

For Immediate Release

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**FIRST COMMERCE BANCORP
ANNOUNCES THIRD QUARTER EARNINGS**

Encino, CA – First Commerce Bancorp (the “Company”) (OTCBB: FCCC), the bank holding company for First Commerce Bank (the “Bank”) today reported financial results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2008.

Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 on a consolidated basis was \$1,729,000 compared to \$2,612,000 for the same period last year, a decrease of 34%. Net income for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 was \$274,000 compared to net income of \$865,000 for the quarter ended September 30, 2007, a decrease of 68%.

Assets at September 30, 2008 were \$299,745,000 up \$9,860,000 or 3% as compared to September 30, 2007. Deposits at September 30, 2008 were \$260,182,000 and net loans were \$239,792,000. When compared to September 30, 2007, deposits increased 3% and net loans decreased 3%.

Jack Feldman, President and CEO of the Company and the Bank, noted that the decrease in net income for the third quarter was attributed to a large loan loss provision of \$615,000. The provision in the third quarter was 64% higher than that taken in the first two quarters of 2008. The large provision was due in part to the well-noted softness in construction lending, but also as a result of the Bank’s rejuvenated loan growth late in the third quarter. He added that despite the Bank’s historically conservative loan underwriting practices, a few of our borrowers are feeling the effects of the slowdown in real estate sales in our market area.

Mr. Feldman stated, “First Commerce Bank is well-positioned to take advantage of future opportunities in these challenging economic times. Our Bank has never engaged in sub-prime lending. We have no mortgage-backed securities in our investment portfolio, nor equity positions in Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac stock. Our Bank maintains very strong liquidity and we are well-capitalized according to all regulatory standards. We have a solid management team and a dynamic staff who have worked together for many years and have experienced difficult economic circumstances in the past. We feel confident in our ability to successfully manage through this period.”

First Commerce Bank is an independent community bank with its main office in Encino, California and regional offices in Glendale, California and Los Angeles, California. The Bank has been designated a Super Premier Performing Bank for the past six years by The Findley Reports, an independent service which rates the financial performance of California banks. First Commerce Bank has also been rated a 5-star superior institution by both Bauer Financial and Bankrate.com, their highest ratings. The Bancorp’s stock trades on the Over the Counter Bulletin Board (OTCBB) under the symbol FCCC.

This release may contain certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements.