

**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 applications by First Banks, Inc., Hazelwood, Missouri, and its subsidiary bank holding company, The San Francisco Company, San Francisco, California, to acquire 100 percent of the outstanding voting shares of International Bank of California, Los Angeles, California. Also approved is the companion application by First Bank, St. Louis, Missouri, to merge with International Bank of California, pursuant to Section 18(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, and to retain four of the seven acquired facilities as full service branch offices.

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