

ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP

Form 10-K

February 27, 2012

Table of Contents

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-K**

x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

OR

.. TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM TO

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 001-13709

**ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORPORATION**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

**MARYLAND**

(State or Other Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**1299 OCEAN AVENUE, SECOND FLOOR**

**SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (310) 255-4493

**52-2059785**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**90401**

(Zip Code)

Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$0.01 Par Value	New York Stock Exchange
Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred	
Stock, \$0.01 Par Value	New York Stock Exchange
Common Stock, \$0.01 Par Value	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: NONE

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark that disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant, computed by reference to the closing price of such stock on the New York Stock Exchange, as of June 30, 2011 was approximately \$958,154,871.

As of February 22, 2012, the registrant had 135,152,020 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Part III of this Form 10-K incorporates by reference certain portions of the registrant's proxy statement for its 2012 annual meeting of stockholders to be filed with the Commission not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.

**Table of Contents**

**ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORPORATION**

**FORM 10-K ANNUAL REPORT**

**FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Item</b>		<b>Page</b>
	<b>PART I</b>	
1.	<u>Business</u>	1
1A.	<u>Risk Factors</u>	27
1B.	<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	48
2.	<u>Properties</u>	48
3.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	48
4.	<u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	48
	<b>PART II</b>	
5.	<u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	49
6.	<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	51
7.	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	52
7A.	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	65
8.	<u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	69
9.	<u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	69
9A.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	69
9B.	<u>Other Information</u>	71
	<b>PART III</b>	
10.	<u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	72
11.	<u>Executive Compensation</u>	72
12.	<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	72
13.	<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	72
14.	<u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	72
	<b>PART IV</b>	
15.	<u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	73
	<u>Signatures</u>	74
	<u>Financial Statements</u>	F-3

**Table of Contents**

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT**

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains or incorporates by reference certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the 1933 Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and, as such, may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Forward-looking statements are based upon our current expectations and speak only as of the date hereof. Forward-looking statements are those that predict or describe future events or trends and that do not relate solely to historical matters. You can generally identify forward-looking statements as statements containing the words may, will, believe, expect, anticipate, intend, estimate, or other similar expressions. You should not rely on our forward-looking statements because the matters they describe are subject to assumptions, known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other unpredictable factors, many of which are beyond our control. Therefore, our actual results could differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, some of which are listed under the section Risk Factors, Item 1A of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Statements regarding the following subjects, among others, may be forward-looking: changes in interest rates and the market value of our mortgage-backed securities ( MBS ); risks associated with investing in mortgage-related assets; changes in the yield curve; the availability of MBS for purchase; changes in the prepayment rates on the mortgage loans securing our MBS; our ability to borrow to finance our assets and, if available, the terms of any financing; implementation of or changes in government regulations or programs affecting our business; changes in business conditions and the general economy, including the consequences of actions by the U.S. government and other foreign governments to address the global financial crisis; our ability to maintain our qualification as a real estate investment trust ( REIT ) for federal income tax purposes; our ability to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended; and our ability to manage our growth. New risks and uncertainties arise over time and it is not possible to predict those events or how they may affect us. Except as required by law, we do not intend to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

As used in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, Company, we, us, our and Anworth refer to Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation.

**PART I**

**Item 1. BUSINESS**

**Overview**

We were formed in October 1997 and commenced operations on March 17, 1998. We are in the business of investing primarily in United States, or U.S., agency mortgage-backed securities, or agency MBS, which are obligations guaranteed by the U.S. government, such as Ginnie Mae, or federally sponsored enterprises, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Our principal business objective is to generate net income for distribution to stockholders based upon the spread between the interest income on our mortgage-related assets and the costs of borrowing to finance our acquisition of these assets.

We are organized for tax purposes as a real estate investment trust, or REIT. Accordingly, we generally distribute substantially all of our taxable earnings to stockholders without paying federal or state income tax at the corporate level on the distributed earnings. At December 31, 2011, our qualified REIT assets (real estate assets, as defined under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Code, cash and cash items and government securities) were greater than 99% of our total assets, as compared to the Code requirement that at least 75% of our total assets must be qualified REIT assets. Greater than 99% of our 2011 revenue qualified for both the 75% source of income test and the 95% source of income test under the REIT rules. At December 31, 2011, we believe we met all REIT requirements regarding the ownership of our common stock and the distributions of our taxable net income. Therefore, we believe that we continue to qualify as a REIT under the provisions of the Code.

**Table of Contents**

At our annual stockholders meeting on May 25, 2011, our stockholders approved the entry by us into a Management Agreement, or the Management Agreement (a copy of which is included as Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, on January 3, 2012), between the Company and Anworth Management, LLC, or the Manager, and the externalization of the Company's management function, or the Externalization. We entered into the Management Agreement effective as of December 31, 2011. After the effective date, our day-to-day operations are being conducted by the Manager through the authority delegated to it under the Management Agreement and pursuant to the policies established by our board of directors. The Manager is supervised and directed by our board of directors and is responsible for (i) the selection, purchase and sale of our investment portfolio; (ii) our financing and hedging activities; and (iii) providing us with management services. The Manager will perform such other services and activities relating to our assets and operations as may be appropriate. In exchange for these services, the Manager receives a management fee paid monthly in arrears in an amount equal to one-twelfth of 1.20% of our Equity (as defined in the Management Agreement).

Although the U.S. government and other governments have taken various actions (including placing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in conservatorship) intended to protect financial institutions, their respective economies and their respective housing and mortgage markets, we continue to operate under very difficult market conditions. There can be no assurance that these various actions will have a beneficial impact on the global financial markets and, more specifically, the market for the securities we currently own in our portfolio. We cannot predict what, if any, impact these actions or future actions by either the U.S. government or foreign governments could have on our business, results of operations and financial condition. These events may impact the availability of financing generally in the marketplace and also may impact the market value of MBS generally, including the securities we currently own in our portfolio.

In August 2011, Standard & Poor's downgraded both U.S. sovereign debt and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from AAA to AA+. We do not know what effect this will ultimately have on the U.S. economy, the value of our securities and the ability of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to satisfy its guarantees of Agency MBS. A failure by the U.S. government to meet the conditions of the August 2011 debt ceiling agreement or to reduce its budget deficit or a further downgrade of U.S. sovereign debt and government-sponsored agencies debt could have a material adverse effect on the U.S. economy and on the global economy. These events could have a material adverse effect on our borrowing costs, the availability of financing and the liquidity and valuation of securities in general and particularly the securities in our portfolio.

Our operations consist of the following portfolios: agency mortgage-backed securities, or Agency MBS, and non-agency mortgage-backed securities, or Non-Agency MBS. Approximately 99.99% of our total portfolio is Agency MBS.

	<b>December 31, 2011</b>
Total assets	\$ 8.81 billion
Fair value of Agency MBS	\$ 8.76 billion
Adjustable-rate Agency MBS (less than 1 year reset)	24%
Adjustable-rate Agency MBS (1-2 year reset)	4%
Adjustable-rate Agency MBS (2-7 year reset)	53%
15-year fixed-rate Agency MBS	13%
30-year fixed-rate Agency MBS	6%
Agency floating-rate collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs)	<1%
	100%

## **Table of Contents**

Stockholders' equity available to common stockholders at December 31, 2011 was approximately \$933.8 million, or \$6.96 per share. The \$933.8 million equals total stockholders' equity of \$982.3 million less the Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock, or Series A Preferred Stock, liquidating value of \$46.9 million and less the difference between the Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, or Series B Preferred Stock, liquidating value of \$28.8 million and the proceeds from its sale of \$27.2 million. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we reported net income of \$122.9 million. Net income to common stockholders was approximately \$117 million, or net income of \$0.90 per diluted share, based on a weighted average of 132.8 million fully diluted shares outstanding, which consisted of net income of \$122.9 million minus payment of preferred dividends of \$5.9 million.

## **Our Strategy**

### *Investment Strategy*

Our strategy is to invest primarily in Agency MBS. We seek to acquire assets that will produce competitive returns after considering the amount and nature of the investment's anticipated returns, our ability to pledge the investment to secure collateralized borrowings and the costs associated with financing, managing and reserving for these investments. We do not currently originate mortgage loans or provide other types of financing to the owners of real estate.

### *Financing Strategy*

We acquire MBS by primarily using short-term borrowings and, to a lesser extent, equity capital. We employ short-term borrowing to attempt to increase potential returns to our stockholders. Pursuant to our Capital and Leverage Policy, we seek to strike a balance between the under-utilization of leverage, which reduces potential returns to stockholders, and the over-utilization of leverage, which could reduce our ability to meet our obligations during adverse market conditions.

We usually borrow at short-term rates using repurchase agreements. Repurchase agreements are generally short-term in nature (less than or equal to twelve months). We actively manage the adjustment periods and the selection of the interest rate indices of our borrowings against the adjustment periods and the selection of the interest rate indices on our mortgage-related assets in order to lessen the liquidity and interest rate-related risks. We generally seek to diversify our exposure by entering into repurchase agreements with multiple lenders which are approved by our board of directors.

### *Growth Strategy*

It is our long-term objective to grow our earnings and our dividends per common share by increasing our paid-in capital and book value per share.

## **Our Operating Policies and Programs**

We have established the following four primary operating policies to implement our business strategies:

our Asset Acquisition Policy;

our Capital and Leverage Policy;

our Credit Risk Management Policy; and

our Asset/Liability Management Policy.

## **Table of Contents**

### *Asset Acquisition Policy*

Our Asset Acquisition Policy provides guidelines for acquiring investments and contemplates that we will acquire a portfolio of investments that can be grouped into specific categories. Each category and our respective investment guidelines are as follows:

*Category I* At least 60% of our total assets will generally be adjustable- or fixed-rate MBS and short-term investments. Assets in this category will be rated within one of the two highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization or, if not rated, will be obligations guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Also included in Category I are the portion of real estate mortgage loans that have been deposited into a trust and have received a rating within one of the two highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

*Category II* At least 90% of our total assets will generally consist of Category I investments plus unsecuritized mortgage loans, mortgage securities rated at least investment grade by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization, or shares of other REITs or mortgage-related companies and the portion of real estate mortgage loans that have been deposited into a trust and have received an investment grade rating by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

*Category III* No more than 10% of our total assets may be of a type not meeting any of the above criteria. Among the types of assets generally assigned to this category are mortgage securities rated below investment grade and leveraged mortgage derivative securities. Under our Category III investment criteria, we may acquire other types of mortgage derivative securities including, but not limited to, interest-only, principal-only or other types of MBS that receive a disproportionate share of interest income or principal.

### *Capital and Leverage Policy*

We employ a leverage strategy to increase our investment assets by borrowing against existing mortgage-related assets and using the proceeds to acquire additional mortgage-related assets. Relative to our investments in investment grade Agency MBS, we generally borrow, on a short-term basis, between seven to twelve times the amount of our equity allocated to these investments. During the past several years, we have borrowed, on a short-term basis, between five to seven times the amount of our equity allocated to these investments, as management believed it to be appropriate to lower our leverage due to the uncertainty in the financial marketplace and the broader problems in the economy. Our borrowings may vary from time to time depending on market conditions and other factors deemed relevant by our management and our board of directors. We believe that this will leave an adequate capital base to protect against interest rate environments in which our borrowing costs might exceed our interest income from mortgage-related assets. At December 31, 2011, our leverage on capital (including common stockholders' equity, all preferred stock and junior subordinated notes) was 7.25x.

Depending on the different costs of borrowing funds at different maturities, we may vary the maturities of our borrowed funds in an attempt to produce lower borrowing costs. Our borrowings are short-term and we manage actively, on an aggregate basis, both the interest rate indices and interest rate adjustment periods of our borrowings against the interest rate indices and interest rate adjustment periods on our mortgage-related assets.

Our mortgage-related assets are financed primarily at short-term borrowing rates through repurchase agreements. In the future, we may also employ borrowings under lines of credit and other collateralized financings that we may establish with approved institutional lenders.

### *Credit Risk Management Policy*

We review credit risk and other risks of loss associated with each of our potential investments. In addition, we may diversify our portfolio of mortgage-related assets to avoid undue geographic, insurer, industry and certain other types of concentrations.

## Table of Contents

Compliance with our Credit Risk Management Policy guidelines is determined at the time of purchase of mortgage-related assets based upon the most recent valuation utilized by us. Such compliance is not affected by events subsequent to such purchase including, without limitation, changes in characterization, value or rating of any specific mortgage assets or economic conditions or events generally affecting any mortgage-related assets of the type held by us.

### *Asset/Liability Management Policy*

*Interest Rate Risk Management.* To the extent consistent with our election to qualify as a REIT, we follow an interest rate risk management program intended to protect our portfolio of mortgage-related assets and related debt against the effects of major interest rate changes. Specifically, our interest rate management program is formulated with the intent to offset, to some extent, the potential adverse effects resulting from rate adjustment limitations on our mortgage-related assets and the differences between interest rate adjustment indices and interest rate adjustment periods of our adjustable-rate mortgage-related assets and related borrowings.

Our interest rate risk management program encompasses a number of procedures including the following:

monitoring and adjusting, if necessary, the interest rate sensitivity of our mortgage-related assets compared with the interest rate sensitivities of our borrowings;

attempting to structure our borrowing agreements relating to adjustable-rate mortgage-related assets to have a range of different maturities and interest rate adjustment periods (although substantially all will be less than one year); and

actively managing, on an aggregate basis, the interest rate indices and interest rate adjustment periods of our mortgage-related assets compared to the interest rate indices and adjustment periods of our borrowings.

We expect to be able to adjust the average maturity/adjustment period of our borrowings on an ongoing basis by changing the mix of maturities and interest rate adjustment periods as borrowings come due or are renewed. Through the use of these procedures, we attempt to reduce the risk of differences between interest rate adjustment periods of our adjustable-rate mortgage-related assets and our related borrowings.

Depending on market conditions and the cost of the transactions, we may conduct certain hedging activities in connection with the management of our portfolio. To the extent consistent with our election to qualify as a REIT, we may adopt a hedging strategy intended to lessen the effects of interest rate changes and to enable us to earn net interest income in periods of generally rising, as well as declining or static, interest rates. Specifically, hedging programs are formulated with the intent to offset some of the potential adverse effects of changes in interest rate levels relative to the interest rates on the mortgage-related assets held in our investment portfolio and differences between the interest rate adjustment indices and periods of our mortgage-related assets and our borrowings. We monitor carefully, and may have to limit, our hedging activity to assure that we do not realize excessive hedging income or hold hedges having excess value in relation to our mortgage-related assets, which could result in our disqualification as a REIT or, in the case of excess hedging income, if the excess is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, the payment of a penalty tax for failure to satisfy certain REIT income tests under the Code. In addition, hedging activity involves transaction costs that increase dramatically as the period covered by hedging protection increases and that may increase during periods of fluctuating interest rates.

*Prepayment Risk Management.* We also seek to lessen the effects of prepayment of mortgage loans underlying our securities at a faster or slower rate than anticipated. We accomplish this by structuring a diversified portfolio with a variety of prepayment characteristics, investing in mortgage-related assets with prepayment prohibitions and penalties, investing in certain mortgage security structures that have prepayment protections and purchasing mortgage-related assets at a premium or at a discount. Under normal market conditions, we generally seek to maintain the aggregate capitalized purchase premium of the portfolio at 3% or



## **Table of Contents**

less. In addition, we can purchase principal-only derivatives to a limited extent as a hedge against prepayment risks. We monitor prepayment risk through periodic review of the impact of a variety of prepayment scenarios on our revenues, net earnings, dividends, cash flow and net balance sheets market value.

We believe that we have developed cost-effective asset/liability management policies to mitigate prepayment risks. However, no strategy can completely insulate us from prepayment risks. Further, as noted above, certain of the federal income tax requirements that we must satisfy to qualify as a REIT limit our ability to fully hedge our prepayment risks. Therefore, we could be prevented from effectively hedging our prepayment risks.

## **Our Investments**

### *Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS)*

*Pass-Through Certificates.* We principally invest in pass-through certificates, which are securities representing interests in pools of mortgage loans secured by residential real property in which payments of both interest and principal on the securities are generally made monthly, in effect, passing through monthly payments made by the individual borrowers on the mortgage loans which underlie the securities, net of fees paid to the issuer or guarantor of the securities. Early repayment of principal on some MBS, arising from prepayments of principal due to sale of the underlying property, refinancing or foreclosure, net of fees and costs which may be incurred, may expose us to a lower rate of return upon reinvestment of principal. This is generally referred to as prepayment risk. Additionally, if a security subject to prepayment has been purchased at a premium, the unamortized value of the premium would be lost in the event of prepayment.

Like other fixed-income securities, when interest rates rise, the value of a mortgage-backed security generally will decline. When interest rates are declining, however, the value of MBS with prepayment features may not increase as much as other fixed-income securities. The rate of prepayments on underlying mortgages will affect the price and volatility of MBS and may have the effect of shortening or extending the effective maturity of the security beyond what was anticipated at the time of purchase. When interest rates rise, our holdings of MBS may experience reduced returns if the owners of the underlying mortgages pay off their mortgages later than anticipated. This is generally referred to as extension risk.

Payment of principal and interest on some mortgage pass-through securities, though not the market value of the securities themselves, may be guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the federal government, including securities backed by Ginnie Mae, or by agencies or instrumentalities of the federal government, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. MBS created by non-governmental issuers, including commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, private mortgage insurance companies, mortgage bankers and other secondary market issuers, may be supported by various forms of insurance or guarantees including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance and letters of credit which may be issued by governmental entities, private insurers or the mortgage poolers. Approximately 99.99% of our portfolio is Agency MBS.

*Collateralized Mortgage Obligations.* CMOs are MBS. Interest and principal on CMOs are paid, in most cases, on a monthly basis. CMOs may be collateralized by whole mortgage loans, but are more typically collateralized by portfolios of mortgage pass-through securities. CMOs are structured into multiple classes with each class bearing a different stated maturity. Monthly payments of principal, including prepayments, are first returned to investors holding the shortest maturity class; investors holding the longer maturity classes receive principal only after the first class has been retired. We will typically consider investments in CMOs that are issued or guaranteed by the federal government, or by any of its agencies or instrumentalities, to be U.S. government securities.

### *Other Types of MBS*

*Mortgage Derivative Securities.* We may acquire mortgage derivative securities in an amount not to exceed 10% of our total assets. Mortgage derivative securities provide for the holder to receive interest-only, principal-only or interest and principal in amounts that are disproportionate to those payable on the underlying

## **Table of Contents**

mortgage loans. Payments on mortgage derivative securities are highly sensitive to the rate of prepayments on the underlying mortgage loans. In the event of faster or slower than anticipated prepayments on these mortgage loans, the rates of return on interests in mortgage derivative securities, representing the right to receive interest-only or a disproportionately large amount of interest or interest-only derivatives, would be likely to decline or increase, respectively. Conversely, the rates of return on mortgage derivative securities, representing the right to receive principal-only or a disproportionate amount of principal or principal-only derivatives, would be likely to increase or decrease in the event of faster or slower prepayments, respectively.

We may invest in inverse floaters, a class of CMOs with a coupon rate that resets in the opposite direction from the market rate of interest to which it is indexed, including LIBOR or the 11th District Cost of Funds Index, or COFI. Any rise in the index rate, which can be caused by an increase in interest rates, causes a drop in the coupon rate of an inverse floater, while any drop in the index rate causes an increase in the coupon of an inverse floater. An inverse floater may behave like a leveraged security since its interest rate usually varies by a magnitude much greater than the magnitude of the index rate of interest. The leverage-like characteristics inherent in inverse floaters result in a greater volatility of their market prices.

We may invest in other mortgage derivative securities that may be developed in the future.

*Mortgage Warehouse Participations.* We may occasionally acquire mortgage warehouse participations as an additional means of diversifying our sources of income. We anticipate that these investments, together with our investments in other Category III assets, will not, in the aggregate, exceed 10% of our total mortgage-related assets. These investments are participations in lines of credit to mortgage loan originators secured by recently originated mortgage loans that are in the process of being sold to investors. Our investments in mortgage warehouse participations are limited because they are not qualified REIT assets under the Code.

### *Other Mortgage-Related Assets*

We may acquire other investments that include equity and debt securities issued by other primarily mortgage-related finance companies, interests in mortgage-related collateralized bond obligations, other subordinated interests in pools of mortgage-related assets, commercial mortgage loans and securities and residential mortgage loans other than high-credit quality mortgage loans. Although we expect that our other investments will be limited to less than 10% of total assets, we have no limit on how much of our stockholders' equity will be allocated to other investments. There may be periods in which other investments represent a large portion of our stockholders' equity.

## **Competition**

When we invest in Agency MBS, we compete with a variety of institutional investors including other REITs, insurance companies, mutual funds, pension funds, investment banking firms, banks and other financial institutions that invest in the same or similar types of assets. Many of these investors have greater financial resources and access to lower costs of capital than we do.

## **Employees**

Prior to December 31, 2011, Anworth had twelve employees, seven of whom were part-time. Effective December 31, 2011, in accordance with the Management Agreement and the Externalization, all of our employees at the Company were terminated and are now employed by the Manager.

## **Company Information**

We were incorporated in Maryland on October 20, 1997 and commenced our operations on March 17, 1998. Our principal executive offices are located at 1299 Ocean Avenue, Second Floor, Santa Monica, California, 90401. Our telephone number is (310) 255-4493 and our fax number is (310) 434-0070.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Information on our Company Website**

The Company maintains a website, <http://www.anworth.com>. We make our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act, available, free of charge, on our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we file or furnish these reports with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. In addition, we post the following information on our website (the Company does not intend to and does not hereby incorporate by reference the information on our website as a part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K):

our corporate code of conduct, which qualifies as a code of ethics as defined by Item 406 of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act;

our corporate governance guidelines; and

charters for our Audit Committee, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Compensation Committee.

All of the above information is also available in print upon request to our secretary at the address listed under the heading Company Information above.

### **CERTAIN FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following discussion summarizes particular U.S. federal income tax considerations regarding our qualification and taxation as a REIT and particular U.S. federal income tax consequences resulting from the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our capital stock. This discussion is based on current law and assumes that we have qualified at all times throughout our existence, and will continue to qualify, as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The tax law upon which this discussion is based could be changed and any such change could have a retroactive effect. The following discussion is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations. This summary neither gives a detailed discussion of any state, local or foreign tax considerations nor discusses all of the aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to you in light of your particular circumstances or to particular types of stockholders which are subject to special tax rules, such as insurance companies, tax-exempt entities, financial institutions or broker-dealers, foreign corporations or partnerships and persons who are not citizens or residents of the U.S., stockholders that hold our stock as a hedge, part of a straddle, conversion transaction or other arrangement involving more than one position, or stockholders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar. This discussion assumes that you will hold our capital stock as a capital asset, generally property held for investment, under the Code.

We urge you to consult with your own tax advisor regarding the specific consequences to you of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of stock in an entity electing to be taxed as a REIT, including the federal, state, local, foreign and other tax considerations of such acquisition, ownership, disposition and election and the potential changes in applicable tax laws.

#### **General**

Our qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon our ability to continue to meet the various qualification tests, imposed under the Code and discussed below, relating to our actual annual operating results, asset diversification, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership. Accordingly, the actual results of our operations for any particular taxable year may not satisfy these requirements.

We have made an election to be taxed as a REIT under the Code commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1998. We currently expect to continue operating in a manner that will permit us to maintain our qualification as a REIT. All qualification requirements for maintaining our REIT status, however, may not have been, or might not continue to be, met.

---

**Table of Contents**

So long as we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will be permitted a deduction for dividends we pay to our stockholders. As a result, we generally will not be required to pay federal corporate income taxes on our net income that is currently distributed to our stockholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the double taxation that ordinarily results from investment in a corporation. Double taxation means taxation once at the corporate level when income is earned and once again at the stockholder level when this income is distributed. We will be required to pay federal income tax, however, as follows:

we will be required to pay tax at regular corporate rates on any undistributed real estate investment trust taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains;

we may be required to pay the alternative minimum tax on our items of tax preference; and

if we have (a) net income from the sale or other disposition of foreclosure property which is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, or (b) other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property, we will be required to pay tax at the highest corporate rate on this income. Foreclosure property is generally defined as property acquired through foreclosure or after a default on a loan secured by the property or on a lease of the property.

To the extent that distributions exceed current and accumulated earnings and profits, they will constitute a return of capital, rather than dividend or capital gain income, and will reduce the basis for the stockholder's stock with respect to which the distributions are paid or, to the extent that they exceed such basis, will be taxed in the same manner as gain from the sale of that stock. For purposes of determining whether distributions are out of current or accumulated earnings and profits, our earnings and profits will be allocated first to our preferred stock (as compared to distributions with respect to our common stock) so that distributions with respect to our preferred stock are more likely to be treated as dividends than as return of capital or a distribution in excess of basis. Calculations of corporate earnings and profits are complex and it is possible that distributions expected to be a return of capital may subsequently be determined to be taxable distributions of earnings and profits.

Currently, dividends paid by regular C corporations to stockholders other than corporations are generally taxed at the rate applicable to long-term capital gains, which is a maximum of 15%, subject to certain limitations. Because we are a REIT, however, our dividends, including dividends paid on our Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock, generally will continue to be taxed at regular ordinary income tax rates, except in limited circumstances.

We will be required to pay a 100% tax on any net income from prohibited transactions. Prohibited transactions are, in general, sales or other taxable dispositions of property other than foreclosure property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business. While the Code contains certain safe harbors provisions to avoid the application of this 100% tax, outside of the safe harbor, the determination of whether property is held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business depends on all the facts and circumstances surrounding the particular transaction. No assurance can be given that any particular property in which we hold a direct or indirect interest will not be treated as property held for sale to customers, or that we can comply with certain safe harbor provisions of the Code that would prevent such treatment. The 100% tax will not apply to gains from the sale of property that is held through a taxable REIT subsidiary or other taxable corporation, although such income will be taxed to the corporation at regular corporate tax rates.

