

# FIRST COMMUNITY BANK

## OF AMERICA

November 7, 2008

Mr. Robert E. Feldman  
Executive Secretary  
Attention: Comments/Legal ESS  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
550 Seventeenth Street, N W  
Washington, DC 20429  
RE: FDICRIN 3064-AD34  
(Treatment of Certain Claims On, or Guaranteed By, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac)

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency  
250 E. Street S W, Mail Stop 1-5  
Washington, DC 20219  
Re: O C C Docket Number OCC-2008-0016

Ms. Jennifer J. Johnson  
Secretary  
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System  
20th Street and Constitution Ave., N W  
Washington, DC 20551  
Re: Docket No. R-1335

Regulation Comments, Chief Counsel's Office  
Office of Thrift Supervision  
1700 G Street, N W  
Washington, DC 20552  
Attention: O T S-2008-0014

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is a comment in response to the publication of a proposed rule by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Office of Thrift Supervision (collectively, the "Agencies") to allow a banking organization to assign a 10 percent risk weight to claims on, and the portion of claims guaranteed by, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. The Agencies have requested comment on the potential effects of this proposal on other banking organization claims on G S E's, such as debt issued by the Federal Home Loan Banks ("FHLBanks"), which are currently assigned a risk weight of 20 percent. We believe that any final rule adopted by the Agencies should afford similar treatment for

obligations issued by the FHLBanks. Otherwise, the proposal may have unintended adverse consequences for the banking system during this time of economic stress.

page 2.

We are concerned that the proposed rule suggests that the United States government does not support the FHLBanks and their mission to the same degree as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. In our view, such a perception would be inaccurate and misleading. Congress created a new regulator, the Federal Housing Finance Agency ("F H F A"), to oversee all of the housing G S E's. At the time that the new regulator took control of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the Director of the F H F A remarked that the FHLBanks are performing remarkably well and are well capitalized. The United States Treasury is providing the same temporary backstop funding facility to the FHLBanks as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac through the G S E Credit Facility. Finally, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is providing support for the FHLBanks, as well as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, by purchasing their discount notes in recent open market operations.

Our primary concern is that this proposal will result in increases in the cost of borrowing for the FHLBanks and, consequently, in advances available from the FHLBanks. Thousands of local banks depend upon access to low-cost liquidity from the FHLBanks. We believe it would be counterproductive to adopt any proposal that would have the effect of raising the cost of funds for banks in this troubled market. If investors believe that the Agencies view FHLBanks as posing greater risk than Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, they will demand higher yields to purchase FHLBank bonds, resulting in higher advance rates during a period when the banking industry is faced with the challenge of supporting housing finance and economic growth under very difficult circumstances in the credit markets.

We strongly urge the Agencies to afford the same treatment to the debt securities of all housing G S E's under the risk-based capital rules. We believe this course of action reflects the parity that Congress intended for the housing G S E's.

Sincerely, signed

Stan McClelland  
Chief financial Officer  
First Community Bank of America