seeking and receiving approval for a renewal/extension and increase in the
16 amount of the Mazmel 1 loan, French manipulated values taken from an appraisal to
17 calculate the LTV ratio and, by doing so, failed to provide an accurate LTV to the SLC.
18

19 139. French's recommendation for a December 11, 2006 renewal and extension of
20 additional funds for Mazmel 1 was based on French's own manipulation of values taken from a
21 March 2, 2006 appraisal to arrive at aggregate retail sales prices of the individual units as the
22 market value to calculate the LTV ratio. However, both Section E.3. of USPAP's SMT-10
23 and FIL-90-2005 re: Residential Tract Development Lending FAQs (Question 12) prohibit the
24 use of retail valuations as the market value to calculate the LTV ratio.
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26 140. Instead, the following regulations and guidelines required French to obtain and
27 employ a "bulk sales" value (derived by discounting retail values to present value by
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1 appropriate discount) in calculating the LTV ratio: Section 4(c)-(d) of Part 323 of FDIC Rules
2 and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. § 323.4(c), 323.4(d); 1994 Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation
3 Guidelines used to support real-estate related financial transactions; FIL-90-2005 re: Residential
4 Tract Development Lending FAQs (Questions 2, 4, 8, 9); USPAP Standard 1-4(e).

5
6 141. Each of these sources requires an analysis and reporting of appropriate
7 deductions and discounts for tract developments with unsold units. French, by manipulating
8 the values as he did and by failing to obtain and employ a bulk sales value, violated, at a
9 minimum, the Bank's Loan Policy, USPAP, Interagency Guidelines, and FDIC Rules and
10 Regulations in that he inappropriately manipulated values taken from an appraisal and did not
11 provide an accurate LTV ratio to the SLC during its consideration to renew and extend
12 additional funds.

13
14 142. After Mazmel 1 was approved by the SLC, French was aware of or approved
15 disbursements of loan proceeds to pay for inappropriate, non-substantiated and/or non-
16 construction expenses without disclosure to, or approval by, the SLC.

17
18 143. In this regard, French was aware of or approved loan draw requests and
19 payments for the following: \$43,724.33 disbursement on April 11, 2006 for insurance;
20 \$49,500.00 disbursement on April 26, 2006 for insurance; and a \$40,435.00 disbursement on
21 March 27, 2007 to increase interest reserve.

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23 144. French was also aware of or approved the reallocation of loan construction
24 budget items without analysis of the effect on the underlying project. From March 20, 2006 to
25 November 4, 2006, French was aware of or approved the following draw requests from Jurbala
26 for the reallocation of loan construction budget items: \$112,349.03 reallocation on March 20,
27 2006 (\$102,423.23 reallocated from framing to power/water, \$9,925.80 reallocated from
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1 contingency to masonry walls); \$175,968.93 reallocation on April 11, 2006 (\$75,318.80
2 reallocated from framing to power/water, \$52,000.00 reallocated from flooring to power/water,
3 \$24,000.00 reallocated from appliances to power/water, \$24,650.13 reallocated from permits to
4 contingency); \$96,006.61 reallocation on April 26, 2006 (\$4,421.31 reallocated from permits to
5 arch./eng., \$10,000.00 reallocated from permits to water, \$10,000.00 reallocated from cabinets
6 to water, \$10,000.00 reallocated from counter tops to water, 10,085.30 reallocated from clean
7 up to water, \$2,000.00 reallocated from supervision to contingency, \$27,000.00 reallocated from
8 drywall to contingency, \$5,000.00 reallocated from HVAC to contingency, \$5,000.00
9 reallocated from iron to contingency, \$2,500.00 reallocated from supervision to contingency,
10 \$10,000.00 reallocated from G&A to contingency); \$41,471.44 reallocation on May 5, 2006
11 (\$5,471.44 reallocated from electrical to permits, \$8,000.00 reallocated from stucco to
12 permits, \$20,000.00 reallocated from counter tops to permits, \$8,000.00 reallocated from
13 supervision to permits); \$98,483.47 reallocation on May 17, 2006 (\$98,483.47 reallocated from
14 framing to contingency); \$28,440.00 reallocation on May 23, 2006 (\$28,440.00 reallocated
15 from plumbing to water); \$17,667.16 reallocation on June 26, 2006 (\$17,137.16 reallocated
16 from concrete slabs to electrical, \$520.00 reallocated from G&A to power); \$145,235.98
17 reallocation on September 25, 2006 (\$11,060.00 reallocated from supervision to plumbing,
18 \$6,705.38 reallocated from G&A to electrical, \$20,000.00 reallocated from windows to
19 framing, \$21,770.76 reallocated from cabinets to framing, \$32,000.00 reallocated from
20 carpentry to concrete slabs, \$30,000.00 reallocated from drywall to concrete slabs, \$23,699.84
21 reallocated from insulation to concrete slabs); and, a \$94,774.47 reallocation on November 4,
22 2006.
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1 145. There is no indication that French ever questioned the basis for, or frequency of,
2 these multiple budget reallocations or engaged in any analysis regarding how the reallocations
3 would affect the ability to complete the construction with the remaining funds available.

4 146. In addition, French was aware of or approved the disbursement of
5 construction loan funds without timely third party construction progress reports. On the
6 following six occasions between March 3, 2006 and January 9, 2007, French was aware of or
7 approved the disbursement of construction loan funds without first obtaining an inspection
8 report: funds distributed on March 3, 2006 with an inspection date of March 22, 2006; funds
9 distributed on April 11, 2006 with an inspection date of April 18, 2006; funds distributed on
10 April 26, 2006 with an inspection date of May 17, 2006; funds distributed on June 27, 2006
11 with an inspection date of July 5, 2006; funds distributed on November 3, 2006 with an
12 inspection date of November 7, 2006; and funds distributed on January 9, 2007 with an
13 inspection date of April 18, 2007.

14 147. French also failed to develop and analyze Jurbala's global cash flow position and
15 projections in connection with Mazmel 1.

16 148. All of these actions violated applicable loan policies, regulations, and prudent
17 lending practices.

18 **2. Mazmel 2**

19 149. After Mazmel 2 was approved by the SLC, French was aware of or
20 approved disbursements of loan proceeds to pay for inappropriate, non-substantiated and/or
21 non-construction expenses without disclosure to, or approval by, the SLC. Between May 23,
22 2006 and March 28, 2007, French was aware of or approved loan draw requests and payments
23 for the following: \$87,448.66 disbursement on May 23, 2006 for insurance; \$53,724.33
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1 disbursement on November 3, 2006 for insurance; \$43,724.33 disbursement on December 4,
2 2006 for insurance; \$49,724.33 disbursement on February 26, 2007 for insurance; \$49,657.08
3 disbursement on March 28, 2007 for insurance; and a \$74,225.00 disbursement on April 26,
4 2007 to increase interest reserve.

