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Contact: Jim Cole

Phone: 415.399.8268

jim.cole@bankofthewest.com

Bank of the West Earns \$74.0 million in First Quarter

SAN FRANCISCO -- April 30, 2008: Bank of the West today announced that net income for the first quarter of 2008 was \$74.0 million, a \$61.0 million or 45% decrease from previous year earnings of \$135.0 million in the first quarter of 2007. Total revenues before impairment increased by 7.1 % to \$565.3 million, compared with \$527.9 million in the first quarter of 2007. The results included a loan and lease loss provision of \$120.0 million to cover residential construction, commercial real estate and consumer loan exposure as well as a \$32.1 million impairment against the securities portfolio.

Loans and leases, net of the allowance for loan and lease losses for the bank stood at \$43.9 billion at March 31, 2008, up nearly 10.8 % from \$39.6 billion in the first quarter of 2007. Deposits were up 8.6% year over year, at \$37.9 billion compared with \$34.92 billion. Assets at the end of March were \$62.0 billion compared with \$56.7 billion, a 9.3% increase over the prior year date.

“Bank of the West’s operating businesses performed well in the first quarter with very good growth in both loans and deposits,” said President and CEO Michael Shepherd. “Of course, we are not immune from the economic environment. Accordingly, although loan losses in the first quarter were relatively low, we decided it was prudent to increase our reserves.”

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With \$62.0 billion in assets, Bank of the West is one of the largest commercial banks headquartered in the Western U.S.

The bank has more than 700 branch banking locations and commercial banking offices in 19 states: California, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Bank of the West's holding company, BancWest Corporation, is a wholly owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution ranked by Standard & Poor's as one of the world's four strongest.

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