



Press Release
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**Golden State Bank and Ameriabank Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding Offers
New Opportunities to Businesses and Individuals In California and Armenia**

Golden State Bank and Ameriabank have announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding which seeks to establish a closer collaboration between the two respected institutions, and enables existing and prospective customers of the two banks to have access to each other's markets and services.

Going forward, individuals and companies based in Armenia interested in accessing banking, real estate, and/or business markets in California, will have a trusted banking institution in Golden State Bank through Ameriabank's intermediation. Conversely, individuals and companies based in the United States will have access to Ameriabank's products and services via Golden State Bank's referrals.

This collaboration is the first such instance between an Armenia-based bank and a US-based commercial banking institution, and will offer unprecedented opportunity for individuals in and from Armenia to buy real estate in California and access a wide array of banking services through funding from Golden State Bank preliminarily applying to Ameriabank. Conversely, Golden State Bank will refer and act as an intermediary for US based companies and individuals to apply to Ameriabank for financing for the purpose of starting or purchasing a business and real estate, and many other products and services (distance account opening, cards, deposits, etc.).

"We have good knowledge of and highly respect the Armenian banking sector. We have strong banking relationships in the Armenian American business community in Los Angeles. We are excited about our new relationship with Ameriabank which is one of the most respected and highly regarded banks in Armenia. We are looking forward to offer our clientele referral services and additional ease to invest and operate in Armenia, which will undoubtedly contribute to economic development and create new jobs in the country, at the same time offering services to entities in the Armenian market to access service areas and markets where Golden State Bank operates" said Mr. Tom Byington, CEO of Golden State Bank.

"I highly value the new cooperation with Golden State Bank which will make it possible to bridge the distance between Armenia and California, enable both banks to expand and boost their business and open up access to real estate markets for businesses and individuals. Our collaboration will facilitate the expansion of cooperation between the two countries, in particular, building new business relationships with an important segment of the Armenian Diaspora", said Mr. Artak Hanesyan, Ameriabank CEO.

About Golden State Bancorp and Golden State Bank

Golden State Bancorp is the holding company of Golden State Bank. Golden State Bank is a California based full service bank, serving the business, commercial and professional markets. The Bank is committed to meeting the financial needs of its business clients with loans for working capital, equipment, owner-occupied and investment commercial real estate, and a full array of cash management services and deposit products for businesses and their owners. Golden State Bank meets its client's needs through its head office and branch in Glendale and regional office and branch in Upland. For more information, please visit www.goldenstatebank.com.

About Ameriabank

Ameriabank is a dynamically developing bank and one of the major and most stable financial institutions in Armenia. The first investment bank in Armenia, Ameriabank has been providing a large package of innovative banking services since 2007. Now Ameriabank CJSC is a universal bank offering corporate, investment and retail banking services in a comprehensive package of banking solutions. It is also the largest taxpayer among Armenian banks. Ameriabank is the first bank in Armenia that has exceeded the threshold USD 1 billion in assets since the formation of modern banking system of independent Armenia in 1992. For more details, please visit www.ameriabank.am.