TRICO BANCSHARES

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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TRICO BANCSHARES ANNOUNCES RECORD ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY EARNINGS FOR THE PERIODS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

CHICO, Calif. – (January 31, 2006) – TriCo Bancshares (NASDAQ: TCBK), parent company of Tri Counties Bank, today announced record annual earnings of $23,671,000 for the year ended December 31, 2005. This represents a 17.3% increase when compared with earnings of $20,182,000 for the year ended December 31, 2004. Diluted earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2005 increased 16.9% to $1.45 from $1.24 for the year ended December 31, 2004. Total assets of the Company increased $213 million (13.1%) to $1.841 billion at December 31, 2005 versus $1.628 billion at December 31, 2004. Total loans of the Company increased $212 million (18.1%) to $1.385 billion at December 31, 2005 versus $1.173 billion at December 31, 2004. Total deposits of the Company increased $148 million (11.0%) to $1.497 billion at December 31, 2005 versus $1.349 billion at December 31, 2004.

Net income for the quarter ended December 31, 2005 increased 25.8% to $6,734,000 from $5,355,000 in the quarter ended December 31, 2004. Diluted earnings per share increased 24.2% to $0.41 in the quarter ended December 31, 2005 from $0.33 in the quarter ended December 31, 2004.

Richard Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer commented, "We are very pleased with the results TriCo achieved during the quarter and year ended December 31, 2005. During this time of rapidly increasing short-term interest rates, steady to lower longer-term interest rates, and increased regulatory and compliance requirements, our team members were able to achieve record financial results for our Company. Almost all aspects of the Company's performance were strong in 2005 including very strong loan and deposit growth while maintaining strong credit quality and net interest margin. On top of all that, we continued to restrain growth of total noninterest expenses while opening three new in-store branches, and remodeling and expanding our Sacramento-Arden Fair office during 2005."

The increase in earnings for the quarter ended December 31, 2005 over the year-ago quarter was due to a $2,103,000 (11.3%) increase in net interest income to $20,766,000, and an $886,000 (15.5%) increase in noninterest income to $6,622,000, which were partially offset by a $744,000 increase in provision for loan loss to $561,000 from a $183,000 reversal, or negative, provision for loan losses during the quarter ended December 31, 2004. Noninterest expense decreased $15,000 (0.1%) to $15,800,000 from the year-ago quarter.

The increase in net interest income was due to the loan growth noted above, which was partially offset by a decrease in fully tax-equivalent net interest margin to 5.21% during the quarter ended December 31, 2005 versus 5.28% during the quarter ended December 31, 2004. The fully tax-equivalent net interest margin was 5.10% during the quarter ended September 30, 2005.

The increase in noninterest income was primarily due to a $524,000 (12.3%) increase in service charges and fees to $4,790,000 during the quarter ended December 31, 2005 from the quarter ended

December 31, 2004, which was due to the introduction of a business overdraft privilege product during 2005. Other noninterest income increased $362,000 (24.6%) to $1,832,000 due mainly to a $185,000 increase in income from cash value of life insurance to $467,000, and a $141,000 increase in gain on sale of loans to $484,000, offset by a $105,000 decrease in commission on sale of nondeposit investment products to $515,000.

The $744,000 increase in provision for loan loss from the quarter ended December 31, 2004 was mainly due to growth in loan balances during the quarter ended December 31, 2005 as credit quality of the loan portfolio remained high. Net loan charge-offs during the quarter ended December 31, 2005 were $131,000. Nonperforming loans, net of government agency guarantees, were $2,961,000 at December 31, 2005 compared to $4,906,000 and at December 31, 2004. The Company's allowance for losses, which consists of the allowance for loan losses and the reserve for unfunded commitments, was $18,039,000 or 1.30% of total loans outstanding and 609% of nonperforming loans at December 31, 2005 compared to $16,057,000 or 1.37% of total loans outstanding and 327% of nonperforming loans at December 31, 2004.

