PACIFIC PREMIER BANCORP INC Form PRE 14A April 15, 2015

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

# **SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended

-	the Registrant [x] a party other than the Registrant [_]							
Check th	e appropriate box:							
[x]	Preliminary Proxy Statement							
[_]	Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))							
[_]	Definitive Proxy Statement							
[_]	Definitive Additional Materials							
[_]	Soliciting Material under ss. 240.14a-12							
	PACIFIC PREMIER BANCORP, INC.							
	(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)							
	Not Applicable							
	(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)							

Payment of	of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):							
[x] No fee	e required.							
[_] Fee co	mputed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.							
1.	le of each class of securities to which transaction applies:							
2.	Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:							
	Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set mount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):							
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which the	box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the chedule and the date of its filing.							
1.	Amount Previously Paid:							
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4.	Date Filed:							

17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200 Irvine, California 92614 949-864-8000

April , 2015

Fellow Stockholders:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and management of Pacific Premier Bancorp, Inc. (the "Company"), you are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company ("Annual Meeting"). The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., Pacific Time, at the Company's corporate headquarters located at 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, California 92614.

The attached Notice of the Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement describe in greater detail all of the formal business that will be transacted at the Annual Meeting. Directors and officers of the Company will be present at the Annual Meeting to respond to any questions that you may have regarding the business to be transacted.

The Board of Directors of the Company has determined that each of the proposals that will be presented to the stockholders for their consideration at the Annual Meeting are in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and unanimously recommends and urges you to vote "FOR" each director nominee, "FOR" an annual advisory vote on executive compensation and "FOR" each of the other proposals presented in the attached Proxy Statement for the reasons set forth therein.

We encourage you to attend the Annual Meeting in person if it is convenient for you to do so. If you are unable to attend, it is important that you vote via the Internet, by telephone, or sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Your cooperation is appreciated since a majority of the common stock must be represented, either in person or by proxy, to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all of the employees of the Company, we thank you for your continued support.

Best Regards,
Steven R. Gardner
President and Chief Executive Officer

PACIFIC PREMIER BANCORP, INC. 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200 Irvine, California 92614 949-864-8000

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS To Be Held May 26, 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders ("Annual Meeting") of Pacific Premier Bancorp, Inc. (the "Company") will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., Pacific Time, at the Company's corporate headquarters located at 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, California, to consider and act upon the following matters:

1. To elect seven (7) directors, each for a one-year term, or until their successors are elected and qualified;

- 2. To approve, on a non-binding advisory basis, the Company's executive compensation;
- 3. To amend the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the Company's authorized shares of common stock from 25,000,000 to 50,000,000 shares;
- 4. To amend and restate the Company's 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan to permit, among other things, the grant of performance-based awards that are not subject to the deduction limitations of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, including both equity compensation awards and cash bonus payments;
- 5. To ratify the appointment of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP as the Company's independent auditor for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015;
- 6. To adjourn the Annual Meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the Annual Meeting to approve Item 3; and
- 7. To transact such other matters as may properly come before the meeting and at any adjournments thereof. Management is not aware of any other such business.

The Board of Directors has fixed April 1, 2015 as the record date for determination of stockholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment thereof. Only those stockholders of record as of the close of business on that date will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting or at any such adjournment.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Kent J. Smith Corporate Secretary/Exec.VP/Chief Financial Officer Irvine, California April , 2015

IMPORTANT: Whether or not you expect to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote your proxy at your earliest convenience via the Internet, by telephone or mail by using the enclosed postage-paid reply envelope. This will ensure the presence of a quorum at the Annual Meeting and will save the Company the expense of additional solicitation. Submitting your proxy will not prevent you from voting your shares in person at the Annual Meeting if you desire to do so. Your proxy is revocable at your option in the manner described in the Proxy Statement.

# NOTICE OF INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 26, 2015

The proxy materials for this Annual Meeting, which consist of the Proxy Statement, annual report, and form of proxy, are available over the Internet at www.voteproxy.com.

If you would like to vote in person at the Annual Meeting and would like to obtain directions to the Annual Meeting, please contact Investor Relations, Pacific Premier Bancorp, Inc., 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, California 92614 at (949) 864-8000. All persons attending the Annual Meeting must present photo identification.

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PACIFIC PREMIER BANCORP, INC. 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200 Irvine, California 92614

# PROXY STATEMENT GENERAL INFORMATION For the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders To Be Held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Our Board of Directors is soliciting proxies to be voted at our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders ("Annual Meeting") on May 26, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., Pacific Time, for the purposes set forth in the attached Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Notice") and in this Proxy Statement. This Proxy Statement and the proxies solicited hereby are being first sent or delivered to stockholders of the Company on or about April , 2015.

As used in this Proxy Statement, the terms "Company," "we," "us" and "our" refer to Pacific Premier Bancorp, Inc., the term "Bank" refers to Pacific Premier Bank and the terms "Board of Directors" and "Board" refers to the Board of Directors of the Company.

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Questions and Answers about these Proxy Materials and the Annual Meeting

Question: Why am I receiving these materials?

Answer: Our Board of Directors is providing these proxy materials to you in connection with the Annual Meeting, to be held on May 26, 2015. As a stockholder of record as of April 1, 2015 (the "Record Date"), you are invited to attend the Annual Meeting, and are entitled to and requested to vote on the items of business described in this Proxy Statement.