5
6 150. French was also aware of or approved the reallocation of loan construction
7 budget items without analysis of the effect on the underlying project. From May 17, 2006
8 through March 29, 2007, French was aware of or approved the following draw requests from
9 Jurbala for the reallocation of loan construction budget items: \$138,813.36 reallocation on May
10 17, 2006 (\$11,794.50 reallocated from appliances to arch./eng., \$75,000.00 reallocated from
11 flooring to curb & gutter, \$30,000.00 reallocated from concrete slabs to curb & gutter,
12 \$22,018.86 reallocated from drywall to curb & gutter); \$99,368.89 reallocation on June 26,
13 2006 (\$6,000.00 reallocated from permits to arch./eng., \$93,368.89 reallocated from framing to
14 curb & gutter); \$14,448.66 reallocation on July 19, 2006; \$1,000.00 reallocation on August 3,
15 2006 (\$1,000.00 reallocated from contingency to insurance); \$195,072.54 reallocation on
16 August 24, 2006 (\$6,860.00 reallocated from permits to arch./eng., \$20,697.00 reallocated from
17 appliances to power/water, \$27,025.00 reallocated from flooring to curb & gutter, \$15,528.50
18 reallocated from appliances to curb & gutter, \$61,000.00 reallocated from contingency to curb
19 & gutter, \$30,000.00 reallocated from G&A to curb & gutter, \$33,982.04 reallocated from
20 supervision to curb & gutter); \$43,724.33 reallocation on November 2, 2006 (\$36,000.00
21 reallocated from appliances to insurance, \$7,724.33 reallocated from flooring to insurance);
22 \$33,776.80 reallocation on December 12, 2006 (\$19,300.67 reallocated from flooring to
23 power/water, \$14,476.13 reallocated from contingency to power/water); \$78,491.25 reallocation
24 on January 12, 2007 (\$28,440.00 reallocated from contingency to power/water, \$50,051.25
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1 reallocated from framing to permits); \$183,768.54 reallocation on February 2, 2007
2 (\$49,514.76 reallocated from cabinets to insurance, \$40,000.00 reallocated from supervision to
3 curb & gutter, \$50,000.00 reallocated from plumbing to curb & gutter, \$44,253.78 reallocated
4 from stucco to curb & gutter); \$87,172.00 reallocation on February 2, 2007 (\$8,618.00
5 reallocated from concrete slabs to engineering, \$30,000.00 reallocated from supervision to curb
6 & gutter, \$20,000.00 reallocated from G&A to curb & gutter, \$28,554.00 reallocated from
7 plumbing to curb & gutter); and a \$97,173.00 reallocation on March 29, 2007.
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9 151. There is no indication that French ever questioned the basis for, or frequency of,
10 these multiple budget reallocations or engaged in any analysis regarding how the reallocations
11 would affect the ability to complete the construction with the remaining funds available.
12

13 152. French allowed Jurbala to manipulate the Mazmel 2 loan project budget with
14 multiple budget reallocations and to divert loan funds for other purposes.

15 153. French was further aware of or approved the disbursement of construction loan
16 proceeds without timely third party construction progress reports. On the following nine
17 occasions between May 24, 2006 and March 29, 2007, French was aware of or approved the
18 disbursement of construction loan funds without first obtaining an inspection report: funds
19 disbursed on May 24, 2006 with no inspection; funds disbursed on June 27, 2006 with the
20 inspection on July 19, 2006 (Bank did not receive until July 24, 2006); funds disbursed on
21 August 8, 2006 with no inspection; funds disbursed on August 29, 2006 with the inspection
22 on September 5, 2006; funds disbursed on November 3, 2006 with the inspection on November
23 7, 2006; funds disbursed on December 4, 2006 with no inspection; funds disbursed on
24 December 12, 2006 with the inspection on December 20, 2006; funds disbursed on February
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1 26, 2007 with the inspection on March 6, 2007; and funds disbursed on March 29, 2007 with
2 no inspection.

3 154. In addition, French failed to develop and analyze Jurbala's global cash flow
4 position and projections in connection with Mazmel 2.

5 155. All of these actions violated applicable loan policies, applicable regulations, and
6 prudent lending practices.

7
8 **3. Mazmel 3**

9 156. French, by calculating the Mazmel 3 LTV ratio based on individual retail sales of
10 completed units, did not provide an accurate LTV ratio to the SLC. French's calculation of an
11 80% LTV ratio was based on the individual retail sales of completed units. However, both
12 Section E.3. of USPAP's SMT-10 and FIL-90-2005 re: Residential Tract Development Lending
13 FAQs (Question 12) prohibit the use of retail valuations as the market value to calculate the
14 LTV ratio.
15

16 157. Instead, the following regulations and guidelines required French to obtain and
17 employ a "bulk sales" value (derived by discounting retail values to present value by
18 appropriate discount) in calculating the LTV ratio: Section 4(c)-(d) of Part 323 of FDIC Rules
19 and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. § 323.4(c), 323.4(d); 1994 Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation
20 Guidelines used to support real estate-related financial transactions; FIL-90-2005 re: Residential
21 Tract Development Lending FAQs (Questions 2, 4, 8, 9); USPAP Standard 1-4(e).
22

23 158. Each of these sources requires an analysis and reporting of appropriate
24 deductions and discounts for tract developments with unsold units. French, by not providing an
25 accurate LTV ratio to the SLC in the CAM that the French prepared and presented to the SLC
26 for approval of Mazmel 3, caused the SLC to approve the loan in excess of the Bank's internal
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1 LTV ratio of 75% for development loans and in accordance with regulatory policy statement
2 guidelines (Part 365 Appendix A of FDIC Rules and Regulations).

3 159. French also failed to disclose to the SLC the purpose of the Mazmel 3 loan.

