

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION AND INNOVATION**

To: Hodge American Bank
<https://hodgeamerican.com/>

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER
(For violations of Financial Code sections 560, 561, and 562)**

The Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation (Commissioner) finds that:

1. At all relevant times, Hodge American Bank was a business entity of unknown form that purports to have branches in Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Washington, and Italy.

2. At all relevant times, Hodge American Bank maintained a website at <https://hodgeamerican.com/>. The “Contact Us” page of the website invites consumers to contact the company by email at support@hodgeamerican.com.

3. The Hodge American Bank website advertises services normally offered by banks, such as “checking” accounts, “internet banking” accounts, and “savings” accounts.

4. The Hodge American Bank website also includes the following statements:

a. On the website’s home page, “Bank Online with Ease. Discover a more enhanced banking experience with our secure online banking service,” and

b. Under the “About Us” tab:

“Hodge American stands as a premier financial institution in the United States, renowned for its extensive range of services, including banking, financing, loans, credit cards, and investment opportunities. With a strong commitment to serving both individuals and businesses, the bank delivers a comprehensive and tailored financial experience across the American market. Whether you need personal banking solutions or business financial services, Hodge American is dedicated to meeting your needs and exceeding your expectations.”

5. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over banking and is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Financial Code, commencing at section 550 and following.

6. Financial Code section 560 provides: “No person who has not received a certificate from the commissioner authorizing it to engage in the banking business shall solicit or receive deposits, issue certificate of deposits with or without provision for interest, make payments on checks, or transact business in the way or manner of a bank or trust company.”

7. Financial Code section 561 provides: “No person who has not received a certificate from the commissioner authorizing it to engage in the banking business shall . . . make use of or circulate any letterheads, billheads, blank notes, blank receipts, certificates, or circulars, or any written or printed paper, whatever, having thereon any artificial or corporate name or other words indicating that the business is the business of a bank or trust company, or transact business in a way or manner as to lead the public to believe that its business is that of a bank or trust company, except to the extent expressly authorized by this division.”

8. Financial Code section 562 provides: “No person who has not received a certificate from the commissioner authorizing it to engage in the banking business shall transact business under any name or title that contains the word ‘bank’ or ‘banker’ or ‘banking’ . . . or act or advertise in any manner that indicates that the business is the business of a bank”

9. The Commissioner has not issued Hodge American Bank a certificate authorizing it to engage in the banking business in this state or to transact business under any name or title that contains the words “bank.”

10. Hodge American Bank was the subject of a Cease and Desist Order issued by the Commissioner on July 3, 2023 involving three other Hodge American Bank websites: <https://hodgeamericanonline.com/>, <https://hodgeamerica.com/>, and <https://hodgegroups.com/> and ordering Hodge American Bank to cease and desist from engaging in the business of banking without first obtaining a certificate from the Commissioner.

11. Pursuant to Financial Code section 567, “If the commissioner finds that a person has conducted, or that there is reasonable cause to believe that a person is about to conduct, business that requires a license issued by the commissioner and that person has not been issued the required license, the commissioner may, without any prior notice or hearing, order the person to cease and

desist from conducting any unauthorized business unless and until the person is issued a license to engage in appropriate license business.”

Based on the foregoing findings, the Commissioner is of the opinion that Hodge American Bank has engaged in the business of soliciting or receiving deposits or transacted business in the way or manner of a bank, without first obtaining a certificate from the Commissioner authorizing it to engage in the banking business in this state, in violation of Financial Code section 560.

The Commissioner is further of the opinion that Hodge American Bank has made use of or circulated written words indicating that its business is the business of a bank, or has transacted business in a way or manner as to lead the public to believe that its business is that of a bank, without first obtaining a certificate from the Commissioner authorizing it to engage in the banking business in this state, in violation of Financial Code section 561.

The Commissioner is further of the opinion that Hodge American Bank transacted business under a name that contains the word “bank” or acted or advertised in a manner that indicates its business is the business of a bank, without first obtaining a certificate from the Commissioner authorizing it to engage in the banking business in this state, in violation of Financial Code section 562.

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Pursuant to Finance Code section 567, Hodge American Bank is hereby ordered to cease and desist from engaging in the business of soliciting or receiving deposits or transacting business in the way or manner of a bank and/or making use of or circulating written words indicating that its business is the business of a bank, or transacting business in a way or manner as to lead the public to believe that its business is that of a bank, and/or transacting business under a name that contains the word “bank” or acting or advertising in a manner that indicates that its business is the business of a bank, without first obtaining a certificate from the Commissioner authorizing it to engage in the banking business in this state, or otherwise being exempt.

This Order is necessary, in the public interest, for the protection of consumers, and consistent with the purposes, policies, and provisions of the California Financial Institutions Law.

Dated: June 5, 2025
San Diego, California

KHALIL MOHSENI
Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation



By _____
MARY ANN SMITH
Deputy Commissioner
Enforcement Division