Question: What information is contained in this Proxy Statement?

Answer: This information relates to the proposals to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, the voting process, compensation of our directors and most highly paid executives, and certain other required information.

Question: Can I access the Company's proxy materials and annual report electronically?

Answer: Yes. The Proxy Statement, form of proxy and annual report are available at www.voteproxy.com. To view this material, you must have available the 12-digit control number located on the proxy card or, if shares are held in the name of a broker, bank or other nominee, the voting instruction form.

Question: Who is soliciting my vote pursuant to this Proxy Statement?

Answer: Our Board of Directors is soliciting your vote at the Annual Meeting.

Question: Who is entitled to vote?

Answer: Only stockholders of record at the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Question: How many shares are eligible to be voted?

Answer: As of the Record Date, we had 21,387,818 shares of common stock outstanding. Each outstanding share of our common stock will entitle its holder to one vote on each of the seven (7) director nominees to be elected and one vote on each other matter to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Question: What am I voting on?

Answer: You are voting on the following matters:

· The election of seven (7) director nominees. Our director nominees are:

Kenneth A. Boudreau, John J. Carona, Steven R. Gardner, Joseph L. Garrett, John D. Goddard, Jeff C. Jones, and Michael L. McKennon;

- · The approval, on a non-binding advisory basis, of the Company's executive compensation;
- The amendment of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (our "Certificate of Incorporation") to increase our authorized shares of common stock from 25,000,000 to 50,000,000 shares;
- The amendment and restatement of our 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan to permit, among other things, the grant of performance-based awards that are not subject to the deduction limitations of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, including both equity compensation awards and cash bonus payments;
- · The ratification of the appointment of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP ("VTD") as the Company's independent auditor for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015; and
- The adjournment of the Annual Meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the Annual Meeting to approve Item 3

Question: How does our Board of Directors recommend that I vote?

Answer: Our Board recommends that stockholders vote their shares as follows:

- · "FOR" each director nominee:
- · "FOR" the approval, on a non-binding advisory basis, of the Company's executive compensation;
- "FOR" the amendment of our Certificate of Incorporation to increase our authorized shares of common stock from 25,000,000 to 50,000,000 shares;
- · "FOR" the amendment our 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan to permit, among other things, the grant of performance-based awards that are not subject to the deduction limitations of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, including both equity compensation awards and cash bonus payments;
- · "FOR" the ratification of the appointment of VTD as the Company's independent auditor for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015; and
  - · "FOR" the adjournment of the Annual Meeting to solicit additional proxies.

Question: How many votes are required to hold the Annual Meeting and what are the voting procedures?

Answer: Quorum Requirement: As of the Record Date, 21,387,818 shares of the Company's common stock were issued and outstanding. A majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, present or represented by proxy, constitutes a quorum for the purpose of adopting proposals at the Annual Meeting. If you submit a properly executed proxy, then you will be considered part of the quorum.

Required Votes: Each outstanding share of our common stock is entitled to one vote on each proposal at the Annual Meeting.

If there is a quorum at the Annual Meeting, the matters to be voted upon by the stockholders require the following votes for such matter to be approved:

- Election of Directors. The seven (7) director nominees who receive the greatest number of votes cast for director nominees will be elected. There is no cumulative voting for our directors. If you indicate "withhold authority to vote" for a particular nominee on your proxy card, your vote will not count either "FOR" or "AGAINST" the nominee. Abstentions are not counted in the election of directors and do not affect the outcome.
- · Advisory Vote on Approval of Executive Compensation. The affirmative vote of holders of at least of a majority of the shares for which votes are cast at the Annual Meeting is required to approve, on a non-binding advisory basis, the Company's executive compensation. Abstentions will not be counted as votes cast and, therefore, will not affect the outcome.
- · Increase in Authorized Shares. The affirmative vote of holders of at least the majority of our outstanding shares is required to approve the amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation to increase our outstanding shares of common stock from 25,000,000 to 50,000,000 shares.
- · Amendment and Restatement of Our 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan. The affirmative vote of holders of at least the majority of the shares for which votes are cast at the Annual Meeting is required to approve the Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan to permit, among other things, the grant of performance-based awards that are not subject to the deduction limitations of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, including both equity compensation awards and cash bonus payments.

- Ratification of Independent Auditors. The affirmative vote of holders of at least the majority of the shares for which votes are cast at the Annual Meeting is required for ratification of the appointment of VTD as our independent auditor for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. Abstentions will not be counted as votes cast and, therefore, will not affect the outcome.
- · Adjournment of the Annual Meeting. The affirmative vote of holders of at least the majority of the shares for which votes are cast at the Annual Meeting is required to approve the adjournment of the Annual Meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of additional proxies.

If a broker indicates on its proxy that it submits to the Company that it does not have authority to vote certain shares held in "street name," the shares not voted are referred to as "broker non-votes." Broker non-votes occur when brokers do not have discretionary voting authority to vote certain shares held in "street name" on particular proposals under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, and the "beneficial owner" of those shares has not instructed the broker how to vote on those proposals. If you are a beneficial owner and you do not provide instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee, your broker, bank or other nominee is permitted to vote your shares for or against "routine" matters such as Item 4 the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm. Brokers are not permitted to exercise discretionary voting authority to vote your shares for or against "non-routine" matters. All of the matters on which stockholders will be asked to vote on at the Annual Meeting, with the exception of Item 4, Ratification of Independent Auditors, are "non-routine" matters.