If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test discussed below but nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT because certain other requirements are met, we will be subject to a tax equal to:

the greater of (i) the amount by which 75% of our gross income exceeds the amount qualifying under the 75% gross income test described below, and (ii) the amount by which 95% of our gross income exceeds the amount qualifying under the 95% gross income test described below, multiplied by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

## Table of Contents

In the event of more than de minimis failure of any of the asset tests occurs in a taxable year, as long as the failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect and we dispose of the assets or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identify such failure, we will pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50 thousand or 35% of the net income from the non-qualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy any of the asset tests.

In the event of a failure to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification occurring in a taxable year, other than the gross income tests and the asset tests, as long as such failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, we will be required to pay a penalty of \$50 thousand for each such failure.

We will be required to pay a nondeductible 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the amounts actually distributed if we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of:

85% of our real estate investment trust ordinary income for the year;

95% of our real estate investment trust capital gain net income for the year; and

any undistributed taxable income from prior periods.

This distribution requirement is in addition to, and different from, the distribution requirements discussed below in the section entitled Annual Distribution Requirements.

We may elect to retain and pay income tax on our net long-term capital gain. In that case, a U.S. stockholder would be taxed on its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain (to the extent that we make a timely designation of such gain to the stockholder) and would receive a credit or refund of its proportionate share of the tax we paid. The basis of the stockholder's shares is increased by the amount of the undistributed long-term capital gain (less the amount of capital gains tax paid by the REIT) included in the stockholder's long-term capital gains.

If we own a residual interest in a REMIC, we will be taxable at the highest corporate rate on the portion of any excess inclusion income that we derive from the REMIC residual interests equal to the percentage of our stock that is held by disqualified organizations. Although the law is unclear, similar rules may apply if we own an equity interest in a taxable mortgage pool. To the extent that we own a REMIC residual interest in a taxable mortgage pool through a taxable REIT subsidiary, we will not be subject to tax. A disqualified organization includes:

the U.S.;

any state or political subdivision of the U.S.;

any foreign government;

any international organization;

any agency or instrumentality of any of the foregoing;

any other tax-exempt organization other than a farmers cooperative described in Section 521 of the Code that is exempt both from income taxation and from taxation under the unrelated business taxable income provisions of the Code; and

any rural electrical or telephone cooperative.

If we acquire any asset from a corporation which is or has been taxed as a C corporation under the Code in a transaction in which the basis of the asset in our hands is determined by reference to the basis of the asset in the hands of the C corporation and we subsequently recognize gain on the disposition of the asset during the ten-year period beginning on the date on which we acquired the asset, then we will be required to pay tax at the highest regular corporate tax rate on this gain to the extent of the excess of:

the fair market value of the asset, over

## **Table of Contents**

our adjusted basis in the asset,

in each case determined as of the date on which we acquired the asset.

A C corporation is generally defined as a corporation required to pay full corporate-level tax. The results described in the preceding paragraph with respect to the recognition of gain will apply unless we make an election under Treasury Regulation Section 1.337(d)-7(c). If such an election were made, the C corporation would recognize taxable gain or loss as if it had sold the assets we acquired from the C corporation to an unrelated third party at fair market value on the acquisition date.

We will be subject to a 100% excise tax if our dealings with any taxable REIT subsidiaries (defined below) are not at arm's length.

In addition, notwithstanding our REIT status, we may also have to pay certain state and local income taxes, because not all states and localities treat REITs in the same manner as they are treated for federal income tax purposes.

### **Requirements for Qualification as a REIT**

The Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

1. that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
2. that issues transferable shares or transferable certificates to evidence beneficial ownership;
3. that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for Code Sections 856 through 859;
4. that is not a financial institution or an insurance company within the meaning of the Code;
5. that is beneficially owned by 100 or more persons;
6. that not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock of which is owned, actually or constructively, by five or fewer individuals, including specified entities, during the last half of each taxable year;
7. that meets other tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions; and
8. that elects to be a REIT or has made such election for a previous taxable year and satisfies all relevant filing and other administrative requirements established by the Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS, that must be met to elect and retain REIT status.

The Code provides that all of the first four conditions stated above must be met during the entire taxable year and that the fifth condition must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of twelve months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than twelve months. The fifth and sixth conditions do not apply until after the first taxable year for which an election is made to be taxed as a REIT.

For purposes of the sixth condition, pension trusts and other specified tax-exempt entities generally are treated as individuals, except that a look-through exception generally applies with respect to pension funds.

### **Stock Ownership Tests**

## Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

Our stock must be beneficially held by at least 100 persons, the 100 Stockholder Rule, and no more than 50% of the value of our stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals at any time during the last half of the taxable year, the 5/50 Rule. For purposes of the 100 Stockholder Rule only, trusts described in Section 401(a) of the Code and exempt under Section 501(a) of the Code are generally treated as persons. These stock ownership requirements must be satisfied in each taxable year other than the first taxable year for which an election is made to be taxed as a REIT. We are required to solicit information from certain of our record stockholders to verify actual stock ownership levels and our charter provides for restrictions regarding



---

## **Table of Contents**

the transfer of our stock in order to aid in meeting the stock ownership requirements. If we were to fail either of the stock ownership tests, we would generally be disqualified from our REIT status. However, if we comply with regulatory rules pursuant to which we are required to send annual letters to holders of our stock requesting information regarding the actual ownership of our stock, and we do not know, or exercising reasonable diligence would not have known, whether we failed to meet the 5/50 Rule, we will be treated as having met the 5/50 Rule.

### **Income Tests**

We must satisfy two gross income requirements annually to maintain our qualification as a REIT:

We must derive, directly or indirectly, at least 75% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, from specified real estate sources, including rental income, interest on obligations secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property, gain from the disposition of qualified real estate assets, i.e., interests in real property, mortgages secured by real property or interests in real property, and some other assets, income from certain types of temporary investments, amounts, such as commitment fees, received in consideration for entering into an agreement to make a loan secured by real property, unless such amounts are determined by income and profits, and income derived from a REMIC in proportion to the real estate assets held by the REMIC, unless at least 95% of the REMIC's assets are real estate assets (in which case, all of the income derived from the REMIC), or the 75% gross income test; and

We must derive at least 95% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, from (a) the sources of income that satisfy the 75% gross income test, (b) dividends, interest and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, or (c) any combination of the foregoing, or the 95% gross income test.

Gross income from servicing loans for third parties and loan origination fees is not qualifying income for purposes of either gross income test. Gross income from our sale of property that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business is excluded from both the numerator and the denominator in both income tests. Income and gain from certain transactions that we enter into to hedge indebtedness incurred or to be incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets, and that are clearly and timely identified as such, are excluded from both the numerator and denominator for purposes of the 95% gross income test and, for certain hedging transactions entered into after July 30, 2008, the 75% gross income test.

For purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, a REIT is deemed to have earned a proportionate share of the income earned by any partnership, or any limited liability company treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, in which it owns an interest, which share is determined by reference to its capital interest in such entity, and is deemed to have earned the income earned by any qualified REIT subsidiary (in general, a 100%-owned corporate subsidiary of a REIT). Interest earned by a REIT ordinarily does not qualify as income meeting the 75% or 95% gross income tests if the determination of all or some of the amount of interest depends in any way on the income or profits of any person. Interest will not be disqualified from meeting such tests, however, solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales.

The following paragraphs discuss in more detail the specific application of the gross income tests to us.

*Interest.* The term interest, as defined for purposes of both gross income tests, generally excludes any amount that is based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, interest generally includes the following:

an amount that is based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales; and

an amount that is based on the income or profits of a debtor as long as the debtor derives substantially all of its income from the real property securing the debt from leasing substantially all of its interest in the property and only to the extent that the amounts received by the debtor would be qualifying rents from real property if received directly by a REIT.

---

**Table of Contents**

If a loan contains a provision that entitles a REIT to a percentage of the borrower's gain upon the sale of the real property securing the loan or a percentage of the appreciation in the property's value as of a specific date, income attributable to that loan provision will generally be treated as gain from the sale of the property securing the loan, which normally constitutes qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests.

Interest on debt secured by a mortgage on real property or on interests in real property, including, for this purpose, discount points, prepayment penalties, loan assumption fees and late payment charges that are not compensation for services, generally is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. However, if the highest principal amount of a loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property securing the loan as of the date the REIT agreed to originate or acquire the loan, a portion of the interest income from such loan will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test but will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. The portion of the interest income that will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test will be equal to the portion of the principal amount of the loan that is not secured by real property—that is, the amount by which the loan exceeds the value of the real estate that is security for the loan.

The interest, original issue discount and market discount income that we receive from our mortgage loans and MBS generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests. However, as discussed above, if the fair market value of the real estate securing any of our loans is less than the principal amount of the loan, a portion of the income from that loan will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test but not the 75% gross income test.

*Fee Income.* We may receive various fees in connection with originating mortgage loans. The fees will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% income tests if they are received in consideration for entering into an agreement to make a loan secured by real property and the fees are not determined based on the borrower's income or profits. Therefore, commitment fees will generally be qualifying income for purposes of the income tests. Other fees, such as fees received for servicing loans for third parties and origination fees, are not qualifying income for purposes of either income test.

*Dividends.* Our share of any dividends received from any corporation (including any of our taxable REIT subsidiaries, but excluding any REIT) in which we own an equity interest will qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Our share of any dividends received from any other REIT in which we own an equity interest will be qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests.

*Rents from Real Property.* We do not intend to acquire any real property, but we may acquire real property or an interest therein in the future. To the extent that we acquire real property or an interest therein, rents we receive will qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the gross income requirements for a REIT described above only if the following conditions are met:

First, the amount of rent must not be based, in whole or in part, on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from rents from real property solely by reason of being based on fixed percentages of receipts or sales.

Second, rents we receive from a related party tenant will not qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the gross income tests unless the tenant is a taxable REIT subsidiary, at least 90% of the property is leased to unrelated tenants and the rent paid by the taxable REIT subsidiary is substantially comparable to the rent paid by the unrelated tenants for comparable space. A tenant is a related party tenant if the REIT, or an actual or constructive owner of 10% or more of the REIT, actually or constructively owns 10% or more of the tenant.

Third, if rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property is greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease, then the portion of rent attributable to the personal property will not qualify as rents from real property.

---

**Table of Contents**

Fourth, we generally must not operate or manage our real property or furnish or render services to our tenants, other than through an independent contractor who is adequately compensated and from whom we do not derive revenue. However, we may provide services directly to tenants if the services are usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not considered to be provided for the tenants' convenience. In addition, we may provide a minimal amount of non-customary services to the tenants of a property, other than through an independent contractor, as long as our income from the services does not exceed 1% of our income from the related property. Furthermore, we may own up to 100% of the stock of a taxable REIT subsidiary, which may provide customary and non-customary services to tenants without tainting its rental income from the related properties.

*Hedging Transactions.* From time to time, we may enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Our hedging activities may include entering into interest rate swaps, caps and floors, options to purchase these items and futures and forward contracts. Income and gain from hedging transactions will be excluded from gross income for purposes of the 95% gross income test and, for certain hedging transactions entered into after July 30, 2008, the 75% gross income test. A hedging transaction includes any transaction entered into in the normal course of our trade or business primarily to manage the risk of interest rate, price changes or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets. We will be required to clearly identify any such hedging transaction before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated or entered into. To the extent that we hedge for other purposes, or to the extent that a portion of our mortgage loans is not secured by real estate assets (as described below under *Asset Tests*), or in other situations, the income from those transactions is not likely to be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our status as a REIT.

*Prohibited Transactions.* As discussed above, a REIT will incur a 100% tax on the net income derived from any sale or other disposition of property other than foreclosure property that the REIT holds primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. We believe that none of our assets will be held primarily for sale to customers and that a sale of any of our assets will not be in the ordinary course of our business. Whether a REIT holds an asset primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business depends, however, on the facts and circumstances in effect from time to time, including those related to a particular asset. Nevertheless, we will attempt to comply with the terms of safe-harbor provisions in the federal income tax laws prescribing when an asset sale will not be characterized as a prohibited transaction.

Foreign currency gain or loss that is attributable to any prohibited transaction is taken into account in determining the amount of prohibited transaction net income subject to the 100% tax.

*Foreclosure Property.* We will be subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate on any income from foreclosure property other than income that otherwise would be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, less expenses directly connected with the production of that income. However, gross income from foreclosure property will qualify under the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Foreclosure property is any real property, including interests in real property, and any personal property incident to such real property:

that is acquired by a REIT as the result of the REIT having bid on such property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced such property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after there was a default or default was imminent on a lease of such property or on indebtedness that such property secured;

for which the related loan or lease was acquired by the REIT at a time when the default was not imminent or anticipated; and

for which the REIT makes a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property.

---

## **Table of Contents**

Permitted foreclosure property income also includes foreign currency gain that is attributable to otherwise permitted income from foreclosure property. Such foreign currency gain also is included as foreclosure property income for purposes of any tax on such income.

However, a REIT will not be considered to have foreclosed on a property where the REIT takes control of the property as a mortgagee-in-possession and cannot receive any profit or sustain any loss except as a creditor of the mortgagor. Property generally ceases to be foreclosure property at the end of the third taxable year following the taxable year in which the REIT acquired the property or longer if an extension is granted by the Secretary of the Treasury. This grace period terminates and foreclosure property ceases to be foreclosure property on the first day:

on which a lease is entered into for the property that, by its terms, will give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test or any amount is received or accrued, directly or indirectly, pursuant to a lease entered into on or after such day that will give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test;

on which any construction takes place on the property, other than completion of a building or any other improvement, where more than 10% of the construction was completed before default became imminent; or

which is more than 90 days after the day on which the REIT acquired the property and the property is used in a trade or business which is conducted by the REIT other than through an independent contractor from whom the REIT itself does not derive or receive any income.

*Failure to Satisfy Gross Income Tests.* If we fail to satisfy one or both of the gross income tests for any taxable year, we nevertheless may qualify as a REIT for that year if we qualify for relief under certain provisions of the federal income tax laws. Those relief provisions will be available if:

our failure to meet those tests is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, and

following such failure for any taxable year, a schedule of the sources of our income is filed in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

We cannot predict, however, whether in all circumstances we would qualify for the relief provisions. In addition, as discussed above, even if the relief provisions apply, we would incur a 100% tax on the gross income attributable to the greater of (i) the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test or (ii) the amount by which 95% of our gross income exceeds the amount of our income qualifying under the 95% gross income test, multiplied, in either case, by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

## **Foreign Investment and Exchange Gains**

A REIT must be a U.S. domestic entity, but it is permitted to hold foreign real estate or other foreign-based assets, provided the 75% and 95% income tests and other requirements for REIT qualification are met. A REIT that holds foreign real estate or other foreign-based assets may have foreign currency exchange gain under the foreign currency transaction tax rules. Foreign currency exchange gain was not explicitly included in the statutory definitions of qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% income tests until a statutory change, although the IRS issued guidance that allowed foreign currency gain to be treated as qualified income in certain circumstances.

For transactions occurring after July 30, 2008, the provision excludes certain foreign currency gain from the computation of qualifying income for purposes of the 75% income test or the 95% income test, respectively. The exclusion is solely for purposes of the computations under these tests.

The statutory change defines two new categories of income for purposes of the exclusion rules: real estate foreign exchange gain and passive foreign exchange gain. Real estate foreign exchange gain is excluded from



## **Table of Contents**

gross income for purposes of both the 75% and the 95% income tests. Passive foreign exchange gain is excluded for purposes of the 95% income test but is included in gross income and treated as non-qualifying income, to the extent that it is not real estate foreign exchange gain, for purposes of the 75% income test.

Real estate foreign exchange gain is foreign currency gain which is attributable to: (i) any item of income qualifying for the numerator for the 75% income test; (ii) the acquisition or ownership of obligations secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property; or (iii) becoming or being the obligor under obligations secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property. Real estate foreign exchange gain also includes certain foreign currency gains attributable to certain qualified business units of the REIT.

Passive foreign exchange gain includes all real estate foreign exchange and, in addition, includes foreign currency gain which is attributable to: (i) any item of income or gain included in the numerator for the 95% income test, (ii) acquisition or ownership of obligations other than described in the preceding paragraph; (iii) becoming the obligor under obligations other than described in the preceding paragraph; and (iv) any other foreign currency gain to be determined by the IRS.

Notwithstanding the foregoing rules, except in the case of certain income excluded under the hedging rules, foreign currency exchange gain derived from engaging in dealing, or substantial and regular trading, in certain securities shall constitute gross income that does not qualify under either the 75% or 95% income test.

## **Asset Tests**

To qualify as a REIT, we also must satisfy the following asset tests at the end of each quarter of each taxable year:

First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must consist of:

cash or cash items, including certain receivables;

government securities;

interests in real property, including leaseholds and options to acquire real property and leaseholds;

interests in mortgage loans secured by real property;

stock in other REITs;

investments in stock or debt instruments during the one-year period following our receipt of new capital that we raise through equity offerings or public offerings of debt with at least a five-year term; and

regular or residual interests in a REMIC. However, if less than 95% of the assets of a REMIC consist of assets that are qualifying real estate-related assets under the federal income tax laws, determined as if we held such assets, we will be treated as holding directly our proportionate share of the assets of such REMIC.

The term cash for purposes of the REIT asset qualification rules is defined to include foreign currency if the REIT or its qualified business unit uses such foreign currency as its functional currency, but only to the extent such foreign currency is held for use in the normal course of the activities of the REIT or the qualified business unit giving rise to income in the numerator for the 75% or 95% income tests, or directly related to acquiring or holding assets qualifying for the numerator in the 75% assets test, and is not held in connection with a trade or business of trading or dealing in certain securities.

Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

Second, not more than 25% of the value of our total assets may be represented by securities (other than those included in the preceding category).

**Table of Contents**

Third, not more than 25% of the value of our total assets may be represented by securities of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries.

Fourth, except with respect to a taxable REIT subsidiary and securities includible in the first category above, (a) not more than 5% of the value of our total assets may be represented by securities of any one issuer, (b) we may not hold securities possessing more than 10% of the total voting power of the outstanding securities of any one issuer and (c) we may not hold securities having a value of more than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer.

For purposes of the second and third asset tests, the term "securities" does not include stock in another REIT, equity or debt securities of a qualified REIT subsidiary or taxable REIT subsidiary, mortgage loans that constitute real estate assets, or equity interests in a partnership. For purposes of the 10% value test, the term "securities" does not include:

Straight debt securities, which is defined as a written unconditional promise to pay on demand or on a specified date a sum certain in money if (i) the debt is not convertible, directly or indirectly, into stock, and (ii) the interest rate and interest payment dates are not contingent on profits, the borrower's discretion, or similar factors. Straight debt securities do not include any securities issued by a partnership or a corporation in which we or any controlled taxable REIT subsidiary (i.e., a taxable REIT subsidiary in which we own directly or indirectly more than 50% of the voting power or value of the stock) hold non- straight debt securities that have aggregate value of more than 1% of the issuer's outstanding securities. However, straight debt securities include debt subject to the following contingencies:

a contingency relating to the time of payment of interest or principal, as long as either (i) there is no change to the effective yield of the debt obligation other than a change to the annual yield that does not exceed the greater of 0.25% or 5% of the annual yield, or (ii) neither the aggregate issue price nor the aggregate face amount of the issuer's debt obligations held by us exceeds \$1 million and no more than 12 months of unaccrued interest on the debt obligations can be required to be prepaid; and

a contingency relating to the time or amount of payment upon a default or prepayment of a debt obligation, as long as the contingency is consistent with customary commercial practice.

Any loan to an individual or an estate.

Any section 467 rental agreement other than an agreement with a related party tenant.

Any obligation to pay rents from real property.

Certain securities issued by governmental entities.

Any security issued by a REIT.

Any debt instrument of an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes to the extent of our interest as a partner in the partnership.



## Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

Any debt instrument of an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes not described in the preceding bullet points if at least 75% of the partnership's gross income, excluding income from prohibited transaction, is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test described above in Income Tests.

The asset tests described above are based on our gross assets. For federal income tax purposes, we will be treated as owning both the loans we hold directly and the loans that we have securitized through non-REMIC debt securitizations. Although we will have a partially offsetting obligation with respect to the securities issued pursuant to the securitizations, these offsetting obligations will not reduce the gross assets we are considered to own for purposes of the asset tests.

---

**Table of Contents**

We believe that all or substantially all of the mortgage loans and MBS that we will own will be qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test. For purposes of these rules, however, if the outstanding principal balance of a mortgage loan exceeds the fair market value of the real property securing the loan, a portion of such loan likely will not be a qualifying real estate asset under the federal income tax laws. Although the law on the matter is not entirely clear, it appears that the non-qualifying portion of that mortgage loan will be equal to the portion of the loan amount that exceeds the value of the associated real property that is security for that loan. To the extent that we own debt securities issued by other REITs or C corporations that are not secured by a mortgage on real property, those debt securities will not be qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test. Instead, we would be subject to the second, third and fourth asset tests with respect to those debt securities.

Revenue Procedure 2011-16 discusses the modification of a mortgage loan (or an interest therein) that is held by a REIT in which the modification was occasioned by either a default on the loan or a modification that satisfies both of the following conditions: (a) based on all the facts and circumstances, the REIT or servicer of the loan (the pre-modified loan ) reasonably believes that there is a significant risk of default of the pre-modified loan upon maturity of the loan or at an earlier date, and (b) based on all the facts and circumstances, the REIT or servicer reasonably believes that the modified loan presents a substantially reduced risk of default, as compared with the pre-modified loan. Revenue Procedure 2011-16 provides that a REIT may treat a modification of a mortgage loan described therein as not being a new commitment to make or purchase a loan for purposes of apportioning interest on that loan between interest with respect to real property or other interest. The modification will also not be treated as a prohibited transaction. Further, with respect to the REIT asset test, the IRS will not challenge the REIT's treatment of a loan as being in part a real estate asset if the REIT treats the loan as being a real estate asset in an amount equal to the lesser of (a) the value of the loan as determined under Treasury Regulations Section 1.856-3(a), or (b) the loan value of the real property securing the loan as determined under Treasury Regulations Section 1.856-5(c) and Revenue Procedure 2011-16.

We will monitor the status of our assets for purposes of the various asset tests and will seek to manage our investment portfolio to comply at all times with such tests. There can be no assurance, however, that we will be successful in this effort. In this regard, to determine our compliance with these requirements, we will need to estimate the value of the real estate securing our mortgage loans at various times. Although we will seek to be prudent in making these estimates, there can be no assurances that the IRS might not disagree with these determinations and assert that a lower value is applicable. If we fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter, we will not lose our REIT status if:

we satisfied the asset tests at the end of the preceding calendar quarter; and

the discrepancy between the value of our assets and the asset test requirements arose from changes in the market values of our assets and was not wholly or partly caused by the acquisition of one or more non-qualifying assets, or solely by a change in the foreign currency exchange rate used to value a foreign asset.

If we did not satisfy the condition described in the second item, above, we still could avoid disqualification by eliminating any discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which it arose.

In the event that, at the end of any calendar quarter, we violate the second or third asset tests described above, we will not lose our REIT status if (i) the failure is de minimis (up to the lesser of 1% of our assets or \$10 million) and (ii) we dispose of assets or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identify such failure. In the event of a more than de minimis failure of any of the asset tests, as long as the failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, we will not lose our REIT status if (i) we dispose of assets or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identify such failure and (ii) pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50 thousand or 35% of the net income from the non-qualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy the asset tests.

We currently believe that the securities and other assets that we expect to hold will satisfy the foregoing asset test requirements. However, no independent appraisals will be obtained to support our conclusions as to the

## **Table of Contents**

value of our assets and securities, or in many cases, the real estate collateral for the mortgage loans that we hold. Moreover, the values of some assets may not be susceptible to a precise determination. As a result, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not contend that our ownership of securities and other assets violates one or more of the asset tests applicable to REITs.

### **Annual Distribution Requirements**

Each taxable year, we must distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends and deemed distributions of retained capital gain, to our stockholders in an aggregate amount at least equal to:

the sum of:

90% of our REIT taxable income, computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gain or loss, and

90% of our after-tax net income, if any, from foreclosure property, minus

the sum of certain items of excess non-cash income.

We must pay such distributions in the taxable year to which they relate or in the following taxable year if we declare the distribution before we timely file our federal income tax return for the year and pay the distribution on or before the first regular dividend payment date after such declaration. In addition, dividends declared in October, November or December payable to stockholders of record in such month are deemed received by stockholders on December 31 and to have been paid on December 31 if actually paid in January of the following year. See below under Distributions Generally.

We will pay the federal income tax on taxable income, including net capital gain, which we do not distribute to stockholders. Furthermore, if we fail to distribute during a calendar year, or by the end of January following the calendar year in the case of distributions with declaration and record dates falling in the last three months of the calendar year, at least the sum of:

85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year,

95% of our REIT capital gain income for such year, and

any undistributed taxable income from prior periods,

we will incur a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts we actually distribute. We may elect to retain and pay income tax on the net long-term capital gain we receive in a taxable year. See Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders. If we so elect, we will be treated as having distributed any such retained amount for purposes of the 4% nondeductible excise tax described above. We intend to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirements and to avoid corporate income tax and the 4% nondeductible excise tax.

It is possible that, from time to time, we may experience timing differences between the actual receipt of income and actual payment of deductible expenses and the inclusion of that income and deduction of such expenses in arriving at our REIT taxable income. Possible examples of those timing differences include the following:

## Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

Because we may deduct capital losses only to the extent of our capital gains, we may have taxable income that exceeds our economic income.

We will recognize taxable income in advance of the related cash flow if any of our mortgage loans or MBS are deemed to have original issue discount. We generally must accrue original issue discount based on a constant yield method that takes into account projected prepayments but that defers taking into account credit losses until they are actually incurred.

