

PACWEST BANCORP
Form S-4
April 22, 2015

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 22, 2015

Registration No. 333-[]

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-4

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

PACWEST BANCORP

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

6021
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)
10250 Constellation Blvd., Suite 1640
Los Angeles, California 90067
(310) 286-1144

33-0885320
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including
Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Kori L. Ogrosky
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
10250 Constellation Blvd., Suite 1640
Los Angeles, California 90067
(310) 286-1144

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number,
Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

Copies to:

Patrick S. Brown, Esq.
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
1888 Century Park East, Suite 2100
Los Angeles, California 90067
Phone: (310) 712-6600

Leah Webb
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Square 1 Financial, Inc.
406 Blackwell Street, Suite 240
Durham, North Carolina 27701

Edward D. Herlihy, Esq.
Matthew M. Guest, Esq.
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
51 W. 52nd Street
New York, New York 10019

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Phone: (919) 597-7469

Phone: (212) 403-1000

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale of the securities to the public:
As soon as practicable after this registration statement becomes effective and upon completion of the merger.**

If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box:

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

If applicable, place an in the box to designate the appropriate rule provision relied upon in conducting this transaction:

Exchange Act Rule 13e-4(i) (Cross-Border Issuer Tender Offer)

Exchange Act Rule 14d-1(d) (Cross-Border Third-Party Tender Offer)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per share	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Common stock, \$0.01 par value per share	18,667,991 shares(1)	N/A	808,105,777(2)	\$93,901.90(3)

(1) Represents the maximum number of shares of PacWest Bancorp common stock estimated to be issuable in the transaction described herein, based on an amount equal to the product of (A) the sum of (I) 29,768,489 shares of Square 1 Financial, Inc. common stock outstanding as of April 17, 2015; (II) 933,139 shares of Square 1 Financial, Inc. common stock underlying Square 1 Financial, Inc. stock options outstanding as of April 17, 2015; (III) 397,254 shares of Square 1 Financial, Inc. common stock underlying Square 1 Financial, Inc. restricted stock units outstanding as of April 17, 2015; and (IV) 30,000 shares of Square 1 Financial, Inc. common stock underlying Square 1 Financial, Inc. warrants to purchase shares of Square 1 Financial, Inc. common stock and (B) 0.5997.

(2) Estimated solely for the purpose of determining the registration fee required by Section 6(b) of the Securities Act and calculated in accordance with Rules 457(f)(1) and 457(c) of the Securities Act, based on the market value of the shares of Square 1 Financial, Inc. common stock expected to be exchanged for PacWest common stock in connection with the merger (including shares of Square 1 Financial, Inc. common stock underlying Square 1 Financial, Inc. stock options and Square 1 Financial, Inc. restricted stock units and warrants to purchase Square 1 Financial, Inc. common stock described in note (1) above), as established by the average of the high and low sales prices of Square 1 Financial, Inc. common stock on NASDAQ on April 20, 2015 of \$25.96.

(3) Computed pursuant to Rules 457(f)(1) and 457(c) of the Securities Act, based on a rate of \$116.20 per \$1,000,000 of the proposed maximum aggregate offering price.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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Information contained herein is subject to completion or amendment. A registration statement relating to the shares of PacWest Bancorp common stock to be issued in the merger has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This proxy statement/prospectus shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted or would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.

PRELIMINARY PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS DATED APRIL 22, 2015, SUBJECT TO COMPLETION

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting of the stockholders of Square 1 Financial, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Square 1"), which we will hold at [], on [], 2015, at [], local time. At the special meeting, holders of our Class A common stock, par value \$0.01, will be asked to approve the agreement and plan of merger by and between PacWest Bancorp ("PacWest") and Square 1, dated as of March 1, 2015 (the "merger agreement"), pursuant to which Square 1 will merge with and into PacWest, with PacWest as the surviving corporation (the "merger"). At the effective time of the merger, each share of Square 1 common stock, excluding certain specified shares, will be converted into the right to receive 0.5997 of a share of PacWest common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, with cash paid in lieu of fractional shares of PacWest common stock.

