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Exhibits  
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99.1 Press release dated January 22, 2009

Item 8.01: Other Events  
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On January 22, 2009 Westamerica Bancorporation declared a quarterly cash dividend. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

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Signatures

Pursuant to 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.

Westamerica Bancorporation

/s/ JOHN "ROBERT" THORSON  
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John "Robert" Thorson  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
January 22, 2009

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Exhibit 99.1:  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 22, 2009

### WESTAMERICA BANCORPORATION INCREASES QUARTERLY CASH DIVIDEND

San Rafael, CA: The Board of Directors of Westamerica Bancorporation (NASDAQ: WABC) today declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.36 per common share outstanding to shareholders of record at the close of business on February 2, 2009. The dividend is payable February 13, 2009.

This cash dividend represents an increase from \$0.35 per common share declared in the previous quarter. Chairman, President & CEO David Payne stated, "This dividend increase recognizes Westamerica's healthy level of profitability, asset quality, and capital."

On January 15, 2009, Westamerica reported \$21 million in net income and \$0.71 diluted earnings per share for the three months ended December 31, 2008, generating 21 percent return on shareholders' equity.

Westamerica Bancorporation, through its wholly owned subsidiary, Westamerica Bank, operates 86 branches throughout 21 Northern and Central California counties.

Westamerica Bancorporation Web Address: [www.westamerica.com](http://www.westamerica.com)

For additional information contact:

Westamerica Bancorporation  
Robert A. Thorson - SVP & Chief Financial Officer  
707-863-6840

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### FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION:

The following appears in accordance with the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995:

This press release may contain forward-looking statements about the Company, including descriptions of plans or objectives of its management for future operations, products or services, and forecasts of its revenues, earnings or other measures of economic performance. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They often include the words "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "plan," "estimate," or words of similar meaning, or future or conditional verbs such as "will," "would," "should," "could," or "may."

Forward-looking statements, by their nature, are subject to risks and uncertainties. A number of factors - many of which are beyond the Company's control - could cause actual conditions, events or results to differ significantly from those described in the forward-looking statements. The Company's most recent annual and quarterly reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008, and Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, describe some of these factors, including certain credit, market, operational, liquidity and interest rate risks associated with the Company's business and operations. Other factors described in these reports include changes in business and economic conditions, competition, fiscal and monetary policies, disintermediation, legislation including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the

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Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999, and mergers and acquisitions.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. The Company does not undertake to update forward-looking statements to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date forward looking statements are made.

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