## **Table of Contents**

We may recognize taxable market discount income when we receive the proceeds from the disposition of, or principal payments on, loans that have a stated redemption price at maturity that is greater than our tax basis in those loans, although such proceeds often will be used to make non-deductible principal payments on related borrowings.

We may recognize taxable income without receiving a corresponding cash distribution if we foreclose on or make a significant modification to a loan to the extent that the fair market value of the underlying property or the principal amount of the modified loan, as applicable, exceeds our basis in the original loan.

We may recognize phantom taxable income from any residual interests in REMICs or retained ownership interests in mortgage loans subject to collateralized mortgage obligation debt.

Although several types of non-cash income are excluded in determining the annual distribution requirement, we will incur corporate income tax and the 4% nondeductible excise tax with respect to those non-cash income items if we do not distribute those items on a current basis. As a result of the foregoing, we may have less cash than is necessary to distribute all of our taxable income and thereby avoid corporate income tax and the excise tax imposed on certain undistributed income. In such a situation, we may need to borrow funds or issue additional common stock or preferred stock.

Under certain circumstances, we may be able to correct a failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying deficiency dividends to our stockholders in a later year. We may include such deficiency dividends in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Although we may be able to avoid income tax on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends, we will be required to pay interest to the IRS based upon the amount of any deduction we take for deficiency dividends.

The IRS has provided temporary assistance to REITs that wish to preserve cash, but that also must meet their minimum distribution requirements. Under certain circumstances, the distribution requirements can be met through a distribution of the REIT's own stock. The conditions for this assistance were announced by the IRS initially in Revenue Procedure 2008-68, which was superseded by Revenue Procedure 2009-15. The applicable guidelines are currently in Revenue Procedure 2010-12, which apply to distributions declared on or before December 31, 2012 with respect to a tax year ending on or before December 31, 2011. We have not declared such a distribution and do not anticipate doing so.

## **Recordkeeping Requirements**

We must maintain certain records in order to qualify as a REIT. In addition, to avoid a monetary penalty, we must request, on an annual basis, information from our stockholders designed to disclose the actual ownership of our outstanding stock. We intend to comply with these requirements.

## **Failure to Qualify**

If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification, other than the gross income tests and the asset tests, we could avoid disqualification if our failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect and we pay a penalty of \$50 thousand for each such failure. In addition, there are relief provisions for a failure of the gross income tests and asset tests as described in *Income Tests* and *Asset Tests*.

If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year and no relief provision applies, we would be subject to federal income tax and any applicable alternative minimum tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. In calculating our taxable income in a year in which we fail to qualify as a REIT, we would not be able to deduct amounts paid out to stockholders. In fact, we would not be required to distribute any amounts to stockholders in that year. In such event, to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to stockholders would be taxable as ordinary income. Subject to certain limitations of the federal income tax laws, corporate stockholders might be eligible for the dividends received deduction and domestic non-corporate

---

## **Table of Contents**

stockholders may be eligible for the reduced federal income tax rate of 15% on qualified dividends. Unless we qualified for relief under specific statutory provisions, we also would be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we ceased to qualify as a REIT. We cannot predict whether, in all circumstances, we would qualify for such statutory relief.

### **Qualified REIT Subsidiaries**

A qualified REIT subsidiary is any corporation in which we own 100% of such corporation's outstanding stock and for which no election has been made to classify it as a taxable REIT subsidiary. As such, their assets, liabilities and income would generally be treated as our assets, liabilities and income for purposes of each of the above REIT qualification tests. We currently have no qualified REIT subsidiaries.

### **Taxable REIT Subsidiaries**

A taxable REIT subsidiary is any corporation in which we own stock (directly or indirectly) and which we and such corporation elect to classify as a taxable REIT subsidiary. A taxable REIT subsidiary is not subject to the REIT asset, income and distribution requirements, nor are its assets, liabilities or income treated as our assets, liabilities or income for purposes of each of the above REIT qualification tests. We currently have no taxable REIT subsidiaries. We generally intend to make a taxable REIT subsidiary election with respect to any other corporation in which we acquire securities constituting more than 10% by vote or value of such corporation and that is not a qualified REIT subsidiary. However, the aggregate value of all of our taxable REIT subsidiaries must be limited to 25% of the total value of our assets.

We will be subject to a 100% penalty tax on any rent, interest or other charges that we impose on any taxable REIT subsidiary in excess of an arm's length price for comparable services. We expect that any rents, interest or other charges imposed on any taxable REIT subsidiary will be at arm's length prices.

We generally expect to derive income from our taxable REIT subsidiaries by way of dividends in the event that we establish any taxable REIT subsidiaries. Such dividends are not real estate source income for purposes of the 75% income test, although they are included for purposes of the 95% test. Therefore, when aggregated with our non-real estate source income, such dividends must be limited to 25% of our gross income each year. We will monitor the value of our investment in, and the distributions from, our taxable REIT subsidiaries to ensure compliance with all applicable REIT income and asset tests in the event that we establish any taxable REIT subsidiaries.

Taxable REIT subsidiaries are generally subject to corporate level tax on their net income and will generally be able to distribute only net after-tax earnings to its stockholders, including us, as dividend distributions. Our dividends sourced from dividends received from taxable REIT subsidiaries (if any) can qualify for the 15% tax rate on qualified dividends.

### **Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders**

For purposes of the discussion in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the term "U.S. stockholder" means a holder of our stock that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

a citizen or resident of the U.S.;

a corporation (including an entity treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes), partnership or other entity created or organized in or under the laws of the U.S. or of any state thereof or in the District of Columbia, unless Treasury regulations provide otherwise;

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust (i) whose administration is subject to the primary supervision of a U.S. court and which has one or more U.S. persons who have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (ii) that has a valid election in place to be treated as a U.S. person.



## **Table of Contents**

### *Distributions Generally*

Distributions out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, other than capital gain dividends, will generally be taxable to U.S. stockholders as ordinary income. Provided that we continue to qualify as a REIT, dividends paid by us will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction generally available to U.S. stockholders that are corporations. To the extent that we make distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distributions will be treated as a tax-free return of capital to each U.S. stockholder and will reduce the adjusted tax basis which each U.S. stockholder has in our stock by the amount of the distribution, but not below zero. Distributions in excess of a U.S. stockholder's adjusted tax basis in its stock will be taxable as capital gain and will be taxable as long-term capital gain if the stock has been held for more than one year. If we declare a dividend in October, November, or December of any calendar year which is payable to stockholders of record on a specified date in such a month and actually pay the dividend during January of the following calendar year, the dividend is deemed to be paid by us and received by the stockholder on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year, but only to the extent we have any remaining undistributed earnings and profits (as computed under the Code) as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. Any portion of this distribution in excess of our previously undistributed earnings and profits as of December 31<sup>st</sup> should be treated as a distribution to our stockholders in the following calendar year for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Stockholders may not include in their own income tax returns any of our net operating losses or capital losses. Ordinary dividends to a U.S. stockholder generally will not qualify for the 15% tax rate for qualified dividend income. However, the 15% tax rate for qualified dividend income will apply to our ordinary REIT dividends (i) attributable to dividends received by us from non-REIT corporations such as a taxable REIT subsidiary, and (ii) any income on which we have paid a corporate income tax.

### *Cost Basis Reporting*

New federal income tax information reporting rules may apply to certain transactions in our shares acquired through the Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan. Where such rules apply, the cost basis calculated for the shares involved will be reported to the IRS and to you. Generally these rules apply to all shares purchased after December 31, 2010 including those purchased through the Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan. For cost basis reporting purposes, you may identify by lot the shares that you transfer or that are redeemed, but if you do not timely notify us of your election, we will identify the shares that are transferred or redeemed on a first in/first out basis. The shares in the Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan are also eligible for the average cost basis method, should you so elect.

Information reporting (transfer statements) on other transactions may also be required under these new rules. Generally, these reports are made for certain transactions other than purchases in shares acquired before January 1, 2011. Transfer statements are issued between brokers and are not issued to the IRS or to you.

Stockholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the consequences to of these new rules.

### *Capital Gain Distributions*

Distributions designated by us as capital gain dividends will be taxable to U.S. stockholders as capital gain income. We can designate distributions as capital gain dividends to the extent of our net capital gain for the taxable year of the distribution. This capital gain income will generally be taxable to non-corporate U.S. stockholders at a 15% or 25% rate based on the characteristics of the asset we sold that produced the gain. U.S. stockholders that are corporations may be required to treat up to 20% of certain capital gain dividends as ordinary income.



---

**Table of Contents**

*Retention of Net Capital Gains*

We may elect to retain, rather than distribute as a capital gain dividend, our net capital gains. If we were to make this election, we would pay tax on such retained capital gains. In such a case, our stockholders would generally:

include their proportionate share of our undistributed net capital gains in their taxable income;

receive a credit for their proportionate share of the tax paid by us in respect of such net capital gain; and

increase the adjusted basis of their stock by the difference between the amount of their share of our undistributed net capital gain and their share of the tax paid by us.

*Passive Activity Losses, Investment Interest Limitations and Other Considerations of Holding Our Stock*

Distributions we make and gains arising from the sale or exchange of our stock by a U.S. stockholder will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, U.S. stockholders will not be able to apply any passive losses against income or gains relating to our stock. Distributions by us, to the extent they do not constitute a return of capital, generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation under the Code. Further, if we, or a portion of our assets, were to be treated as a taxable mortgage pool, any excess inclusion income that is allocated to you could not be offset by any losses or other deductions you may have.

*Dispositions of Stock*

A U.S. stockholder that sells or disposes of our stock will recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash or the fair market value of any property the stockholder receives on the sale or other disposition and the stockholder's adjusted tax basis in the stock. This gain or loss will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the stockholder has held the stock for more than one year. In general, any loss recognized by a U.S. stockholder upon the sale or other disposition of our stock that the stockholder has held for six months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent the stockholder received distributions from us which were required to be treated as long-term capital gains. All or a portion of any loss that a U.S. stockholder realizes upon a taxable disposition of our common stock may be disallowed if the stockholder purchases other stock within 30 days before or after the disposition.

*Information Reporting and Backup Withholding*

We report to our U.S. stockholders and the IRS the amount of dividends paid during each calendar year and the amount of any tax withheld. Under the backup withholding rules, a stockholder may be subject to backup withholding with respect to dividends paid and redemption proceeds unless the holder is a corporation or comes within other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact or provides a taxpayer identification number or social security number certifying as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding and otherwise complies with applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. A U.S. stockholder that does not provide us with its correct taxpayer identification number or social security number may also be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS. A U.S. stockholder can meet this requirement by providing us with a correct, properly completed and executed copy of IRS Form W-9 or a substantially similar form. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amount paid as backup withholding will be creditable against the stockholder's income tax liability, if any, and otherwise be refundable. In addition, we may be required to withhold a portion of capital gain distributions made to any stockholders who fail to certify their non-foreign status.

---

## Table of Contents

### **Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders**

The IRS has ruled that amounts distributed as a dividend by a REIT will be treated as a dividend by the recipient and excluded from the calculation of unrelated business taxable income, or UBTI, when received by a tax-exempt entity. Based on that ruling, provided that a tax-exempt stockholder has not held our stock as debt financed property within the meaning of the Code, i.e., property, the acquisition, or holding of which is financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt U.S. stockholder, the stock is not otherwise used in an unrelated trade or business, and we do not hold a residual interest in a REMIC that gives rise to excess inclusion income, as defined in Section 860E of the Code, dividend income on our stock and income from the sale of our stock should not be unrelated business taxable income to a tax-exempt stockholder. However, if we or a pool of our assets were to be treated as a taxable mortgage pool, a portion of the dividends paid to a tax-exempt stockholder may be subject to tax as unrelated business taxable income. Although we do not believe that we, or any portion of our assets, will be treated as a taxable mortgage pool, no assurance can be given that the IRS might not successfully maintain that such a taxable mortgage pool exists.

For tax-exempt stockholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Code, respectively, income from an investment in our stock will constitute unrelated business taxable income unless the organization is able to properly claim a deduction for amounts set aside or placed in reserve for certain purposes so as to offset the income generated by its investment in our stock. Any prospective and current investors should consult their tax advisors concerning these set aside and reserve requirements.

Notwithstanding the above, however, a substantial portion of the dividends a tax-exempt stockholder receives may constitute UBTI if we are treated as a pension-held REIT and the stockholder is a pension trust which:

is described in Section 401(a) of the Code; and

holds more than 10%, by value, of the interests in the REIT.

Tax-exempt pension funds that are described in Section 401(a) of the Code and exempt from tax under Section 501(a) of the Code are referred to below as qualified trusts.

A REIT is a pension-held REIT if:

it would not have qualified as a REIT but for the fact that Section 856(h)(3) of the Code provides that stock owned by a qualified trust shall be treated, for purposes of the 5/50 Rule, described above, as owned by the beneficiaries of the trust, rather than by the trust itself; and

either at least one qualified trust holds more than 25%, by value, of the interests in the REIT, or one or more qualified trusts, each of which owns more than 10%, by value, of the interests in the REIT, holds in the aggregate more than 50%, by value, of the interests in the REIT.

The percentage of any REIT dividend treated as unrelated business taxable income is equal to the ratio of:

the unrelated business taxable income earned by the REIT, less directly related expenses, treating the REIT as if it were a qualified trust and therefore subject to tax on unrelated business taxable income, to

the total gross income, less directly related expenses, of the REIT.

A de minimis exception applies where the percentage is less than 5% for any year. As a result of the limitations on the transfer and ownership of stock contained in our charter, we do not expect to be classified as a pension-held REIT.



---

**Table of Contents**

**Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders**

The rules governing federal income taxation of non-U.S. stockholders are complex and no attempt will be made herein to provide more than a summary of these rules. Non-U.S. stockholders means beneficial owners of shares of our stock that are not U.S. stockholders (as such term is defined in the discussion above under the heading entitled "Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders").

**PROSPECTIVE AND CURRENT NON-U.S. STOCKHOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISORS TO DETERMINE THE IMPACT OF FOREIGN, FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL INCOME TAX LAWS WITH REGARD TO AN INVESTMENT IN OUR STOCK AND OF OUR ELECTION TO BE TAXED AS A REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INCLUDING ANY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

Distributions to non-U.S. stockholders that are not attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of U.S. real property interests, and that are not designated by us as capital gain dividends or retained capital gains, will be treated as dividends of ordinary income to the extent that they are made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. These distributions will generally be subject to a withholding tax equal to 30% of the distribution unless an applicable tax treaty reduces or eliminates that tax. However, if income from an investment in our stock is treated as effectively connected with the non-U.S. stockholder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. stockholder generally will be subject to federal income tax at graduated rates on a net basis in the same manner as U.S. stockholders are taxed with respect to those distributions and also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a non-U.S. stockholder that is a corporation. We expect to withhold tax at the rate of 30% on the gross amount of any distributions made to a non-U.S. stockholder unless:

a lower treaty rate applies and any required form, for example IRS Form W-8BEN, evidencing eligibility for that reduced rate is filed by the non-U.S. stockholder with us; or

the non-U.S. stockholder files an IRS Form W-8ECI with us claiming that the distribution is effectively connected income. Any portion of the dividends paid to non-U.S. stockholders that is treated as excess inclusion income will not be eligible for exemption from the 30% withholding tax or a reduced treaty rate.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to non-U.S. stockholders to the extent that these distributions do not exceed the adjusted basis of the stockholder's stock, but rather will reduce the adjusted basis of that stock. To the extent that distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits exceed the adjusted basis of a non-U.S. stockholder's stock, these distributions will give rise to tax liability if the non-U.S. stockholder would otherwise be subject to tax on any gain from the sale or disposition of its stock, as described below. Because it generally cannot be determined at the time a distribution is made whether or not such distribution may be in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, the entire amount of any distribution normally will be subject to withholding at the same rate as a dividend. However, amounts so withheld are creditable against U.S. tax liability, if any, or refundable by the IRS to the extent the distribution is subsequently determined to be in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. We are also required to withhold 10% of any distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits if our stock is a U.S. real property interest and if we are not a domestically controlled REIT, as discussed below. Consequently, although we intend to withhold at a rate of 30% on the entire amount of any distribution, to the extent that we do not do so, any portion of a distribution not subject to withholding at a rate of 30% may be subject to withholding at a rate of 10%.

Distributions attributable to our capital gains which are not attributable to gain from the sale or exchange of a U.S. real property interest generally will not be subject to income taxation unless (1) investment in our stock is effectively connected with the non-U.S. stockholder's U.S. trade or business (or, if an income tax treaty applies, is attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment of the non-U.S. stockholder), in which case the non-U.S.

---

**Table of Contents**

stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. stockholders with respect to such gain (except that a corporate non-U.S. stockholder may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax), or (2) the non-U.S. stockholder is a non-resident alien individual who is present in the U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year and certain other conditions are satisfied, in which case the non-resident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gains.

For any year in which we qualify as a REIT, distributions that are attributable to gain from the sale or exchange of a U.S. real property interest, which includes some interests in real property, but generally does not include an interest solely as a creditor in mortgage loans or MBS, will be taxed to a non-U.S. stockholder under the provisions of the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980, or FIRPTA. Under FIRPTA, distributions attributable to gain from sales of U.S. real property interests are taxed to a non-U.S. stockholder as if that gain were effectively connected with the stockholder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business. Non-U.S. stockholders thus would be taxed at the normal capital gain rates applicable to stockholders, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals. Distributions subject to FIRPTA also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a non-U.S. corporate stockholder. We are required to withhold 35% of any distribution that we designate (or, if greater, the amount that we could designate) as a capital gains dividend. The amount withheld is creditable against the non-U.S. stockholder's FIRPTA tax liability.

A capital gain distribution from a REIT to a foreign investor has been removed from the category of effectively connected income, provided that (i) the distribution is received with respect to a class of stock that is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the U.S. (our stock currently is so traded) and (ii) the foreign investor does not own more than 5% of the class of stock at any time during the taxable year within which the distribution is received. In that case, the foreign investor is not required to file a U.S. federal income tax return by reason of receiving such a distribution. The distribution is to be treated as a REIT dividend to that investor, taxed as a REIT dividend that is not a capital gain. Also, the branch profits tax does not apply to such a distribution.

Gains recognized by a non-U.S. stockholder upon a sale of our stock generally will not be taxed under FIRPTA if we are a domestically-controlled REIT, which is a REIT in which at all times during a specified testing period less than 50% in value of the stock was held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. stockholders. Because our stock is publicly traded, we cannot assure our investors that we are or will remain a domestically-controlled REIT. Even if we are not a domestically-controlled REIT, however, a non-U.S. stockholder that owns, actually or constructively, 5% or less of our stock throughout a specified testing period will not recognize taxable gain on the sale of our stock under FIRPTA if the shares are traded on an established securities market.

If gain from the sale of the stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. stockholder would be subject to the same treatment as U.S. stockholders with respect to that gain, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax, a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals, and the possible application of the 30% branch profits tax in the case of non-U.S. corporations. In addition, the purchaser of the stock could be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit such amount to the IRS.

Gains not subject to FIRPTA will be taxable to a non-U.S. stockholder if:

the non-U.S. stockholder's investment in the stock is effectively connected with a trade or business in the U.S., in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. stockholders with respect to that gain; or

the non-U.S. stockholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year and other conditions are met, in which case the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gains.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### *Information Reporting and Backup Withholding*

If the proceeds of a disposition of our stock are paid by or through a U.S. office of a broker-dealer, the payment is generally subject to information reporting and to backup withholding (currently at a rate of 28%) unless the disposing non-U.S. stockholder certifies as to his name, address and non-U.S. status or otherwise establishes an exemption. Generally, U.S. information reporting and backup withholding will not apply to a payment of disposition proceeds if the payment is made outside the U.S. through a foreign office of a foreign broker-dealer. If the proceeds from a disposition of our stock are paid to or through a foreign office of a U.S. broker-dealer or a non-U.S. office of a foreign broker-dealer that is (i) a controlled foreign corporation for federal income tax purposes, (ii) a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income from all sources for a three-year period was effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, (iii) a foreign partnership with one or more partners who are U.S. persons and who in the aggregate hold more than 50% of the income or capital interest in the partnership, or (iv) a foreign partnership engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in the U.S., then (i) backup withholding will not apply unless the broker-dealer has actual knowledge that the owner is not a foreign stockholder, and (ii) information reporting will not apply if the non-U.S. stockholder satisfies certification requirements regarding its status as a foreign stockholder.

### **State, Local and Foreign Taxation**

We may be required to pay state, local and foreign taxes in various state, local and foreign jurisdictions, including those in which we transact business or make investments, and our stockholders may be required to pay state, local and foreign taxes in various state, local and foreign jurisdictions, including those in which they reside. Our state, local and foreign tax treatment may not conform to the federal income tax consequences summarized above. In addition, a stockholder's state, local and foreign tax treatment may not conform to the federal income tax consequences summarized above. Consequently, prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect of state, local and foreign tax laws on an investment in our stock.

### **Possible Legislative or Other Actions Affecting Tax Considerations**

Prospective investors and stockholders should recognize that the present U.S. federal income tax treatment of an investment in our stock may be modified by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time and that any such action may affect investments and commitments previously made. The rules dealing with U.S. federal income taxation are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department, resulting in revisions of regulations and revised interpretations of established concepts as well as statutory changes. Revisions in U.S. federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in our stock.

### **Item 1A. RISK FACTORS**

*Our business routinely encounters and attempts to address risks, some of which will cause our future results to differ, sometimes materially, from those originally anticipated. Below, we have described our present view of the most significant risks facing the Company. The risk factors set forth below are not the only risks that we may face or that could adversely affect us. If any of the circumstances described in the risk factors discussed in this Annual Report on Form 10-K actually occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. If this were to occur, the trading price of our securities could decline significantly and shareholders may lose all or part of their investment.*

*The following discussion of risk factors contains forward-looking statements, which may be important to understanding any statement in this Annual Report on Form 10-K or in our other filings and public disclosures. In particular, the following information should be read in conjunction with Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (MD&A) and Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.*

---

**Table of Contents**

**Risks Related to Our Business**

*Continued adverse developments in the global capital markets, including recent defaults, credit losses and liquidity concerns, as well as recent mergers, acquisitions and bankruptcies of potential repurchase agreement counterparties, could make it difficult for us to borrow money to acquire Agency MBS on a leveraged basis, on favorable terms or at all, which could adversely affect our profitability.*

We rely on the availability of financing to acquire Agency MBS on a leveraged basis. Institutions from which we obtain financing may have owned or financed MBS and other assets, which have declined in value and caused them to suffer losses as a result of the downturn in the residential mortgage market. As these conditions persist, institutions may be forced to exit the repurchase market, become insolvent or further tighten their lending standards or increase the amount of equity capital or haircut required to obtain financing and, in such event, could make it more difficult for us to obtain financing on favorable terms or at all.

During the past few years, there have been several proposed or completed mergers, acquisitions and bankruptcies of investment banks and commercial banks that have historically acted as repurchase agreement counterparties. This has resulted in a fewer number of potential repurchase agreement counterparties operating in the market. Fewer potential counterparties may reduce our ability to diversify and thereby attempt to minimize risk of counterparty default. In addition, many commercial banks, investment banks and insurance companies have announced extensive losses from exposure to the residential mortgage market. These losses have reduced financial industry capital, leading to reduced liquidity for some institutions, which could also make it more difficult for us to obtain financing on favorable terms or at all. Our profitability may be adversely affected if we are unable to obtain cost-effective financing for our investments.

*Failure to procure funding on favorable terms, or at all, would adversely affect our results and may, in turn, negatively affect the market price of shares of our common stock, Series A Preferred Stock or Series B Preferred Stock.*

The current weakness in the mortgage market could cause one or more of our lenders to be unwilling or unable to provide us with financing. This could potentially increase our financing costs and reduce liquidity. Furthermore, if many of our lenders are unwilling or unable to provide us with additional financing, we could be forced to sell our assets at an inopportune time when prices are depressed. If one or more major market participants fails, it could negatively impact the marketability of all fixed income securities, including Agency MBS, and this could negatively impact the value of the securities in our portfolio, thus reducing our net book value.

*If we are unable to negotiate favorable terms and conditions on future repurchase arrangements with one or more of our lenders, our financial condition and earnings could be negatively impacted.*

The terms and conditions of each repurchase arrangement with our lenders are negotiated on a transaction-by-transaction basis. Key terms and conditions of each transaction include interest rates, maturity dates, asset pricing procedures and margin requirements. We cannot assure you that we will be able to continue to negotiate favorable terms and conditions on our future repurchase arrangements.

Also, during periods of market illiquidity or due to perceived credit quality deterioration of the collateral pledged, a lender may require that less favorable asset pricing procedures be employed or the margin requirements be increased. Possible market developments, including a sharp rise in interest rates, a change in prepayment rates or increasing market concern about the value or liquidity of agency MBS, may reduce the market value of our portfolio, which may cause our lenders to require additional collateral. Under these conditions, we may determine it is prudent to sell assets to improve our ability to pledge sufficient collateral to support our remaining borrowings. Such sales may be at disadvantageous times, which may harm our operating results and net profitability.

## **Table of Contents**

***Continued adverse developments in the residential mortgage market may adversely affect the value of the Agency MBS in which we intend to invest.***

During the past several years, the residential mortgage market in the U.S. has experienced a variety of difficulties and changing economic conditions including recent defaults, credit losses and liquidity concerns. News of actual and potential security liquidations has increased the volatility of many financial assets including agency MBS. As a result, values for MBS assets, including some agency MBS, have been negatively impacted. Further increased volatility and deterioration in the broader residential mortgage and MBS markets may adversely affect the performance and market value of the Agency MBS in which we invest.

Our investments serve as collateral for our financings. Any decline in their value, or perceived market uncertainty about their value, would likely make it difficult for us to obtain financing on favorable terms or at all, or maintain our compliance with terms of any financing arrangements already in place. If market conditions result in a decline in the value of our Agency MBS, our financial position and results of operations could be adversely affected.