Shares represented by proxies that are marked vote "withheld" with respect to the election of any nominee for director will not be considered in determining whether such nominee has received the affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares. Shares represented by proxies that are marked "abstain" with respect to Item 3 will have the effect of a negative vote.

Question: How may I cast my vote?

Answer: If you are the stockholder of record, you may vote by one of the following four methods (as instructed on the enclosed proxy card):

· in person at the Annual Meeting:

- · via the Internet:
- · by telephone; or
  - · by mail.

If you would like to vote in person at the Annual Meeting and would like to obtain directions to the Annual Meeting please contact Investor Relations, Pacific Premier Bancorp, Inc., 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, California 92614 at (949) 864-8000.

If you elect to vote by mail and you received a printed proxy card, you may mark, sign, date and mail the proxy card you received from us in the return envelope. If you did not receive a printed proxy card and wish to vote by mail, you may do so by requesting a paper copy of the proxy materials (as described below), which will include a proxy card.

Whichever method of voting you use, the proxies identified on the proxy card will vote the shares of which you are the stockholder of record in accordance with your instructions. If you submit a proxy card properly voted and returned through available channels without giving specific voting instructions, the proxies will vote the shares as recommended by our Board of Directors.

If you own your shares in "street name," that is, through a brokerage account or in another nominee form, you must provide instructions to the broker or nominee as to how your shares should be voted. Your broker or nominee will

usually provide you with the appropriate instruction forms at the time you receive this Proxy Statement and our annual report. If you own your shares in this manner, you cannot vote in person at the Annual Meeting unless you receive a proxy to do so from the broker or the nominee, and you bring the proxy to our Annual Meeting.

Question: How may I cast my vote over the Internet or by telephone?

Answer: Voting over the Internet: If you are a stockholder of record, you may use the Internet to transmit your vote up until 11:59 P.M., Eastern Time, May 25, 2015. Visit www.voteproxy.com and have your proxy card in hand when you access the website and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

Voting by Telephone: If you are a stockholder of record, you may call 1-800-776-9437 and use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your vote up until 11:59 P.M., Eastern Time, May 25, 2015. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

If you hold your shares in "street name," that is through a broker, bank or other nominee, that institution will instruct you as to how your shares may be voted by proxy, including whether telephone or Internet voting options are available.

Question: How may a stockholder nominate someone at the Annual Meeting to be a director or bring any other business before the Annual Meeting?

Answer: The Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws (the "Bylaws") require advance notice to the Company if a stockholder intends to attend an annual meeting of stockholders in person and to nominate someone for election as a director or to bring other business before the meeting. Such a notice may be made only by a stockholder of record within the time period established in the Bylaws and described in each year's Proxy Statement. See "Stockholder Proposals for the 2016 Annual Meeting" beginning on page 55.

Question: How may I revoke or change my vote?

Answer: If you are the record owner of your shares, and you completed and submitted the proxy card, you may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the Annual Meeting by:

- · submitting a new proxy card with a later date,
- delivering written notice to our Secretary on or before May 25, 2015, stating that you are revoking your proxy,
   attending the Annual Meeting and voting your shares in person, or
  - · If you are a record owner of your shares and you submitted your proxy by telephone or via the Internet, you may change your vote or revoke your proxy with a later telephone or Internet proxy, as the case may be.

Please note that attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, in itself, constitute revocation of your proxy.

If you own your shares in "street name," you may later revoke your voting instructions by informing the bank, broker or other holder of record in accordance with that entity's procedures.

Question: Who is paying for the costs of this proxy solicitation?

Answer: The Company will bear the cost of preparing, printing and mailing the materials in connection with this solicitation of proxies. In addition to mailing these materials, officers and regular employees of the Company may, without being additionally compensated, solicit proxies personally and by mail, telephone, facsimile or electronic communication. We have retained Morrow & Co., LLC to assist in the solicitation at a cost of approximately \$5,000, plus payment of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Morrow & Co., LLC.

Question: Who will count the votes?

Answer: American Stock Transfer & Trust Co. will receive and tabulate the ballots and voting instruction forms.

Question: How can I obtain the Company's Corporate Governance information?

Answer: Our Corporate Governance information is available on our website at www.ppbi.com under the Investor Relations section. Our stockholders may also obtain written copies at no cost by writing to us at 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, California 92614, Attention: Investor Relations Department, or by calling (949) 864-8000.

Question: How do I request electronic or printed copies of this and future proxy materials?

Answer: You may request and consent to delivery of electronic or printed copies of future proxy statements, annual reports and other stockholder communications by

- · visiting www.voteproxy.com,
- · calling 1-800-579-1639, or
- · sending an email to sendmaterial@voteproxy.com.

When requesting copies of proxy materials and other stockholder communications, you should have available the 12-digit control number located on the proxy card or, if shares are held in the name of a broker, bank or other nominee, the voting instruction form.

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Pacific Time, on Tuesday, May 26, 2015, at our corporate headquarters located at 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, California 92614.

#### ITEM 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

#### **Board Nominees**

Our Board of Directors has nominated each of the following persons for re-election as a director. Under our Bylaws, directors are elected by the stockholders each year at the annual meeting of stockholders and shall hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected and qualified. Each nominee is currently a director of the Company and each has indicated that he is willing and able to continue to serve as a director. We have provided biographical and other information on each of the nominees beginning on page 6 of this Proxy Statement.