The board of directors of Square 1 (the "board") has determined that the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein, including the merger, are fair to and in the best interests of Square 1 and its stockholders, and approved and declared advisable the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated therein, including the merger. The board recommends that the Class A common stockholders of Square 1 vote "FOR" the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

The market value of the merger consideration will fluctuate with the price of PacWest common stock. Based on the closing price of PacWest common stock on February 27, 2015, the last trading day before the public announcement of the signing of the merger agreement, the value of the per share merger consideration payable to holders of Square 1 common stock was \$27.49. Based on the closing price of PacWest common stock on [], 2015, the last practicable date before the date of this document, the value of the per share merger consideration payable to holders of Square 1 common stock was \$[]. You should obtain current stock price quotations for Square 1 common stock and PacWest common stock. Square 1 common stock is traded on NASDAQ under the symbol "SQBK" and PacWest common stock is traded on NASDAQ under the symbol "PACW."

Based on the current number of shares of Square 1 common stock outstanding, PacWest currently expects to issue approximately [] shares upon completion of the merger. However, an increase or decrease in the number of outstanding shares of Square 1 common stock prior to completion of the merger could cause the actual number of shares issued upon completion of the merger to change.

The merger is intended to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, referred to as the Internal Revenue Code. Assuming the merger qualifies as a reorganization, a stockholder of Square 1 generally will not recognize any gain or loss upon receipt of PacWest common stock in exchange for Square 1 common stock in the merger (except with respect to any cash received in lieu of a fractional share of PacWest common stock, as discussed in this proxy statement/prospectus).

At the special meeting, Class A common stockholders will also be asked to vote on a proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting from time to time, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. **The board recommends that the Class A common stockholders of Square 1 vote "FOR" this proposal.**

Your vote is very important. To ensure your representation at the special meeting, please complete and return the enclosed proxy card or submit your proxy by telephone or through the Internet. Whether or not you expect to attend the special meeting, please vote promptly. Submitting a proxy now will not prevent you from being able to vote in person at the special meeting.

If you hold your shares in "street name" through a broker, bank or other nominee you should follow the directions provided by your broker, bank or other nominee regarding how to instruct your broker, bank or other nominee to vote your shares. Without those instructions, your shares will not be voted, which will have the same effect as voting against the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

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This document provides you with detailed information about the proposed merger. You are encouraged to read this document carefully. **In particular, you should read the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page 24 for a discussion of the risks you should consider in evaluating the proposed merger and how it will affect you.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Douglas H. Bowers
*President and Chief Executive Officer
of Square 1 Financial, Inc.*

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the merger, the issuance of the PacWest common stock in connection with the merger or the other transactions described in this document, or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of the disclosures in this document.

The securities to be issued in connection with the merger are not savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any bank or savings association and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

If you have any questions or need assistance in voting your shares, please call Square 1 Investor Relations at (919) 314-3125.

This document is dated [], 2015 and is first being mailed to stockholders of Square 1 on or about [], 2015.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Both PacWest and Square 1 file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other business and financial information with the Securities and Exchange Commission, referred to as the SEC. You may read and copy any materials that either PacWest or Square 1 files with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates. Please call the SEC at (800) SEC-0330 or (800) 732-0330 for further information on the public reference room. In addition, PacWest and Square 1 file reports and other business and financial information with the SEC electronically, and the SEC maintains a website located at <http://www.sec.gov> containing this information. You will also be able to obtain these documents, free of charge, from PacWest at www.pacwestbancorp.com under the "Public Filings" link or from Square 1 at www.square1financial.com under the "About Us" tab and then under the heading "Investor Relations."

PacWest has filed a registration statement on Form S-4 of which this document forms a part. As permitted by SEC rules, this document does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement or in the exhibits or schedules to the registration statement. You may read and copy the registration statement, including any amendments, schedules and exhibits, at the addresses set forth below. Statements contained in this document as to the contents of any contract or other documents referred to in this document are not necessarily complete. In each case, you should refer to the copy of the applicable contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement. This document incorporates by reference documents that PacWest and Square 1 have previously filed with the SEC. They contain important information about the companies and their financial condition. For further information, please see the section entitled "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference." These documents are available without charge to you upon written or oral request to the applicable company's principal executive offices. The respective addresses and telephone numbers of such principal executive offices are listed below.

PacWest Bancorp
10250 Constellation Blvd., Suite 1640
Los Angeles, California 90067
Attention: Investor Relations
(310) 286-1144

Square 1 Financial, Inc.
406 Blackwell Street, Suite 240
Durham, North Carolina 27701
Attention: Investor Relations
(919) 314-3125

To obtain timely delivery of these documents, you must request the information no later than [], 2015 in order to receive them before Square 1's special meeting of stockholders.

PacWest common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "PACW," and Square 1 common stock is traded on NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "SQBK."

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SQUARE 1 FINANCIAL, INC.

**406 BLACKWELL STREET, SUITE 240
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701**

**NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON [], 2015**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the stockholders of Square 1 Financial, Inc., referred to as Square 1, will be held at [], at [], local time, on [], 2015 for the following purposes:

1. To adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 1, 2015, by and between Square 1 and PacWest Bancorp, as such agreement may be amended from time to time, referred to as the merger agreement, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A, referred to as the merger proposal;
2. To approve one or more adjournments of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including adjournments to permit further solicitation of proxies in favor of the merger proposal, referred to as the adjournment proposal; and
3. To act upon other business as may properly come before the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof by or at the direction of the board.

The above proposals are described in more detail in this document, which you should read carefully and in its entirety before you vote.

The Square 1 board of directors has set [], 2015 as the record date for the special meeting. Only holders of record of Square 1 Class A common stock at the close of business on [], 2015 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. Any stockholder entitled to attend and vote at the special meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on such stockholder's behalf. Such proxy need not be a holder of Square 1 common stock.

Your vote is very important. To ensure your representation at the special meeting, please complete and return the enclosed proxy card or submit your proxy by telephone or through the Internet. Please vote promptly whether or not you expect to attend the special meeting. Submitting a proxy now will not prevent you from being able to vote in person at the special meeting.

The Square 1 board of directors has approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and recommends that you vote "FOR" the merger proposal and "FOR" the adjournment proposal.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beth Reeves

Corporate Secretary

Durham, North Carolina
[], 2015

PLEASE VOTE YOUR SHARES OF SQUARE 1 CLASS A COMMON STOCK PROMPTLY. YOU CAN FIND INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING ON THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSALS OR ABOUT VOTING YOUR SHARES, PLEASE CALL SQUARE 1 INVESTOR RELATIONS AT (919) 314-3125.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE SPECIAL MEETING

The following are answers to certain questions that you may have regarding the special meeting of Square 1 stockholders. You should carefully read the remainder of this document because the information in this section may not provide all the information that might be important to you in determining how to vote. Additional important information is also contained in the appendices to, and the documents incorporated by reference in, this document.

Q: WHAT IS THE MERGER?

A. PacWest and Square 1 have entered into a merger agreement, pursuant to which and subject to the terms and conditions of the merger agreement, Square 1 will merge with and into PacWest, with PacWest continuing as the surviving corporation, which transaction is referred to as the merger. A copy of the merger agreement is attached as Appendix A to this document. Immediately following the merger, Square 1 Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of Square 1, will merge with and into Pacific Western Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of PacWest, with Pacific Western Bank continuing as the surviving bank, which transaction is referred to as the bank merger. In order to complete these transactions, the Square 1 stockholders must adopt the merger agreement, and the applicable banking regulators must approve both mergers.

Q: WHY AM I RECEIVING THIS PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS?

A. Square 1 is sending these materials to its stockholders to help them decide how to vote their shares of Square 1 Class A common stock with respect to the merger agreement and other matters to be considered at the special meeting.

The merger cannot be completed unless Square 1 Class A common stockholders adopt the merger agreement. Square 1 is holding a special meeting of its stockholders to vote on the proposal to adopt the merger agreement as well as other related matters. Information about this special meeting, the merger and the other business to be considered by stockholders at the special meeting is contained in this document.

This document constitutes both a proxy statement of Square 1 and a prospectus of PacWest. It is a proxy statement because the Square 1 board of directors is soliciting proxies from Square 1 Class A common stockholders using this document with respect to the matters to be considered at the special meeting. It is a prospectus because PacWest, in connection with the merger, is offering shares of its common stock in exchange for outstanding shares of Square 1 common stock in the merger.

Q: WHAT WILL SQUARE 1 STOCKHOLDERS RECEIVE IN THE MERGER?

A: In the merger, each share of Square 1 common stock owned by a Square 1 stockholder will be converted into the right to receive 0.5997 of a share of PacWest common stock. For each fractional share that would otherwise be issued, PacWest will pay cash in an amount equal to the fraction of a share of PacWest common stock which the holder would otherwise be entitled to receive multiplied by the average closing price of PacWest common stock as quoted on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, referred to as NASDAQ, over the 15 consecutive trading days ending on the second full trading day prior to the receipt of the last of the regulatory approvals from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, referred to as the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, referred to as the FDIC, the California Department of Business Oversight, referred to as the CDBO, and the Commissioner of Banks of the State of North Carolina, referred to as the CBNC, which are necessary to consummate the merger and the bank merger. This 15 consecutive trading day average is referred to as the PacWest Average

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Closing Price. No interest will be paid or accrue on cash payable to holders in lieu of fractional shares.

Q: WILL THE VALUE OF THE MERGER CONSIDERATION CHANGE BETWEEN THE DATE OF THIS DOCUMENT AND THE TIME THE MERGER IS COMPLETED?

A: Yes. Although the number of shares of PacWest common stock that Square 1 stockholders will receive in the merger is fixed, the value of the merger consideration will fluctuate between the date of this document and the completion of the merger based upon the market value of PacWest common stock. Any fluctuation in the market price of PacWest common stock after the date of this document will change the value of the shares of PacWest common stock that Square 1 stockholders will receive.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS TO SQUARE 1 EQUITY AWARDS IN THE MERGER?

A: *Square 1 Stock Options.* At the effective time of the merger, referred to as the effective time, each outstanding option to acquire shares of Square 1 common stock under Square 1's stock plan, referred to as a Square 1 stock option, whether vested or unvested, will be cancelled and will entitle the holder of such option to receive an amount in cash equal to the product of (i) the total number of shares of Square 1 common stock subject to such option and (ii) the excess, if any, of (A) the product of (1) the PacWest Average Closing Price and (2) 0.5997 over (B) the exercise price per share of Square 1 common stock underlying such option, less any applicable taxes to be withheld with respect to such payment.

Square 1 RSUs. At the effective time, each outstanding Square 1 restricted stock unit, referred to as a Square 1 RSU, issued under Square 1's stock plan will be cancelled and will entitle the holder to receive an amount in cash equal to the product of (i) the number of shares of Square 1 common stock subject to such Square 1 RSU and (ii) the product of (A) the PacWest Average Closing Price and (B) 0.5997, less any applicable taxes to be withheld with respect to such payment.

Q: WHEN WILL THE MERGER BE COMPLETED?

A: PacWest and Square 1 are working to complete the merger as soon as practicable. The parties are seeking regulatory approval by the fourth quarter of 2015, with the consummation of the merger to occur as soon as practicable thereafter. Neither PacWest nor Square 1 can predict, however, the actual date on which the merger will be completed because it is subject to factors beyond each company's control, including whether or when the required regulatory approvals and the Square 1 stockholder approval will be received. For further information, please see the section entitled "The Merger Agreement Conditions to Consummation of the Merger."

Q: WHO IS ENTITLED TO VOTE?

A: Holders of record of Square 1 Class A common stock at the close of business on [], 2015, which is the date that the Square 1 board of directors has fixed as the record date for the special meeting, are entitled to vote at the special meeting. Holders of shares of non-voting Square 1 Class B common stock are not entitled to vote at the special meeting.

Q: WHAT CONSTITUTES A QUORUM?

A: The representation of holders of at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the matters to be voted on at the special meeting constitutes a quorum for transacting business at the special meeting. All shares of Square 1 Class A common stock, whether present in person or represented

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by proxy, including abstentions and broker non-votes, will be treated as present for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for all matters voted on at the special meeting.

Q: WHAT AM I BEING ASKED TO VOTE ON AND WHY IS THIS APPROVAL NECESSARY?

A: Square 1 Class A common stockholders are being asked to vote on the following proposals:

1. to adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 1, 2015, by and between Square 1 and PacWest Bancorp, as such agreement may be amended from time to time, referred to as the merger agreement, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A, referred to as the merger proposal;
2. to approve one or more adjournments of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including adjournments to permit further solicitation of proxies in favor of the merger proposal, referred to as the adjournment proposal; and
3. to act upon other business as may properly come before the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof by or at the direction of the Square 1 board of directors.

Stockholder approval of the merger proposal, referred to as the Square 1 stockholder approval, is required to complete the merger. Square 1 will transact no business other than as listed above at the special meeting.

Q: WHAT VOTE IS REQUIRED TO APPROVE EACH PROPOSAL AT THE SPECIAL MEETING?

A: *The Merger Proposal:* The affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Square 1 Class A common stock entitled to vote on the proposal is required to approve the merger proposal.

The Adjournment Proposal: The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the special meeting is required to approve the adjournment proposal.

Q: ARE THERE ANY VOTING AGREEMENTS WITH EXISTING STOCKHOLDERS?

A: Yes. In connection with the merger agreement, Patriot Financial Partners, L.P., Castle Creek Capital Partners IV, L.P., Endicott Opportunity Partners III, L.P. and Northaven Management, Inc. (and certain affiliates thereof), in their capacities as stockholders of Square 1, have separately entered into voting agreements with PacWest, the form of which is attached as Appendix B, in which they have agreed to vote all shares of Square 1 common stock that they own and have the power to vote in favor of the merger proposal and any other matter that is required to be approved by the stockholders of Square 1 to facilitate the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. As of the close of business on the record date, these stockholders beneficially owned, in the aggregate, [] shares of Square 1 Class A common stock, allowing them to exercise approximately []% of the voting power of Square 1 common stock.

Q: WHAT DOES THE SQUARE 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMEND?

A: The Square 1 board of directors recommends that Square 1 stockholders vote "FOR" the merger proposal and "FOR" the adjournment proposal.

Q: WHAT DO I NEED TO DO NOW?

A:

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After carefully reading and considering the information contained in this document, please vote your shares of Square 1 Class A common stock as soon as possible so that such shares will be represented at the special meeting. Please follow the instructions set forth on the proxy card or on

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the voting instruction form provided by the record holder if your shares of Square 1 Class A common stock are held in the name of your broker, bank or other nominee.

Q:

HOW DO I VOTE?

A:

If you are a Square 1 Class A common stockholder of record as of the close of business on the record date, you may submit your proxy before the special meeting in one of the following ways:

use the toll-free number shown on your proxy card;

visit the website shown on your proxy card to vote via the Internet; or

complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

You may also cast your vote in person at the special meeting.

If your shares of Square 1 Class A common stock are held in "street name," through a broker, bank or other nominee, that institution will send you separate instructions describing the procedure for voting such shares. "Street name" stockholders who wish to vote at the meeting will need to obtain a proxy form from their broker, bank or other nominee.

Q:

HOW MANY VOTES DO I HAVE?

A:

You are entitled to one vote for each share of Square 1 Class A common stock that you owned as of the close of business on the record date. As of the close of business on the record date, there were approximately [] outstanding shares of Square 1 Class A common stock entitled to vote. As of that date, approximately []% of such outstanding shares of Square 1 Class A common stock were beneficially owned by the directors and executive officers of Square 1 and their affiliates.

Q:

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE SPECIAL MEETING?