***New laws may be passed affecting the relationship between Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, on the one hand, and the federal government, on the other, which could adversely affect the price of agency MBS.***

The interest and principal payments we expect to receive on the Agency MBS in which we invest will be guaranteed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae. Unlike the Ginnie Mae certificates in which we invest, the principal and interest on securities issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are not guaranteed by the U.S. government. All the Agency MBS in which we invest depend on a steady stream of payments on the mortgages underlying the securities.

Since September 2008, there have been increased market concerns about Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's ability to withstand future credit losses associated with securities held in their investment portfolios, and on which they provide guarantees, without the direct support of the federal government. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were placed into the conservatorship of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, or FHFA, their federal regulator, pursuant to its powers under The Federal Housing Finance Regulatory Reform Act of 2008, a part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

In addition to FHFA becoming the conservator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has taken various actions intended to provide Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac with additional liquidity and ensure their financial stability. The U.S. Treasury can hold its portfolio of Agency MBS to maturity and, based on mortgage market conditions, may make adjustments to the portfolio. This flexibility may adversely affect the pricing and availability for our target assets. It is also possible that if and when the U.S. Treasury commits to purchase Agency MBS in the future, it could create additional demand that would increase the pricing of Agency MBS that we seek to acquire.

Shortly after Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were placed in federal conservatorship, the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury suggested that the guarantee payment structure of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac should be re-examined. The future roles of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could be significantly reduced and the nature of their guarantees could be eliminated or considerably limited relative to historical measurements. The U.S. Treasury could also stop providing credit support to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the future. Any changes to the nature of the guarantees provided by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could redefine what constitutes an Agency MBS and could have broad adverse market implications. In addition, if Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac were eliminated, or their structures were to change radically, we would not be able to acquire Agency MBS from these companies, which would eliminate the major component of our business model.

Our income could be negatively affected in a number of ways depending on the manner in which related events unfold. For example, the current credit support provided by the U.S. Treasury to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and any additional credit support it may provide in the future, could have the effect of lowering the interest



## **Table of Contents**

rate we expect to receive from Agency MBS that we seek to acquire, thereby tightening the spread between the interest we earn on our portfolio of targeted assets and our cost of financing that portfolio. A reduction in the supply of Agency MBS could also negatively affect the pricing of Agency MBS we seek to acquire by reducing the spread between the interest we earn on our portfolio of targeted assets and our cost of financing that portfolio.

Any law affecting these government-sponsored enterprises may create market uncertainty and have the effect of reducing the actual or perceived credit quality of securities issued or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. As a result, such laws could increase the risk of loss on investments in Fannie Mae and/or Freddie Mac Agency MBS. It also is possible that such laws could adversely impact the market for such securities and spreads at which they trade. All of the foregoing could materially adversely affect our business, operations and financial condition.

***Certain actions taken or that may be taken in the future by the U.S. government to address the financial crisis could negatively affect the availability of financing, the quantity and quality of available products, cause changes in interest rates and the yield curve, any and each of which could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.***

The U.S. government, including the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Department of Treasury and other governmental and regulatory bodies have taken and are considering taking actions to address the financial crisis. During 2011, the Federal Reserve increased its holdings of U.S. Treasury securities and now owns more than \$1 trillion of such securities. In September 2011, the Open Market Committee of the Federal Reserve announced the launching of Operation Twist, in which the Federal Reserve would be buying approximately \$400 billion of longer-term treasury securities financed by the sale of an equal amount of the Federal Reserve's shorter-term treasury securities. These acquisitions are to occur through June 2012. In the future, the Federal Reserve may continue these actions or may take other similar actions. We cannot predict whether or when such other actions may occur or what impact, if any, such actions could have on our business, results of operations and financial condition. While such programs are intended to spur economic activity, there are no assurances that this will occur. In fact, these actions could negatively affect the availability of financing, the quantity and quality of available products, cause changes in interest rates and the yield curve, any and each of which could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, as well as those of the entire mortgage sector in general.

***A failure by the U.S. government to meet the conditions of the August 2011 debt ceiling agreement or to reduce its budget deficit or a further downgrade of U.S. sovereign debt and government-sponsored agency debt could have a material adverse impact on our borrowings and the valuations of our securities and may have a material adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations.***

As widely reported, there continues to be concerns over the ability of the U.S. government to reduce its budget deficit and resolve its debt crisis. The U.S. sovereign debt and government-sponsored agency debt were downgraded from AAA to AA+ in August 2011 and continues to be on review for a downgrade of their respective credit ratings to account for the risk that U.S. lawmakers fail to meet the conditions of the August 2011 debt ceiling agreement and/or reduce its overall debt. Such failures could have a material adverse effect both on the U.S. economy and on the global economy. In particular, this could cause disruption in the capital markets and impact the stability of future U.S. treasury auctions and the trading market for U.S. government securities, resulting in increased interest rates and impaired access to credit. These factors could negatively impact our borrowing costs, our liquidity and the valuation of the securities we currently own in our portfolio, which could have a material adverse impact on our financial condition and our results of operations.

***Mortgage loan modification programs and future legislative action may adversely affect the value of, and the returns on, the Agency MBS in which we invest.***

The U.S. government, through the Federal Housing Authority and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, has commenced implementation of programs designed to provide homeowners with assistance in avoiding residential mortgage loan foreclosures. The programs may involve, among other things, the

## **Table of Contents**

modification of mortgage loans to reduce the principal amount of the loans or the rate of interest payable on the loans, or extending the payment terms of the loans. In addition, members of the U.S. Congress have indicated support for additional legislative relief for homeowners. These loan modification programs, as well as future legislative or regulatory actions that result in the modification of outstanding mortgage loans, may adversely affect the value of, and the returns on, the Agency MBS in which we invest.

*We are subject to the risk that the global credit crisis, despite efforts by global governments to halt that crisis, may affect interest rates and the availability of financing in general, which could adversely affect our financing and our operating results.*

During the past several years, several large European banks experienced financial difficulty and were either rescued by government assistance or by other large European banks. Several European governments have coordinated plans to attempt to shore up their financial sectors through loans, credit guarantees, capital infusions, promises of continued liquidity funding and interest rate cuts. Additionally, other governments of the world's largest economic countries also implemented interest rate cuts. There is no assurance that these and other plans and programs will be successful in halting the global credit crisis or in preventing other banks from failing. If unsuccessful, this could adversely affect our financing and operations as well as those of the entire mortgage sector in general.

As the European credit crisis continues, with the bailout of Greece, and problems in other countries such as Italy and Spain, there is a growing risk to the financial condition and stability of major European banks. Many of these banks have U.S. banking subsidiaries, which have provided financing to us, particularly repurchase agreement financing for the acquisition of various investments, including MBS investments. During 2011, the U.S. government placed many of the U.S. banking subsidiaries of these major European banks on credit watch. If the European credit crisis continues to impact these major European banks, there is the possibility that it will also impact the operations of their U.S. banking subsidiaries. This could adversely affect our financing and operations as well as those of the entire mortgage sector in general.

*Our leveraging strategy increases the risks of our operations.*

Relative to our investment grade Agency MBS, we generally borrow, on a short-term basis, between seven to twelve times the amount of our equity, although our borrowings may at times be above or below this amount. During the past several years, we have reduced our borrowings to a range of five to seven times the amount of our equity due to the uncertainty in the marketplace and the broader problems in the economy. We incur this leverage by borrowing against a substantial portion of the market value of our mortgage-related assets. Use of leverage can enhance our investment returns (and at times when we reduce our leverage, our profitability may be reduced as a result). Leverage, however, also increases risks. In the following ways, the use of leverage increases our risk of loss and may reduce our net income by increasing the risks associated with other risk factors including a decline in the market value of our MBS or a default of a mortgage-related asset:

The use of leverage increases our risk of loss resulting from various factors including rising interest rates, increased interest rate volatility, downturns in the economy and reductions in the availability of financing or deterioration in the conditions of any of our mortgage-related assets.

Substantially all of our borrowings are secured by our Agency MBS, generally under repurchase agreements. A decline in the market value of the Agency MBS used to secure these debt obligations could limit our ability to borrow or result in lenders requiring us to pledge additional collateral to secure our borrowings. In that situation, we could be required to sell Agency MBS under adverse market conditions in order to obtain the additional collateral required by the lender. If these sales are made at prices lower than the carrying value of the Agency MBS, we would experience losses.

A default of a mortgage-related asset that constitutes collateral for a repurchase agreement could also result in an involuntary liquidation of the mortgage-related asset. This would result in a loss to us of the difference between the value of the mortgage-related asset upon liquidation and the amount borrowed against the mortgage-related asset.

---

**Table of Contents**

To the extent we are compelled to liquidate qualified REIT assets to repay debts, our compliance with the REIT rules regarding our assets and our sources of income could be affected, which could jeopardize our status as a REIT. Losing our REIT status would cause us to lose tax advantages applicable to REITs and may decrease our overall profitability and distributions to our stockholders.

*We may incur increased borrowing costs related to repurchase agreements and that would adversely affect our profitability.*

Substantially all of our borrowings are collateralized borrowings in the form of repurchase agreements. If the interest rates on these agreements increase, that would harm our profitability.

Our borrowing costs under repurchase agreements generally correspond to short-term interest rates such as LIBOR or a short-term Treasury index, plus or minus a margin. The margins on these borrowings over or under short-term interest rates may vary depending upon:

the movement of interest rates;

the availability of financing in the market; and

the value and liquidity of our mortgage-related assets.

*An increase in interest rates may harm our book value, which could adversely affect the cash available for distribution to you and could cause the price of our securities to decline.*

Increases in interest rates may harm the market value of our mortgage-related assets. Our hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-related assets (during the fixed-rate component of the mortgages underlying such assets) and our fixed-rate securities are generally more harmed by these increases. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles utilized in the United States of America, or GAAP, we reduce our book value by the amount of any decrease in the market value of our mortgage-related assets. Losses on securities classified as available-for-sale, which are determined by management to be other-than-temporary in nature, are reclassified from Accumulated other comprehensive income to current operations.

*An increase in interest rates may cause a decrease in the volume of newly issued, or investor demand for, MBS and other mortgage-related assets, which could adversely affect our ability to acquire MBS and other mortgage-related assets that satisfy our investment objectives and to generate income and pay dividends.*

Rising interest rates generally reduce the demand for consumer credit, including mortgage loans, due to the higher cost of borrowing. A reduction in the volume of mortgage loans originated may affect the volume of MBS and other mortgage-related assets available to us, which could affect our ability to acquire MBS and other mortgage-related assets that satisfy our investment objectives. Rising interest rates may also cause MBS and other mortgage-related assets that were issued prior to an interest rate increase to provide yields that exceed prevailing market interest rates. If rising interest rates cause us to be unable to acquire a sufficient volume of MBS or mortgage-related assets or MBS or mortgage-related assets with a yield that exceeds the borrowing cost we will incur to purchase MBS or mortgage-related assets, our ability to satisfy our investment objectives and to generate income and pay dividends in the amount expected, or at all, may be materially and adversely affected.

*A flat or inverted yield curve may negatively affect our operations, book value and profitability due to its potential impact on investment yields and the supply of adjustable-rate mortgage, or ARM, products.*

A flat yield curve occurs when there is little difference between short-term and long-term interest rates. An inverted yield curve occurs when short-term interest rates are higher than long-term interest rates. A flat or inverted yield curve may be an adverse environment for ARM product volume, as there may be little incentive for borrowers to choose an ARM product over a longer-term fixed-rate loan. If the supply of ARM product decreases, yields may decline due to market forces.

## **Table of Contents**

Our borrowing costs under repurchase agreements generally correspond to short-term interest rates such as LIBOR. A flat or inverted yield curve will likely result in lower profits.

Additionally, a flat or inverted yield curve may negatively impact the pricing of our securities. According to GAAP, if the values of our securities decrease, we reduce our book value by the amount of any decrease in the market value of our mortgage-related assets.

***We depend on short-term borrowings to purchase mortgage-related assets and reach our desired amount of leverage. If we fail to obtain or renew sufficient funding on favorable terms, we will be limited in our ability to acquire mortgage-related assets and our earnings and profitability would decline.***

We depend on short-term borrowings to fund acquisitions of mortgage-related assets and reach our desired amount of leverage. Accordingly, our ability to achieve our investment and leverage objectives depends on our ability to borrow money in sufficient amounts and on favorable terms. In addition, we must be able to renew or replace our maturing short-term borrowings on a continuous basis. Moreover, we depend on a limited number of lenders to provide the primary credit facilities for our purchases of mortgage-related assets.

If we cannot renew or replace maturing borrowings, we may have to sell our mortgage-related assets under adverse market conditions and may incur permanent capital losses as a result. Any number of these factors in combination may cause difficulties for us, including a possible liquidation of a major portion of our portfolio at disadvantageous prices with consequent losses, which may render us insolvent.

***Any repurchase agreements that we use to finance our assets may require us to provide additional collateral or pay down debt, and if these requirements are not met, our financial condition and prospects could deteriorate rapidly.***

Our repurchase agreements involve the risk that the market value of the securities pledged or sold by us to the repurchase agreement counterparty may decline in value, in which case the counterparty may require us to provide additional collateral or to repay all or a portion of the funds advanced. We may not have additional collateral or the funds available to repay our debt at that time, which would likely result in defaults unless we are able to raise the funds from alternative sources, which we may not be able to achieve on favorable terms or at all. Posting additional collateral would reduce our liquidity and limit our ability to leverage our assets. If we cannot meet these requirements, the counterparty could accelerate its indebtedness, increase the interest rate on advanced funds and terminate our ability to borrow funds from them, which could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and ability to implement our investment strategy. In addition, in the event that the counterparty files for bankruptcy or becomes insolvent, our securities may become subject to bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, thus depriving us of the benefit of these assets. In the event that we are unable to meet these collateral obligations, our financial condition and prospects could deteriorate rapidly.

***Our use of repurchase agreements to borrow funds may give our lenders greater rights in the event that either we or a lender files for bankruptcy.***

Our borrowings under repurchase agreements may qualify for special treatment under the bankruptcy code, giving our lenders the ability to avoid the automatic stay provisions of the bankruptcy code and to take possession of and liquidate our collateral under the repurchase agreements without delay in the event that we file for bankruptcy. Furthermore, the special treatment of repurchase agreements under the bankruptcy code may make it difficult for us to recover our pledged assets in the event that a lender files for bankruptcy. Thus, the use of repurchase agreements exposes our pledged assets to risk in the event of a bankruptcy filing by either a lender or us.

## **Table of Contents**

***Because assets we acquire may experience periods of illiquidity, we may lose profits or be prevented from earning gains if we cannot sell mortgage-related assets at an opportune time.***

We bear the risk of being unable to dispose of our mortgage-related assets at advantageous times or in a timely manner because mortgage-related assets generally experience periods of illiquidity. The lack of liquidity may result from the absence of a willing buyer or an established market for these assets, as well as legal or contractual restrictions on resale. As a result, the illiquidity of mortgage-related assets may cause us to lose profits and lose the ability to earn gains.

***A decrease or lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business, including our ability to value and sell our assets.***

We invest in certain MBS or other investment securities that are not publicly traded in liquid markets. Moreover, turbulent market conditions, such as those currently in effect, could significantly and negatively impact the liquidity of our assets. In some cases, it may be difficult to obtain third-party pricing on certain of our investment securities. Illiquid investments typically experience greater price volatility, as a ready market does not exist, and can be more difficult to value. In addition, third-party pricing for illiquid investments may be more subjective than for more liquid investments. The illiquidity of certain investment securities may make it difficult for us to sell such investments if the need or desire arises. In addition, if we are required to liquidate all or a portion of our portfolio quickly, we may realize significantly less than the value at which we have previously recorded certain of our investment securities. As a result, our ability to vary our portfolio in response to changes in economic and other conditions may be relatively limited, which could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

***We may not have the benefit of repurchase rights or indemnification upon the breach of broad representations and warranties for all of the assets we acquire, which could increase the risk that we suffer losses on such assets.***

We may acquire assets from counterparties that are not able or willing to provide broad representations and warranties on such assets. Even if such counterparties provide representations and warranties on the assets, they may not be contractually required to repurchase the assets or indemnify us if there are defaults with respect to the representations and warranties on the assets. To the extent that our counterparties are not contractually obligated to repurchase the assets or are unable to fulfill their indemnification obligations, we will bear the same risks with respect to such assets as if such representations and warranties were not made. If we do not have the benefit of repurchase rights or indemnification upon the breach of broad representations and warranties on our assets, we may lose money on our investments in such assets that we otherwise would not lose had such repurchase rights or indemnification been available.

***Our hedging strategies may not be successful in mitigating our risks associated with interest rates.***

We engage in hedging activity from time to time. As such, we use various derivative financial instruments to provide a level of protection against interest rate risks, but no hedging strategy can protect us completely. When interest rates change, we expect to record a gain or loss on derivatives, which would be offset by an inverse change in the value of loans or residual interests. Additionally, from time to time, we may enter into hedging transactions in connection with our holdings of MBS and government securities with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Our hedging activities may include entering into interest rate swaps, caps and floors, options to purchase these items and futures and forward contracts. Our actual hedging decisions will be determined in light of the facts and circumstances existing at the time and may differ from our currently anticipated hedging strategy. We cannot assure you that our use of derivatives will offset the risks related to changes in interest rates. It is likely that there will be periods in the future during which we will incur losses after accounting for our derivative financial instruments. The derivative financial instruments we select may not have the effect of reducing our interest rate risk. In addition, the nature and timing of hedging transactions may

## **Table of Contents**

influence the effectiveness of these strategies. Poorly designed strategies or improperly executed transactions could actually increase our risk and losses. In addition, hedging strategies involve transaction and other costs. We cannot assure you that our hedging strategy and the derivatives that we use will adequately offset the risk of interest rate volatility or that our hedging transactions will not result in losses.

***The characteristics of hedging instruments presents various concerns, including illiquidity, enforceability and counterparty risks, which could adversely affect our business and results of operations.***

Hedging involves risk since hedging instruments often are not traded on regulated exchanges, guaranteed by an exchange or its clearing house, or currently regulated by any U.S. or foreign governmental authorities. Currently, there are no requirements with respect to record keeping, financial responsibility or segregation of customer funds and positions. The Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Bill intends to implement rules on these matters but presently we do not know the extent of such rules or what the consequences may be on our business or on hedging instruments in general. Furthermore, the enforceability of such instruments may depend on compliance with applicable statutory and commodity and other regulatory requirements and, depending on the identity of the counterparty, applicable international requirements. The business failure of a hedging counterparty with whom we enter into a hedging transaction will most likely result in its default. Default by a party with whom we enter into a hedging transaction may result in a loss and force us to cover our commitments, if any, at the then current market price. Although generally we will seek to reserve the right to terminate our hedging positions, it may not always be possible to dispose of or close out a hedging position without the consent of the hedging counterparty and we may not be able to enter into an offsetting contract in order to cover our risk. We cannot assure you that a liquid secondary market will exist for hedging instruments purchased or sold, and we may be required to maintain a position until exercise or expiration, which could result in losses.

***Our use of derivatives may expose us to counterparty risks.***

From time to time we enter into interest rate swap and cap agreements to hedge risks associated with movements in interest rates. If a swap counterparty cannot perform under the terms of an interest rate swap, we would not receive payments due under that agreement, we may lose any unrealized gain associated with the interest rate swap, and the hedged liability would cease to be hedged by the interest rate swap. We may also be at risk for any collateral we have pledged to secure our obligations under the interest rate swap if the counterparty becomes insolvent or files for bankruptcy. Similarly, if a cap counterparty fails to perform under the terms of the cap agreement, in addition to not receiving payments due under that agreement that would offset our interest expense, we would also incur a loss for all remaining unamortized premium paid for that agreement.

***Competition may prevent us from acquiring mortgage-related assets at favorable yields and that would negatively impact our profitability.***

Our net income largely depends on our ability to acquire mortgage-related assets at favorable spreads over our borrowing costs. In acquiring mortgage-related assets, we compete with other REITs, investment banking firms, savings and loan associations, banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, other lenders and other entities that purchase mortgage-related assets, many of which have greater financial resources than us. As a result, we may not in the future be able to acquire sufficient mortgage-related assets at favorable spreads over our borrowing costs. If that occurs, our profitability will be harmed.

***Interest rate mismatches between our adjustable-rate MBS and our borrowings used to fund our purchases of these assets may reduce our income during periods of changing interest rates.***

We fund most of our acquisitions of adjustable-rate MBS (including hybrid adjustable-rate MBS) with borrowings that have interest rates based on indices and repricing terms similar to, but of shorter maturities than, the interest rate indices and repricing terms of our MBS. Accordingly, if short-term interest rates increase, this may harm our profitability.

---

**Table of Contents**

Most of the MBS we acquire are adjustable-rate securities. This means that their interest rates may vary over time based upon changes in a short-term interest rate index. Therefore, in most cases, the interest rate indices and repricing terms of the MBS that we acquire and their funding sources will not be identical, thereby creating an interest rate mismatch between our assets and liabilities. While the historical spread between relevant short-term interest rate indices has been relatively stable, there have been periods when the spread between these indices was volatile. During periods of changing interest rates, these mismatches could reduce our net income, dividend yield and the market price of our stock.

The interest rates on our borrowings generally adjust more frequently than the interest rates on our adjustable-rate MBS. For example, at December 31, 2011, our Agency MBS and Non-Agency adjustable-rate MBS had a weighted average term to next rate adjustment of approximately 36 months, while our borrowings had a weighted average term to next rate adjustment of 38 days. After adjusting for interest rate swap transactions, the weighted average term to next rate adjustment was 436 days. Accordingly, in a period of rising interest rates, we could experience a decrease in net income or a net loss because the interest rates on our borrowings adjust faster than the interest rates on our adjustable-rate MBS.

***The MBS in which we invest and the mortgage loans underlying the MBS in which we invest are subject to delinquency, foreclosure and loss, which could result in losses to us.***

Residential mortgage loans are secured by single-family residential property and are subject to risks of loss, delinquency and foreclosure. The ability of a borrower to repay a loan secured by a residential property is dependent upon the income or assets of the borrower. A number of factors, including a general economic downturn, acts of God, terrorism, social unrest and civil disturbances, may impair borrowers' abilities to repay their loans.

Residential MBS evidence interests in or are secured by pools of residential mortgage loans and collateralized MBS evidence interests in or are secured by a single commercial mortgage loan or a pool of commercial mortgage loans. Accordingly, the MBS we invest in are subject to all of the risks of the underlying mortgage loans. In the event of defaults with respect to the mortgage loans that underlie our MBS investments and the exhaustion of any underlying or additional credit support, we may not realize our anticipated return on these investments and we may incur a loss on these investments.

***Increased levels of prepayments from MBS may decrease our net interest income.***

Pools of mortgage loans underlie the MBS that we acquire. We generally receive payments from principal payments that are made on these underlying mortgage loans. When borrowers prepay their mortgage loans faster than expected, this results in prepayments that are faster than expected on the MBS. Faster than expected prepayments could harm our profitability as follows:

We usually purchase MBS that have a higher interest rate than the market interest rate at the time. In exchange for this higher interest rate, we pay a premium over the par value to acquire the security. In accordance with accounting rules, we amortize this premium over the term of the mortgage-backed security. If the mortgage-backed security is prepaid in whole or in part prior to its maturity date, however, we expense the premium that was prepaid at the time of the prepayment. At December 31, 2011, substantially all of our MBS had been acquired at a premium.

We anticipate that a substantial portion of our adjustable-rate MBS may bear interest rates that are lower than their fully indexed rates, which are equivalent to the applicable index rate plus a margin. If an adjustable-rate mortgage-backed security is prepaid prior to or soon after the time of adjustment to a fully indexed rate, we will have held that mortgage-backed security while it was less profitable and lost the opportunity to receive interest at the fully indexed rate over the remainder of its expected life.

If we are unable to acquire new MBS similar to the prepaid MBS, our financial condition, results of operation and cash flow would suffer.

---

**Table of Contents**

Prepayment rates generally increase when interest rates fall and decrease when interest rates rise, but changes in prepayment rates are difficult to predict. Prepayment rates also may be affected by conditions in the housing and financial markets, general economic conditions, actions by the federal government and the relative interest rates on fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgage loans.

While we seek to minimize prepayment risk to the extent practical, in selecting investments, we must balance prepayment risk against other risks and the potential returns of each investment. No strategy can completely insulate us from prepayment risk.

***The timing and amount of prepayments could adversely affect our liquidity and our profitability.***

Prepayments may be difficult to predict and can vary significantly over time. As a holder of MBS, on a monthly basis, we receive a payment equal to a portion of our investment principal as the underlying mortgages are prepaid. With respect to our Agency MBS, we typically receive notice of monthly principal prepayments on the fifth business day of each month (more commonly referred to as factor day ) and receive the related scheduled payment on a specified later date, which for (a) Agency MBS guaranteed by Fannie Mae is the 25<sup>th</sup> day of that month (or the next business day thereafter); (b) Agency MBS guaranteed by Freddie Mac is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the following month (or the next business day thereafter); and (c) Agency MBS guaranteed by Ginnie Mae is the 20<sup>th</sup> day of that month (or the next business day thereafter). This delay between factor day and receipt of payment creates a short-term receivable for us in the amount of any such principal prepayments. In general, on the date each month that the principal prepayments are announced (factor day), the value of our MBS pledged as collateral is reduced by the amount of the prepaid principal and, as a result, our repurchase agreement counterparties will typically initiate a margin call requiring the pledge of additional collateral or cash, in an amount equal to such prepaid principal, in order to re-establish the required ratio of borrowing to collateral value under such repurchase agreements. As the posting of such additional collateral or payment of cash to our counterparties is on or about factor day and is prior to the receipt of the payment to us by the agencies, this would reduce and, depending on the magnitude of such principal prepayments, could be material to, our liquidity. As a result, in order to meet such margin calls, we could be forced to sell assets or take other actions in order to maintain liquidity. If we were required to sell Agency MBS under adverse market conditions, we may receive sale prices lower than we might have received if we sold those securities under normal market conditions and, if these prices were lower than the amortized cost of the Agency MBS, we would incur losses. An increase in prepayment rates could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We may experience reduced net interest income from holding fixed-rate investments during periods of rising interest rates.***

We generally fund our acquisition of fixed-rate MBS with short-term borrowings. During periods of rising interest rates, our costs associated with borrowings used to fund acquisition of fixed-rate assets are subject to increases while the income we earn from these assets remains substantially fixed. This reduces or could eliminate the net interest spread between the fixed-rate MBS that we purchase and our borrowings used to purchase them, which could lower our net interest income or cause us to suffer a loss. At December 31, 2011, 13% of our Agency MBS were 15-year fixed-rate securities and 6% of our Agency MBS were 30-year fixed-rate securities.

***Interest rate caps on our adjustable-rate MBS may reduce our income or cause us to suffer a loss during periods of rising interest rates.***

Our adjustable-rate MBS are subject to periodic and lifetime interest rate caps. Periodic interest rate caps limit the amount an interest rate can increase during any given period. Lifetime interest rate caps limit the amount an interest rate can increase through maturity of a mortgage-backed security. Our borrowings are not subject to similar restrictions. Accordingly, in a period of rapidly increasing interest rates, the interest rates paid on our borrowings could increase without limitation while interest rate caps would limit the interest rates on our



## **Table of Contents**

adjustable-rate MBS. This problem is magnified for our adjustable-rate MBS that are not fully indexed. Further, some adjustable-rate MBS may be subject to periodic payment caps that result in a portion of the interest being deferred and added to the principal outstanding. As a result, we could receive less cash income on adjustable-rate MBS than we need to pay interest on our related borrowings. These factors could lower our net interest income or cause us to suffer a loss during periods of rising interest rates. At December 31, 2011, approximately 81% of our Agency MBS were adjustable-rate securities.

***We may invest in leveraged mortgage derivative securities that generally experience greater volatility in market prices, thus exposing us to greater risk with respect to their rate of return.***

We may acquire leveraged mortgage derivative securities that may expose us to a high level of interest rate risk. The characteristics of leveraged mortgage derivative securities result in greater volatility in their market prices. Thus, acquisition of leveraged mortgage derivative securities would expose us to the risk of greater price volatility in our portfolio and that could harm our net income and overall profitability.

***New assets we acquire may not generate yields as attractive or be as accretive to book value as have been experienced historically.***

We may acquire new assets as we receive principal and interest payments and prepayments from our existing assets. We also sell assets from time to time as part of our portfolio and asset/liability management programs. We may invest these proceeds into new earning assets.

New assets may not generate yields as attractive as we have experienced historically. Business conditions, including credit results, prepayment patterns and interest rate trends in the future, may not be as favorable as they have been during the periods we held the replaced assets.

New assets may not be as accretive to book value as existing assets. The market value of our assets is sensitive to interest rate fluctuations. In the past as short-term interest rates increased, the market value of our existing assets has declined. As we classify our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS as available-for-sale, accounting regulations require that any unrealized losses from the decline in market value that are not considered to be an other-than-temporary impairment be carried as Accumulated other comprehensive loss in the Stockholders equity section of the balance sheets. When short-term interest rates stop increasing, or start declining, or when the interest rates on these securities reset, the market value of these assets may increase. This may be more accretive to book value than the new assets that we acquire to replace existing assets.

***If we are unable to find suitable investments, we may not be able to achieve our investment objectives or pay dividends.***

The availability of mortgage-related assets meeting our criteria depends upon, among other things, the level of activity and quality of and demand for securities in the mortgage securitization and secondary markets. The market for agency securities depends upon various factors including the level of activity in the residential real estate market, the level of and difference between short-term and long-term interest rates, incentives for issuers to securitize mortgage loans and demand for agency securities by institutional investors. The size and level of activity in the residential real estate lending market depends upon various factors, including the level of interest rates, regional and national economic conditions and real estate values. To the extent we are unable to acquire a sufficient volume of mortgage-related assets meeting our criteria, our results of operations would be adversely affected. Furthermore, we cannot assure you that we will be able to acquire sufficient mortgage-related assets at spreads above our costs of funds.

***We are dependent on information and communications systems and such systems failures could significantly disrupt our business.***

Our business is highly dependent on our information and communications systems. Any failure or interruption of our systems, such as caused by earthquake, fire, flood or terrorist act or by issues such as power

## Table of Contents

outages, telephone or internet disconnections (notwithstanding any of our back-up systems, which could also be subject to failure), could cause delays or other problems in our securities trading activities or in our repurchase agreement transactions, which would materially adversely affect our operations and performance.

### **Risks Related to Our Management**

*We have no employees and the Manager is responsible for making all of our investment decisions. The employees of the Manager are not required to devote any specific amount of time to our business.*

Effective December 31, 2011, we have no employees and all our prior employees became employees of the Manager. The Manager is responsible for conducting our day-to-day operations and is responsible for the selection, purchase and sale of our investment portfolio; our financing and hedging activities; providing us with management services; and such other services and activities relating to our assets and operations as may be appropriate.

Messrs. Lloyd McAdams, Joseph E. McAdams, Thad M. Brown, Ms. Bistra Pashamova and others are officers and employees of our Manager and are also officers and employees of Pacific Income Advisers, or PIA, where they devote a portion of their time. These officers and employees are under no contractual obligations mandating minimum amounts of time to be devoted to our Company. In addition, a trust controlled by Mr. Lloyd McAdams is the principal stockholder of PIA.

These officers and employees are involved in investing both our assets and approximately \$3.88 billion in MBS and other fixed income assets for institutional clients and individual investors through PIA. These multiple responsibilities and ownerships may create conflicts of interest if these officers and employees of our Company are presented with opportunities that may benefit both us and the clients of PIA. These officers allocate investments among our portfolio and the clients of PIA by determining the entity or account for which the investment is most suitable. In making this determination, these officers consider the investment strategy and guidelines of each entity or account with respect to acquisition of assets, leverage, liquidity and other factors that our officers determine appropriate. These officers, however, have no obligation to make any specific investment opportunities available to us and the above-mentioned conflicts of interest may result in decisions or allocations of securities that are not in our best interests.

Additionally, there is nothing in the Management Agreement that prevents the Manager or any of its Affiliates, officers, directors or employees from engaging in other businesses or from rendering services of any kind to any other Person or entity, whether or not the investment objectives or policies of any such other Person or entity are similar to those of the Company or in any way binds or restricts the Manager or any of its Affiliates, officers, directors or employees from buying, selling or trading any securities or commodities for their own accounts or for the accounts of others for whom the Manager or any of its Affiliates, officers, directors or employees may be acting.

Mr. Lloyd McAdams is also an owner and Chairman of Syndicated Capital, Inc., a registered broker-dealer. Syndicated Capital, Inc. has been authorized by our board of directors to act as the authorized broker on any buyback of the Company's common stock. The service to PIA and Syndicated Capital, Inc. by the officers and employees of the Manager allow them to spend only part of their time and effort managing our Company, as they are required to devote a portion of their time and effort to the management of other companies, and this may harm our overall management and operating results.

---

**Table of Contents**

***We are completely dependent upon the Manager, who provides services to us through the Management Agreement, and we may not find suitable replacements for our Manager if the Management Agreement is terminated or such key personnel are no longer available to us. The loss of any key personnel of the Manager could harm our operations.***

We no longer have any employees and are completely dependent on the Manager to conduct our operations pursuant to the Management Agreement. The Manager has its own employees, which conduct its day-to-day operations. The Management Agreement does not require the Manager to dedicate specific personnel to our operations.

If we terminate the Management Agreement without cause, we may not, without the consent of the Manager, employ any employee of the Manager or any of its Affiliates, or any Person who has been employed by the Manager or any of its Affiliates at any time within the two year period immediately preceding the date on which the Person commences employment with us for two years after such termination of the Management Agreement. We will not have retention agreements with any of our officers. We believe that the successful implementation of our investment and financing strategies will depend upon the experience of certain of the Manager's officers and employees. None of these individuals' continued service is guaranteed. If the Management Agreement is terminated or these individuals leave the Manager, the Manager may be unable to replace them with persons with appropriate experience, or at all, and we may not be able to execute our business plan.

We depend on the diligence, experience and skill of the officers and employees of the manager for the selection, structuring and monitoring of our mortgage-related assets and associated borrowings. The key officers of the Manager include Mr. Lloyd McAdams, President and Chief Executive Officer; Mr. Joseph E. McAdams, Chief Investment Officer and Executive Vice President; Mr. Thad M. Brown, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary; Mr. Charles J. Siegel, Senior Vice President-Finance and Assistant Secretary; Ms. Bistra Pashamova, Senior Vice President; and Mr. Evangelos Karagiannis, Vice President. Our dependence on the Manager is heightened by the fact that they have a relatively small number of employees and the loss of any key person could harm our entire business, financial condition, cash flow and results of operations. In particular, the loss of the services of Messrs. Lloyd McAdams or Joseph E. McAdams could seriously harm our business.

***The Management Agreement was not negotiated on an arm's-length basis and the terms, including fees payable, may not be as favorable to us as if it were negotiated with an unaffiliated third party.***

At our annual stockholders meeting on May 25, 2011, our stockholders approved the entry by us into a Management Agreement, or the Management Agreement (a copy of which is included as Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012), between the Company and Anworth Management, LLC, or the Manager, and the externalization of our management function. We entered into the Management Agreement effective as of December 31, 2011.

The Management Agreement was negotiated between related parties, and we did not have the benefit of arm's-length negotiations of the type normally conducted with an unaffiliated third party. The terms of the Management Agreement, including fees payable, may not reflect the terms we may have received if it was negotiated with an unrelated third party. In addition, as a result of this relationship, we may choose not to enforce, or to enforce less vigorously, our rights under the Management Agreement because of our desire to maintain our ongoing relationship with our Manager.

***If we elect to not renew the Management Agreement without cause, we would be required to pay the Manager a substantial termination fee. These and other provisions in the Management Agreement make non-renewal of the Management Agreement difficult and costly.***

Electing not to renew the Management Agreement without cause would be difficult and costly for us. With the consent of the majority of our independent directors, we may elect not to renew our Management Agreement

## **Table of Contents**

after the initial term of the Management Agreement, which would expire on December 31, 2013, or upon the expiration of any automatic renewal term, both upon 180-days prior written notice. In addition, if we elect to not renew the Management Agreement because of a decision by our board that the management fee is unfair, the Manager has the right to renegotiate a mutually agreeable management fee. If we elect to not renew the Management Agreement without cause, we are required to pay the Manager a termination fee equal to three times the average annual management fee earned by the Manager during the prior 24-month period immediately preceding the most recently completed month prior to the effective date of termination. These provisions may increase the effective cost to us of electing to not renew the Management Agreement.

### ***The management fee is payable regardless of our performance.***

The Manager is entitled to receive a management fee from us that is based on the amount of our Equity (as defined in our Management Agreement), regardless of the performance of our investment portfolio. For example, we would pay our Manager a management fee for a specific period even if we experienced a net loss during the same period. The Manager's entitlement to substantial nonperformance-based compensation may reduce its incentive to devote sufficient time and effort to seeking investments that provide attractive risk-adjusted returns for our investment portfolio. This in turn could harm our ability to make distributions to our stockholders and the market price of our common stock.

### ***The fee structure of the Management Agreement may limit the Manager's ability to retain access to its key personnel.***

Under the terms of the Management Agreement, we are required to pay the Manager a base management fee payable monthly in arrears in an amount equal to one twelfth of 1.20% of our Equity. Our Equity is defined as our month-end stockholders' equity, adjusted to exclude the effect of any unrealized gains or losses included in either retained earnings or other comprehensive income, each as computed in accordance with GAAP. The Management Agreement does not provide the Manager with an incentive management fee that would pay the Manager additional compensation as a result of meeting performance targets. Some of our externally-managed competitors pay their managers an incentive management fee, which could enable the manager to provide additional compensation to its key personnel. Thus, the lack of an incentive fee in the Management Agreement may limit the ability of the Manager to provide key personnel with additional compensation for strong performance, which could adversely affect the Manager's ability to retain these key personnel. If the Manager were not able to retain any of the key personnel providing services to the Manager, it would have to find replacement personnel to provide those services. Those replacement key personnel may not be able to produce the same operating results as the current key personnel.

### ***Some investors may not view our external management in a positive light, which may affect the market price of our common stock and may make it more difficult for future offerings of our stock.***

Although there are currently other mortgage REITs that are externally-managed, there may be times in the future when some investors may have a preference for internally-managed companies. There may also be times, if there are low returns from our portfolio, when our external management is not viewed in a positive light. In either of these cases, there may be a negative effect on the market price of our common stock and this may make it difficult for future offerings of our common stock.

### ***Potential conflicts of interest could arise if the Manager were to take greater risk for the purpose of increasing our equity in order to earn a greater management fee.***

The Management Agreement does not contain an incentive fee. The Manager is paid a base management fee payable monthly in arrears in an amount equal to one twelfth of 1.20% of our Equity, as defined in the Management Agreement. As the Management Agreement does not contain an incentive fee, the Manager may take greater risk in our investment portfolio to increase our equity in order to earn a greater management fee.

---

## **Table of Contents**

***Our Manager's liability is limited under the Management Agreement, and we have agreed to indemnify our Manager against certain liabilities.***

Pursuant to the Management Agreement, our Manager does not assume any responsibility other than to render the services called for thereunder and is not responsible for any action of our board of directors in following or declining to follow any advice or recommendation of the Manager. The Manager and its Affiliates, and the directors, officers, employees and stockholders of the Manager and its Affiliates, are not liable to us, any subsidiary of ours, our board of directors or our stockholders for any acts or omissions by the Manager, its officers, employees or its Affiliates, performed in accordance with and pursuant to our Management Agreement, except by reason of acts constituting bad faith, willful misconduct, gross negligence or reckless disregard of their respective duties under this Management Agreement. We have agreed to indemnify our Manager and its Affiliates, its directors, officers, employees and stockholders of the Manager and its Affiliates (each a Manager Indemnified Party) of and from any and all expenses, losses, damages, liabilities, demands, charges and claims of any nature whatsoever (including reasonable attorneys fees) in respect of or arising from any acts or omissions of such Manager Indemnified Party, not constituting bad faith, willful misconduct, gross negligence or reckless disregard of duties of such Manager Indemnified Party under this Management Agreement.

***Our Manager has limited resources and may not be able to defend itself in litigation.***

The only fee that our Manager receives from us is the base management fee, as previously described. It is anticipated that most, if not all, of this fee will be used by the Manager for compensation to its employees and to pay for its other administrative expenses. Our Manager has limited resources. If our Manager were to be involved in litigation not related to our operations, it may not be able to defend itself and it may be forced to declare bankruptcy or go out of business and we would have to find another Manager. This could have a material adverse impact on our business and our operations.

***Our board of directors may change our operating policies and strategies without prior notice or stockholder approval and such changes could harm our business, results of operation and stock price.***

Our board of directors can modify or waive our current operating policies and our strategies without prior notice and without stockholder approval. We cannot predict the effect any changes to our current operating policies and strategies may have on our business, operating results and stock price, however, the effects may be adverse.

### **Risks Related to REIT Compliance and Other Tax Matters**

***If we are disqualified as a REIT, we will be subject to tax as a regular corporation and face substantial tax liability.***

We believe that, since our initial public offering in 1998, we have operated so as to qualify as a REIT under the Code and we intend to continue to meet the requirements for taxation as a REIT. Nevertheless, we may not remain qualified as a REIT in the future. Qualification as a REIT involves the application of highly technical and complex Code provisions for which only a limited number of judicial or administrative interpretations exist. Even a technical or inadvertent mistake could require us to pay a penalty or jeopardize our REIT status. Furthermore, Congress or the IRS might change tax laws or regulations and the courts might issue new rulings, in each case potentially having retroactive effects that could make it more difficult or impossible for us to qualify as a REIT. If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any tax year, then:

we would be taxed as a regular domestic corporation, which, among other things, means being unable to deduct distributions to stockholders in computing taxable income and being subject to federal income tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates;

any resulting tax liability could be substantial and would reduce the amount of cash available for distribution to stockholders;

## **Table of Contents**

we would no longer be required to make distributions to our stockholders; and

unless we were entitled to relief under applicable statutory provisions, we could be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the subsequent four taxable years following the year during which we lost our qualification and thus our cash available for distribution to stockholders would be reduced for each of the years during which we do not qualify as a REIT.

***Complying with REIT requirements may cause us to forego otherwise attractive opportunities.***

In order to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes, we must continually satisfy tests concerning, among other things, our sources of income, the nature and diversification of our MBS and other assets, the amounts we distribute to our stockholders and the ownership of our stock. We may also be required to make distributions to stockholders at disadvantageous times or when we do not have funds readily available for distribution. Thus, compliance with REIT requirements may hinder our ability to operate solely on the basis of maximizing profits.

***Complying with REIT requirements may limit our ability to hedge effectively.***

Compliance with the REIT provisions of the Code may limit our ability to hedge our assets and operations. Under these provisions, any income that is generated from transactions intended to hedge our interest rate, inflation and/or currency risks will be excluded from gross income for purposes of the REIT 75% and 95% gross income tests if the instrument hedges (1) interest rate risk on liabilities incurred to carry or acquire real estate or (2) risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the REIT 75% or 95% gross income tests, and such instrument is properly identified under applicable Treasury Regulations. Income from hedging transactions that does not meet these requirements will generally constitute non-qualifying income for purposes of both the REIT 75% and 95% gross income tests. As a result of these rules, we may have to limit its use of hedging techniques that might otherwise be advantageous, which could result in greater risks associated with interest rate or other changes than we would otherwise incur.

***Complying with REIT requirements may force us to liquidate otherwise attractive investments or to make investments inconsistent with our business plan.***

In order to qualify as a REIT, we must also determine that at the end of each calendar quarter at least 75% of the value of our assets consists of cash, cash items, government securities and qualified REIT real estate assets. The remainder of our investment in securities generally cannot include more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer or more than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer. In addition, in general, no more than 5% of the value of our assets can consist of the securities of any one issuer. No more than 25% of the total value of our assets can be stock in taxable REIT subsidiaries. If we fail to comply with these requirements, we must dispose of a portion of our assets within 30 days after the end of the calendar quarter in order to avoid losing our REIT status and suffering adverse tax consequences. The need to comply with these gross income and asset tests may cause us to acquire other assets that are qualifying real estate assets for purposes of the REIT requirements that are not part of our overall business strategy and might not otherwise be the best investment alternative for us.

***Complying with REIT requirements may force us to borrow to make distributions to stockholders.***

As a REIT, we must distribute 90% of our annual taxable income (subject to certain adjustments) to our stockholders. At the time when we are required to make previously declared dividend distributions, declines in the value of our portfolio holdings and the resulting subsequent margins calls may have depleted most or all of our cash and cash equivalents. If this were to occur and if market conditions allowed us to do so, we would sell some of our portfolio holdings to generate sufficient funds to make the dividend payments. If market conditions did not allow us to sell portfolio holdings, we would be required to borrow funds on an unsecured basis to make the previously declared dividend payments.

---

**Table of Contents**

***Dividends payable by REITs do not qualify for the reduced tax rates.***

Tax legislation enacted in 2003 and extended in 2010 to be effective through December 31, 2012, temporarily reduce the maximum U.S. federal tax rate on certain corporate dividends paid to individuals and other non-corporate taxpayers to 15%. Dividends paid by REITs to these stockholders are generally not eligible for these reduced rates. Although this legislation does not adversely affect the taxation of REITs or dividends paid by REITs, the more favorable rates applicable to non-REIT corporate dividends could cause investors who are individuals, trusts and estates to perceive investments in REITs to be relatively less attractive than investments in the stocks of non-REIT corporations that pay dividends, which could adversely affect the value of the stock of REITs, including our common stock.

***The tax imposed on REITs engaging in prohibited transactions will limit our ability to engage in transactions, including certain methods of securitizing loans, which would be treated as sales for federal income tax purposes.***

A REIT's net income from prohibited transactions is subject to a 100% tax. In general, prohibited transactions are sales or other dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property but including any mortgage loans, held in inventory primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business. We might be subject to this tax if we were to sell a loan or securitize loans in a manner that was treated as a sale of such inventory for federal income tax purposes. Therefore, in order to avoid the prohibited transactions tax, we may choose not to engage in certain sales of loans other than through a taxable REIT subsidiary and may limit the structures we utilize for our securitization transactions even though such sales or structures might otherwise be beneficial for us. In addition, this prohibition may limit our ability to restructure our investment portfolio of mortgage loans from time to time, even if we believe that it would be in our best interest to do so.

***Failure to maintain an exemption from the Investment Company Act would materially harm our results of operations.***

We believe that we conduct our business in a manner that results in our not being regulated as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the Investment Company Act. If we fail to continue to qualify for an exemption from registration as an investment company, our ability to use leverage would be substantially reduced and we would be unable to conduct our business as we presently do. The Investment Company Act has an exemption for entities that are primarily engaged in the business of purchasing or otherwise acquiring mortgages and other liens on and interests in real estate. Under the SEC's current interpretation, we qualify for this exemption if we maintain at least 55% of our assets directly in qualifying real estate interests. In meeting the 55% requirement under the Investment Company Act, we treat MBS issued with respect to an underlying pool for which we hold all issued certificates as qualifying interests. If the SEC or its staff adopts a contrary interpretation, we could be required to sell a substantial amount of our MBS under potentially adverse market conditions. Further, in order to maintain our exemption from registration as an investment company by acquiring mortgages and other liens on and interests in real estate, we may be precluded from acquiring MBS whose yield is somewhat higher than the yield on mortgages and other liens on and interests in real estate that could be purchased in a manner consistent with the exemption.

On August 31, 2011, the SEC issued a release soliciting comments on the mortgage REIT exemption under the Investment Company Act. The SEC indicated in its release that it is concerned that some mortgage companies may be subject to the kinds of abuses that the Investment Company Act was intended to address, such as misvaluations of a company's investment portfolio and excessive leveraging. The release asked for comments on or before November 7, 2011 on whether the exclusion should be narrowed or changed in such a way that these potential abuses can be curtailed. The SEC also asked whether there are existing safeguards in the structure and operations of REITs and other mortgage companies that would address these or similar concerns. Although we believe that we have conducted our operations in a manner that would not be of the types of concerns addressed in the SEC's release, we could be subject to any rules or regulations that the SEC could propose in changing or narrowing the current exclusion that mortgage REITs rely on to maintain an exemption from the Investment Company Act. If the SEC or its staff changes or narrows this exemption, we could be required to sell a

## **Table of Contents**

substantial amount of our MBS under potentially adverse market conditions. Although, at the present time, it is unknown whether the SEC or its staff will make any changes to this exclusion or the nature of any such changes, it is possible that any such changes could impact our Asset Acquisition Policy, our leverage, our liquidity, the size of our investment portfolio, our ability to use interest rate swap agreements, our ability to borrow, and could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

*We presently are not, nor do we intend to be, regulated as an investment company. Fluctuations in our net income and in our book value will likely be greater than those of investment companies. This may affect investors or potential investors as to the appropriateness of our stock as compared to that of an investment company.*

While presently our assets are similar to those owned by some investment companies, we are not regulated as an investment company. Regulation as an investment company entails all investment companies maintaining significantly lower levels of financial leverage than we have employed since our organization in 1998. Because of the differences in our leverage from that of investment companies, this results in the fluctuation in net income and in book value by us to likely be greater than that experienced by investment companies. Therefore, investors and potential investors in our company should, on an ongoing basis, carefully determine if this greater level of income fluctuation and book value fluctuation is appropriate for them as compared to whether the less volatile results of investment companies are more appropriate for them.

*We may incur excess inclusion income that would increase the tax liability of our stockholders.*

In general, dividend income that a tax-exempt entity receives from us should not constitute unrelated business taxable income as defined in Section 512 of the Code. If we realize excess inclusion income and allocate it to stockholders, however, then this income would be fully taxable as unrelated business taxable income under Section 512 of the Code. If the stockholder is foreign, it would generally be subject to U.S. federal income tax withholding on this income without reduction pursuant to any otherwise applicable income tax treaty. U.S. stockholders would not be able to offset such income with their operating losses.

We generally structure our borrowing arrangements in a manner designed to avoid generating significant amounts of excess inclusion income. However, excess inclusion income could result if we held a residual interest in a REMIC. Excess inclusion income also may be generated if we were to issue debt obligations with two or more maturities and the terms of the payments on these obligations bore a relationship to the payments that we received on our mortgage loans or MBS securing those debt obligations. For example, we may engage in non-REMIC CMO securitizations. We also enter into various repurchase agreements that have differing maturity dates and afford the lender the right to sell any pledged mortgage securities if we default on our obligations. The IRS may determine that these transactions give rise to excess inclusion income that should be allocated among our stockholders. We may invest in equity securities of other REITs and it is possible that we might receive excess inclusion income from those investments. Some types of entities, including, without limitation, voluntarily employee benefit associations and entities that have borrowed funds to acquire their shares of our stock, may be required to treat a portion of or all of the dividends they receive from us as unrelated business taxable income.

*Misplaced reliance on legal opinions or statements by issuers of MBS and government securities could result in a failure to comply with REIT gross income or asset tests.*

When purchasing MBS and government securities, we may rely on opinions of counsel for the issuer or sponsor of such securities, or statements made in related offering documents, for purposes of determining whether and to what extent those securities constitute real estate assets for purposes of the REIT asset tests and produce income that qualifies under the REIT income tests. The inaccuracy of any such opinions or statements may harm our REIT qualification and result in significant corporate level tax.



