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## **Professional Business Bank strikes merger agreement with Calif. bank**

By: Asad Jawaid

San Francisco-based SoCal Bancorp. (\$304.9 million) said July 20 that Pasadena, Calif.-based Professional Business Bank entered into a merger agreement with Pasadena-based California General Bank NA (\$58.7 million).

SoCal owns 3.75% of the outstanding shares of Professional Business Bank. SoCal's stake in Professional Business Bank dropped from 100% after San Francisco-based Belvedere Capital Fund II LP recently contributed \$12.6 million in new equity capital to Professional Business Bank.

The capital infusion brought Professional Business Bank's capital ratios into compliance with regulatory orders and above regulatory "well-capitalized" thresholds.

Based on the amount of senior claims of debt holders of SoCal, the company said it will not be able to distribute to its shareholders any of the merger consideration it may