4 160. In the CAM that French presented to the SLC for approval of Mazmel 3, French
5 did not disclose to the SLC that the loan was intended, in part, to fund construction of the same
6 Phase 4 of the project that Mazmel 2 had already been represented as funding, did not explain
7 how this situation had come to pass, and did not explain and justify why the Bank should be
8 funding the same construction yet again.
9

10 161. French further failed to disclose to the SLC that the appraisal used to support the
11 funding of Mazmel 3 was stale and did not take into account material market deterioration. The
12 Bank's 2006-2007 Loan Policy provides that an appraisal is generally valid for a period of 18
13 months from the date it was prepared and that "the Bank will accept appraisals completed for
14 other regulated institutions and mortgage brokers, if . . . the regulated institution determines
15 that the appraisal conforms to the requirements of Part 323."
16

17 162. In the August 31, 2007 CAM that French presented to the SLC, French used a
18 March 2, 2006 appraisal that was completed for another insured financial institution. The
19 appraisal was almost 20 months old and, as there had been material changes in the condition of
20 the local real estate market in 2006-2007, French should have obtained a new appraisal or an
21 update of the existing appraisal as required by the Bank's loan policy and Part 323 of FDIC
22 Rules and Regulations. French's failure to do so prevented the SLC from receiving current
23 appraisal information in its consideration of the Mazmel 3 loan.
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25 163. In addition, one of the purposes of Mazmel 3 was to pay off a previous loan held
26 by another financial institution. In establishing the pay off amount, however, French used an
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1 incorrect value based on a March 2, 2006 appraisal, which resulted in the overfunding of
2 Mazmel 3.

3 164. The March 2, 2006 appraisal of the property underlying Mazmel 3 provides
4 values in addition to the "prospective aggregate retail" value of the property being acquired in
5 paying off the previous loan. In the CAM that French presented to the SLC for approval of
6 Mazmel 3, however, French chose not to provide the SLC with any value other than the
7 prospective aggregate retail value in support of French's LTV ratio of 80%, and with no further
8 explanation of how the value of the collateral was specifically calculated.
9

10 165. Section D.1. and D.2. of USPAP's SMT-10 require an appraisal to include, at a
11 minimum, "as is" information and an "as is" value. French failed to disclose this information
12 and value to the SLC for its consideration, and, as a result of French's actions, the loan was
13 essentially overfunded and increased the risk to the Bank that the remaining construction funds
14 for this loan would not be sufficient to complete the underlying project.
15

16 166. After Mazmel 3 was approved by the SLC, French, without receiving any
17 approval from the SLC, was aware of or approved a disbursement of \$53,314.16 on October 11,
18 2006 for insurance, a disbursement which was inappropriate, unsubstantiated and/or for a non-
19 construction expense.
20

21 167. French was also aware of or approved the disbursement of construction loan
22 proceeds without timely third party construction progress reports. Within the course of the
23 Mazmel 3 loan, at least 19 draws occurred. However, no inspection or construction progress
24 reports were located in the Bank's files and there was no evidence that the Bank and/or Jurbala
25 had been billed for any inspections. Given that the Bank's loan policy required French to obtain
26 an inspection report completed by an outside, third-party vendor prior to disbursing any
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1 construction loan funds – and there were no inspection reports found – one must assume that
2 French disbursed funds, or caused funds to be disbursed, without an inspection report and in
3 violation of Bank policy and applicable regulations.

4 168. Furthermore, French failed to develop and analyze Jurbala's global cash flow
5 position and projections in connection with Mazmel 3.

6 169. All of these actions violated applicable loan policies, applicable regulations, and
7 prudent lending practices.

8 170. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$1,557,000 in relation to these loans.

9 **K. SANTA FE VILLAS, LLC**

10 171. French failed to disclose to the SLC that the appraisal used to support the
11 funding of Santa Fe Villas contained inaccurate information. In the July 11, 2006 CAM that
12 French presented to the SLC for approval of Santa Fe Villas, French relied on a June 9, 2006
13 appraisal that used a proposed density that was higher than the actual density to generate the
14 appraisal's "as is" and "as completed" values. The June 9, 2006 appraisal stated that the site was
15 to be developed at a density of 9.62 units per acre when, in fact, the current zoning only
16 allowed up to 8 units per acre. As a result, the actual loan value was less than the appraised
17 amounts and the LTV ratio was higher than that presented by French for approval. French's use
18 of the appraisal in this regard violates, at a minimum, the Bank's Loan Policy, the minimum
19 appraisal standards set forth in Part 323.4 of the FDIC Rules and Regulations, and the 1994
20 Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation Guidelines ("For federally related transactions, an
21 appraisal is to include the current market value of the property in its actual physical condition
22 and subject to the zoning in effect as of the date of the appraisal.").

23 172. Furthermore, French, by calculating the Santa Fe Villas LTV ratio based on
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1 individual retail sales of completed units, did not provide in accurate LTV ratio to the SLC.
2 French's calculation of a 75% LTV ratio was based on the individual retail sales of completed
3 units. However, both Section E.3. of USPAP's SMT-10 and FIL-90-2005 re: Residential Tract
4 Development Lending FAQs (Question 12) prohibit the use of retail valuations as the market
5 value to calculate the LTV ratio.

6
7 173. Instead, the following regulations and guidelines required French to obtain and
8 employ a "bulk sales" value (derived by discounting retail values to present value by
9 appropriate discount) in calculating the LTV ratio: Section 4(c)-(d) of Part 323 of FDIC Rules
10 and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. § 323.4(c), 323.4(d); 1994 Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation
11 Guidelines used to support real estate-related financial transactions; FIL-90-2005 re: Residential
12 Tract Development Lending FAQs (Questions 2, 4, 8, 9); and USPAP Standard 1-4(e).

13
14 174. Each of these sources requires an analysis and reporting of appropriate
15 deductions and discounts for tract developments with unsold units. French, by not providing an
16 accurate LTV ratio to the SLC in the CAM, caused the SLC to approve the loan in excess of the
17 Bank's internal LTV ratio for development loans and regulatory policy statement guidelines
18 (Part 365 of FDIC Rules and Regulations).

19
20 175. French failed to disclose to the SLC the correct basis of a purported equity
21 interest of \$1 million in the underlying transaction.

22
23 176. In the July 11, 2006 CAM that French presented to the SLC for approval of
24 Santa Fe Villas, French represented that the owners of Santa Fe Villas had equity of \$1 million
25 in the underlying transaction. However, the \$1 million that French reported as equity was
26 actually a second deed of trust provided by Mountain West Mortgage, an entity controlled by
27 Jurbala. As a result, the Bank financed 100% of the purchase price of the underlying real
28

1 estate which had been purchased in March, 2006 for \$3,750,000, in violation of federal
2 regulations and SSB loan policies, and there was no information and/or documentation in the
3 CAM regarding a release for the second deed of trust. French's failure to provide full
4 disclosure of material information to the SLC in this regard prevented the SLC from
5 establishing Jurbala's ability to convey clear title to purchasers of the finished lots.
6

7 177. French also failed to obtain an appraisal review by independent bank personnel.
8 The Bank's 2006-2007 Loan Policy required French, as the originating officer of Santa Fe
9 Villas, to obtain a review of an appraisal by independent bank personnel to determine if the
10 appraisal met all bank and regulatory standards. French failed to comply with the Bank's policy
11 in this regard by seeking and receiving a March 17, 2008 renewal/extension of Santa Fe Villas
12 which was supported by appraised values contained in an updated appraisal dated January 28,
13 2008 that was not reviewed by independent bank personnel.
14

15 178. After Santa Fe Villas was approved by the SLC, French was aware of or
16 approved disbursements of loan proceeds to pay for inappropriate, non-substantiated and/or
17 non-construction expenses without disclosure to, or approval by, the SLC.
18

19 179. Between September 15, 2006 and September 11, 2007 French was aware of or
20 approved loan draw requests and payments for the following: \$1,111.75 disbursement on July
21 12, 2006 for insurance; \$43,724.33 disbursement on January 3, 2007 for insurance; \$50,123.00
22 disbursement on January 26, 2007 for insurance; \$75,204.00 disbursement on February 26,
23 2007 for insurance; \$46,185.00 disbursement on March 28, 2007 for insurance; \$46,185.00
24 disbursement on April 16, 2007 for insurance; \$26,657.08 disbursement on August 2, 2007 for
25 insurance; \$29,322.78 disbursement on August 23, 2007 for insurance; and a \$27,989.93
26 disbursement on September 11, 2007 for insurance.
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1 180. French was also aware of or approved the reallocation of loan construction
2 budget items without analysis of the effect on the underlying project. From October 25, 2006 to
3 January 4, 2008, French was aware of or approved the following draw requests from Jurbala for
4 the reallocation of loan construction budget items: \$5,000.00 reallocation on October 25, 2006
5 (\$5,000.00 reallocated from contingency to civil engineering); \$25,000.00 reallocation on
6 December 15, 2006 (\$25,000 reallocated from contingency to civil engineering); \$20,000.00
7 reallocation on January 3, 2007 (\$20,000.00 reallocated from contingency to civil engineering);
8 \$39,959.08 reallocation on January 24, 2007 (\$1,055.36 reallocated from supervision to
9 insurance, \$18,903.72 reallocated from contingency to insurance, \$20,000.00 reallocated from
10 grading/paving to civil eng.); \$77,704.00 reallocation on February 23, 2007; (\$75,204.00
11 reallocated from grading to insurance, \$2,500.00 reallocated from soils engineering to
12 contingency); \$21,067.00 reallocation on March 7, 2007 (\$21,067.00 reallocated from grading
13 to contingency); \$20,250.00 reallocation on March 9, 2007 (\$20,250.00 reallocated from
14 grading to contingency); \$46,185.00 on March 28, 2007 (\$46,185.00 reallocated from grading
15 to insurance); \$24,137.50 reallocation on April 10, 2007 (\$24,137.50 reallocated from grading
16 to soils engineering); \$46,185.00 on April 16, 2007 (\$46,185.00 reallocated from grading to
17 insurance); \$32,426.78 reallocation on August 2, 2007 (\$5,769.70 reallocated from supervision
18 to permits, \$26,657.08 reallocated from water/sewer to insurance); \$27,989.93 reallocation on
19 September 11, 2007 (\$27,989.93 reallocated from grading to insurance); \$9,500.00 reallocation
20 on September 27, 2007 (\$9,500.00 reallocated from permits to civil engineering); \$8,500.00
21 reallocation on October 18, 2007 (\$8,500.00 reallocated from grading/paving to civil
22 engineering); \$15,000.00 reallocation on December 13, 2007 (\$15,000.00 reallocated from
23 grading/paving to civil engineering); and a \$14,164.50 reallocation on January 4, 2008
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1 (\$14,164.50 reallocated from grading/paving to civil engineering).

2 181. There is no indication that French ever questioned the basis for, or frequency of,
3 these multiple budget reallocations or engaged in any analysis regarding how the reallocations
4 would affect the ability to complete the construction with the remaining funds available.

5
6 182. French allowed Jurbala to manipulate the Santa Fe Villas loan project budget
7 with multiple budget reallocations and to divert loan funds for other purposes.

8 183. French was further aware of or approved the disbursement of construction loan
9 funds without timely third party construction progress reports. On the following six occasions
10 between January 3, 2007 and April 16, 2007, French was aware of or approved the
11 disbursement of construction loan funds without first obtaining an inspection report: funds
12 disbursed on January 3, 2007 with no inspection; funds disbursed on January 25, 2007 with a
13 February 7, 2007 inspection; February 26, 2007 with a March 6, 2007 inspection; funds
14 disbursed on March 29, 2007 with no inspection; funds disbursed on April 10, 2007 with no
15 inspection; and funds disbursed on April 16, 2007 with an April 18, 2007 inspection.

16
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18 184. All of these actions violated applicable loan policies, applicable regulations, and
19 prudent lending practices.

20 185. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$1,633,000 in relation to this loan.

21
22 **L. Speedway Hospitality Development II, LLC**

23 186. French recommended to the SLC and the Board that Speedway be approved by
24 the SLC and the Board even though French knew that Jurbala was no longer creditworthy based
25 on the deterioration of Jurbala's real estate portfolio, that Jurbala could not make timely
26 payments on his loans at the Bank, that the collateral securing Speedway was worth far less than
27 the amount of the loan, and that the appraisal used to support the loan was grossly inflated. In
28

1 fact, at the time of the Speedway loan, its principal, Jurbala, had properties in foreclosure
2 proceedings brought by other lenders, his bank accounts were overdrawn by \$400,000, and two
3 of his borrower entities would file for Chapter 11 protection within one week of the Speedway
4 loan's closing.

5
6 187. Prior to coming to French, Jurbala had unsuccessfully shopped the Speedway
7 loan to "bunches" of lenders. French recommended the \$24 million Speedway loan in order to
8 provide a workout solution for six of the Jurbala Loans: Red Vistas 1, Mazmel 1, Mazmel 2,
9 Mazmel 3, Santa Fe Villas, and Jurbala's personal line of credit in the amount of \$680,000. At
10 the time of French's recommendation, each of these loans was past due and had exhausted
11 interest reserves. French has admitted in sworn testimony that he knew that Jurbala's loans or
12 bank accounts were overdrawn. However, in recommending Speedway to the SLC and Board,
13 French placed Jurbala's interests above the Bank by increasing the Bank's exposure while, at the
14 same time, failing to disclose and/or provide material information to the SLC and the Board to
15 be used as an integral part of their decision-making process regarding this loan.
16

17
18 188. For example, in the January 28, 2008 CAM that French presented to the SLC for
19 approval of Speedway, French represented that the value of the property supporting the loan
20 (comprised of a combined 11.38 acre parcel (Speedway I) and a 2.5 acre parcel (Speedway II))
21 was based on an appraisal dated December 13, 2007 by appraiser Keith Harper which assigned
22 an "as is" value of \$35,100,000 to the property. However, Jurbala had acquired Speedway I in
23 July of 2007 (7 months earlier) for just \$7,545,000 and spent approximately \$100,000 to obtain
24 an entitlement with gaming designation. French has admitted in sworn testimony that he knew
25 before the Speedway loan was made that Jurbala had acquired the Speedway I portion of the
26 property for \$7 million in July, 2007 and the Speedway II portion for 1.3 million in 2005, well
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1 below Keith Harper's appraised value. French knew of the extreme increase in value reflected in
2 the Keith Harper appraisal (365.21% over 7 months, or 52.17% per month) and that the Keith
3 Harper appraisal lacked proper analysis and support in this regard. French also did not disclose
4 the loan was over 400% of cost and thus blatantly violated federal regulations.

