

SIERRA BANCORP
Form 10-K/A
April 20, 2005

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K/A

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004

Commission file number: 000-33063

SIERRA BANCORP

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

California
State of incorporation

33-0937517
I.R.S. Employer Identification Number

86 North Main Street
Porterville, California
Address of principal executive offices

93257
Zip Code

(559) 782-4900

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: None

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: Common Stock, No Par Value

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Check if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

As of June 30, 2004, the last business day of Registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, the aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant was approximately \$84 million, based on the closing price reported to the Registrant on that date of \$15.85 per share.

Shares of Common Stock held by each officer and director and each person owning more than five percent of the outstanding Common Stock have been excluded in that such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. This determination of the affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes.

The number of shares of Common Stock of the registrant outstanding as of January 31, 2005 was 9,722,612.

Documents Incorporated by Reference: Portions of the definitive proxy statement for the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to SEC Regulation 14A are incorporated by reference in Part III, Items 10-14.

SIERRA BANCORP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Amendment to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for Sierra Bancorp (the **Company**) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 (initially filed on March 14, 2005, the **Original Filing**), is being filed to include *Management's annual report on internal control over financial reporting* required by Item 308(a) of Regulation S-K and the related *Attestation report of the registered public accounting firm* required by Item 308(b). As permitted by SEC Release No. 34-50754 dated November 30, 2004, the initial filing of the **Company's** Form 10-K did not include those items. However, in order for the **Company's** Form 10-K to be deemed as **timely filed**, those items must be included in a Form 10-K amendment to be filed within 45 days of the filing deadline otherwise specified for the **Original Filing**.

This Amendment is specifically intended to make only the following changes to the **Company's** 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004: 1) to modify Part II Item 9A to include the information required by Items 308(a) and 308(b) of Regulation S-K; 2) to update the requisite Section 302 and Section 906 certifications and the signature page to reflect the filing date of this Amendment; and 3) to modify the list of exhibits to reflect the updated certifications and auditor's consent and to incorporate by reference any other exhibits filed with the **Original Filing**. All other information presented in the **Original Filing** is unaffected by this Amendment, and has thus not been reiterated herein. All information in this Amendment is as of the date of the **Original Filing** and does not reflect any subsequent information or events occurring after the date of the **Original Filing**.

PART II

ITEM 9A.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company's Chief Executive Officer and its Chief Financial Officer, after evaluating the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13(a) - 15(e) as of the end of the period covered by this report (the "Evaluation Date") have concluded that as of the Evaluation Date, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were adequate and effective to ensure that material information relating to the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries would be made known to them by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this quarterly report was being prepared.

Disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management of the Company is responsible for the preparation, integrity, and reliability of the consolidated financial statements and related financial information contained in this annual report. The consolidated financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and, as such, include some amounts that are based on judgments and estimates of management.

Management has established and is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. The Company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that:

- (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company;
- (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Company; and
- (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

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There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any internal control, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of controls. Accordingly, even effective internal control can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation. Further, because of changes in conditions, the effectiveness of internal control may vary over time. The system contains monitoring mechanisms, and actions are taken to correct deficiencies identified.

Management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004. This assessment was based on criteria for effective internal control over financial reporting described in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* published by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this assessment, management believes that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004.

Our assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004 has been audited by Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report appearing below.

Changes in Internal Controls

There were no significant changes in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting or in other factors in the fourth quarter of 2004 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Board of Directors and Stockholders

Sierra Bancorp and Subsidiary

Porterville, California

We have audited management's assessment, included in the accompanying Report of Management, that Sierra Bancorp and Subsidiary (the Company) maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assessment and an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, evaluating management's assessment, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Because management's assessment and our audit were conducted to also meet the reporting requirements of Section 112 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act (FDICIA), management's assessment and our audit of the Company's internal control over financial reporting included controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with instructions to the Consolidated Financial Statements for Bank Holding Companies (Form FR Y-9 C). A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and the receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

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Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, management's assessment that Sierra Bancorp and Subsidiary maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2004, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders equity and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2004 and our report dated January 28, 2005 expressed an unqualified opinion.

