



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Contact: James D. Hicken**  
**President**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**(661) 362-6001**

*For Immediate Release*

### **SBA Designates Bank of Santa Clarita a Preferred SBA Lender**

**Santa Clarita, CA**, January 11, 2010 - Bank of Santa Clarita (OTC BB: BSCA.OB) today announced that the Bank has received the prestigious Preferred Lender Program (PLP) status from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

"Obtaining this certification has been a part of the Bank's Strategic Plan since opening in late 2004," states James D. Hicken, President and Chief Executive Officer. "The Bank's SBA division, headed by Craig S. Conners, Vice President and SBA Manager, has worked very closely with the Agency to comply with all requirements, and we are very pleased to be the only bank headquartered in the Santa Clarita Valley with PLP status."

Obtaining approved status to operate under the SBA's PLP dramatically increases the efficiency and expediency of the SBA lending process. The provisions of the Preferred Lender status permit a lending institution to independently approve SBA loan applications without sending them to the agency for review.

The designation of PLP reflects the SBA's confidence that a bank has shown exceptional ability to process, close and service SBA loans in accordance with SBA policies and guidelines. It also requires that the institution have an excellent rapport with the SBA office who issues the PLP status and that they demonstrate a strong commitment to SBA lending in their particular market area. Only lending institutions who have met these stringent criteria are considered for the PLP rating.

"Receiving this designation validates the commitment Bank of Santa Clarita has made to the small-to-mid-sized businesses and professionals whom we serve in the Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding areas", said Frank D. Di Tomaso, Chairman of the Board.

### **About Bank of Santa Clarita**

Bank of Santa Clarita, founded in 2004, is the only independent, full service commercial bank headquartered in Santa Clarita and generally serves the needs of retail consumers, small to midsized businesses, professionals, entrepreneurs, and high-net worth individuals. The Bank provides local, experienced decision-making and the personalized service that growing businesses need on a daily basis. Bank clients have direct access to executive management and professional staff members to address their SBA and other credit requirements, and also technology-based services that include online bill-paying, remote capture depositing, check imaging and initiating online wire transfers, among other cash management facilities, which services enable local businesses to effectively and efficiently manage their cash and credit needs.

Bank of Santa Clarita, Corporate Headquarters  
27433 Tourney Road, Suite 150  
Santa Clarita, California 91355  
661-362-6004  
[www.bankofsantaclarita.com](http://www.bankofsantaclarita.com)

### **FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain matters discussed in this release constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements relate to the Bank's current expectations regarding deposit and loan growth, operating results and the strength of the local economy. These forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed, suggested or implied by the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: the impact of changes in interest rates, a decline in economic conditions and increased competition among financial service providers as these factors may impact the Bank's operating results, its ability to attract deposit and loan customers, the quality of the Bank's earning assets and government regulation. The Bank does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any obligation to update any forward looking statements to reflect occurrences or unanticipated events or circumstances after the date of such statements.