Kenneth A. Boudreau Steven R. Gardner John D. Goddard John J. Carona Joseph L. Garrett Jeff C. Jones

Michael L. McKennon

Vote Required

The seven (7) director nominees who receive the greatest number of votes cast for the director nominees will be elected. There is no cumulative voting for our directors. If you indicate "withhold" for a particular nominee on your proxy card, your vote will not be considered in determining whether a nominee has received the affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares. The election of directors is considered a "non-routine" item upon which brokerage firms may not vote in their discretion on behalf of their clients if such clients have not furnished voting instructions. Therefore, broker "non-votes" will not be considered in determining whether a nominee has received the affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares.

If any nominee becomes unable or unwilling to serve, which is not anticipated, the accompanying proxy may be voted for the election of such other person as shall be designated by the Nominating Committee of our Board of Directors. Proxies granted may not be voted for a greater number of nominees than the seven (7) named above. Unless instructions to the contrary are specified in a proxy properly voted and returned through available channels, the proxies will be voted FOR each of the nominees listed above.

Recommendation of the Board of Directors

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS

VOTE "FOR" EACH OF THE DIRECTOR NOMINEES.

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Below is information regarding each of our director nominees, each of whom has been nominated for re-election at the Annual Meeting.

Kenneth A. Boudreau, 65, has served as a member of the Company's Board since 2005. Mr. Boudreau retired in 2012 and is providing management consulting services to the commercial aerospace industry. He was previously President of Coast Composites, Inc., a manufacturing concern in Irvine, California. He joined Coast Composites in 2008 after a 12-year career with M. C. Gill Corporation, a manufacturing concern in El Monte, California, where he last served as President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Boudreau joined M. C. Gill Corporation in 1996 as its Chief Financial Officer, assumed progressive responsibilities over time, and was named President and Chief Executive Officer in 2002. Mr. Boudreau had previously been employed by The Quikset Organization in Irvine, California for 15 years where he was initially hired as their controller and advanced to lead their subsidiaries with \$40 million in revenue. Mr. Boudreau is a CPA in California, and was employed by Deloitte & Touche before joining The Quikset Organization. He obtained his B.S. degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fullerton.

John J. Carona, 59, was appointed to the Board of Directors on March 15, 2013, in connection with the Company's acquisition of First Associations Bank ("FAB"), a Dallas, Texas-based state chartered bank. Mr. Carona served as a director of FAB since its inception in 2007. Mr. Carona is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Associations, Inc. ("Associa"), a Texas corporation that specializes in providing management and related services for homeowners

associations ("HOAs") located across the United States. Mr. Carona was a six term Senator in the State of Texas from 1990 to 2014, where he represented District 16 in Dallas County. Previously, Mr. Carona was elected to three terms in the Texas House of Representatives. Mr. Carona served as Chairman of the Senate Business and Commerce Committee, Joint Chairman of the Legislative Oversight Board on Windstorm Insurance and as Co-Chairman of the Joint Interim Committee to Study Seacoast Territory Insurance. He also served as a member of the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting and the Senate Criminal Justice, Education and Jurisprudence committees. Previously, he served as Chairman of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee. Senator Carona received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in insurance and real estate from The University of Texas at Austin in 1978.

Steven R. Gardner, 54 has been President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of the Company and Bank since October of 2000. Prior to joining the Company he was an executive of Hawthorne Financial since 1997 responsible for credit administration and portfolio management. He has more than 30 years of experience as a commercial banking executive. He has extensive knowledge of all facets of financial institution management, including small and middle market business banking, investment securities management, loan portfolio and credit risk management, enterprise risk management and retail banking. As the architect of both whole bank and FDIC assisted acquisitions as well as the acquisition of a nationwide specialty finance firm, Mr. Gardner has significant experience in successfully acquiring and integrating financial institutions. Mr. Gardner currently serves on the Boards of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, and he serves as the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco. Mr. Gardner previously served as the Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council, a Director and a member of the Executive Committee of the Independent Community Bankers of America ("ICBA"), a director of ICBA Holding Company and ICBA Securities, a registered broker-dealer. Additionally, Mr. Gardner served as the former President and Chairman of the California Independent Bankers. Mr. Gardner holds a B.A. from California State University, Fullerton.

Joseph L. Garrett, 66, has served as a director for the Company since 2012. Mr. Garrett was the President, Chief Executive Officer, a member and chairman of the Board of Directors for both American Liberty Bank and Sequoia National Bank. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors for Hamilton Savings Bank. Since 2003, Mr. Garrett has been a principal at Garrett, McAuley & Co., which provides mortgage banking advisory services to commercial banks, thrifts, and mortgage banking companies. Mr. Garrett received his A.B. and M.B.A. from the University of California (Berkeley) and his M.A. from the University of Washington (Seattle).

John D. Goddard, 76, has served as a director for the Company since 1988. Mr. Goddard has been a Certified Public Accountant for the past 43 years. Mr. Goddard was initially employed by W.C. Brassfield, CPA from 1962 to 1965. He formed the partnership, Brassfield and Goddard, CPAs in 1965 and continued practicing there until September 1976. The firm incorporated into Goddard Accountancy Corporation, CPAs where Mr. Goddard practiced and served as President from September 1976 until December 2003. The corporation merged with the firm of Soren McAdam Christenson, LLP in January 2004. Mr. Goddard retired on January 1, 2008 from full-time practice as a CPA and now works part-time on a consulting basis.