5
6 189. At a minimum, French violated Standards Rule 1-5(b) of USPAP which requires
7 an analysis of all sales of property occurring within three years prior to the effective date of an
8 appraisal. The December 13, 2007 Keith Harper appraisal reflected an "as is" value of
9 \$35,100,000 of the property, with the same property closing escrow 7 months earlier for \$7
10 million. French should have taken action to analyze and support the extreme increase in value
11 within the appraisal and disclosed this information to the SLC and the Board.
12

13 190. French also failed to disclose to the SLC and the Board that the Keith Harper
14 appraisal used by French to support Speedway was not completed at the time that French
15 presented Speedway to the SLC and the Board for consideration and approval. In the January
16 28, 2008 CAM that French presented to the SLC and the Board for approval of Speedway,
17 French represented that appraiser Keith Harper had prepared an appraisal - dated December 13,
18 2007 - of the collateral supporting the loan. However, no appraisal with that date has ever been
19 found in the Bank's files. Rather, the Keith Harper appraisal was actually dated February 11,
20 2008 with an "as is" date of February 1, 2008, *after* French presented the CAM to the SLC and
21 the Board for consideration and approval. At a minimum, French violated the appraisal
22 standards set forth in Part 323.4 of the FDIC Rules and Regulations by incorrectly representing
23 to the SLC and the Board that Keith Harper's appraisal had been completed on December 13,
24 2007.
25
26

27 191. French further failed to disclose to the SLC and the Board that the Keith Harper
28

1 appraisal used to support Speedway did not use similar comparables to estimate the value of the
2 property securing the loan. At the FDIC's request, Bank management obtained another
3 appraisal of the property and, on July 29, 2008, appraiser CBRE provided an "as is" value of
4 \$19,200,000. In an attempt to reconcile the Keith Harper and CBRE appraisals, Bank
5 management obtained an appraisal from Matthew Lubawy of Lubawy & Associates, who
6 concluded, on August 24, 2008, that the Keith Harper appraisal had used sales from a
7 tourist/resort area that was superior to the subject property and that the small 10% downward
8 adjustment made by Keith Harper for the superior location was not reasonable (Lubaway &
9 Associates provided an "as is" value of \$18,150,000). Current valuations of the Speedway
10 collateral are less than \$5,000,000.
11

12
13 192. French, by initially accepting and using Keith Harper's February 11, 2008
14 appraisal report that contained comparables that were not similar violated, at a minimum, Part
15 323.4 of FDIC Rules and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. § 323.4, which require that an appraisal
16 contain sufficient information and analysis.
17

18 193. French also failed to disclose the existence of a conflict of interest between
19 French and Keith Harper, the appraiser who conducted the appraisal used to support Speedway.
20 In the January 28, 2008 CAM that French presented to the SLC and the Board for approval of
21 Speedway, French failed to disclose that he had a business relationship with Keith Harper; that
22 French frequently collaborated with Keith Harper on business ventures, outside the Bank,
23 throughout 2006 and 2007; that French and Keith Harper regularly saw each other on a social
24 basis; and that French had facilitated personal loans for Keith Harper at the Bank. In fact,
25 French did not even disclose that Harper's provision of the appraisal was only provided upon
26 assurances that French would cause Harper to be paid for previous appraisal services performed
27
28

1 for Jurbala entities that Jurbala failed to pay.

2 194. The Bank's 2008 Loan Policy requires employees of the Bank to be "especially
3 careful" in the area of conflicts of interest. In fact, on June 18, 2003, French executed the Bank's
4 Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy which requires each officer and director of the Bank
5 to avoid conflicts of interest, the appearance of conflicts of interest, and any violations of
6 fiduciary responsibilities and duties as further confirmed in that document. French's failure to
7 disclose his relationships to Keith Harper, in all of their various forms, to the SLC and Board
8 in connection with Speedway violated, at a minimum, the Bank's Loan Policy and the Bank's
9 Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy.
10

11 195. In addition, the Bank's 2008 Loan Policy requires an originating loan officer to
12 comply with applicable regulatory requirements and, specifically regarding appraisals, that the
13 Bank and its loan officers comply with, and conform to, all requirements and standards of Part
14 323 of the FDIC Rules and Regulations, FIRREA, and USPAP, and that it is the intent of the
15 Bank, and responsibility of all loan officers, to conform to all standards of FIRREA and
16 USPAP. By virtue of the relationship between French and Keith Harper, French violated, at a
17 minimum, USPAP's Ethics Rule (Conduct) which requires an appraiser to "perform assignments
18 with impartiality, objectivity, and independence, and without accommodation of personal
19 interests."
20
21

22 196. French also failed to analyze and develop Jurbala's global cash flow position and
23 projections in connection with Speedway.
24

25 197. Following approval of Speedway by the SLC and the Board, but before the loan
26 was funded, French failed to disclose that a third party claimed an ownership interest in one of
27 the two Speedway parcels. On February 12, 2008, French received an e-mail from Jurbala
28

1 stating that a hedge fund in Iceland, through Hardhat Enterprises, LLC ("Hardhat") as its
2 representative, claimed a 40% interest in Speedway. Despite this red flag, French violated Bank
3 policy by doing nothing to fully document the credit by verifying Speedway's ownership before
4 the loan funded, and by not disclosing to the SLC or the Board the potential problem with the
5 loan. Shortly after this problem came to light, the legal enforceability of payment of the
6 Speedway loan was thrown into question. In March, 2008, the Bank was sued by Hardhat on the
7 basis that Hardhat owned a 40% interest in Speedway and that Jurbala did not have the authority
8 to pledge the property as collateral on the loan.
9

10 198. After the Speedway loan was made, French was also aware of or approved the
11 use of loan funds for expenditures in excess of the amount approved by the Board and approved
12 disbursements of loan proceeds to pay for inappropriate and unsubstantiated expenses.
13