**Table of Contents**

**Additional Risk Factors**

*The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly.*

The market price and marketability of shares of our securities may, from time to time, be significantly affected by numerous factors, including many over which we have no control and that may not be directly related to us. These factors including the following:

price and volume fluctuations in the stock market from time to time, which are often unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies;

significant volatility in the market price and trading volume of securities of REITs or other companies in our sector, which is not necessarily related to the operating performance of these securities;

changes in regulatory policies, tax guidelines and financial accounting and reporting standards, particularly with respect to REITs;

changes in our dividend policy and earnings or variations in operating results;

any shortfall in revenue or net income or any increase in losses from levels expected by securities analysts;

general economic trends and other external factors; and

loss of major repurchase agreement providers.

Fluctuations in the trading price of our common stock may adversely affect the liquidity of the trading market for our common stock and, in the event that we seek to raise capital through future equity financings, our ability to raise such equity capital.

*We may not be able to use the money we raise from time to time to acquire investments at favorable prices.*

We intend to seek to raise additional capital from time to time if we determine that it is in our best interests and the best interests of our stockholders, including through public offerings of our stock. The net proceeds of any offering could represent a significant increase in our equity. Depending on the amount of leverage that we use, the full investment of the net proceeds of any offering might result in a substantial increase in our total assets. There can be no assurance that we will be able to invest all of such additional funds in mortgage-related assets at favorable prices. We may not be able to acquire enough mortgage-related assets to become fully invested after an offering, or we may have to pay more for MBS than we have historically. In either case, the return that we earn on stockholders' equity may be reduced.

*We have not established a minimum dividend payment level for our common stockholders and there are no assurances of our ability to pay dividends to them in the future.*

We intend to pay quarterly dividends and to make distributions to our common stockholders in amounts such that all or substantially all of our taxable income in each year, subject to certain adjustments, is distributed. This, along with other factors, should enable us to qualify for the tax benefits accorded to a REIT under the Code. We have not established a minimum dividend payment level for our common stockholders and our ability to pay dividends may be harmed by the risk factors described in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. All distributions to our common stockholders will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on our earnings, our financial condition, maintenance of our REIT status and such other factors as our board of directors may deem relevant from time to time. There are no assurances of our ability to pay dividends in the future.

## Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

If we raise additional capital, our earnings per share and dividends per share may decline since we may not be able to invest all of the new capital during the quarter in which additional shares are sold and possibly the entire following calendar quarter.

---

**Table of Contents**

***Our charter does not permit ownership of over 9.8% of our common or preferred stock and attempts to acquire our common or preferred stock in excess of the 9.8% limit are void without prior approval from our board of directors.***

For the purpose of preserving our REIT qualification and for other reasons, our charter prohibits direct or constructive ownership by any person of more than 9.8% of the lesser of the total number or value of the outstanding shares of our common stock or more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of our preferred stock. Our charter's constructive ownership rules are complex and may cause the outstanding stock owned by a group of related individuals or entities to be deemed to be constructively owned by one individual or entity. As a result, the acquisition of less than 9.8% of the outstanding stock by an individual or entity could cause that individual or entity to own constructively in excess of 9.8% of the outstanding stock and thus be subject to our charter's ownership limit. Any attempt to own or transfer shares of our common or preferred stock in excess of the ownership limit without the consent of the board of directors shall be void and will result in the shares being transferred by operation of law to a charitable trust. Our board of directors has granted two unrelated third party institutional investors exemptions from the 9.8% ownership limitation as set forth in our charter documents. These exemptions permitted one third party institutional investor to hold up to 15.0% of our common stock and one third party institutional investor to hold up to 20.0% of our Series A Preferred Stock.

***Because provisions contained in Maryland law, our charter and our bylaws may have an anti-takeover effect, investors may be prevented from receiving a control premium for their shares.***

Provisions contained in our charter and bylaws, as well as Maryland corporate law, may have anti-takeover effects that delay, defer or prevent a takeover attempt, which may prevent stockholders from receiving a control premium for their shares. For example, these provisions may defer or prevent tender offers for our common stock or purchases of large blocks of our common stock, thereby limiting the opportunities for our stockholders to receive a premium for their common stock over then-prevailing market prices. These provisions include the following:

*Ownership limit.* The ownership limit in our charter limits related investors including, among other things, any voting group, from acquiring over 9.8% of our common stock or more than 9.8% of our preferred stock without our permission.

*Preferred Stock.* Our charter authorizes our board of directors to issue preferred stock in one or more classes and to establish the preferences and rights of any class of preferred stock issued. These actions can be taken without soliciting stockholder approval.

*Maryland business combination statute.* Maryland law restricts the ability of holders of more than 10% of the voting power of a corporation's shares to engage in a business combination with the corporation.

*Maryland control share acquisition statute.* Maryland law limits the voting rights of control shares of a corporation in the event of a control share acquisition.

***Future offerings of debt securities, which would be senior to our common stock, Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock upon liquidation, or other equity securities, which would dilute our existing stockholders and may be senior to our common stock, Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock for the purposes of dividend distributions, may harm the market price of our common stock, Series A Preferred Stock or Series B Preferred Stock.***

In the future, we may attempt to increase our capital resources by making additional offerings of debt or equity securities, including commercial paper, medium-term notes, senior or subordinated notes and classes of preferred stock or common stock. Upon liquidation, holders of our debt securities and shares of preferred stock and lenders with respect to other borrowings will receive a distribution of our available assets prior to the holders of our common stock. Our preferred stock may have a preference on dividend payments that could limit our

**Table of Contents**

ability to make a dividend distribution to the holders of our common stock. Because our decision to issue securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future offerings. Thus, our common stockholders bear the risk of our future offerings reducing the market price of our common stock.

Our charter provides that we may issue up to 20 million shares of preferred stock in one or more series. The issuance of additional preferred stock on parity with or senior to the Series A Preferred Stock or Series B Preferred Stock could have the effect of diluting the amounts we may have available for distribution to holders of the Series A Preferred Stock or Series B Preferred Stock. The Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock will be subordinated to all our existing and future debt. Thus, our Series A Preferred Stockholders and our Series B Preferred Stockholders bear the risk of our future offerings reducing the market price of our Series A Preferred Stock or Series B Preferred Stock.

We may issue additional shares of common stock or shares of preferred stock that are convertible into common stock. If we issue a significant number of shares of common stock or convertible preferred stock in a short period of time, there could be a dilution of the existing common stock and a decrease in the market price of the common stock.

**Item 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

**Item 2. PROPERTIES**

We sublease approximately 5,500 square feet of office space in Santa Monica, California under a sublease agreement with PIA that expires in June 2012. In February 2012, the Company signed a new sublease agreement with PIA that expires on June 30, 2022 for approximately 7,300 sq. ft. at the same location. We believe this facility is adequate for our intended level of operations.

**Item 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

We are not a party to any material pending legal proceedings.

**Item 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

Not applicable.

**Table of Contents****PART II****Item 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES****Market Information**

Our common stock began trading under the symbol ANH on the New York Stock Exchange on May 9, 2003. Our common stock previously traded under the symbol ANH on the American Stock Exchange. Prior to March 17, 1998, there had been no public market for our common stock. The high and low sale prices for our common stock, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange, for the periods indicated are as follows:

	2011		2010	
	High	Low	High	Low
First Quarter	\$ 7.14	\$ 6.85	\$ 7.14	\$ 6.66
Second Quarter	\$ 7.51	\$ 6.90	\$ 7.29	\$ 6.28
Third Quarter	\$ 7.72	\$ 6.40	\$ 7.48	\$ 6.60
Fourth Quarter	\$ 6.88	\$ 6.03	\$ 7.38	\$ 6.83

**Holders**

As of February 22, 2012, there were approximately 944 record holders of our common stock. On February 22, 2012, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$6.51 per share.

**Dividends**

We pay cash dividends on a quarterly basis. The following table lists the cash dividends declared on each share of our common stock for our most recent two fiscal years. The dividends listed below were based primarily on the board of directors' evaluation of earnings and consideration of actions necessary to maintain our REIT status for each listed quarter and were declared on the date indicated:

	Cash Dividends Per Common Share	Date Dividends Declared
<i>2011</i>		
First quarter ended March 31, 2011	\$ 0.25	March 31, 2011
Second quarter ended June 30, 2011	\$ 0.25	June 30, 2011
Third quarter ended September 30, 2011	\$ 0.23	September 30, 2011
Fourth quarter ended December 31, 2011	\$ 0.21	December 15, 2011
<i>2010</i>		
First quarter ended March 31, 2010	\$ 0.27	April 15, 2010
Second quarter ended June 30, 2010	\$ 0.25	June 30, 2010
Third quarter ended September 30, 2010	\$ 0.23	September 30, 2010
Fourth quarter ended December 31, 2010	\$ 0.22	December 16, 2010

**Table of Contents**

**Issuer Purchase of Equity Securities**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased</b>	<b>Average Price Paid per Share</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs</b>
Shares purchased previously under this program			0	2,000,000
Month #1 (October 1-31)	357,085	\$ 6.40	357,085	1,642,915
Month #2 (November 1-30)	476,990	\$ 6.22	834,075	1,165,925
Month #3 (December 1-31)	0	\$ 0.00	834,075	1,165,925
<b>Total shares purchased this quarter</b>	<b>834,075</b>			<b>1,165,925</b>

**Total Return Comparison**

The following graph presents a cumulative total shareholder return comparison of our common stock with the Standard & Poor's 500 Index and the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, Inc. Mortgage REIT Index:

<b>Index</b>	<b>Period Ending</b>					
	<b>12/31/06</b>	<b>12/31/07</b>	<b>12/31/08</b>	<b>12/31/09</b>	<b>12/31/10</b>	<b>12/31/11</b>
Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation	100.00	89.72	82.15	105.68	121.11	124.32
S&P 500 Index	100.00	105.49	66.46	84.05	96.71	98.76
NAREIT Mortgage REIT Index	100.00	57.65	39.60	49.35	60.51	59.05

**Table of Contents**

The cumulative total shareholder return reflects stock price appreciation, if any, and the value of dividends for our common stock and for each of the comparative indices. The graph assumes that \$100 was invested on December 31, 2006 in our common stock, that \$100 was invested in each of the indices on December 31, 2006 and that all dividends were reinvested into additional shares of common stock at the frequency with which dividends are paid on the common stock during the applicable fiscal year. The total return performance shown in this graph is not necessarily indicative of and is not intended to suggest future total return performance. Measurement points are at the last trading day of the fiscal years represented above.

**Item 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The selected financial data as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 are derived from our audited financial statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The selected financial data as of December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 are derived from audited financial statements not included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. You should read these selected financial data together with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our audited financial statements and notes thereto that are included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K beginning on page F-1.

	2011	For the Years Ended December 31,			2007
		2010	2009	2008	
	(amounts in thousands, except per share data and days)				
<b>Statements of Income Data</b>					
Days in period	365	365	365	366	365
Interest income net of amortization of premium and discount	\$ 224,180	\$ 219,803	\$ 262,029	\$ 287,698	\$ 248,831
Interest expense	(89,265)	(95,830)	(115,707)	(181,324)	(224,884)
Net interest income	\$ 134,915	\$ 123,973	\$ 146,322	\$ 106,374	\$ 23,947
Net (loss) on sale of assets	0	0	0	(49)	(23,442)
Net gain (loss) on derivative instruments	0	0	107	(113)	(147)
Recovery (impairment charges) on Non-Agency MBS	2,225	270	0	(37,537)	0
Expenses	(14,264)	(13,744)	(16,195)	(13,626)	(5,536)
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 122,876	\$ 110,499	\$ 130,234	\$ 55,049	\$ (5,178)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations(1)	0	0	0	7,558	(151,288)
Net income (loss)	\$ 122,876	\$ 110,499	\$ 130,234	\$ 62,607	\$ (156,466)
Dividends on preferred stock	(5,885)	(5,764)	(5,906)	(5,928)	(4,749)
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders	\$ 116,991	\$ 104,735	\$ 124,328	\$ 56,679	\$ (161,215)
<b>Basic earnings (loss) per common share:</b>					
Continuing operations	\$ 0.91	\$ 0.89	\$ 1.18	\$ 0.60	\$ (0.21)
Discontinued operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	(3.26)
Total basic earnings (loss) per common share	\$ 0.91	\$ 0.89	\$ 1.18	\$ 0.69	\$ (3.47)
Average number of shares outstanding	128,601	118,164	105,413	82,043	46,483
<b>Diluted earnings (loss) per common share:</b>					
Continuing operations	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.87	\$ 1.16	\$ 0.60	\$ (0.21)
Discontinued operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	(3.26)
Total diluted earnings (loss) per common share	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.87	\$ 1.16	\$ 0.69	\$ (3.47)
Average number of diluted shares outstanding	132,759	121,919	108,905	85,281	46,483

## Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

- (1) The year ended December 31, 2008 included a gain of approximately \$7.6 million on the disposition of discontinued operations (Belvedere Trust Mortgage Corporation and its subsidiaries and BT Management Company, L.L.C.). During the latter half of 2011, these entities were dissolved and are no longer consolidated in our financial statements.



**Table of Contents**

	2011	2010	As of December 31,		2007
			2009	2008	
	(amounts in thousands, except per share data)				
<b>Balance Sheets Data</b>					
Agency MBS	\$ 8,761,894	\$ 7,734,658	\$ 6,485,801	\$ 5,307,440	\$ 4,662,547
Assets of discontinued operations	0	0	0	0	38
Total assets	\$ 8,813,769	\$ 7,790,215	\$ 6,526,648	\$ 5,477,142	\$ 4,797,519
Repurchase agreements	\$ 7,595,000	\$ 6,375,000	\$ 5,359,000	\$ 4,665,000	\$ 4,227,100
Junior subordinated notes	37,380	37,380	37,380	37,380	37,380
Liabilities of discontinued operations	0	0	0	0	7,834
Total liabilities	\$ 7,804,243	\$ 6,896,304	\$ 5,597,337	\$ 4,892,842	\$ 4,367,963
Series B Preferred Stock	27,239	25,630	25,803	28,096	28,108
Stockholders' equity (common and Series A Preferred)	\$ 982,287	\$ 868,281	\$ 903,508	\$ 556,204	\$ 401,448
Number of common shares outstanding	134,115	120,901	115,563	90,462	57,289
Book value per common share	\$ 6.96	\$ 6.78	\$ 7.40	\$ 5.61	\$ 6.15

**Item 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

*This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains or incorporates by reference certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the 1933 Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and, as such, may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Forward-looking statements are those that predict or describe future events or trends and that do not relate solely to historical matters. You can generally identify forward-looking statements as statements containing the words "will," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "estimate," "assume" or other similar expressions. You should not rely on our forward-looking statements because the matters they describe are subject to assumptions, known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other unpredictable factors, many of which are beyond our control. Therefore, our actual results could differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, some of which are listed under the section "Risk Factors," Item 1A of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.*

*Statements regarding the following subjects, among others, may be forward-looking: changes in interest rates and the market value of our mortgage-backed securities ( "MBS" ); risks associated with investing in mortgage-related assets; changes in the yield curve; the availability of MBS for purchase; changes in the prepayment rates on the mortgage loans securing our MBS; our ability to borrow to finance our assets and, if available, the terms of any financing; implementation of or changes in government regulations or programs affecting our business; changes in business conditions and the general economy, including the consequences of actions by the U.S. government and other foreign governments to address the global financial crisis; our ability to maintain our qualification as a real estate investment trust ( "REIT" ) for federal income tax purposes; our ability to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended; and our ability to manage our growth. New risks and uncertainties arise over time and it is not possible to predict those events or how they may affect us. Except as required by law, we do not intend to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.*

**General***The Company*

We were formed in October 1997 and commenced operations on March 17, 1998. We are in the business of investing primarily in United States agency mortgage-backed securities, or MBS, which are obligations guaranteed by the United States government, such as Ginnie Mae, or federally sponsored enterprises such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Our principal business objective is to generate net income for distribution to stockholders based upon the spread between the interest income on our mortgage-related assets and the costs of borrowing to finance our acquisition of these assets.

---

**Table of Contents**

We are organized for tax purposes as a real estate investment trust, or REIT. Accordingly, we generally distribute substantially all of our taxable earnings to stockholders without paying federal or state income tax at the corporate level on the distributed earnings. At December 31, 2011, our qualified REIT assets (real estate assets, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, or the Code, cash and cash items and government securities) were greater than 99% of our total assets, as compared to the Code requirement that at least 75% of our total assets must be qualified REIT assets. Greater than 99% of our 2011 revenue qualified for both the 75% source of income test and the 95% source of income test under the REIT rules. At December 31, 2011, we believe we met all REIT requirements regarding the ownership of our common stock and the distributions of our taxable net income. Therefore, we believe that we continue to qualify as a REIT under the provisions of the Code.

At our annual stockholders meeting held on May 25, 2011, our stockholders approved the entry by us into a Management Agreement, or the Management Agreement (a copy of which is included as Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012), between the Company and Anworth Management, LLC, or the Manager, and the externalization of the Company's management function, or the Externalization. We entered into the Management Agreement effective as of December 31, 2011. After the effective date, our day-to-day operations are being conducted by the Manager through the authority delegated to it under the Management Agreement and pursuant to the policies established by our board of directors. The Manager is supervised and directed by our board of directors and is responsible for (i) the selection, purchase and sale of our investment portfolio; (ii) our financing and hedging activities; and (iii) providing us with management services. The Manager will perform such other services and activities relating to our assets and operations as may be appropriate. In exchange for these services, the Manager receives a management fee paid monthly in arrears in an amount equal to one-twelfth of 1.20% of our Equity (as defined in the Management Agreement). The initial term of the Management Agreement will expire December 31, 2013, and will automatically renew for successive one-year renewal terms unless either party elects not to renew. If we terminate the Management Agreement or elect not to renew without cause, then we will be required to pay a termination fee equal to three times the average annual management fee earned during the prior 24-month period.

Although the U.S. government and other foreign governments have taken various actions (including placing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in conservatorship) intended to protect financial institutions, their respective economies and their respective housing and mortgage markets, we continue to operate under very difficult market conditions. There can be no assurance that these various actions will have a beneficial impact on the global financial markets and, more specifically, the market for the securities we currently own in our portfolio. We cannot predict what, if any, impact these actions or future actions by either the U.S. government or foreign governments could have on our business, results of operations and financial condition. These events may impact the availability of financing generally in the marketplace and also may impact the market value of MBS generally, including the securities we currently own in our portfolio.

In August 2011, Standard & Poor's downgraded each of U.S. sovereign debt and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from AAA to AA+. We do not know what effect this will ultimately have on the U.S. economy, the value of our securities and the ability of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to satisfy its guarantees of Agency MBS if necessary. A failure by the U.S. government to meet the conditions of the August 2011 debt ceiling agreement or to reduce its budget deficits or a further downgrade of U.S. sovereign debt and government-sponsored agency debt could have a material adverse effect on the U.S. economy and on the global economy. These events could have a material adverse effect on our borrowing costs, the availability of financing and the liquidity and valuation of securities in general and particularly the securities in our portfolio.

*Our Portfolio*

Our operations consist of the following portfolios: agency mortgage-backed securities, or Agency MBS, and non-agency mortgage-backed securities, or Non-Agency MBS. Approximately 99.99% of our total portfolio is Agency MBS.

**Table of Contents**

	<b>December 31, 2011</b>
Total assets	\$ 8.81 billion
Fair value of Agency MBS	\$ 8.76 billion
Adjustable-rate Agency MBS (less than 1 year reset)	24%
Adjustable-rate Agency MBS (1-2 year reset)	4%
Adjustable-rate Agency MBS (2-7 year reset)	53%
15-year fixed-rate Agency MBS	13%
30-year fixed-rate Agency MBS	6%
Agency floating-rate collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs)	<1%
	100%

Stockholders' equity available to common stockholders at December 31, 2011 was approximately \$933.8 million, or \$6.96 per share. The \$933.8 million equals total stockholders' equity of \$982.3 million less the Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock, or Series A Preferred Stock, liquidating value of \$46.9 million and less the difference between the Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, or Series B Preferred Stock, liquidating value of \$28.8 million and the proceeds from its sale of \$27.2 million. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we reported net income of \$122.9 million. Net income to common stockholders was approximately \$117 million, or net income of \$0.90 per diluted share, based on a weighted average of 132.8 million fully diluted shares outstanding, which consisted of net income of \$122.9 million minus payment of preferred dividends of \$5.9 million.

**Results of Operations***Years Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010*

For the year ended December 31, 2011, our net income was \$122.9 million. Our net income available to common stockholders was approximately \$117 million, or \$0.90 per diluted share, based on a weighted average of 132.8 million fully diluted shares outstanding. This includes net income of \$122.9 million minus the payment of preferred dividends of \$5.9 million. For the year ended December 31, 2010, our net income was \$110.5 million. Our net income available to common stockholders was \$104.7 million, or \$0.87 per diluted share, based on a weighted average of 121.9 million fully diluted shares outstanding. This includes net income of \$110.5 million minus the payment of preferred dividends of \$5.8 million.

Net interest income for the year ended December 31, 2011 totaled \$134.9 million, or 47.7% of gross income, compared to \$124.0 million, or 45.9% of gross income, for the year ended December 31, 2010. Net interest income is comprised of the interest income earned on mortgage investments (net of premium amortization expense) less interest expense from borrowings. Interest income net of premium amortization expense for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$224.2 million, compared to \$219.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, an increase of 2%, due primarily to an increase in the weighted average portfolio outstanding of approximately \$7.9 billion in 2011 from approximately \$6.1 billion in 2010, partially offset by an increase in premium amortization expense of \$8.2 million, and a decrease in the weighted average coupons on Agency MBS (from 4.42% in 2010 to 3.59% in 2011). Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$89.3 million, compared to \$95.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, a decrease of 6.9%, which resulted from a decline in weighted average short-term interest rates, after giving effect to the swap agreements, of 1.24% in 2011 vs. 1.76% in 2010, partially offset by an increase in the average borrowings outstanding of \$7.1 billion in 2011 vs. \$5.4 billion in 2010.

Recoveries on Non-Agency MBS were approximately \$2.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2011 compared to \$270 thousand for the year ended December 31, 2010.

**Table of Contents**

The results of our operations are affected by a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control, and primarily depend on, among other things, the level of our net interest income, the market value of our MBS, the supply of, and demand for, MBS in the marketplace, and the terms and availability of financing. Our net interest income varies primarily as a result from changes in interest rates, the slope of the yield curve (the differential between long-term and short-term interest rates), borrowing costs (our interest expense) and prepayment speeds on our MBS portfolios, the behavior of which involves various risks and uncertainties. Interest rates and prepayment speeds, as measured by the constant prepayment rate, vary according to the type of investment, conditions in the financial markets, competition and other factors, none of which can be predicted with any certainty. With respect to our business operations, increases in interest rates, in general, may, over time, cause: (i) the interest expense associated with our borrowings, which are primarily comprised of repurchase agreements, to increase; (ii) the value of our MBS portfolios and, correspondingly, our stockholders' equity to decline; (iii) coupons on our MBS to reset, although on a delayed basis, to higher interest rates; (iv) prepayments on our MBS portfolios to slow, thereby slowing the amortization of our MBS purchase premiums; and (v) the value of our interest rate swap agreements and, correspondingly, our stockholders' equity to increase. Conversely, decreases in interest rates, in general, may, over time, cause: (i) prepayments on our MBS portfolios to increase, thereby accelerating the amortization of our MBS purchase premiums; (ii) the interest expense associated with our borrowings to decrease; (iii) the value of our MBS portfolios and, correspondingly, our stockholders' equity to increase; (iv) the value of our interest rate swap agreements and, correspondingly, our stockholders' equity to decrease; and (v) coupons on our MBS to reset, although on a delayed basis, to lower interest rates. In addition, our borrowing costs and credit lines are further affected by the type of collateral pledged and general conditions in the credit markets.

During the year ended December 31, 2011, premium amortization expense increased \$8.2 million, or 16.2%, from \$50.4 million during the year ended December 31, 2010 to \$58.6 million, due primarily to an increase in the amortization of unearned premium on securities acquired in 2011 and 2010 at higher premiums.

The table below shows the approximate constant prepayment rate of our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS:

Portfolio	Year Ended December 31, 2011				Year Ended December 31, 2010			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS	21%	22%	28%	25%	30%	48%	33%	28%

During the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, there was no gain or loss recognized in earnings due to hedge ineffectiveness. We have determined that our hedges are still considered highly effective. There were no components of the derivative instruments' gain or loss excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness.

Total expenses were \$14.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, compared to \$13.75 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. The increase of \$520 thousand in total expenses was due primarily to an increase in compensation costs of \$909 thousand (due primarily to increased incentive compensation), an increase in Other expenses (as detailed in Note 14 to the accompanying audited financial statements) of \$285 thousand, partially offset by a decrease of \$674 thousand in the amount written-off on the Lehman Brothers, Inc. receivable.

*Years Ended December 31, 2010 and 2009*

For the year ended December 31, 2010, our net income was \$110.5 million. Our net income available to common stockholders was \$104.7 million, or \$0.87 per diluted share, based on a weighted average of 121.9 million fully diluted shares outstanding. This includes net income of \$110.5 million minus the payment of

**Table of Contents**

preferred dividends of \$5.8 million. For the year ended December 31, 2009, our net income was \$130.2 million. Our net income available to common stockholders was \$124.3 million, or \$1.16 per diluted share, based on a weighted average of 108.9 million fully diluted shares outstanding. This includes net income of \$130.2 million minus the payment of preferred dividends of \$5.9 million.

