
Section 1: 8-K (8-K)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 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 event reported): September 20, 2018

HOPE BANCORP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

000-50245

(Commission File Number)

95-4849715

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

3200 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1400, Los Angeles, CA

(Address of principal executive offices)

90010

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (213) 639-1700.

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting 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))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 8.01 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On September 20, 2018, the Board of Directors for Hope Bancorp, Inc. (the “Company”) approved a share repurchase program that authorizes the Company to repurchase up to \$50 million of its common stock. Share repurchases may be executed through various means, including, without limitation, open market transactions, privately negotiated transactions or by other means as determined by the Company's management and in accordance with the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. A copy of the September 26, 2018 press release announcing the share repurchase program is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure

The information included in this report pursuant to Item 8.01 and Item 7.01 of Form 8-K (including Exhibit 99.1) shall not be deemed to be “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed to be incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
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99.1	<u>News release, dated September 26, 2018, announcing the Company's share repurchase program.</u>
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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.

Hope Bancorp, Inc.

Date: September 26, 2018

/s/ Alex Ko

Name: Alex Ko

Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. Description of Exhibit

99.1 [News release, dated September 26, 2018, announcing the Company's share repurchase program.](#)

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Section 2: EX-99.1 (EXHIBIT 99.1)



News Release

HOPE BANCORP ANNOUNCES AUTHORIZATION OF NEW \$50 MILLION SHARE REPURCHASE PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES - September 26, 2018 - Hope Bancorp, Inc. (the “Company”) (NASDAQ: HOPE), the holding company of Bank of Hope (the “Bank”), today announced that its board of directors has approved a new share repurchase program that authorizes the Company to repurchase up to \$50 million of its common stock.

“This new authorization will enable the Company to continue repurchasing shares of our common stock following the completion of our previous \$100 million repurchase program in July 2018,” said Kevin S. Kim, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hope Bancorp. “We are optimistic about the long-term opportunities to enhance the value of our franchise, and we believe that the repurchase of our shares represents an attractive investment opportunity and a valuable tool for creating value for our shareholders.”

Purchases may be made in open-market transactions, in block transactions on or off an exchange, in privately negotiated transactions or by other means as determined by Hope Bancorp’s management and in accordance with the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The timing of purchases and the number of shares repurchased under the new program will depend on a variety of factors including price, trading volume, corporate and regulatory requirements and market conditions. Repurchases may also be made under a trading plan under Rule 10b5-1, which would permit shares to be repurchased when Hope Bancorp might otherwise be precluded from doing so because of self-imposed trading blackout periods or other regulatory restrictions. The repurchase program may be suspended or discontinued at any time without notice.

About Hope Bancorp, Inc.

Hope Bancorp, Inc. is the holding company of Bank of Hope, the first and only super regional Korean-American bank in the United States with \$14.9 billion in total assets as of June 30, 2018. Headquartered in Los Angeles and serving a multi-ethnic population of customers across the nation, Bank of Hope operates 63 full-service branches in California, Washington, Texas, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Georgia and Alabama. The Bank also operates SBA loan production offices in Seattle, Denver, Dallas, Atlanta, Portland, Oregon, New York City, Northern California and Houston; commercial loan production offices in Northern California and Seattle; residential mortgage loan production offices in Southern California; and a representative office in Seoul, Korea. Bank of Hope specializes in core business banking products for small and medium-sized businesses, with an emphasis in commercial real estate and commercial lending, SBA lending and international trade financing. Bank of Hope is a California-chartered bank, and its deposits are insured by the FDIC to the extent provided by law. Bank of Hope is an Equal Opportunity Lender. For additional information, please go to bankofhope.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

Some statements in this press release may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These forward-looking statements relate to, among other

things, expectations regarding the opportunities to enhance the value of the Hope Bancorp franchise and the impact of share repurchases on shareholder value creation. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements preceded by, followed by or that include the words “will,” “believes,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “intends,” “plans,” “estimates” or similar expressions. With respect to any such forward-looking statements, the Company claims the protection provided for in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements involve risks and uncertainties. The Company’s actual results, performance or achievements may differ significantly from the results, performance or achievements expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: possible deterioration in economic conditions in our areas of operation; interest rate risk associated with volatile interest rates and related asset-liability matching risk; liquidity risks; risk of significant non-earning assets, and net credit losses that could occur, particularly in times of weak economic conditions or times of rising interest rates; and regulatory risks associated with current and future regulations. For additional information concerning these and other risk factors, see the Company’s most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. The Company does not undertake, and specifically disclaims any obligation, to update any forward-looking statements to reflect the occurrence of events or circumstances after the date of such statements except as required by law.

Contact:

Alex Ko
EVP, Chief Financial Officer
213-427-6560
alex.ko@bankofhope.com

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