14 199. After the Speedway loan was made, French authorized \$9,243,000 in loan
15 proceeds to pay down, among other items, affiliate debt and past due interest, despite the fact
16 that the Board had only approved the use of loan proceeds in the amount of \$8,380,000 for such
17 purposes. In addition, French, without receiving any approval from the SLC, was aware of or
18 approved the disbursement of loan proceeds of more than \$750,000 to pay for inappropriate and
19 unsubstantiated expenses that were not identified as part of the intended purpose of the funds
20 when Speedway was approved. This included a \$15,500.00 disbursement to pay past due
21 invoices to appraiser Keith Harper for appraisal work unrelated to Speedway, a \$750,000.00
22 disbursement to Hard Hat Enterprises, LLC, various payments to creditors and disgruntled
23 investors in Jurbala's projects, and payment of Jurbala's own overdrafts.
24
25

26 200. When shown the closing statement during his sworn statement, French could not
27 explain the purposes of more than \$2,000,000 in disbursements and was "surprised" by
28

1 disbursements used by Jurbala to acquire other real property in Mesquite, Nevada on which the
2 Bank did not have a lien.

3 201. French also explained in his sworn statement that he had approved a
4 disbursement of \$290,000 for furnishings, which were eventually liquidated for \$50,000, when
5 no work was completed.
6

7 202. Furthermore, Johnson directed that French receive a \$48,000 commission on the
8 Speedway loan despite the fact that the loan was occasioned by a series of non-performing loans
9 French had previously originated and received commissions from. Cal Regan, the Bank's
10 president, opposed the Speedway loan at the SLC and directed that French not receive any
11 commission. Johnson, however, secretly overruled Regan and instructed Bank personnel not to
12 tell Regan that the payment was being made.
13

14 203. All of these actions violated applicable loan policies, applicable regulations, and
15 prudent lending practices.
16

17 204. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$18,919,000 in relation to this loan.

18 **M. Tangelo Avenue, LLC**

19 205. Kirby originated and recommended this loan for approval in the amount of
20 \$5,500,000 on September 6, 2006 and it was approved by both French and Johnson.
21

22 206. In the CAM that Kirby presented, it provided that the loan was intended to "buy-
23 out" a previous loan made by Mortgages LTD, five months earlier, in the amount of \$3,900,000,
24 for this very project. With respect to the loan amount, the funds were intended to pay-off the
25 previous loan, provide interest reserves, and provide a small amount of development costs to be
26 used in conjunction with additional funds provided by the borrower. In fact, the loan breakdown
27 analysis confirms that \$3,900,000 of the loan was used to pay off a previous raw land loan on
28

1 land that only had an appraised value of \$4,520,000.

2 207. In support of the loan Kirby obtained an Appraisal from Waldrop Real Estate
3 Group, dated August 17, 2006. It listed an as-is value of \$4,520,000 and a proposed value upon
4 completion of the retail lots of \$9,700,000. Instead of using the as-is value of the appraisal,
5 however, Kirby obtained approval of the loan based on the loan to cost appraisal, which violates
6 both the Bank's underwriting guidelines and regulatory LTV ratios for raw land. As the
7 appraiser noted, to "the best of my knowledge there are NO improvements upon the site." This
8 obviously raised a huge red flag given that a majority of the loan was being used to pay off a
9 previous \$3.9 million loan for the land that in and of itself exceeded guidelines.
10

11 208. Ultimately, Kirby allowed more than 100% of the construction funds identified
12 in this loan to be disbursed with, according to a November 11, 2007 inspection prepared by a
13 third-party, only 80% of the work completed. In fact, when Kirby's work was reviewed in 2007-
14 2008, it was determined that the project was \$356,927.11 over budget with draws still being
15 made. As of January 2010 the work still had not been completed, yet 97.38% of the entire
16 budget had been disbursed.
17

18 209. These actions violated both Bank policies and regulatory requirements, including
19 those related to disbursements commensurate with completion and site inspections.
20

21 210. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$5,208,991.71 in relation to this loan.
22

23 **N. Mineral Creek, LLC**

24 211. Kirby originated and recommended this loan for approval in an amount of
25 \$5,758,800,000 and it was approved by both French and Johnson.
26

27 212. The project, however, was \$251,199.00 over budget with draws still being made.
28 Much of the budget issues stemmed from contract changes to allow payments related to heavy

1 supervision, which is in and of itself a very questionable category, and there has not been any
2 explanation or justification for such re-allocations.

3 213. In a sworn statement, Deanna Forbush, French's significant other, recalled
4 driving by this site with French. She remembered that his reaction upon seeing the site was to
5 question why more work had not been done.
6

7 214. Kirby's actions in relation to this loan violated both Bank policies and regulatory
8 requirements, including those related to disbursements commensurate with completion and site
9 inspections.
10

11 215. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$4,277,908.81 in relation to this loan.

12 **O. Carefree Equestrian**

13 216. Kirby originated and recommended this loan for approval in the amount of
14 \$14,940,000. It was intended to fund a nineteen lot custom home subdivision and it was
15 approved by both French and Johnson in May 2007.
16

17 217. The use of funds breakdown shows that Kirby intended that the loan refinance a
18 raw land acquisition loan plus interest reserves, develop a spec house, and develop the land.

19 218. In seeking approval of the loan, Kirby used the "as completed" value of the
20 project rather than the "as is" value, and failed to use LTC in his evaluation as required by the
21 Bank's loan policy and regulatory requirements. Both French and Johnson approved the loan
22 despite these violations.
23

24 219. Kirby admitted in sworn testimony that he was not aware of any infrastructure
25 being built on the property, and a January 5, 2009 appraisal prepared for the FDIC shows that
26 the property was undeveloped and mountainous, with hills, valleys and a wash. It also
27
28

1 confirmed that there were no utilities to the site and access was poor. Bank personnel have
2 testified that this was a loan on which there was no control over draws and a problem from day
3 one.

4 220. The loan violated FDIC LTV Regulations and the Bank's loan policies because it
5 was made without a compliant appraisal. Also, in violation of Bank loan policies, the loan
6 proceeds were advanced without proof of completion of the improvements. Ultimately, the
7 development is still not complete, and the land is worth very little, yet all the loan funds were
8 advanced.
9

10 221. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$9,126,263.32 in relation to this loan.
11

12 **P. Silver Dollar Land Company, LLC**

13 222. The Silver Dollar loans consist of two separate loans originated and
14 recommended by Gary Gardner and approved by Johnson and French.

