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AMERICAN RIVER HOLDINGS  
Form 8-K  
December 19, 2003

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 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 reported) December 18, 2003  
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American River Holdings  
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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its chapter)

California ----- (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	0-31525 ----- (Commission File Number)	68-0352144 ----- (IRS Employer Identification No.)
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1545 River Park Drive, Suite 107, Sacramento, California ----- (Address of principal executive offices)	95815 ----- (Zip Code)
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Registrant's telephone number, including area code (916) 565-6100  
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The Index to Exhibits is on Page 3

Item 5. Other Events.

Registrant issued a press release December 18, 2003 announcing \$0.15 cash dividend. The foregoing description is qualified by reference to the press release attached here to as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits

(99.1) Press release dated December 18, 2003

SIGNATURES

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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.

AMERICAN RIVER HOLDINGS

/s/ MITCHELL A. DERENZO

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Mitchell A. Derenzo, Chief Financial Officer

December 18, 2003

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### INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit No. -----	Description -----	Page ----
99.1	Press release of American River Holdings dated December 18, 2003	4

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