Jeff C. Jones, 60, has served as a member of the Company's Board since July 2006, and became Chairman of the Board in August 2012. Mr. Jones is the current Managing Partner and current Executive Committee member of, and partner in, the regional accounting firm Frazer, LLP, which he has been with since 1977. Mr. Jones has over 30 years of experience in servicing small and medium sized business clients primarily within the real estate, construction, and agricultural industries. Mr. Jones is a past president of Inland Exchange, Inc., an accommodator corporation, and has served on the Board of Directors of Moore Stephens North America, Inc. Mr. Jones holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and a Masters of Business Taxation from Golden Gate University. Mr. Jones is a CPA in California, is licensed as a life insurance agent and holds a Series 7 securities license.

Michael L. McKennon, 54, has served as a member of the Company's Board since 2004, and currently chairs our Audit Committee. Mr. McKennon is a partner with the Newport Beach public accounting firm of dbbmckennon, a registered firm of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB"). Prior to joining dbbmckennon, Mr. McKennon was a founding partner of the Irvine, California accounting firm of McKennon Wilson & Morgan LLP, a registered firm of the PCAOB. Mr. McKennon, a CPA in the state of California, has been responsible for audit and accounting practices since 1998 in these firms. Mr. McKennon was previously employed by the accounting firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and Arthur Andersen & Co. Mr. McKennon has 31 years of experience in private and public accounting, auditing and consulting in Southern California. He obtained his B.A. degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fullerton.

#### Executive Officers Who Are Not Serving As Directors

Below is information regarding each of our executive officers who are not directors of the Company, including their title, age, date they became an officer of the Company, and a brief biography describing each executive officer's business experience.

Edward Wilcox, 48, Senior Executive Vice President/Chief Banking Officer, was hired in August 2003 as the Bank's Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer. In September 2004, Mr. Wilcox was promoted to Executive Vice President and was responsible for overseeing loan and deposit production. In the fourth quarter of 2005, Mr. Wilcox was promoted to Chief Banking Officer and assumed responsibility of the branch network. In March 2014, Mr. Wilcox was promoted to Chief Operating Officer of the Bank, and served in that role until his appointment as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Banking Officer in April 2015. Prior to joining us, Mr. Wilcox served as Loan Production Manager at Hawthorne Savings for two years and as the Secondary Marketing Manager at First Fidelity Investment & Loan for five years. Mr. Wilcox has an additional nine years of experience in real estate banking, including positions as Asset Manager, REO Manager and Real Estate Analyst at various financial institutions. Mr. Wilcox obtained his B.A. degree in Finance from New Mexico State University.

Kent Smith, 53, Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, was hired in September 2009. Mr. Smith serves as Chairman of our Asset Liability Committee. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Smith worked for sixteen years for Downey Savings and Loan Association as a Senior Vice President, Controller, Assistant Controller, Financial Reporting Manager and Senior Technical Auditor. Mr. Smith served as Vice President, Loan Accounting Manager for FarWest Savings and Loan and as a Senior Accountant for Deloitte and Touche. Mr. Smith obtained his B.A. degree in Accounting from Brigham Young University.

Mike Karr, 46, Executive Vice President/Chief Credit Officer, was hired in April 2006. Mr. Karr oversees the Bank's credit functions and has responsibility for all lending and portfolio operations. He is the Chairman of our Management Credit Committee and our Credit and Portfolio Review Committee. Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Karr worked for Fremont Investment & Loan for 11 years as Vice President in charge of their Commercial Real Estate Asset Management department. Mr. Karr obtained his B.A. degree in Economics and Government, cum laude, from Claremont McKenna College and his Masters in Business Administration from the University of California, Irvine.

Tom Rice, 43, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, was hired November 2008 as the Bank's Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer. Mr. Rice has overseen the technology and security functions since 2008 and led the smooth systems conversions and integrations of the last four acquisitions. Mr. Rice was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Bank in April 2015 and assumed responsibility for all of the day-to-day operations of the Bank. Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Rice was a founding partner at Compushare where he oversaw the company's expansion and several system conversions of his banking clients. Mr. Rice obtained his B.S. degree in Computer Information Systems from DeVry University.

#### Corporate Governance

We value strong corporate governance principles and adhere to the highest ethical standards. These principles and standards, along with our core values of fairness and caring, assist us in achieving our corporate mission. To foster strong corporate governance and business ethics, our Board of Directors continues to take many steps to strengthen and enhance our corporate governance practices and principles. To that end, we have adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines to achieve the following goals:

- · to promote the effective functioning of the Board of Directors;
- to ensure that the Company conducts all of its business in accordance with the highest ethical and legal standards; and
  - · to enhance long-term stockholder value.

The full text of our Corporate Governance Guidelines is available within our Corporate Governance Policy which is on our website at www.ppbi.com under the Investor Relations section. Our stockholders may also obtain a written copy of the guidelines at no cost by writing to us at 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, California 92614, Attention: Investor Relations Department, or by calling (949) 864-8000.

