

**For release:
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ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the notification by First Banks, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, to acquire up to 24.99 percent of the outstanding voting shares of Community West Bancshares, Goleta, California, and thereby indirectly acquire up to 24.99 percent of the outstanding voting shares of its subsidiary bank, Goleta National Bank, Goleta, California.

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