A:

The special meeting will be held at [] at [], local time, on [], 2015. Subject to space availability, all Square 1 Class A common stockholders as of the close of business on the record date, or their duly appointed proxies, may attend the special meeting. Since seating is limited, admission to the meeting will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration and seating will begin at [], local time.

Q:

IF MY SHARES ARE HELD IN "STREET NAME" BY A BROKER, BANK OR OTHER NOMINEE, WILL MY BROKER, BANK OR OTHER NOMINEE VOTE MY SHARES FOR ME?

A:

If your shares of Square 1 Class A common stock are held in "street name" in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other nominee, you must provide the record holder of your shares with instructions on how to vote your shares. Please follow the voting instructions provided by your broker, bank or other nominee. Please note that you may not vote shares held in street name by returning a proxy card directly to Square 1 or by voting in person at the special meeting unless you provide a "legal proxy," which you must obtain from your broker, bank or other nominee.

Brokers who hold shares in street name for a beneficial owner of those shares typically have the authority to vote in their discretion on "routine" proposals when they have not received instructions from beneficial owners. However, brokers are not allowed to exercise their voting discretion with respect to the approval of matters that are "non-routine" without specific instructions from the beneficial owner. It is expected that all proposals to be voted on at the special meeting are such "non-routine" matters. Broker non-votes occur

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when a broker or nominee is not instructed by the beneficial owner of shares to vote on a particular proposal for which the broker does not have discretionary voting power.

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If you are a Square 1 Class A common stockholder and you do not instruct your broker, bank or other nominee on how to vote your shares:

your broker, bank or other nominee may not vote your shares on the merger proposal, which broker non-votes will have the same effect as a vote "AGAINST" such proposal; and

your broker, bank or other nominee may not vote your shares on the adjournment proposal, which broker non-votes will have no effect on the vote count for such proposal.

Q: WHAT IF I DO NOT VOTE OR I ABSTAIN?

A: For purposes of the special meeting, an abstention occurs when a stockholder attends the special meeting, either in person or represented by proxy, but abstains from voting.

For the merger proposal, if a Square 1 Class A common stockholder present in person at the special meeting abstains from voting, or responds by proxy with an "abstain" vote, it will have the same effect as a vote cast "AGAINST" this proposal. If a Square 1 Class A common stockholder is not present in person at the special meeting and does not respond by proxy, it will have the same effect as a vote cast "AGAINST" this proposal.

For the adjournment proposal, if a Square 1 Class A stockholder present in person at the special meeting abstains from voting, or responds by proxy with an "abstain" vote, it will have no effect on the vote count for this proposal. If a Square 1 Class A stockholder is not present in person at the special meeting and does not respond by proxy, it will have no effect on the vote count for this proposal.

Q: WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I RETURN MY PROXY OR VOTING INSTRUCTION CARD WITHOUT INDICATING HOW TO VOTE?

A: If you sign and return your proxy or voting instruction card without indicating how to vote on any particular proposal, the Square 1 Class A common stock represented by your proxy will be voted as recommended by the Square 1 board of directors with respect to each proposal. Unless a Square 1 stockholder checks the box on its proxy card to withhold discretionary authority, the proxyholders may use their discretion to vote on other matters relating to the special meeting.

Q: MAY I CHANGE MY VOTE AFTER I HAVE DELIVERED MY PROXY OR VOTING INSTRUCTION CARD?

A: Yes. You may change your vote at any time before your proxy is voted at the special meeting. You may do this in one of four ways:

first, by sending a notice of revocation to Square 1's corporate secretary at 406 Blackwell Street, Suite 240, Durham, North Carolina 27701, stating that you would like to revoke your proxy;

second, by logging onto the Internet website specified on your proxy card in the same manner you would to submit your proxy electronically or by calling the telephone number specified on your proxy card, in each case if you are eligible to do so and following the instructions on the proxy card;

third, by sending a completed proxy card bearing a later date than your original proxy card; or

fourth, by attending the special meeting and voting in person.