The Nominating Committee of our Board of Directors administers our Corporate Governance Guidelines, reviews performance under the guidelines and the content of the guidelines annually and, when appropriate, recommends updates and revisions to our Board of Directors.

Director Qualifications, Diversity and Nomination Process

Our Nominating Committee is responsible for reviewing with the Board of Directors annually the appropriate skills and characteristics required of the Board members, and for selecting, evaluating and recommending nominees for election by our stockholders. The Nominating Committee has authority to retain a third-party search firm to identify or evaluate, or assist in identifying and evaluating, potential nominees if it so desires, although it has not done so to date.

In evaluating both the current directors and the nominees for director, the Nominating Committee considers such other relevant factors, as it deems appropriate, including the current composition of the Board, the need for Audit Committee expertise, and the director qualification guidelines set forth in the Company's Corporate Governance Policy. Under the Company's Corporate Governance Policy, the factors considered by the Nominating Committee and the Board in its review of potential nominees and directors include: integrity and independence; substantial accomplishments, and prior or current association with institutions noted for their excellence; demonstrated leadership ability, with broad experience, diverse perspectives, and the ability to exercise sound business judgment; the background and experience of candidates, particularly in areas important to the operation of the Company such as business, education, finance, government, law or banking; the ability to make a significant and immediate contribution to the Board's discussions and decision-making; special skills, expertise or background that add to and complement the range of skills, expertise and background of the existing directors; career success that demonstrates the ability to make the kind of important and sensitive judgments that the Board is called upon to make; and the availability and energy necessary to perform his or her duties as a director. In addition, the Nominating Committee and the Board believes the composition of the Board should reflect sensitivity to the need for diversity as to gender, ethnic background and experience. Application of these factors involves the exercise of judgment by the Board and cannot be measured in any mathematical or routine way.

In connection with the evaluation of nominees, the Nominating Committee determines whether to interview the prospective nominee, and if warranted, one or more members of the Nominating Committee, in concert with the Company's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"), interviews prospective nominees. After completing its evaluation, the Nominating Committee makes a recommendation to the full Board as to the persons who should be nominated by the Board, and the Board determines the nominees after considering the recommendation and report of the Nominating Committee.

For each of the nominees to the Board and the current directors, the biographies shown above highlight the experiences and qualifications that were among the most important to the Nominating Committee in concluding that the nominee or the director should serve or continue to serve as a director of the Company. The table below supplements the biographical information provided above. The vertical axis displays the primary factors reviewed by the Nominating Committee in evaluating a board candidate.

	Boudreau	Carona	Gardnei	Garrett	Goddard	l Jones 1	McKennon
Experience,							
Qualifications,							
Skill or Attribute							
Professional	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
standing in							
chosen field							
Expertise in		X	X	X	X	X	X
financial services							
or related industry							
Audit Committee	X		X	X	X	X	X
Financial Expert							
(actual or							
potential)							
Civic and	X	X	X	X	X		X
community							
involvement							
Other public	X		X				X
company							
experience							
Leadership and	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
team building							
skills							
Specific							
skills/knowledge:							
- finance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<ul> <li>marketing</li> </ul>		X	X				
<ul> <li>public affairs</li> </ul>		X		X			
- human resources		X	X				
- governance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Our stockholders may propose director candidates for consideration by the Nominating Committee by submitting the individual's name and qualifications to our Secretary at 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, CA 92614. Our Nominating Committee will consider all director candidates properly submitted by our stockholders in accordance with our Bylaws and Corporate Governance Guidelines. Stockholders who wish to nominate candidates

for election to our Board at our Annual Meeting of Stockholders must follow the procedures outlined in "Stockholder Proposals for the 2016 Annual Meeting" set forth below.

#### Board of Directors Independence

The Boards of Directors of the Company and the Bank currently have seven (7) directors serving, all of whom are elected annually and will continue to serve until their successors are elected and qualified. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines require that our Board of Directors consist predominantly of non-management directors. This means directors who are not currently, and have not been, employed by us during the most recent three years. Currently, our President and CEO, Mr. Gardner, is the only director who is also a member of management.

In addition, our Corporate Governance Guidelines require that a majority of the Board of Directors consist of "independent directors" as defined under the NASDAQ Stock Market rules. No director will be "independent" unless the Board of Directors affirmatively determines that the director meets the categorical standards set forth in the NASDAQ rules and otherwise has no relationship with the Company that, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director and has no material relationship with the Company, either directly or as a partner, stockholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the Company.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for the annual review, together with the Board of Directors, of the appropriate criteria and standards for determining director independence consistent with the NASDAQ Stock Market rules. The Board of Directors has determined that Kenneth A. Boudreau, Joseph L. Garrett, John D. Goddard, Jeff C. Jones and Michael L. McKennon are independent and have no material relationships with the Company.

#### Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

In addition to each director's basic duties of care and loyalty, the Board of Directors has separate and specific obligations enumerated in our Corporate Governance Guidelines. Among other things, these obligations require directors to effectively monitor management's capabilities, compensation, leadership and performance, without undermining management's ability to successfully operate the business. In addition, our Board and its committees have the authority to retain and establish the fees of outside legal, accounting or other advisors, as necessary to carry out their responsibilities.

The directors are expected to avoid any action, position or interest that conflicts with an interest of the Company, or gives the appearance of a conflict. As a result, our directors must disclose all business relationships with the Company and with any other person doing business with us to the entire Board and to recuse themselves from discussions and decisions affecting those relationships. We periodically solicit information from directors in order to monitor potential conflicts of interest and to confirm director independence.