The $15,000 decrease in noninterest expense during the quarter ended December 31, 2005 was mainly due to a $315,000 (4.2%) decrease in other noninterest expenses to $7,235,000 offset by a $300,000 (3.6%) increase in salaries and benefits expense to $8,565,000. The decrease in other noninterest expense was mainly due to a $344,000 decrease in provision for losses – unfunded commitments to $139,000, while efficiencies in operations kept other noninterest expenses approximately the same as the year-ago quarter. The increase in salaries and benefits expense was the result of regular salary increases, incentive compensation related to the loan and deposit growth noted above, and the opening of branches in Woodland, Lincoln, Folsom, Sacramento and Roseville in November 2004, February 2005, March 2005, September 2005 and November 2005, respectively.

Mr. Smith continued, "We continue to differentiate ourselves from the competition by offering high levels of service and convenience to our markets with more branch locations, and extended weekday, weekend and holiday hours. Today, we opened our 49th and newest branch inside the Wal-Mart Supercenter at 1150 Harter Road in Yuba City, California. We currently anticipate that we will continue to grow within the Central Valley of California by maximizing revenue growth and new customer opportunities within this region. As always, we remain focused on shareholder value which we measure primarily through earnings per share and growth in earnings per share."

As of January 31, 2006, the Company had purchased 374,371 shares of its common stock under its stock repurchase plan announced on July 31, 2003 and amended on April 9, 2004, which leaves 125,629 shares available for repurchase under the plan.

In addition to the historical information contained herein, this press release contains certain forward-looking statements. The reader of this press release should understand that all such forward-looking statements are subject to various uncertainties and risks that could affect their outcome. The Company's actual results could differ materially from those suggested by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, variances in the actual versus projected growth in assets, return on assets, loan losses, expenses, rates charged on loans and earned on securities investments, rates paid on deposits, competition effects, fee and other noninterest income earned as well as other factors. This entire press release should be read to put such forward-looking statements in context and to gain a more complete understanding of the uncertainties and risks involved in the Company's business.

TriCo Bancshares and Tri Counties Bank are headquartered in Chico, California. Tri Counties Bank has a 30-year history in the banking industry. Tri Counties Bank operates 32 traditional branch locations and 17 in-store branch locations in 22 California counties. Tri Counties Bank offers financial services and provides a diversified line of products and services to consumers and businesses, which include demand, savings and time deposits, consumer finance, online banking, mortgage lending, and commercial banking throughout its market area. It operates a network of 58 ATMs and a 24-hour, seven days a week telephone customer service center. Brokerage services are provided at the Bank's offices by the Bank's association with Raymond James Financial, Inc. For further information please visit the Tri Counties Bank web-site at http://www.tricountiesbank.com.

TRICO BANCSHARES - CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

(Unaudited. Dollars in thousands, except per share data)

	Three months ended				
	December 31, 2005	September 30, 2005	June 30, 2005	March 31, 2005	December 31, 2004
Statement of Income Data					
Interest income	$26,876	$25,334	$23,910	$22,636	$22,441
Interest expense	6,100	5,519	4,789	4,121	3,768
Net interest income	$20,776	19,815	19,121	18,515	18,673
Provision (benefit) for loan losses	561	947	561	100	(183)
Noninterest income:					
Service charges and fees	4,790	4,795	4,505	4,062	4,266
Other income	1,832	1,837	1,805	1,265	1,470
Total noninterest income	6,622	6,632	6,310	5,327	5,736
Noninterest expense:					
Salaries and benefits	8,565	8,584	8,408	8,369	8,265
Intangible amortization	346	346	346	343	343
Provision for losses - unfunded commitments	139	3	39	100	483
Other expense	6,750	6,747	6,724	6,301	6,724
Total noninterest expense	15,800	15,680	15,517	15,113	15,815
Income before taxes	11,037	9,820	9,353	8,629	8,777
Net income	$6,734	$5,961	$5,737	$5,239	$5,355
Share Data					
Basic earnings per share	$0.43	$0.38	$0.37	$0.33	$0.34
Diluted earnings per share	0.41	0.37	0.35	0.32	0.33
Book value per common share	9.52	9.30	9.10	8.87	8.79
Tangible book value per common share	$8.25	$8.04	$7.81	$7.57	$7.45
Shares outstanding	15,707,835	15,728,106	15,684,092	15,733,517	15,723,317
Weighted average shares	15,711,257	15,687,547	15,701,867	15,729,725	15,712,605
Weighted average diluted shares	16,336,888	16,330,035	16,288,728	16,366,705	16,396,447
Credit Quality					
Non-performing loans, net of government agency guarantees	$2,961	$3,048	$2,922	$4,072	$4,906
Other real estate owned	-	-	-	-	-
Loans charged-off	392	479	513	295	579
Loans recovered	$261	$436	$281	$233	$120
Allowance for losses to total loans(1)	1.30%	1.32%	1.32%	1.37%	1.37%
Allowance for losses to NPLs(1)	609%	573%	567%	398%	327%
Allowance for losses to NPAs(1)	609%	573%	567%	398%	327%
Selected Financial Ratios					
Return on average total assets	1.51%	1.37%	1.37%	1.29%	1.35%
Return on average equity	18.00%	16.26%	16.03%	14.83%	15.44%
Average yield on loans	7.11%	6.93%	6.85%	6.69%	6.82%
Average yield on interest-earning assets	6.72%	6.51%	6.39%	6.25%	6.33%
Average rate on interest-bearing liabilities	1.94%	1.79%	1.62%	1.43%	1.35%
Net interest margin (fully tax-equivalent)	5.21%	5.10%	5.12%	5.12%	5.28%
Total risk based capital ratio	10.8%	11.2%	11.5%	11.9%	11.9%
Tier 1 Capital ratio	9.8%	10.1%	10.5%	10.8%	10.7%