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If you choose any of the first three methods, you must take the described action (or, with respect to the third method, Square 1 shall have received the subsequent proxy card) no later than [], 2015, at 5:00 p.m. local time, which is the business day immediately prior to the special meeting. If you choose to send a completed proxy card bearing a later date than your original proxy card or a

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notice of revocation, the new proxy card or notice of revocation must be received before the beginning of the special meeting. If you have instructed a bank, broker or other nominee to vote your shares of Square 1 Class A common stock, you must follow the directions you receive from your bank, broker or other nominee in order to change or revoke your vote.

If your shares are held in an account at a broker, bank or other nominee, you should contact your broker, bank or other nominee to change your vote.

Q: DO I NEED IDENTIFICATION TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL MEETING IN PERSON?

A: Yes. Please bring proper identification, together with proof that you are a record owner of Square 1 Class A common stock. If your shares are held in street name, please bring acceptable proof of ownership, such as a letter from your broker or an account statement showing that you beneficially owned shares of Square 1 Class A common stock at the close of business on the record date.

Q: ARE SQUARE 1 STOCKHOLDERS ENTITLED TO APPRAISAL RIGHTS?

A: No. Under Delaware law, holders of Square 1 common stock will not be entitled to exercise any appraisal or dissenters' rights in connection with any of the proposals being presented to them.

Q: WHAT ARE THE MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE MERGER TO SQUARE 1 STOCKHOLDERS?

A: The merger is intended to qualify, and the obligation of PacWest and Square 1 to complete the merger is conditioned upon the receipt of legal opinions from their respective counsel to the effect that the merger will qualify, as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. Assuming the merger qualifies as a reorganization, you generally will not recognize any gain or loss upon receipt of PacWest common stock in exchange for Square 1 common stock in the merger (except for any gain or loss that may result from the receipt of cash in lieu of fractional shares of PacWest common stock that you would otherwise be entitled to receive).

For a more detailed discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the transaction, please see the section entitled "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger."

The tax consequences of the merger to any particular stockholder will depend on that stockholder's particular facts and circumstances. Accordingly, you are urged to consult your tax advisor to determine your tax consequences from the merger.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF THE MERGER IS NOT COMPLETED?

A: If the merger is not completed, Square 1 stockholders will not receive any consideration for their shares of Square 1 common stock that otherwise would have been received in connection with the merger. Instead, Square 1 will remain an independent public company and its common stock will continue to be listed and traded on NASDAQ.

Q: SHOULD SQUARE 1 STOCKHOLDERS SEND IN THEIR STOCK CERTIFICATES NOW?

A: No. Square 1 stockholders **SHOULD NOT** send in any stock certificates now. If the merger is approved, transmittal materials with instructions for their completion will be provided to Square 1 stockholders under separate cover and the stock certificates should be sent at that time.

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Q: WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE SET OF VOTING MATERIALS?

A: Square 1 Class A common stockholders may receive more than one set of voting materials, including multiple copies of this document and multiple proxy cards or voting instruction cards. For example, if you hold shares of Square 1 Class A common stock in more than one brokerage account, you will receive a separate voting instruction card for each brokerage account in which you hold such shares. If you are a holder of record of Square 1 Class A common stock and your shares are registered in more than one name, you will receive one or more separate proxy cards or voting instruction cards. Please complete, sign, date and return each proxy card and voting instruction card that you receive or otherwise follow the voting instructions set forth in this document to ensure that you vote every share of Square 1 Class A common stock that you own.

Q: WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROXY MATERIALS OR VOTING?

A: If you are a Square 1 Class A common stockholder and have any questions about the proxy materials or if you need assistance submitting your proxy or voting your shares or need additional copies of this document or the enclosed proxy card, you should contact Square 1 Investor Relations at (919) 314-3125.

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SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information included in this document and does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. You should read this entire document and its appendices and the other documents to which the parties refer before you decide how to vote with respect to the proposals. In addition, the parties incorporate by reference important business and financial information about Square 1 and PacWest into this document. For a description of this information, please see the section entitled "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference." You may obtain the information incorporated by reference into this document without charge by following the instructions in the section entitled "Where You Can Find More Information" in the forepart of this document. Each item in this summary includes a page reference directing you to a more complete description of that item.

