

HERITAGE COMMERCE CORP

**For Immediate
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Heritage Commerce Corp reports Financial Results for the First Quarter ended March 31, 2002

Heritage Commerce Corp (the "Company") (Nasdaq: HTBK) today reported consolidated operating results for the first quarter of 2002. Consolidated net income was \$1,513,000, or \$0.13 per diluted share, compared to \$2,181,000, or \$0.19 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2001 and compared to \$1,374,000, or \$0.12 per diluted share for the fourth quarter of 2001. The decline in earnings from the first quarter of 2001 was attributed to a lower net interest margin partially offset by increases in the level of earning assets and interest bearing liabilities. The increase in earnings from the fourth quarter of 2001 was due to the increase in noninterest income. Annualized return on average assets and return on average equity for the first quarter of 2002 were 0.67% and 8.11%, respectively, compared with returns of 1.03% and 13.06%, respectively, for the first quarter of 2001 and returns of 0.60% and 7.30%, respectively, for the fourth quarter of 2001. The Company's net interest margin was 4.23% for the first quarter of 2002, compared with 5.67% for the first quarter of 2001 and 4.17% for the fourth quarter of 2001, reflecting both the significant reduction in interest rates that took place in 2001 and the stabilization of interest rates during the first quarter of 2002.

Noninterest income was \$1,890,000 for the first quarter of 2002, compared with \$1,238,000 for the first quarter of 2001 and \$1,543,000 for the fourth quarter of 2001. The increase in the first quarter of 2002 compared to the first quarter of 2001 was primarily due to an increase in gains on sales of SBA loans of \$148,000, and to an increase in gains on sale of securities of \$145,000. The other increases in noninterest income, including servicing income of \$137,000 and service charges and other fees of \$108,000, were primarily the result of an increase in activity resulting from the growth of the Company.

Noninterest expense for the first quarter of 2002 was \$7,701,000, compared with \$8,267,000 for the first quarter of 2001 and \$7,725,000 for the fourth quarter of 2001. The decrease in noninterest expense in the first quarter of 2002 of \$566,000, or 7%, compared to the first quarter in 2001 was due to decreases in salaries and benefits of \$284,000 and to decreases in other expenses of \$308,000, primarily in advertising and promotion expenses, loan origination costs, and stationery and supplies. Occupancy and equipment expenses increased \$26,000, or 2%, from \$1,048,000 for the first quarter of 2001 to \$1,074,000 for the first quarter of 2002.

As of March 31, 2002, the Company's total assets were \$930,143,000, an increase of \$47,359,000, or 5%, from \$882,784,000 as of March 31, 2001 and an increase of \$17,413,000, or 2%, from \$912,730,000 as of December 31, 2001. Total loans were \$634,184,000 as of March 31, 2002, up 10% from \$575,769,000 as of March 31, 2001 and up slightly from \$632,917,000 as of December 31, 2001. The Company's allowance for loan losses was \$11,519,000, or 1.82% of total loans, as of March 31, 2002, compared to \$10,240,000, or 1.78% of total loans, as of March 31, 2001 and compared to \$11,154,000, or 1.76% of total loans, as of December 31, 2001.

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The Company's nonperforming assets (NPA's) were \$1,026,000 as of March 31, 2002, compared to \$1,693,000 as of March 31, 2001. There were no NPA's as of December 31, 2001. Total deposits were \$824,039,000 as of March 31, 2002, up 4% from \$790,208,000 as of March 31, 2001 and up 2% from \$807,908,000 as of December 31, 2001.

Shareholders' equity as of March 31, 2002 was \$75,891,000 compared with \$69,042,000 as of March 31, 2001 and \$74,574,000 as of December 31, 2001. Book value per share increased to \$6.82 as of March 31, 2002, from \$6.23 as of March 31, 2001 and \$6.71 as of December 31, 2001. The Company's leverage capital ratio was 10.22% as of March 31, 2002, up from 9.51% as of March 31, 2001 and 10.20% as of December 31, 2001. The Company's capital ratios continue to be above the well-capitalized guidelines established by the bank regulatory agencies.

All of the Company's operations and the vast majority of its customers are located in California. During recent years, the availability of a sufficient supply of electrical power in California has at times been unreliable. The long-term impact of this energy crisis on California's business can't be predicted but could result in an economic slow-down. In addition, recent events, including those of September 11, 2001, have increased the uncertainty related to the national and California economic outlook and could have an effect on the future operations of the Company or its customers, including borrowers.

Heritage Commerce Corp, a bank holding company, is the parent company of four financial institutions: **Heritage Bank of Commerce**, a commercial bank headquartered in the city of San Jose, with Loan Production offices in San Jose, Fresno, Santa Cruz, Elk Grove, Watsonville, Chico and Pittsburg, CA; **Heritage Bank East Bay**, a commercial bank headquartered in the city of Fremont, with an office in Danville; **Heritage Bank South Valley**, a commercial bank headquartered in the city of Morgan Hill, with an office in Gilroy; and **Bank of Los Altos**, with two offices in Los Altos and an office in Mountain View.

The Company's common stock is listed on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "HTBK."

Readers should carefully review the risk factors described in other documents the Company files from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the *Annual Report* on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 and the *Quarterly Reports* on Form 10-Q filed by the Company in fiscal 2002.

For further information about the Company's financial performance, contact Brad L. Smith, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, at (408) 947-6900 or visit the Company's web site at www.HeritageCommerceCorp.com.

Forward Looking Statement Disclaimer

This release may contain forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties. Such risks and uncertainties may include but are not necessarily limited to fluctuations in interest rates, inflation, government regulations and general economic conditions, and competition within the business areas in which the Company is conducting its operations, including the real estate market in California and other factors beyond the Company's control. Such risks and uncertainties could cause results for subsequent interim periods or for the entire year to differ materially from those indicated. For a discussion of factors which could cause results to differ, please see the Company's reports on Forms 10-K and 10-Q as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Company's press releases. Readers should not place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements, which reflect management's view only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly revise these forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances.