#### Board of Directors Leadership Structure

Our Bylaws provide for a Board of Directors that will serve for one-year terms. The size of the Board shall be designated by the Board, but shall be seven (7) in the absence of such designation. Vacancies on the Board may be filled by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected to fill a vacancy, or a new directorship created by an increase in the size of the Board, serves for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders.

Our Board of Directors has no fixed policy with respect to the separation of the offices of Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO. Our Board retains the discretion to make this determination on a case-by-case basis from time to time as it deems to be in the best interests of the Company and our stockholders at any given time. The Board currently believes that separating the positions of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman is the best structure to fit the

Company's needs. This structure ensures a greater role for the independent directors in the oversight of the Company and active participation of the independent directors in setting agendas and establishing priorities and procedures for the work of the Board.

#### Board of Directors Risk Oversight

The understanding, identification and management of risk are essential elements for the successful management of our Company. The entire Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of the Company's risk management processes. The Board delegates many of these functions to the Audit Committee. Under its charter, the Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring business risk practices and legal and ethical programs. In this way, The Audit Committee helps the Board fulfill its risk oversight responsibilities relating to the Company's financial statements, financial reporting process and regulatory requirements. The Audit Committee also oversees our corporate compliance programs, as well as the internal audit function. In addition to the Audit Committee's work in overseeing risk management, our full Board regularly engages in discussions of the most significant risks that the Company is facing and how these risks are being managed, and the board receives reports on risk management from senior officers of the Company and from the chair of the Audit Committee. The board receives periodic assessments from the Company's ongoing enterprise risk management process that are designed to identify potential events that may affect the achievement of the Company's objectives. In addition, our Board and its standing committees periodically request supplemental information or reports as they deem appropriate.

#### **Communication With Directors**

Individuals may submit communications to any individual director, including our presiding Chairman, our Board of Directors as a group, or a specified Board committee or group of directors, including our non-management directors, by sending the communications in writing to the following address: Pacific Premier Bancorp, Inc., 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, California 92614. All correspondence should indicate to whom it is addressed. The Company's Corporate Secretary will sort the Board correspondence to classify it based on the following categories into which it falls: stockholder correspondence, commercial correspondence, regulator correspondence or customer correspondence. Each classification of correspondence will be handled in accordance with a policy unanimously approved by the Board.

# **Board Meetings and Executive Sessions**

Our Board of Directors currently holds twelve full Board meetings each year. All of our directors are encouraged to attend each meeting in person. Our management provides all directors with an agenda and appropriate written materials sufficiently in advance of the meetings to permit meaningful review. Any director may submit topics or request changes to the preliminary agenda as he or she deems appropriate in order to ensure that the interests and needs of non-management directors are appropriately addressed. To ensure active and effective participation, all of our directors are expected to arrive at each Board and committee meeting having reviewed and analyzed the materials for the meeting. During 2014, our Board of Directors met 14 times, and all of our directors attended 96% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the Board of Directors held during his tenure in office during the last fiscal year and the total number of all meetings held by all committees of the Board of Directors on which he served during such year.

It is the Company's policy that the independent directors of the Company meet in executive sessions without management at least twice on an annual basis in conjunction with regularly scheduled board meetings. Executive sessions at which the independent directors meet with the Chief Executive Officer also may be scheduled. During 2014, the independent directors met twice in executive session without the presence of management.

#### Director Attendance at Company Annual Meetings

All of our directors are encouraged to attend every Company annual meeting of stockholders. All of our directors attended our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

#### **Director Contact with Management**

All of our directors are invited to contact our Chief Executive Officer and or any of our executive or senior level managers at any time to discuss any aspect of our business. In addition, there generally are frequent opportunities for directors to meet with other members of our management team.

#### Corporate Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have implemented a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics applicable to our directors, CEO, Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), other senior management, and to all of our officers and employees. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics provides fundamental ethical principles to which these individuals are expected to adhere. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics operates as a tool to help our directors, officers, and employees understand and adhere to the high ethical standards required for employment by, or association with, the Company and the Bank. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on our website at www.ppbi.com under the Investor Relations section. Our stockholders may also obtain written copies at no cost by writing to us at 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, California 92614, Attention: Investor Relations Department, or by calling (949) 864-8000. Any future changes or amendments to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and any waiver that applies to one of our senior financial officers or a member of our Board of Directors will be posted to our website.

#### Committees of the Board of Directors

Audit	Compensation	Nominating & Corporate Governance
Kenneth A.	Kenneth A.	Kenneth A.
Boudreau	Boudreau	Boudreau
Joseph	John D.	John D.
Garrett	Goddard *	Goddard
Michael L.	Jeff C. Jones	Jeff C.
McKennon *		Jones *
7 meetings	1 meeting	1 meeting
held in 2014	held in 2014	held in
		2014
*		
Chairperson		

A description of the general functions of each of the Company's Board committees and the composition of each committee is set forth below.

Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is responsible for selecting and communicating with the Company's independent auditors, reporting to the Board on the general financial condition of the Company and the results of the annual audit, and ensuring that the Company's activities are being conducted in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The internal auditor of the Bank participates in the Audit Committee meetings. A copy of the Audit Committee charter can be found on the Company's website at www.ppbi.com under the Investor Relations section.