Net interest income for the year ended December 31, 2010 totaled \$124.0 million, or 45.9% of gross income, compared to \$146.3 million, or 51% of gross income, for the year ended December 31, 2009. Net interest income is comprised of the interest income earned on mortgage investments (net of premium amortization expense) less interest expense from borrowings. Interest income net of premium amortization expense for the year ended December 31, 2010 was \$219.8 million, compared to \$262.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2009, a decrease of 16.1%, due primarily to an increase in premium amortization expense, a decrease in the weighted average coupons on Agency MBS (from 5.21% in 2009 to 4.42% in 2010), partially offset by an increase in the weighted average portfolio outstanding of approximately \$6.1 billion in 2010 from approximately \$5.42 billion in 2009. Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2010 was \$95.8 million, compared to \$115.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2009, a decrease of 17.2%, which resulted from a decline in weighted average short-term interest rates, after giving effect to the swap agreements, of 1.76% in 2010 vs. 2.43% in 2009, partially offset by an increase in the average borrowings outstanding of \$5.38 billion in 2010 vs. \$4.70 billion in 2009.

During the year ended December 31, 2010, premium amortization expense increased \$26.5 million, or 111.3%, from \$23.8 million during the year ended December 31, 2009 to \$50.4 million, due primarily to an increase in prepayments (from the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac buyouts during the year) and an increase in the amortization of unearned premium on securities acquired in 2010 at higher premiums.

Portfolio	Year Ended December 31, 2010				Year Ended December 31, 2009			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS	30%	48%	33%	28%	15%	17%	21%	19%

During the year ended December 31, 2010, there was no gain or loss recognized in earnings due to hedge ineffectiveness, compared to a net gain of approximately \$107 thousand recognized in earnings due to hedge ineffectiveness during the year ended December 31, 2009. We have determined that our hedges are still considered highly effective. There were no components of the derivative instruments gain or loss excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness.

Total expenses were \$13.75 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, compared to \$16.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2009. The decrease of \$2.45 million in total expenses was due primarily to a decrease in compensation costs of \$1.8 million (due primarily to decreased incentive compensation), a decrease of \$288 thousand in the amount written-off on the Lehman Brothers, Inc. receivable and a decrease in Other expenses (as detailed in Note 14 to the accompanying audited financial statements) of \$365 thousand.

**Financial Condition***Agency MBS Portfolio*

At December 31, 2011, we held agency mortgage assets which had an amortized cost of approximately \$8.57 billion, consisting primarily of approximately \$6.99 billion of adjustable-rate Agency MBS, approximately \$1.58 billion of fixed-rate Agency MBS and approximately \$3 million of floating-rate CMOs. This amount represents an approximate 12% increase from the \$7.64 billion held at December 31, 2010. Of the adjustable-rate Agency MBS owned by us, 29% were adjustable-rate pass-through certificates whose coupons reset within one year. The remaining 71% consisted of hybrid adjustable-rate Agency MBS whose coupons will reset between one year and seven years. Hybrid adjustable-rate Agency MBS have an initial interest rate that is fixed for a certain period, usually three to seven years, and thereafter adjust annually for the remainder of the term of the loan.

**Table of Contents**

The following table presents a schedule of our Agency MBS at fair value owned at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, classified by type of issuer (dollar amounts in thousands):

Agency	December 31, 2011		December 31, 2010	
	Fair Value	Portfolio Percentage	Fair Value	Portfolio Percentage
Fannie Mae (FNM)	\$ 6,008,951	68.6%	\$ 5,552,024	71.8%
Freddie Mac (FHLMC)	2,735,842	31.2	2,163,469	28.0
Ginnie Mae (GNMA)	17,101	0.2	19,165	0.2
Total Agency MBS:	\$ 8,761,894	100.0%	\$ 7,734,658	100.0%

The following table classifies our portfolio of Agency MBS owned at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 by type of interest rate index (dollar amounts in thousands):

Agency	December 31, 2011		December 31, 2010	
	Fair Value	Portfolio Percentage	Fair Value	Portfolio Percentage
One-month LIBOR	\$ 3,130	0.0%	\$ 4,187	0.0%
Six-month LIBOR	73,345	0.8	87,894	1.1
One-year LIBOR	6,699,300	76.5	5,778,465	74.8
Six-month certificate of deposit	1,177	0.0	1,339	0.0
Six-month constant maturity treasury	360	0.0	497	0.0
One-year constant maturity treasury	329,685	3.8	386,332	5.0
Cost of Funds Index	24,968	0.3	29,167	0.4
15-year fixed-rate	1,121,500	12.8	795,687	10.3
30-year fixed-rate	508,429	5.8	651,090	8.4
Total Agency MBS:	\$ 8,761,894	100.0%	\$ 7,734,658	100.0%

The fair values indicated do not include interest earned but not yet paid. With respect to our hybrid adjustable-rate Agency MBS, the fair value of these securities appears on the line associated with the index based on which the security will eventually reset once the initial fixed interest rate period has expired. The fair value of our Agency MBS is reported to us independently from dealers who are major financial institutions and are considered to be market makers for these types of instruments. For more detail on the fair value of our Agency MBS, see Note 6 to the accompanying audited financial statements.

**Table of Contents**

The weighted average coupon and average amortized costs of our Agency MBS at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 were as follows:

	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010
<i>Weighted Average Coupon:</i>		
Adjustable-rate	3.27%	3.77%
Hybrid adjustable-rate	3.22	3.83
15-year fixed-rate	3.66	3.68
30-year fixed-rate	5.55	5.56
CMOs	1.09	1.07
<b>Total Agency MBS:</b>	<b>3.42%</b>	<b>3.94%</b>
<i>Average Amortized Cost:</i>		
Adjustable-rate and hybrid adjustable-rate	102.83%	102.62%
15-year fixed-rate	103.29	103.27
30-year fixed-rate	100.82	100.72
<b>Total Agency MBS:</b>	<b>102.78%</b>	<b>102.53%</b>
<b>Current yield (weighted average coupon divided by average amortized cost)</b>	<b>3.33%</b>	<b>3.84%</b>

Relative to our Agency MBS portfolio at December 31, 2011, the average interest rate on outstanding repurchase agreements was 0.36% and the average days to maturity was 38 days. After adjusting for interest rate swap transactions, the average interest rate on outstanding repurchase agreements was 1.18% and the weighted average term to next rate adjustment was 436 days. Relative to our Agency MBS portfolio at December 31, 2010, the average interest rate on outstanding repurchase agreements was 0.30% and the average days to maturity was 31 days. After adjusting for interest rate swap transactions, the average interest rate on outstanding repurchase agreements was 1.43% and the weighted average term to next rate adjustment was 418 days.

At December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, the unamortized net premium paid for our Agency MBS was approximately \$231.5 million and \$189 million, respectively.

One of the factors that impacts the reported yield on our MBS portfolio is the actual prepayment rate on the underlying mortgages. We analyze our MBS and the extent to which prepayments impact the yield. When the rate of prepayments exceeds expectations, we amortize the premiums paid on mortgage assets over a shorter time period, resulting in a reduced yield to maturity on our mortgage assets. Conversely, if actual prepayments are less than the assumed CPR, the premium would be amortized over a longer time period, resulting in a higher yield to maturity.

*Non-Agency MBS Portfolio*

Non-Agency MBS are securities issued by companies that are not government or government-sponsored enterprises and are secured primarily by first-lien residential mortgage loans. At December 31, 2011, our Non-Agency MBS portfolio consisted of a fair value of \$1.6 million of floating-rate CMOs with an average coupon of 0.54%, which were acquired at par value. At December 31, 2010, our Non-Agency MBS portfolio consisted of a fair value of \$4.4 million of floating-rate CMOs with an average coupon of 0.51%, which were acquired at par value. At December 31, 2011, the fair value of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio decreased to approximately \$1.6 million from a fair value of approximately \$4.4 million at December 31, 2010. The decrease was due primarily to principal paydowns of approximately \$2.9 million, a decrease in an unrealized gain of approximately \$2.1 million, partially offset by recoveries of approximately \$2.2 million.

At December 31, 2011, the amortized cost of our Non-Agency MBS was zero. At December 31, 2010, the amortized cost of our Non-Agency MBS was \$689 thousand.

---

## **Table of Contents**

At December 31, 2011, the two securities representing the principal balance of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio were rated C by Moody's Investor Service and rated D by Standard & Poor's.

We received valuations at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 for the Non-Agency MBS from an independent third party pricing service whose methodologies are based on broker-provided pricing as well as indirect observation of market activity and we consider the fair value measurement a Level 3 input at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010. For more detail on the fair value of our Non-Agency MBS, see Note 6 to the accompanying audited financial statements.

At December 31, 2011, the fair value of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio was approximately \$1.6 million, the principal balance was approximately \$22.3 million and the original principal balance was approximately \$60 million. At December 31, 2010, the fair value of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio was approximately \$4.4 million, the principal balance was approximately \$38.23 million and the original principal balance was approximately \$60 million.

At December 31, 2011, and in connection with the subordination levels of Non-Agency MBS securitizations, the average securitization principal subordinate to Anworth-owned tranches was 0.12%, the average securitization principal of Anworth-owned tranches was 12.21% and the average securitization principal senior to Anworth-owned tranches was 87.67%. At December 31, 2010, the average securitization principal subordinate to Anworth-owned tranches was 0.8%, the average securitization principal of Anworth-owned tranches was 16.8% and the average securitization principal senior to Anworth-owned tranches was 82.4%.

## **Hedging**

We periodically enter into derivative transactions, in the form of interest rate swaps, which are intended to hedge our exposure to rising rates on funds borrowed to finance our investments in securities. We designate interest rate swap transactions as cash flow hedges. To the extent that we enter into hedging transactions to reduce our interest rate risk on indebtedness incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets, any income or gain from the disposition of hedging transactions should be qualifying income under the REIT rules for purposes of the 95% gross income test. The hedging rules that exclude certain hedging income from the computation of the 95% income test have been extended to exclusion under the 75% income test as well. To qualify for this exclusion, the hedging transaction must be clearly identified as such before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated or entered into. The transaction must hedge indebtedness incurred or to be incurred by us to acquire or carry real estate assets.

As part of our asset/liability management policy, we may enter into hedging agreements such as interest rate caps, floors or swaps. These agreements are entered into to try to reduce interest rate risk and are designed to provide us with income and capital appreciation in the event of certain changes in interest rates. We review the need for hedging agreements on a regular basis consistent with our capital investment policy. At December 31, 2011, we were a counter-party to swap agreements, which are derivative instruments as defined by the Financial Accounting Standards Board in Accounting Standards Classification, or ASC, No. 815-10, with an aggregate notional amount of \$3.03 billion and an average maturity of 2.9 years. We utilize swap agreements to manage interest rate risk and do not anticipate entering into derivative transactions for speculative or trading purposes. In accordance with the swap agreements, we pay a fixed rate of interest during the term of the swap agreements and receive a payment that varies with the three-month LIBOR rate. At December 31, 2011, there were unrealized losses of approximately \$97 million on our swap agreements.

For more information on the amounts, policies, objectives and other qualitative data on our hedge agreements, see Notes 1, 6 and 12 to the accompanying audited financial statements.



---

**Table of Contents**

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

*Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS Portfolios*

Our primary source of funds consists of repurchase agreements which totaled \$7.6 billion at December 31, 2011. As collateral for these repurchase agreements, we have pledged approximately \$8.07 billion in Agency MBS. Our other significant source of funds for the year ended December 31, 2011 consisted of payments of principal from our Agency MBS portfolio in the amount of \$2.24 billion.

For the year ended December 31, 2011, there was a net decrease in cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$1.7 million. This consisted of the following components:

Net cash used in operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2011 was approximately \$169 million. This is comprised primarily of net income of \$122.9 million, adding back the following non-cash items: the amortization of premium and discounts of approximately \$58.6 million, the amortization of restricted stock of \$282 thousand and non-cash incentive compensation of approximately \$877 thousand, partially offset by recoveries on Non-Agency MBS of approximately \$2.2 million. Net cash used in operating activities also included a decrease in accrued expenses and payable for securities purchased of approximately \$343 million, an increase in interest receivable of \$988 thousand, an increase in prepaid expenses of approximately \$8.7 million, partially offset by an increase in accrued interest payable of approximately \$3.5 million;

Net cash used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2011 was approximately \$1.02 billion, which consisted of purchases of Agency MBS of approximately \$3.26 billion, partially offset by \$2.24 billion from principal payments on Agency MBS and approximately \$2.9 million in principal payments on Non-Agency MBS; and

Net cash provided by financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2011 was approximately \$1.19 billion. This consisted of borrowings on repurchase agreements of approximately \$35.77 billion, partially offset by repayments on repurchase agreements of approximately \$34.55 billion; net proceeds from common stock issued of approximately \$87.3 million and proceeds from Series B Preferred Stock issued of approximately \$5.1 million, less dividends paid of \$121.2 million on common stock and dividends paid of approximately \$5.9 million on preferred stock.

Relative to our Agency MBS portfolio at December 31, 2011, all of our repurchase agreements were fixed-rate term repurchase agreements with original maturities ranging from 28 days to three months. At December 31, 2011, we had borrowed funds under repurchase agreements with 21 different financial institutions. As the repurchase agreements mature, we enter into new repurchase agreements to take their place. Because we borrow money based on the fair value of our MBS and because increases in short-term interest rates or increasing market concern about the liquidity or value of our MBS can negatively impact the valuation of MBS, our borrowing ability could be reduced and lenders may initiate margin calls in the event short-term interest rates increase or the value of our MBS declines for other reasons. We had adequate cash flow, liquid assets and unpledged collateral with which to meet our margin requirements during the year ended December 31, 2011 but there can be no assurance we will have adequate cash flow, liquid assets and unpledged collateral with which to meet our margin requirements in the future.

Our leverage on capital (including common stockholders' equity, all preferred stock and junior subordinated notes) increased from 6.8x at December 31, 2010 to 7.25x at December 31, 2011.

In the future, we expect that our primary sources of funds will continue to consist of borrowed funds under repurchase agreement transactions and of monthly payments of principal and interest on our MBS portfolios. Our liquid assets generally consist of unpledged MBS, cash and cash equivalents. A large negative change in the market value of our MBS might reduce our liquidity, requiring us to sell assets with the likely result of realized losses upon sale.

**Table of Contents**

During the year ended December 31, 2011, we raised approximately \$47.78 million in capital under our Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan.

At December 31, 2011, our authorized capital included 20 million shares of \$0.01 par value preferred stock, which we have classified as Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock, or Series A Preferred Stock, and Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, or Series B Preferred Stock. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we did not issue any shares of Series A Preferred Stock. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we issued an aggregate of 383,409 shares of Series B Preferred Stock at a weighted average price of \$25.03 per share, which provided net proceeds to us of approximately \$9.46 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2011, we issued an aggregate of 5,101,900 shares of common stock under our amended 2008 Sales Agreement with Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., or Cantor (as described in Note 9 to the accompanying audited financial statements), which provided net proceeds to us of approximately \$36.1 million, net of sales commissions less reimbursement of fees. Cantor, as sales agent, received an aggregate commission of approximately \$696 thousand, which represents an average commission of approximately 2.0% on the gross sales price per share. These transactions used the remaining number of common shares available under the amended 2008 Sales Agreement, at which point it expired. On May 27, 2011, we entered into a Controlled Equity Offering Sales Agreement, or the 2011 Sales Agreement, with Cantor to sell up to 20,000,000 shares of our common stock, 1,000,000 shares of our Series A Preferred Stock and 1,000,000 shares of our Series B Preferred Stock. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we issued an aggregate of 590,600 shares of common stock under the 2011 Sales Agreement, which provided net proceeds to us of approximately \$4.4 million, net of sales commissions less reimbursement of fees. The sales agent received approximately \$90 thousand, which represents an average commission of approximately 2.0% on the gross sales price per share. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we did not issue any shares of Series A Preferred Stock under the amended 2008 Sales Agreement or the 2011 Sales Agreement. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we issued an aggregate of 343,409 shares of Series B Preferred Stock under the amended 2008 Sales Agreement and 40,000 shares under the 2011 Sales Agreement, which provided net proceeds to us of approximately \$8.42 million and \$1.04 million, respectively, net of sales commissions and less reimbursement of fees. Cantor, as sales agent, received an aggregate commission of approximately \$127 thousand and \$10 thousand, respectively, which represents an average commission of approximately 1.4% on the gross sales price per share. At December 31, 2011, there were 19,409,400 shares of common stock, 1,000,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock and 960,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock, respectively, available under the 2011 Sales Agreement.

**Contractual Obligations**

The following table represents our contractual obligations at December 31, 2011 (in thousands):

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Less Than 1 Year</b>	<b>1-3 Years</b>	<b>3-5 Years</b>	<b>More Than 5 Years</b>
Repurchase agreements(1)	\$ 7,595,000	\$ 7,595,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Junior subordinated notes(2)	37,380	0	0	0	37,380
Lease commitment	158	158	0	0	0
Total(3):	\$ 7,632,538	\$ 7,595,158	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 37,380

(1) These represent amounts due by maturity.

(2) These represent amounts due by contractual maturity. However, we do have the option to redeem these after March 30, 2010 and April 30, 2010 as more fully described in Note 5 to the accompanying audited financial statements.

(3) This does not include annual compensation agreements and incentive compensation agreements, which are more fully described in Note 10 to the accompanying audited financial statements.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Stockholders Equity**

We use available-for-sale treatment for our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS, which are carried on our balance sheet at fair value rather than historical cost. Based upon these treatments, our total equity base at December 31, 2011 was \$982.3 million. Common stockholders equity was approximately \$933.8 million, or a book value of \$6.96 per share.

Under our available-for-sale accounting treatment, unrealized fluctuations in fair values of assets are assessed to determine whether they are other-than-temporary. To the extent we determine that these unrealized fluctuations are not other-than-temporary, they do not impact GAAP income or taxable income but rather are reflected on the balance sheet by changing the carrying value of the assets and reflecting the change in stockholders equity under Accumulated other comprehensive income, unrealized gain (loss) on available-for-sale securities.

As a result of this mark-to-market accounting treatment, our book value and book value per share are likely to fluctuate far more than if we used historical amortized cost accounting on all of our assets. As a result, comparisons with some companies that use historical cost accounting for all of their balance sheet may not be meaningful.

Unrealized changes in the fair value of MBS have one significant and direct effect on our potential earnings and dividends: positive mark-to-market changes will increase our equity base and allow us to increase our borrowing capacity, while negative changes will tend to reduce borrowing capacity under our capital investment policy. A very large negative change in the net market value of our MBS might reduce our liquidity, requiring us to sell assets with the likely result of realized losses upon sale. Accumulated other comprehensive income, unrealized gain on available-for-sale Agency MBS was approximately \$145.66 million, or 1.70% of the amortized cost of our Agency MBS, at December 31, 2011. This, along with Accumulated other comprehensive loss, derivatives of approximately \$97 million and Accumulated other comprehensive gain, Non-Agency MBS of \$1.6 million, constitutes the total Accumulated other comprehensive income of approximately \$50.2 million.

### **Critical Accounting Policies**

Management has the obligation to ensure that its policies and methodologies are in accordance with GAAP. Management has reviewed and evaluated its critical accounting policies and believes them to be appropriate.

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions in certain circumstances that affect amounts reported in the accompanying audited financial statements. In preparing these audited financial statements, management has made its best estimates and judgments on the basis of information then readily available to it of certain amounts included in the audited financial statements, giving due consideration to materiality. Application of these accounting policies involves the exercise of judgment and use of assumptions as to future uncertainties and, as a result, actual results could differ materially and adversely from these estimates.

Our accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the accompanying audited financial statements. Management believes the more significant of our accounting policies are the following:

#### *Revenue Recognition*

The most significant source of our revenue is derived from our investments in MBS. We reflect income using the effective yield method which, through amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts at an effective yield, recognizes periodic income over the estimated life of the investment on a constant yield basis, as adjusted for actual prepayment activity. Management believes our revenue recognition policies are appropriate to reflect the substance of the underlying transactions.

---

## **Table of Contents**

Interest income on our MBS is accrued based on the actual coupon rate and the outstanding principal amounts of the underlying mortgages. Premiums and discounts are amortized or accreted into interest income over the expected lives of the securities using the effective interest yield method, adjusted for the effects of actual prepayments and estimated prepayments based on ASC 320-10. Our policy for estimating prepayment speeds for calculating the effective yield is to evaluate historical performance, street consensus prepayment speeds and current market conditions. If our estimate of prepayments is materially incorrect, we may be required to make an adjustment to the amortization or accretion of premiums and discounts that would have an impact on future income, which could be material and adverse.

### *Valuation and Classification of Investment Securities*

We carry our investment securities on our balance sheet at fair value. The fair values of our Agency MBS are generally based on third party bid price indications provided by certain dealers who make markets in such securities. The fair value of our Non-Agency MBS are obtained from an independent third party pricing service whose methodologies are based on broker-provided pricing as well as indirect observation of market activity. If, in the opinion of management, one or more securities prices reported to us are not reliable or unavailable, management reviews the fair value based on characteristics of the security it receives from the issuer and available market information. The fair values reported reflect estimates and may not necessarily be indicative of the amounts we could realize in a current market exchange. We review various factors (i.e., expected cash flows, changes in interest rates, credit protection, etc.) in determining whether and to what extent an other-than-temporary impairment exists. To the extent that unrealized losses on our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS are attributable to changes in interest rates and not credit quality, and because we do not have the intent to sell these investments nor is it not more likely than not that we will be required to sell these investments before recovery of their amortized cost bases, which may be at maturity, we do not consider these investments to be other-than-temporarily impaired. Losses (that are related to credit quality) on securities classified as available-for-sale, which are determined by management to be other-than-temporary in nature, are reclassified from Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) to current-period income (loss). For more detail on the fair value of our securities, see Note 6 to the accompanying audited financial statements.

### *Accounting for Derivatives and Hedging Activities*

In accordance with ASC 815-10, a derivative that is designated as a hedge is recognized as an asset/liability and measured at estimated fair value. In order for our interest rate swap agreements to qualify for hedge accounting, upon entering into the swap agreement, we must anticipate that the hedge will be highly effective, as defined by ASC 815-10.

On the date we enter into a derivative contract, we designate the derivative as a hedge of the variability of cash flows that are to be received or paid in connection with a recognized asset or liability (a cash flow hedge). Changes in the fair value of a derivative that are highly effective and that are designated and qualify as a cash flow hedge, to the extent that the hedge is effective, are recorded in Other comprehensive income and reclassified to income when the forecasted transaction affects income (e.g., when periodic settlement interest payments are due on repurchase agreements). The swap agreements are carried on our balance sheets at their fair value based on values obtained from large financial institutions, who are market makers for these types of instruments. Hedge ineffectiveness, if any, is recorded in current-period income.

We formally assess, both at the hedge's inception and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions have been highly effective in offsetting changes in the cash flows of hedged items and whether those derivatives may be expected to remain highly effective in future periods. If it is determined that a derivative is not (or has ceased to be) highly effective as a hedge, we discontinue hedge accounting.

When we discontinue hedge accounting, the gain or loss on the derivative remains in Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) and is reclassified into income when the forecasted transaction affects income. In all situations in which hedge accounting is discontinued and the derivative remains outstanding, we will carry the derivative at its fair value on the balance sheet, recognizing changes in the fair value in current-period income.

## **Table of Contents**

For purposes of the cash flow statement, cash flows from derivative instruments are classified with the cash flows from the hedged item. For more detail on our derivative instruments, see Notes 1, 6 and 12 to the accompanying audited financial statements.

### *Income Taxes*

Our financial results do not reflect provisions for current or deferred income taxes. Management believes that we have and intend to continue to operate in a manner that will allow us to be taxed as a REIT and, as a result, management does not expect to pay substantial, if any, corporate level taxes. Many of these requirements, however, are highly technical and complex. If we were to fail to meet these requirements, we would be subject to federal income tax.

### *Recent Accounting Pronouncements*

A description of recent accounting pronouncements, the date adoption is required and the impact on our financial statements is contained in Note 1 to the accompanying audited financial statements.

### **Subsequent Events**

We have evaluated subsequent events through February 27, 2012, which is the date that our financial statements are issued. For purposes of these financial statements, we have not evaluated any subsequent events after this date.

On January 20, 2012, we declared a Series A Preferred Stock dividend of \$0.539063 per share and a Series B Preferred Stock dividend of \$0.390625 per share, each of which is payable on April 16, 2012 to our holders of record of Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock, respectively, as of the close of business on March 30, 2012.

From January 1, 2012 through February 22, 2012, we entered into two new swap agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$100 million and terms of up to five years.

In February 2012, the Company signed a new sublease agreement with PIA that expires on June 30, 2022 for approximately 7,300 sq. ft. at its same location. The base monthly rent is \$35,367.80 which shall be increased by 3% per annum beginning on July 1, 2013.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Item 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

We seek to manage the interest rate, market value, liquidity, prepayment and credit risks inherent in all financial instruments in a prudent manner designed to insure our longevity while, at the same time, seeking to provide an opportunity for stockholders to realize attractive total rates of return through ownership of our common stock. While we do not seek to avoid risk completely, we do seek, to the best of our ability, to assume risk that can be quantified from historical experience, to actively manage that risk, to earn sufficient compensation to justify taking those risks and to maintain capital levels consistent with the risks we undertake.

#### *Interest Rate Risk*

We primarily invest in adjustable-rate, hybrid and fixed-rate mortgage-related assets. Hybrid mortgages are ARMs that have a fixed interest rate for an initial period of time (typically three years or greater) and then convert to an adjustable-rate for the remaining loan term. Our debt obligations are generally repurchase agreements of limited duration that are periodically refinanced at current market rates.

ARM-related assets are typically subject to periodic and lifetime interest rate caps that limit the amount an ARM-related asset's interest rate can change during any given period. ARM securities are also typically subject to a minimum interest rate payable. Our borrowings are not subject to similar restrictions. Hence, in a period of increasing interest rates, interest rates on our borrowings could increase without limitation, while the interest rates on our mortgage-related assets could be limited. This problem would be magnified to the extent we acquire mortgage-related assets that are not fully indexed. Further, some ARM-related assets may be subject to periodic payment caps that result in some portion of the interest being deferred and added to the principal outstanding. These factors could lower our net interest income or cause a net loss during periods of rising interest rates, which would negatively impact our liquidity, net income and our ability to make distributions to stockholders.

