

AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES

Form 8-K

May 18, 2012

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest reported) May 16, 2012

American River Bankshares

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

California	0-31525	68-0352144
(State or other jurisdiction Of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)

3100 Zinfandel Drive, Suite 450, Rancho Cordova, California	95670
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (916) 851-0123

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

£ Written communication pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

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£ Solicitation material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

£ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

£ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

(a) (1) and (2) On May 16, 2012, the registrant entered into indemnification agreements with Robert H. Muttera. See the description of the indemnification agreements in Item 5.02 herein.

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

(e)(2) On May 16, 2012, the registrant, American River Bankshares, entered into an indemnification agreement with Chief Credit Officer and Executive Officer, Robert H. Muttera. A form of the indemnification agreement is incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on January 22, 2010.

(e)(2) On May 16, 2012, the registrants subsidiary, American River Bank, entered into an indemnification agreement with Chief Credit Officer and Executive Officer, Robert H. Muttera. A form of the indemnification agreement is incorporated by reference from Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on January 22, 2010.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES

/s/ Mitchell A. Derenzo

May 18, 2012 Mitchell A. Derenzo, Chief Financial Officer

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