/s/ Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP

Rancho Cucamonga, California

March 31, 2005

PART IV**ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES, AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K****(a) Exhibits**

Exhibit No.	Description
2	Plan of Reorganization and Agreement of Merger dated December 14, 2000 by and among Bank of the Sierra, Sierra Bancorp and Sierra Merger Corporation (effective August 10, 2001) (1)
3.1	Articles of Incorporation of Sierra Bancorp (1)
3.2	Amendment to Articles of Incorporation of Sierra Bancorp (1)
3.3	By-laws of Sierra Bancorp (1)
10.1	1998 Stock Option Plan (1)
10.2	Indenture dated as of November 28, 2001 between Wilmington Trust Company, as Trustee, and Sierra Bancorp, as Issuer (2)
10.3	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust of Sierra Capital Trust I, dated as of November 28, 2001 (2)
10.4	Guarantee Agreement between Sierra Bancorp and Wilmington Trust Company dated as of November 28, 2001 (2)
10.5	Salary Continuation Agreement for Kenneth R. Taylor (3)
10.6	Salary Continuation Agreement for Kenneth E. Goodwin (3)
10.7	Salary Continuation Agreement for James C. Holly (3)
10.8	Salary Continuation Agreement for Charlie C. Glenn (3)
10.9	Indenture dated as of March 17, 2004 between U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, and Sierra Bancorp, as Issuer (4)
10.10	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust of Sierra Statutory Trust II, dated as of March 17, 2004 (4)
10.11	Guarantee Agreement between Sierra Bancorp and U.S. Bank National Association dated as of March 17, 2004 (4)
11	Statement of Computation of Per Share Earnings (5)
14	Code of Ethics (6)
21	Subsidiaries of Sierra Bancorp (6)
23.1	Consent of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP
23.2	Consent of Perry-Smith LLP (6)
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer (Section 302 Certification)
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer (Section 302 Certification)
32	Certification of Periodic Financial Report (Section 906 Certification)

(1) Filed as an Exhibit to the Registration Statement of Sierra Bancorp on Form S-4 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) (Registration No. 333-53178) on January 4, 2001 and incorporated herein by reference.

(2) Filed as an Exhibit to the Form 10-K filed with the SEC on April 1, 2002 and incorporated herein by reference.

(3) Filed as an Exhibit to the Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on May 15, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference.

(4) Filed as an Exhibit to the Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on May 14, 2004 and incorporated herein by reference.

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- (5) Computation of earnings per share is incorporated herein by reference to Note 12 of the Financial Statements.
- (6) Filed as an Exhibit to the Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 14, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: April 19, 2005

SIERRA BANCORP,
a California corporation

By: */s/ James C. Holly*

James C. Holly
President
and Chief Executive Officer

By: */s/ Kenneth R. Taylor*

Kenneth R. Taylor
Senior Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<i>/s/ Albert L. Berra</i> _____ Albert L. Berra	Director	April 19, 2005
<i>/s/ Gregory A. Childress</i> _____ Gregory A. Childress	Director	April 19, 2005
<i>/s/ Robert L. Fields</i> _____ Robert L. Fields	Director	April 19, 2005
<i>/s/ James C. Holly</i> _____ James C. Holly	Director	April 19, 2005
<i>/s/ Vincent L. Jurkovich</i> _____ Vincent L. Jurkovich	Director	April 19, 2005
<i>/s/ Howard H. Smith</i> _____ Howard H. Smith	Director	April 19, 2005

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<u>/s/ Morris A. Tharp</u>	Chairman of the Board	April 19, 2005
Morris A. Tharp		
<u>/s/ Robert H. Tienken</u>	Director	April 19, 2005
Robert H. Tienken		
<u>/s/ Gordon T. Woods</u>	Director	April 19, 2005
Gordon T. Woods		
<u>/s/ Kenneth R. Taylor</u>	Senior Vice President	April 19, 2005
Kenneth R. Taylor	& Chief Financial Officer	