Unless the context otherwise requires, throughout this document, "PacWest" refers to PacWest Bancorp, "Square 1" refers to Square 1 Financial, Inc. and "we," "us" and "our" refer collectively to PacWest and Square 1. Also, the parties refer to the proposed merger of Square 1 with and into PacWest as the "merger," the proposed merger of Square 1 Bank with and into Pacific Western Bank as the "bank merger" and the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 1, 2015, by and between PacWest and Square 1 as the "merger agreement."

The Merger and the Merger Agreement (pages 39 and 70)

The terms and conditions of the merger are contained in the merger agreement, which is attached to this document as Appendix A. The parties encourage you to read the merger agreement carefully, as it is the legal document that governs the merger.

Under the terms of the merger agreement, Square 1 will merge with and into PacWest, with PacWest being the surviving corporation.

Merger Consideration (page 71)

In the merger, each share of Square 1 common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, owned by a Square 1 stockholder will be converted into the right to receive 0.5997 of a share of PacWest common stock, par value \$0.01 per share. For each fractional share that would otherwise be issued, PacWest will pay cash in an amount equal to the fraction of a share of PacWest common stock which the holder would otherwise be entitled to receive multiplied by the PacWest Average Closing Price. No interest will be paid or accrue on cash payable to holders in lieu of fractional shares.

The share price of PacWest common stock will fluctuate, and the value that holders of Square 1 common stock will receive upon consummation of the merger may be different than the value that they would receive if calculated on the date PacWest and Square 1 publicly announced the signing of the merger agreement, on the date that this document is being mailed to Square 1 stockholders, and on the date of the special meeting. Based on the closing price of PacWest common stock on February 27, 2015, the last trading day before the public announcement of the signing of the merger agreement, the value of the per share merger consideration payable to holders of Square 1 common stock was \$27.49. Based on the closing price of PacWest common stock on [], 2015, the last practicable date before the date of this document, the value of the per share merger consideration payable to holders of Square 1 common stock was \$[].

Recommendation of the Square 1 Board of Directors (page 44)

After careful consideration, the Square 1 board of directors recommends that Square 1 stockholders vote "FOR" the merger proposal and "FOR" the adjournment proposal.

Certain stockholders of Square 1 have entered into voting agreements with PacWest, pursuant to which each such stockholder has agreed to vote "FOR" the merger proposal and "FOR" any other

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matter required to be approved by the stockholders of Square 1 to facilitate the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. For more information regarding the voting agreements, please see the section entitled "The Merger Agreement Voting Agreements."

For a more complete description of Square 1's reasons for the merger and the recommendations of the Square 1 board of directors, please see the section entitled "The Merger Recommendation of the Square 1 Board of Directors and Reasons for the Merger."

Opinion of Financial Advisor (page 46)

At the March 1, 2015 meeting at which the board of directors of Square 1 considered and approved the merger agreement, Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P., referred to as Sandler O'Neill, delivered to the board its oral opinion, which was subsequently confirmed in writing, that, as of such date, subject to procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and qualifications and limitations described in Sandler O'Neill's opinion, the merger consideration was fair to the holders of Square 1 common stock from a financial point of view.

The full text of Sandler O'Neill's opinion is attached as Appendix C to this proxy statement/prospectus. The opinion outlines the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by Sandler O'Neill in rendering its opinion. Holders of Square 1 common stock are urged to read the entire opinion carefully in connection with their consideration of the proposed merger.

Sandler O'Neill's opinion speaks only as of the date of the opinion and was necessarily based on financial, economic, market and other conditions as they existed on, and the information made available to Sandler O'Neill as of, that date. The opinion was directed to the board of directors of Square 1 and is directed only to the fairness of the merger consideration to the holders of Square 1 common stock from a financial point of view. It does not address the underlying business decision of Square 1 to engage in the merger or any other aspect of the merger and is not a recommendation to any holder of Square 1 common stock as to how such stockholder should vote at the special meeting with respect to the merge