15 223. On March 6, 2007, Gardner originated an \$8,550,000 loan to Silver Dollar Land
16 Company for the purpose of taking out Silver Dollar's loan at Community Bank and funding
17 interest and development costs. The Community Bank loan had also supposedly been for
18 acquisition and development, and the \$7,914,278 initial advance on the loan was used to pay off
19 Community Bank.
20

21 224. Gardner conducted little or no analysis as to whether the funds advanced by
22 Community Bank were commensurate with the development on the ground, but based the loan
23 entirely on appraised value, which was consistent with the lending practices of French and
24 Kirby.
25

26 ///

27 ///

28

1 225. Then, on June 22, 2007, Gardner originated two more loans to Silver Dollar, one
2 for \$3,968,000 to refinance a note and build 15 homes, and one for \$1,052,000 to build three
3 model homes – both loans were collateralized by the same land as the \$8,550,000 loan.

4 226. Gardner advanced funds on all the Silver Dollar loans contrary to the stated
5 purposes of the loans. The developers never got the development work finished nor were the
6 houses completed. Gardner candidly testified that the loans were “a mess.”

7
8 227. Furthermore, Gardner requested approval based on a July 31, 2006 appraisal
9 performed for a different bank in which the as completed value, based upon completion of the
10 lots, was listed at \$11,400,000. Gardner failed to disclose, however, that the as-is value of the
11 land was listed as \$7,095,000. The loan was approved by Johnson and French despite LTV and
12 LTC violations of both Bank policy and regulations.

13
14 228. In addition, throughout the loan Gardner approved loan draws from Silver Dollar
15 to fund overages and interest payments on another loan issued to an entity associated with the
16 borrower - Desert Mesa II, LLC.

17
18 229. Then, when interest reserves were depleted, Gardner diverted funds to the
19 interest reserves through a loan draw in order to keep payments current. Gardner also approved
20 the use of funds from the second loan - funds that were to be used to develop fifteen town
21 homes - to the first loan. By doing so, this depleted the funds designated to complete the
22 projects identified in the second loan.

23
24 230. Ultimately, despite the approval and expenditure of loan funds, no development
25 or vertical construction was done in relation to these loans, and pictures from a September 2009
26 appraisal show the ultimate outcome to be little more than a dirt lot. As Gardner stated in sworn
27 testimony, he “was probably just being scammed,” and in March or April of 2008 the borrower
28

1 finally admitted to him that there were insufficient funds in the loans to finish construction. In
2 fact, as the September 2009 appraisal showed, and Gardner admitted, the model homes for these
3 projects had not even been built.

4 231. In April 2008 French confirmed by e-mail that three to four million of the loan
5 amounts were in doubt. French also testified that he and Gardner toured some of the sites in
6 Gardner's portfolio shortly after a March 2008 exam and that funding had advanced ahead of
7 completion. As testified to by French, Gardner had no explanation for this violation of Bank
8 policy and applicable regulations. Other personnel at the Bank, however, noted that Gardner's
9 failure to perform site inspections and improper disbursements were apparent. By May 2008,
10 Cal Regan indicated that the problems were worse than anticipated and that the Bank stood to
11 lose approximately \$6,000,000 from these loans.
12

14 232. These actions violated both Bank policies and regulatory requirements, including
15 those related to disbursements commensurate with completion and site inspections.
16

17 233. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$9,049,000 in relation to these loans.

18 **Q. Desert Mesa I, LLC**

19 234. On June 27, 2007, Gardner originated two loans to Desert Mesa I LLC, another
20 entity controlled by the owners of Silver Dollar Land Company. One loan was in the amount of
21 \$5,175,000 and was for the purpose of acquisition and development of land in Las Vegas. The
22 other loan was for \$5,600,750, of which \$3,819,323 was set aside for construction.
23

24 235. The collateral for both of these loans was a property containing 14 partially built
25 houses which Desert Mesa was acquiring from a developer who had failed to complete planned
26 development of the project. The developer's previous lender, who was paid out of proceeds
27 from these loans, was again Community Bank.
28

1 236. Gardner performed little or no analysis of whether the amount of the Community
2 Bank loan to be paid, however, was commensurate with the amount of work on the ground. In
3 addition, as was the case with the Silver Dollar loans, there was very little work performed with
4 the Bank's loan disbursements and the houses were never completed. The Bank's policies on
5 loan advances were violated repeatedly on both loans in that advances were made without proof
6 of the existence of the improvements for which the advances were made. For example, Gardner
7 approved a \$308,000 loan draw for Metro Development, another entity owned by the borrower,
8 for concrete work that was not performed.
9

10 237. Ultimately, it was determined that all of the loans by this borrower, both the
11 Silver Dollar Loans and the Desert Mesa loans, were out of balance - which isn't surprising
12 given that Gardner was allowing a common borrower to use funds from one loan to pay the
13 other loan.
14

15 238. Ultimately, a January 2009 appraisal showed that the property was never
16 completed and consisted of seventy-nine partially completed lots and fourteen single family
17 homes that were near completion.
18

19 239. These actions violated both Bank policies and regulatory requirements, including
20 those related to disbursements commensurate with completion and site inspections.
21

22 240. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$8,041,000 in relation to these loans.
23

R. Robindale Villas and Associated loans

24 241. Robindale Villas was a \$2,783,000 loan that was intended to fund the
25 construction of 15 townhomes in the Robindale Villas townhome project. It was recommended
26 for approval by French in September 2004, extended five times, and increased to \$3,000,000.
27

28 242. The extensions were approved in September 2005, September 2006, April 2007,

1 October 2007, and February 2008. The extensions were requested by French and approved by
2 both French and Johnson. Several of the extensions noted that anywhere from five to six of the
3 homes were already sold - although only three were actually finished.

4 243. Throughout these extensions French was regularly approving late fee waivers,
5 clear evidence of a failing borrower and a declining economy, and when many of the extensions
6 were requested and approved, French himself had been predicting the failure of the economy.
7

8 244. In an apparent attempt to improve the "look" of this loan, all three of the finished
9 Robindale Villas townhomes were sold to two persons, and the sales were financed by the
10 Bank. Notably, in order to "make the deal work," French approved extremely high commission
11 bonuses well above the normal 3% commissions that brokers normally received.
12

13 245. These actions violated both Bank policies and regulatory requirements, including
14 those related to disbursements commensurate with completion and site inspections.

15 246. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$348,000 from the Desert Mesa loans.