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HERITAGE COMMERCE CORP

Condensed Consolidated Financial Information

(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands, except Per Share amounts.)	At and For the Three Months Ended			Percent Change From	
	March 31, 2002	Dec. 31, 2001	March 31, 2001	Dec. 31, 2001	March 31, 2001
<i>Per Share Data</i>					
Earnings Per Share (EPS):					
Basic EPS	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.20	17%	(30)%
Diluted EPS	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.19	8%	(32)%
End of Period (EOP) Book Value	\$ 6.82	\$ 6.71	\$ 6.23	2%	9%
EOP Shares Outstanding	11,132,462	11,114,967	11,076,965	0%	1%
Weighted Avg. Basic Shares Outstanding	11,122,179	11,113,884	11,011,558	0%	1%
Weighted Avg. Diluted Shares Outstanding	11,394,723	11,381,959	11,352,105	0%	0%
<i>Income Statement Data</i>					
Interest Income	\$ 13,071	\$ 14,198	\$ 18,145	(8)%	(28)%
Interest Expense	4,292	5,250	7,082	(18)%	(39)%
Net Interest Income	8,779	8,948	11,063	(2)%	(21)%
Loan Loss Provision	675	576	527	17%	28%
<i>Noninterest Income:</i>					
Service Charges and Other Fees	316	282	208	12%	52%
Gain on Sale of Loans	421	453	273	(7)%	54%
Gain on Sales of Securities Available-For-Sale	287	0	142	N/A	102%
Servicing Income	268	236	131	14%	105%
Other Noninterest Income	598	572	484	5%	24%
Total Noninterest Income	1,890	1,543	1,238	22%	53%
<i>Noninterest Expense:</i>					
Salaries & Employee Benefits	4,534	3,931	4,818	15%	(6)%
Occupancy & Equipment	1,074	1,311	1,048	(18)%	2%
Other Noninterest Expense	2,093	2,483	2,401	(16)%	(13)%
Total Noninterest Expense	7,701	7,725	8,267	0%	(7)%
Income Before Taxes	2,293	2,190	3,507	5%	(35)%
Income Taxes	780	816	1,326	(4)%	(41)%
Net Income	\$ 1,513	\$ 1,374	\$ 2,181	10%	(31)%

Condensed Consolidated Financial Information – continued

(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands.)	At and For the Three Months Ended			Percent Change From	
	March 31, 2002	Dec. 31, 2001	March 31, 2001	Dec. 31, 2001	March 31, 2001
<i>Average Balances</i>					
Average Loans	\$ 673,105	\$ 667,838	\$ 627,110	1%	7%
Average Other Earning Assets	\$ 168,022	\$ 183,099	\$ 164,774	(8)%	2%
Average Earning Assets	\$ 841,127	\$ 850,937	\$ 791,884	(1)%	6%
Average Assets	\$ 914,839	\$ 909,385	\$ 858,225	1%	7%
Average Interest Bearing Funds	\$ 602,060	\$ 609,397	\$ 561,612	(1)%	7%
Average Equity	\$ 75,669	\$ 74,624	\$ 67,727	1%	12%
Average Deposits	\$ 802,070	\$ 812,525	\$ 759,515	(1)%	6%
<i>End of Period Balances</i>					
<i>EOP Loans:</i>					
Real Estate – Land and Construction	\$ 160,939	\$ 174,077	\$ 156,920	(8)%	3%
Real Estate – Mortgage	253,418	246,119	228,382	3%	11%
Commercial	215,509	208,888	183,040	3%	18%
Consumer	4,318	3,833	7,427	13%	(42)%
Total EOP Loans	\$634,184	\$632,917	\$575,769	0%	10%
EOP Assets	\$930,143	\$912,730	\$882,784	2%	5%
<i>EOP Deposits:</i>					
Demand Deposits – Noninterest Bearing	\$ 216,534	\$ 206,637	\$ 232,691	5%	(7)%
Demand Deposits – Interest Bearing	79,142	80,529	64,867	(2)%	22%
Savings/Money Market	257,785	229,995	223,674	12%	15%
Time Deposits	270,578	290,747	268,976	(7)%	1%
Total EOP Deposits	\$824,039	\$807,908	\$790,208	2%	4%
EOP Equity	\$ 75,891	\$ 74,574	\$ 69,042	2%	10%
<i>Credit Quality Data</i>					
EOP Non-Accrual Loans	\$ 1,026	\$ 0	\$ 1,693	N/A	(39)%
EOP Total Non-Performing Assets	\$ 1,026	\$ 0	\$ 1,693	N/A	(39)%
EOP 90-day Past Due Loans	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A	N/A
EOP Net Charge-Offs / (Recoveries)	\$ 310	\$ 95	\$ (62)	226%	(600)%
EOP Loan Loss Reserves	\$ 11,519	\$ 11,154	\$ 10,240	3%	12%
<i>Ratios</i>					
Annualized ROA	0.67%	0.60%	1.03%	12%	(35)%
Annualized ROE	8.11%	7.30%	13.06%	11%	(38)%
Efficiency Ratio	72.18%	73.63%	67.21%	(2)%	7%
Net Interest Margin	4.23%	4.17%	5.67%	1%	(25)%
Allowance for Loan Losses:					
to Total Loans	1.82%	1.76%	1.78%	3%	2%
to Non-Performing Loans	1,122.71%	— %	604.84%	N/A	205%
Leverage Ratio	10.22%	10.20%	9.51%	0%	7%