

**For release:
December 12, 2006**

**Contact: Charles B. Henderson
(314) 444-8311**

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 application by First Banks, Inc., Hazelwood, Missouri, to acquire an additional 4.09 percent, for total direct and indirect control of 24.99 percent, of Community West Bancshares, Goleta, California, and thereby indirectly acquire Community West Bank, National Association, Goleta, California.

* * *