16 247. The FDIC has incurred losses in excess of \$834,000 on the three defaulted loans
17 made in relation to this project.
18

19 VI. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

20 **Conduct violating the Claims below for Gross Negligence and Breach of Fiduciary Duty**

21 248. The FDIC realleges and incorporates by reference each of the allegations
22 contained in paragraphs 3-247 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. Although the
23 defendants' conduct is described in detail above, the conduct by defendants rendering them
24 liable includes, but is not limited to, the following. In addition, as these loans are subjected to
25 further review, additional violations are being identified, and as additional loans are examined,
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1 more and more egregious conduct and additional damages are being discovered, including on
2 loans originated by French to Shannon Nounna.

3 ***French***

4 249. Repeatedly violating Bank appraisal policies and requirements and causing
5 violations of appraisal regulations.

6 250. Repeatedly violating Bank policies and federal regulations regarding loan
7 disbursements.

8 251. Continuing to originate and support loans on the security of Las Vegas real estate
9 long after he had no reasonable basis to believe the market could support such lending and after
10 he had concluded that it was a speculative bubble.

11 252. Hiring an incompetent loan officer and then giving him a \$250 million portfolio
12 to manage without providing training or supervision.

13 253. Ignoring pleas for help from a subordinate who claimed that he was
14 overwhelmed and did not know what he was doing.

15 254. Failing to disclose or misrepresenting numerous material facts to the SLC and
16 BOD regarding the loans.

17 ***Johnson***

18 255. Failing to implement, and in fact opposing, policies and procedures to assure that
19 loan disbursements went toward the approved purposes of the loans.

20 256. Condoning repeated violations of Bank policies and federal regulations regarding
21 loan disbursements

22 257. Approving numerous loans that violated appraisal regulations and bank appraisal
23 policies.

1 258. Failing to supervise or control French.

2 259. Creating a bonus system for loan officers that resulted in incentives for bad
3 loans.

4 260. Approving the Speedway loan and hiding the commission to French from the
5 Bank president.

6 261. Recommending and approving the 2007 strategic plan for the Bank, which was
7 premised on massive increases in real estate lending when the real estate market was declining.
8

9 **Kirby**

10 262. Undertaking fiduciary responsibilities for which he knew himself to be
11 incompetent.

12 263. Repeatedly recommending approval of loans that violated appraisal regulations
13 and Bank policies without disclosing such violations to the SLC.
14

15 264. Repeatedly approving disbursements on loans that violated Bank policies and
16 federal regulations or were contrary to the approved purposes of the loans.
17

18 265. Repeatedly recommending approval of loans on the security of real estate in
19 markets he knew to be stagnant or declining.

20 **Gardner**

21 266. Failing to determine before recommending the Silver Dollar loan the extent to
22 which a prior loan to be paid from the Silver State loan had been used to make improvements on
23 the collateral.
24

25 267. Repeatedly violating Bank loan policies by approving disbursements that
26 violated Bank policies, federal regulations, or were contrary to the stated purposes of the loan.
27

28 ///

1 268. Violating appraisal regulations and Bank appraisal policies and failing to
2 disclose such violations to the SLC.

3 **Claim for Gross Negligence (Nevada law and 12 U.S.C. § 1821(k))**

4 269. The FDIC realleges and incorporates by reference each of the allegations
5 contained in paragraphs 3-268 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. Section
6 1821(k) of The Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act holds directors
7 and officers of financial institutions personally liable for loss or damage to the institution caused
8 by their "gross negligence," as defined by applicable state law.
9

10 270. As described more particularly herein, the defendants were grossly negligent in
11 that their manner of carrying out their duties and responsibilities to the Bank failed to constitute
12 even a slight degree of care and demonstrated a lack of diligence that even careless men are
13 accustomed to exercising. Moreover their actions demonstrated a complete disregard for the
14 interests of the Bank, its policies, and the laws and regulations governing the Banking industry.
15

16 271. The decisions made by the defendants as described more particularly herein were
17 not good faith business decisions made in an informed and deliberate manner. The defendants
18 repeatedly violated Bank policies and federal regulations, continued to make loans when they
19 knew the market was cratering in order to increase their bonuses and compensation, and failed
20 to disclose numerous material facts to the SLC and the Board of Directors. As a direct and
21 proximate result of the gross negligence of the defendants the FDIC has suffered damages in an
22 amount to be determined at trial.
23

24
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Count Two

Claim for Breach of Fiduciary Duties

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2
3 272. The FDIC realleges and incorporates by reference each of the allegations
4 contained in paragraphs 3-271 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

5
6 273. The Defendants occupied a fiduciary relationship with the Bank and are thus
7 held to the standard of utmost good faith and loyalty. These defendants failed to discharge their
8 fiduciary duties as detailed in this Complaint and described in relation to the claim for gross
9 negligence.

10 274. As a direct and proximate result of the breaches of fiduciary duties of the
11 Defendants, the FDIC has suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

12
13 **VII. JURY DEMAND**

14 275. The FDIC respectfully demands a trial by jury for all issues in this case that are
15 triable by the jury.

16
17 **VIII. PRAYER**

18 WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the FDIC prays for relief as follows:

19 A. For compensatory and consequential damages, jointly and severally against the
20 Defendants as follows (together with prejudgment interest):

21 a. Judgment in excess of \$22,000,000 against Kirby, French, and Johnson
22 for their gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection
23 with the Happy Valley loans;

24 b. Judgment in excess of \$4,157,000 against French and Johnson for their
25 gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection with the
26 Red Vista loans;
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- c. Judgment in excess of \$1,557,000 against French and Johnson for their gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection with the Mazmel loans;
- d. Judgment in excess of \$1,633,000 against French and Johnson for their gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection with the Sante Fe Villas loans;
- e. Judgment in excess of \$18,919,000 against French and Johnson for their gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection with the Speedway loan;
- f. Judgment in excess of \$5,208,991 against Kirby, French, and Johnson for their gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection with the Tangelo Avenue loan;
- g. Judgment in excess of \$4,277,908 against Kirby, French, and Johnson for their gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection with the Mineral Creek loan;
- h. Judgment in excess of \$9,126,123 against Kirby, French, and Johnson for their gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection with the Carefree Equestrian loan;
- i. Judgment in excess of \$9,049,000 against Gardner, French, and Johnson for their gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection with the Silver Dollar Land Company loans;

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j. Judgment in excess of \$8,041,000 against Gardner, French, and Johnson for their gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection with the Desert Mesa loans;

k. Judgment in excess of \$1,182,000 against French and Johnson for their gross negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty in connection with the Robindale Villas and related loans;

B. For its costs of suit against all Defendants;

C. For attorneys' fees, costs for investigation and litigation against all Defendants;

and

D. For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

//s/ Kerry L. Earley

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Anthony W. Kirkwood (*verified Petition to be filed under LR 1A 10-2*)

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Bob J. Rogers (*verified Petition to be filed under
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