No member of the Audit Committee receives any consulting, advisory or other compensation or fee from the Company other than fees for service as member of the Board of Directors, committee member or officer of the Board. Each of the Audit Committee members is considered "independent" under the NASDAQ listing standards and rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. McKennon satisfies the requirements established by the SEC for qualification as an "audit committee financial expert."

Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee reviews the amount and composition of director compensation from time to time and makes recommendations to the Board when it concludes changes are needed. In recommending director compensation, the Compensation Committee considers the potential negative effect on director independence if director compensation and perquisites exceed customary levels. The Compensation Committee also (i) has oversight responsibility for the Bank's compensation policies, benefits and practices, (ii) reviews the Chief Executive Officer's recommendations concerning individual incentive awards of officers directly reporting to him, (iii) approves all stock option and restricted stock grants, (iv) has oversight responsibility for management planning and succession, and (v) determines the annual salary, the annual bonus, stock options, and restricted stock grants of the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"), Chief Banking Officer (CBO"), Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), Chief Credit Officer ("CCO"), and Chief Operating Officer ("COO"). A copy of the Compensation Committee charter can be found on the Company's website at www.ppbi.com under the Investor Relations section.

The Compensation Committee has the authority, in its sole discretion, to retain and terminate compensation advisors, including approval of the terms and fees of any such arrangement. In 2014, the Compensation Committee engaged Pearl Meyer & Partners ("PM&P") to assist the Compensation Committee with its responsibilities related to our executive and Board compensation programs. PM&P does not provide other services to the Company. Additionally, based on (i) standards promulgated by the SEC and the NASDAQ to assess compensation advisor independence and the analysis conducted by PM&P in its independence review, the Compensation Committee has concluded that PM&P is an independent and conflict-free advisor to the Company.

Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has oversight responsibility for nominating candidates as directors and to determine satisfaction of independence requirements. The Nominating Committee has adopted a written charter. A copy of the charter and the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines can both be found on the Company's website at www.ppbi.com under the Investor Relations section.

The primary responsibilities of our Nominating Committee include:

- · assisting the Board in identifying and screening qualified candidates to serve as directors, including considering stockholder nominees:
- · recommending to the Board candidates for election or reelection to the Board or to fill vacancies on the Board;
  - · aiding in attracting qualified candidates to serve on the Board;
  - · making recommendations to the Board concerning corporate governance principles;
- · periodically assessing the effectiveness of the Board in meeting its responsibilities representing the long-term interests of the stockholders; and

· following the end of each fiscal year, providing the Board with an assessment of the Board's performance and the performance of the Board committees.

#### Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

For 2014, the Compensation Committee was comprised of Messrs. Boudreau, Goddard, and Jones, each of whom was an independent director. None of these individuals is or has been an officer or employee of the Company during the last fiscal year or as of the date of this Proxy Statement, or is serving or has served as a member of the compensation committee of another entity that has an executive officer serving on the Compensation Committee. No executive officer of the Company served as a director of another entity that had an executive officer serving on the Compensation Committee. Finally, no executive officer of the Company served as a member of the compensation committee of another entity that had an executive officer serving as a director of the Company.

# Committee Independence and Additional Information

The Company's Audit, Nominating and Compensation Committees are currently composed entirely of "independent" directors, as defined by our Corporate Governance Guidelines and applicable NASDAQ and SEC rules and regulations. Our Compensation Committee, Audit and Nominating Committees each have a written charter, which may be obtained on our website at www.ppbi.com under the Investor Relations section. Company stockholders may also obtain written copies of the charters at no cost by writing to us at 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1200, Irvine, California 92614, Attention: Investor Relations Department, or by calling (949) 864-8000.

The Chair of each committee is responsible for establishing committee agendas. The agenda, meeting materials and the minutes of each committee meeting are furnished in advance to all of our directors, and each committee chair reports on his or her committee's activities to the full Board.

#### Principal Holders of Common Stock

The following table sets forth information as to those persons or entities believed by management to be beneficial owners of more than 5% of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock on the Record Date or as represented by the owner or as disclosed in certain reports regarding such ownership filed by such persons with the Company and with the SEC, in accordance with Sections 13(d) and 13(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Other than those persons listed below, the Company is not aware of any person, as such term is defined in the Exchange Act, that beneficially owns more than 5% of the Company's common stock as of the Record Date.

	Name and	Amount and	Percent
	Address of	Nature of	of
Title of	Beneficial	Beneficial	Class
Class	Owner	Ownership	(1)
	Eidolitu		
	Fidelity		
Commo	nManagement		
Stock	& Research	1,583,959 (	2) 7.41 %
	245 Summer		
	Street		

Boston, MA 02210

Basswood Capital

CommonManagement, Stock

LLC (3) 5.95 % 1,273,602

645 Madison Ave, 10th Floor New York, NY

10022-1010

Wellington

CommonManagement

Stock Co. LLP 1,159,750 (4) 5.42 %

> 75 State Street Boston, MA 02109-1809

- (1) As of the Record Date, there were 21,387,818 shares of Company common stock outstanding on which "Percent of Class" in the above table is based.
- (2) As reported in the Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 13, 2015 for the calendar year ended December 31, 2014.
- (3) As reported in the Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 17, 2015 for the calendar year ended December 31, 2014.