(1) Allowance for losses includes allowance for loan losses and reserve for unfunded commitments.

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(Unaudited. Dollars in thousands, except per share data)

	Three months ended				
	December 31, 2005	September 30, 2005	June 30, 2005	March 31, 2005	December 31, 2004
Balance Sheet Data					
Cash and due from banks	$90,562	$85,413	$79,287	$77,365	$70,037
Federal funds sold	2,377	218	235	181	-
Securities, available-for-sale	260,278	271,134	288,902	293,730	286,013
Federal Home Loan Bank Stock	7,602	7,516	7,440	6,781	6,781
Loans					
Commercial loans	143,175	141,057	137,620	125,354	140,332
Consumer loans	508,233	494,277	456,247	425,437	410,198
Real estate mortgage loans	623,511	600,875	573,836	556,059	544,373
Real estate construction loans	110,116	91,881	82,349	75,583	78,064
Total loans, gross	1,385,035	1,328,090	1,250,052	1,182,433	1,172,967
Allowance for loan losses	(16,226)	(15,796)	(14,892)	(14,563)	(14,525)
Premises and equipment	21,291	21,223	21,182	20,599	19,853
Cash value of life insurance	41,768	41,519	41,099	40,699	40,479
Goodwill	15,519	15,519	15,519	15,519	15,519
Intangible assets	4,407	4,373	4,719	5,065	5,408
Other assets	28,662	27,647	27,100	27,803	24,974
Total assets	1,841,275	1,786,856	1,720,643	1,655,612	1,627,506
Deposits					
Noninterest-bearing demand deposits	368,412	346,456	332,887	312,738	311,275
Interest-bearing demand deposits	244,193	243,926	236,134	238,787	230,763
Savings deposits	438,177	449,893	466,062	484,660	474,414
Time certificates	446,015	398,024	365,094	362,564	332,381
Total deposits	1,496,797	1,438,299	1,400,177	1,398,749	1,348,833
Federal funds purchased & repurchase agreements	96,800	103,200	83,000	20,700	46,400
Reserve for unfunded commitments	1,813	1,674	1,671	1,632	1,532
Other liabilities	23,744	24,412	24,161	25,483	23,219
Other borrowings	31,390	31,711	27,628	28,176	28,152
Junior subordinated debt	41,238	41,238	41,238	41,238	41,238
Total liabilities	1,691,782	1,640,534	1,577,875	1,515,978	1,489,374
Total shareholders' equity	149,493	146,322	142,768	139,634	138,132
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(3,825)	(2,538)	(1,468)	(2,242)	(352)
Average loans	1,344,654	1,284,977	1,209,061	1,167,039	1,142,483
Average interest-earning assets	1,615,901	1,574,392	1,511,668	1,464,028	1,433,641
Average total assets	1,784,018	1,744,015	1,679,653	1,628,827	1,592,464
Average deposits	1,473,625	1,421,055	1,407,586	1,363,064	1,343,273
Average total equity	$149,619	$146,660	$143,196	$141,264	$138,727