We fund the purchase of a substantial portion of our ARM-related assets with borrowings that have interest rates based on indices and repricing terms similar to, but of shorter maturities than, the interest rate indices and repricing terms of our mortgage assets. Thus, we anticipate that in most cases the interest rate indices and repricing terms of our mortgage assets and our funding sources will not be identical, thereby creating an interest rate mismatch between assets and liabilities. During periods of changing interest rates, such interest rate mismatches could negatively impact our net interest income, dividend yield and the market price of our common stock.

Most of our adjustable-rate assets are based on the one-year constant maturity treasury rate and the one-year LIBOR rate and our debt obligations are generally based on LIBOR. These indices generally move in the same direction, but there can be no assurance that this will continue to occur.

Our ARM-related assets and borrowings reset at various different dates for the specific asset or obligation. In general, the repricing of our debt obligations occurs more quickly than on our assets. Therefore, on average, our cost of funds may rise or fall more quickly than does our earnings rate on the assets.

Further, our net income may vary somewhat as the spread between one-month interest rates and six- and twelve-month interest rates varies.

**Table of Contents**

At December 31, 2011, our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS and related borrowings will prospectively reprice based on the following time frames (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Investments(1)(2)		Borrowings	
	Amount	Percentage of Total Investments	Amount	Percentage of Total Borrowings
<b>Investment Type/Rate Reset Dates:</b>				
15-year fixed-rate investments	\$ 1,121,500	12.8%	\$ 0	0.0 %
30-year fixed-rate investments	508,429	5.8	0	0.0
<b>Adjustable-Rate Investments/Obligations:</b>				
3 months or less	488,771	5.6	7,595,000	100.0
Greater than 3 months and less than 1 year	1,578,023	18.0	0	0.0
Greater than 1 year and less than 2 years	352,885	4.0	0	0.0
Greater than 2 years and less than 3 years	265,832	3.0	0	0.0
Greater than 3 years	4,448,039	50.8	0	0.0
Total:	\$ 8,763,479	100.0%	\$ 7,595,000	100.0 %

(1) Based on when they contractually reprice and do not consider the effect of any prepayments.

(2) We assume that if the repricing of the investment is just beyond 3 months but less than 4 months, it is included in the 3 months or less category.

At December 31, 2010, our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS and related borrowings will prospectively reprice based on the following time frames (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Investments(1)(2)		Borrowings	
	Amount	Percentage of Total Investments	Amount	Percentage of Total Borrowings
<b>Investment Type/Rate Reset Dates:</b>				
15-year fixed-rate investments	\$ 795,687	10.3%	\$ 0	0.0%
30-year fixed-rate investments	651,090	8.4	0	0.0
<b>Adjustable-Rate Investments/Obligations:</b>				
3 months or less	441,146	5.7	6,375,000	100.0
Greater than 3 months and less than 1 year	1,278,847	16.5	0	0.0
Greater than 1 year and less than 2 years	880,765	11.4	0	0.0
Greater than 2 years and less than 3 years	503,878	6.5	0	0.0
Greater than 3 years	3,187,639	41.2	0	0.0
Total:	\$ 7,739,052	100.0%	\$ 6,375,000	100.0 %

(1) Based on when they contractually reprice and do not consider the effect of any prepayments.

(2) We assume that if the repricing of the investment is just beyond 3 months but less than 4 months, it is included in the 3 months or less category.

*Market Value Risk*

## Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

All of our MBS are classified as available-for-sale assets. As such, they are reflected at fair value (i.e., market value) with the periodic adjustment to fair value (that is not considered to be an other-than-temporary impairment) reflected as part of Accumulated other comprehensive income that is included in the equity section of our balance sheet. The market value of our assets can fluctuate due to changes in interest rates and other factors.



---

**Table of Contents**

*Liquidity Risk*

Our primary liquidity risk arises from financing long-maturity MBS with short-term debt. The interest rates on our borrowings generally adjust more frequently than the interest rates on our adjustable-rate MBS. For example, at December 31, 2011, our Agency MBS and Non-Agency adjustable-rate MBS had a weighted average term to next rate adjustment of approximately 36 months while our borrowings had a weighted average term to next rate adjustment of 38 days. After adjusting for interest rate swap transactions, the weighted average term to next rate adjustment was 436 days. Accordingly, in a period of rising interest rates, our borrowing costs will usually increase faster than our interest earnings from MBS. As a result, we could experience a decrease in net income or a net loss during these periods. Our assets that are pledged to secure short-term borrowings are high-quality liquid assets. As a result, we have been able to roll over our short-term borrowings as they mature. There can be no assurance that we will always be able to roll over our short-term debt.

During the year ended December 31, 2011, there were continuing liquidity and credit concerns surrounding the mortgage markets and the general economy. While the U.S. government and other governments have taken various actions to address these concerns, there are also concerns about the ability of the U.S. government to meet the obligations of the August 2011 debt ceiling agreement and to reduce its budget deficits and about possible future rating downgrades of U.S. sovereign debt and government-sponsored agencies debt. As a result, there continues to be concerns about the potential impact on product availability, liquidity, interest rates and changes in the yield curve. While we have been able to meet all of our liquidity needs to date, there are still concerns in the mortgage sector about the availability of financing generally.

At December 31, 2011, we had unrestricted cash of \$8.9 million and \$626 million in unpledged Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS (not including approximately \$21 million in Agency MBS acquired for future settlement) available to meet margin calls on short-term borrowings that could be caused by asset value declines or changes in lender collateralization requirements.

*Prepayment Risk*

Prepayments are the full or partial repayment of principal prior to the original term to maturity of a mortgage loan and typically occur due to refinancing of mortgage loans. Prepayment rates on mortgage-related securities and mortgage loans vary from time to time and may cause changes in the amount of our net interest income. Prepayments of ARM loans usually can be expected to increase when mortgage interest rates fall below the then-current interest rates on such loans and decrease when mortgage interest rates exceed the then-current interest rate on such loans, although such effects are not entirely predictable. Prepayment rates may also be affected by the conditions in the housing and financial markets, general economic conditions and the relative interest rates on fixed-rate loans and ARM loans underlying MBS. The purchase prices of MBS are generally based upon assumptions regarding the expected amounts and rates of prepayments. Where slow prepayment assumptions are made, we may pay a premium for MBS. To the extent such assumptions differ from the actual amounts of prepayments, we could experience reduced earnings or losses. The total prepayment of any MBS purchased at a premium by us would result in the immediate write-off of any remaining capitalized premium amount and a reduction of our net interest income by such amount. In addition, in the event that we are unable to acquire new MBS to replace the prepaid MBS, our financial condition, cash flows and results of operations could be harmed.

We often purchase mortgage-related assets that have a higher interest rate than the market interest rate at the time. In exchange for this higher interest rate, we must pay a premium over par value to acquire these assets. In accordance with accounting rules, we amortize this premium over the term of the MBS. As we receive repayments of mortgage principal, we amortize the premium balances as a reduction to our income. If the mortgage loans underlying MBS were prepaid at a faster rate than we anticipate, we would amortize the premium at a faster rate. This would reduce our income.

**Table of Contents***General*

Many assumptions are made to present the information in the tables below and, as such, there can be no assurance that assumed events will occur, or that other events that could affect the outcomes will not occur; therefore, the tables below and all related disclosures constitute forward-looking statements.

The analyses presented utilize assumptions and estimates based on management's judgment and experience. Furthermore, future sales, acquisitions and restructuring could materially change the interest rate risk profile for us. The tables quantify the potential changes in net income and portfolio value should interest rates immediately change (are shocked) and remain at the new level for the next twelve months. The results of interest rate shocks of plus and minus 100 and 200 basis points are presented. The cash flows from our portfolio of mortgage-related assets for each rate shock scenario are projected, based on a variety of assumptions including prepayment speeds, time until coupon reset, yield on future acquisitions, slope of the yield curve and size of the portfolio. Assumptions made on the interest rate-sensitive liabilities, which are repurchase agreements, include anticipated interest rates (no negative rates are utilized), collateral requirements as a percent of the repurchase agreement and amount of borrowing. Assumptions made in calculating the impact on net asset value of interest rate shocks include projected changes in U.S. Treasury interest rates, prepayment rates and the yield spread of mortgage-related assets relative to prevailing U.S. Treasury interest rates.

*Tabular Presentation*

The information presented in the table below projects the impact of instantaneous parallel shifts in interest rates on Anworth's annual projected net income (relative to the unchanged interest rate scenario), and the impact of the same instantaneous parallel shifts on Anworth's projected portfolio value (the value of our assets, including the value of any derivative instruments or hedges, such as interest rate swap agreements). These projections are based on investments in place at December 31, 2011, and include all of our interest rate sensitive assets, liabilities and hedges, such as interest rate swap agreements.

<b>Change in Interest Rates</b>	<b>Percentage Change in Projected Net Interest Income</b>	<b>Percentage Change In Projected Portfolio Value</b>
2%	108%	2.5%
1%	67%	1.0%
0%	0%	0%
1%	12%	1.2%
2%	42%	3.4%

The information presented in the table below projects the impact of the same sudden changes in interest rates on Anworth's annual projected net income and projected portfolio value compared to the base case used in the table above, and the only difference is that it excludes the effect of the interest rate swap agreements on both net interest income and portfolio value. As of December 31, 2011, the aggregate notional amount of the interest rate swap agreements was \$3.03 billion and the weighted average maturity was 2.9 years.

<b>Change in Interest Rates</b>	<b>Percentage Change in Projected Net Interest Income</b>	<b>Percentage Change In Projected Portfolio Value</b>
2%	29%	0.5%
1%	12%	0.0%
0%	0%	0%
1%	15%	2.2%
2%	47%	5.4%

## **Table of Contents**

### **Item 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

The financial statements and related financial information required to be filed hereunder are indexed under Item 15 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K and are incorporated herein by reference.

### **Item 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

None.

### **Item 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

#### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls**

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act), designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported on a timely basis.

Our management, with the participation of our Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Based on such evaluation, our Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer have concluded that, as of the end of such period, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

#### **Management Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

The management of Anworth is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Anworth's internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to the Company's management and board of directors regarding the preparation and fair presentation of prepared financial statements.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Our management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011. In making this assessment, it used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in *Internal Control Integrated Framework*. Based on our assessment, we believe that, as of December 31, 2011, Anworth's internal control over financial reporting is effective based on those criteria.

The Company's independent auditors, McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, have issued an attestation report on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. This report appears on page 70 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**Table of Contents**

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders

Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation

We have audited Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation's (the Company) internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Item 9A, Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (a) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (b) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (c) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the balance sheets of Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and the related statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011 and our report dated February 27, 2012 expressed an unqualified opinion.

McGladrey & Pullen, LLP

Irvine, California

February 27, 2012

**Table of Contents**

**Item 9B. OTHER INFORMATION**

None.

**Table of Contents**

**PART III**

**Item 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference from the information under the captions entitled Election of Directors Information Regarding Nominees for Director, Executive Officers and Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance in our definitive proxy statement to be filed with the SEC no later than April 30, 2012.

**Item 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference from the information under the caption entitled Executive Compensation in our definitive proxy statement to be filed with the SEC no later than April 30, 2012.

**Item 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS**

Certain of the information required by this Item is incorporated by reference from the information under the caption entitled Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters in our definitive proxy statement to be filed with the SEC no later than April 30, 2012.

**Item 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE**

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference from the information under the caption entitled Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence in our definitive proxy statement to be filed with the SEC no later than April 30, 2012.

**Item 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES**

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference from the information under the caption entitled Principal Accountant Fees and Services in our definitive proxy statement to be filed with the SEC no later than April 30, 2012.

**Table of Contents**

**PART IV**

**Item 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES**

(a) Documents filed as part of this report:

(1) The following financial statements of the Company are included in Part II, Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K:

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, McGladrey & Pullen, LLP;

Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010;

Statements of Income: For the Years Ended December 31, 2011, December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009;

Statements of Stockholders' Equity: For the Years Ended December 31, 2011, December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009;

Statements of Cash Flows: For the Years Ended December 31, 2011, December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009;

Statements of Comprehensive Income: For the Years Ended December 31, 2011, December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009; and

Notes to Financial Statements.

(2) Schedules to financial statements:

All financial statement schedules have been omitted because they are either inapplicable or the information required is provided in the Company's Financial Statements and Notes thereto, included in Part II, Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

(3) The exhibits listed on the accompanying Exhibit Index are filed as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**Table of Contents****SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

DATED: February 27, 2012

ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORPORATION

/s/ JOSEPH LLOYD McADAMS  
**Joseph Lloyd McAdams**

**Chairman of the Board, President and  
Chief Executive Officer**

**(Principal Executive Officer)**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
/s/ JOSEPH LLOYD McADAMS <b>Joseph Lloyd McAdams</b>	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	February 27, 2012
/s/ THAD M. BROWN <b>Thad M. Brown</b>	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	February 27, 2012
/s/ JOSEPH E. McADAMS <b>Joseph E. McAdams</b>	Executive Vice President, Chief Investment Officer and Director	February 27, 2012
/s/ LEE A. AULT, III <b>Lee A. Ault, III</b>	Director	February 27, 2012
/s/ CHARLES H. BLACK <b>Charles H. Black</b>	Director	February 27, 2012
/s/ JOE E. DAVIS <b>Joe E. Davis</b>	Director	February 27, 2012
/s/ ROBERT C. DAVIS <b>Robert C. Davis</b>	Director	February 27, 2012



**Table of Contents**

**ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORPORATION**

**INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm McGladrey &amp; Pullen, LLP</u>	F-2
<u>Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2011 and 2010</u>	F-3
<u>Statements of Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009</u>	F-4
<u>Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009</u>	F-5
<u>Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009</u>	F-6
<u>Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009</u>	F-7
<u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>	F-8

**Table of Contents**

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders

Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation (the Company) as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the related statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, and our report dated February 27, 2012 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

McGladrey & Pullen, LLP

Irvine, California

February 27, 2012

**Table of Contents****ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORPORATION****BALANCE SHEETS**

(in thousands, except per share amounts)

	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Agency MBS:		
Agency MBS pledged to counterparties at fair value	\$ 8,068,829	\$ 6,762,763
Agency MBS at fair value	644,694	957,316
Paydowns receivable	48,371	14,579
	8,761,894	7,734,658
Non-Agency MBS:		
Non-Agency MBS at fair value	1,585	4,394
Cash and cash equivalents	8,877	10,621
Interest and dividends receivable	28,085	27,097
Derivative instruments at fair value	0	8,828
Prepaid expenses and other	13,328	4,617
Total Assets:	\$ 8,813,769	\$ 7,790,215
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities:		
Accrued interest payable	\$ 23,788	\$ 20,585
Repurchase agreements	7,595,000	6,375,000
Junior subordinated notes	37,380	37,380
Derivative instruments at fair value	96,808	70,557
Dividends payable on Series A Preferred Stock	1,011	1,011
Dividends payable on Series B Preferred Stock	450	430
Dividends payable on common stock	28,083	26,574
Payable for securities purchased	20,679	363,820
Accrued expenses and other	1,044	947
Total Liabilities:	\$ 7,804,243	\$ 6,896,304
Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock: par value \$0.01 per share; liquidating preference \$25.00 per share (\$28,789 and \$27,525, respectively); 1,152 and 1,101 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively	\$ 27,239	\$ 25,630
Stockholders' Equity:		
Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock: par value \$0.01 per share; liquidating preference \$25.00 per share (\$46,888 and \$46,888, respectively); 1,876 and 1,876 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively	\$ 45,397	\$ 45,397
Common Stock: par value \$0.01 per share; authorized 200,000 shares, 134,115 and 120,901 issued and outstanding at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively	1,341	1,209
Additional paid-in capital	1,145,733	1,053,959
Accumulated other comprehensive income consisting of unrealized losses and gains	50,223	22,444
Accumulated deficit	(260,407)	(254,728)
Total Stockholders' Equity:	\$ 982,287	\$ 868,281

Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity:	\$ 8,813,769	\$ 7,790,215
---	--------------	--------------

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

F-3

**Table of Contents****ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORPORATION****STATEMENTS OF INCOME****(in thousands, except per share amounts)**

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Interest income:			.
Interest on Agency MBS	\$ 223,981	\$ 219,531	\$ 261,625
Interest on Non-Agency MBS	149	209	255
Other income	50	63	149
	224,180	219,803	262,029
Interest expense:			
Interest expense on repurchase agreements	87,975	94,536	114,158
Interest expense on junior subordinated notes	1,290	1,294	1,549
	89,265	95,830	115,707
Net interest income	134,915	123,973	146,322
Net gain on derivative instruments	0	0	107
Recovery on Non-Agency MBS	2,225	270	0
Expenses:			
Compensation, incentive compensation and benefits	(10,979)	(10,070)	(11,868)
Write-down of Lehman receivable	0	(674)	(962)
Other expenses	(3,285)	(3,000)	(3,365)
Total expenses	(14,264)	(13,744)	(16,195)
Net income	\$ 122,876	\$ 110,499	\$ 130,234
Dividend on Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock	(4,044)	(4,044)	(4,044)
Dividend on Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock	(1,841)	(1,720)	(1,862)
Net income to common stockholders	\$ 116,991	\$ 104,735	\$ 124,328
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 0.91	\$ 0.89	\$ 1.18
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.87	\$ 1.16
Basic weighted average number of shares outstanding	128,601	118,164	105,413
Diluted weighted average number of shares outstanding	132,759	121,919	108,905

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Table of Contents****ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORPORATION****STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY****For the Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009****(in thousands, except per share amounts)**

	Series A Preferred Stock Shares	Common Stock Shares	Series A Preferred Stock Par Value	Common Stock Par Value	Additional Paid-In Capital	Accum. Other Comp. Income Agency MBS	Accum. Other Comp. Income Non-Agency MBS	Accum. Other Comp. (Loss) Derivatives	Accum. (Deficit)	Comp. Income	Total
Balance, December 31, 2008	1,876	90,462	\$ 45,397	\$ 905	\$ 851,588	\$ 37,850	\$ 0	\$ (139,790)	\$ (239,746)		\$ 556,204
Issuance of common stock		25,101		251	164,951						165,202
Other comprehensive income, fair value adjustments and reclassifications						127,400	492	58,307		186,199	186,199
Net income									130,234	130,234	130,234
Comprehensive loss										\$ 316,433	
Amortization of restricted stock					282						282
Dividend declared \$2.156252 per Series A preferred share									(4,044)		(4,044)
Dividend declared \$1.562500 per Series B preferred share									(1,862)		(1,862)
Dividend declared \$1.18 per common share									(128,707)		(128,707)
Balance, December 31, 2009	1,876	115,563	\$ 45,397	\$ 1,156	\$ 1,016,821	\$ 165,250	\$ 492	\$ (81,483)	\$ (244,125)		\$ 903,508
Issuance of common stock		9,062		90	61,378						61,468
Redemption of treasury stock		(3,724)		(37)	(24,522)						(24,559)
Other comprehensive income, fair value adjustments and reclassifications						(84,305)	3,213	19,277		(61,815)	(61,815)
Net income									110,499	110,499	110,499
Comprehensive income										\$ 48,684	

Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

Amortization of restricted stock						282														282			
Dividend declared \$2.156252 per Series A preferred share																				(4,044)	(4,044)		
Dividend declared \$1.5625 per Series B preferred share																				(1,720)	(1,720)		
Dividend declared \$0.97 per common share																				(115,338)	(115,338)		
Balance, December 31, 2010	1,876	120,901	\$ 45,397	\$ 1,209	\$ 1,053,959	\$ 80,945	\$ 3,705	\$ (62,206)	\$ (254,728)												\$ 868,281		
Issuance of common stock		14,048		140	96,753																96,893		
Redemption of treasury stock		(834)		(8)	(5,261)																(5,269)		
Other comprehensive income, fair value adjustments and reclassifications							64,718	(2,120)	(34,819)												27,779	27,779	
Net income																					122,876	122,876	122,876
Comprehensive income																						\$ 150,655	
Amortization of restricted stock						282																282	
Dividend declared \$2.156252 per Series A preferred share																					(4,044)	(4,044)	
Dividend declared \$1.5625 per Series B preferred share																					(1,842)	(1,842)	
Dividend declared \$0.94 per common share																					(122,669)	(122,669)	
Balance, December 31, 2011	1,876	134,115	\$ 45,397	\$ 1,341	\$ 1,145,733	\$ 145,663	\$ 1,585	\$ (97,025)	\$ (260,407)													\$ 982,287	

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Table of Contents****ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORPORATION****STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(in thousands)

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
<b>Operating Activities:</b>			
Net income	\$ 122,876	\$ 110,499	\$ 130,234
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities:			
Amortization of premium and discounts (Agency MBS)	58,552	50,383	23,849
Write-down of Lehman receivable	0	674	962
(Gain) on derivative instruments	0	0	(107)
Amortization of restricted stock	282	282	282
Non-cash incentive compensation	877	762	1,315
Recovery on Non-Agency MBS	(2,225)	(270)	0
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
(Increase) decrease in interest receivable	(988)	1,721	(2,737)
(Increase) in prepaid expenses and other	(8,711)	(1,874)	(64)
Increase (decrease) in accrued interest payable	3,462	2	(4,857)
(Decrease) increase in accrued expenses and payable for securities purchased	(343,044)	301,207	62,884
<b>Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(168,919)</b>	<b>\$ 463,386</b>	<b>\$ 211,761</b>
<b>Investing Activities:</b>			
Available-for-sale Agency MBS:			
Purchases	(3,257,740)	\$ (4,035,576)	\$ (2,165,101)
Principal payments	2,236,670	2,652,029	1,090,292
Available-for-sale Non-Agency MBS:			
Principal payments	2,913	3,832	3,087
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(1,018,157)</b>	<b>\$ (1,379,715)</b>	<b>\$ (1,071,722)</b>
<b>Financing Activities:</b>			
Borrowings from repurchase agreements	\$ 35,770,255	\$ 29,235,900	\$ 29,173,931
Repayments on repurchase agreements	(34,550,255)	(28,219,900)	(28,479,931)
Proceeds from common stock issued, net	87,292	35,975	160,598
Proceeds on Series B Preferred Stock issued	5,064	0	996
Series A Preferred stock dividends paid	(4,044)	(4,044)	(4,044)
Series B Preferred stock dividends paid	(1,821)	(1,724)	(1,900)
Common stock dividends paid	(121,159)	(121,069)	(119,847)
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>\$ 1,185,332</b>	<b>\$ 925,138</b>	<b>\$ 729,803</b>
<b>Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(1,744)</b>	<b>\$ 8,809</b>	<b>\$ (130,158)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	10,621	1,812	131,970
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>\$ 8,877</b>	<b>\$ 10,621</b>	<b>\$ 1,812</b>
<b>Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information:</b>			
Cash paid for interest	\$ 85,803	\$ 95,828	\$ 120,563

See accompanying notes to financial statements.





**Table of Contents****ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORPORATION****STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME****(in thousands)**

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Net income	\$ 122,876	\$ 110,499	\$ 130,234
Available-for-sale Agency MBS, fair value adjustment	64,718	(84,305)	127,400
Available-for-sale Non-Agency MBS, fair value adjustment	105	3,483	492
(Recovery) on Non-Agency MBS	(2,225)	(270)	0
Unrealized (losses) on cash flow hedges	(103,164)	(60,688)	(24,012)
Reclassification adjustment for (gains) on derivative instruments	0	0	(107)
Reclassification adjustment for interest expense included in net income	68,345	79,965	82,426
	27,779	(61,815)	186,199
Comprehensive income	\$ 150,655	\$ 48,684	\$ 316,433

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

---

**Table of Contents**

**ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORPORATION**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1. ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation, or Anworth, was incorporated in Maryland on October 20, 1997 and commenced operations on March 17, 1998. We are in the business of investing primarily in United States, or U.S., agency mortgage-backed securities, or agency MBS. Agency MBS are securities representing obligations guaranteed by the U.S. government, such as Ginnie Mae, or guaranteed by federally sponsored enterprises, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. We seek long-term investment returns by investing our equity capital and borrowed funds in such securities and other mortgage-related assets.

We have elected to be taxed as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Code. As a REIT, we routinely distribute substantially all of the taxable income generated from our operations to our stockholders. As long as we retain our REIT status, we generally will not be subject to federal or state taxes on our income to the extent that we distribute our taxable net income to our stockholders.

At our annual stockholders meeting on May 25, 2011, our stockholders approved the entry by us into a Management Agreement, or the Management Agreement (a copy of which is included as Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012), between the Company and Anworth Management, LLC, or the Manager, and the externalization of the Company's management function, or the Externalization. We entered into the Management Agreement effective as of December 31, 2011. After the effective date, our day-to-day operations are being conducted by the Manager through the authority delegated to it under the Management Agreement and pursuant to the policies established by our board of directors. The Manager is supervised and directed by our board of directors and is responsible for (i) the selection, purchase and sale of our investment portfolio; (ii) our financing and hedging activities; and (iii) providing us with management services. The Manager will perform such other services and activities relating to our assets and operations as may be appropriate. In exchange for these services, the Manager receives a management fee paid monthly in arrears in an amount equal to one-twelfth of 1.20% of our Equity (as defined in the Management Agreement).

**BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accompanying financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles utilized in the United States of America, or GAAP. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Material estimates that are susceptible to change relate to the determination of the fair value of securities, amortization of security premiums and accretion of security discounts and accounting for derivatives and hedging activities. Actual results could materially differ from these estimates. In the opinion of management, all material adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. During the latter half of 2011, Belvedere Trust Mortgage Corporation and its subsidiaries (previously shown as discontinued operations in 2007 and 2008) were dissolved and are no longer consolidated in our financial statements.

The following is a summary of our significant accounting policies:

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less. The carrying amount of cash equivalents approximates their fair value.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Reverse Repurchase Agreements**

We use securities purchased under agreements to resell, or reverse repurchase agreements, as a means of investing excess cash. Although legally structured as a purchase and subsequent resale, reverse repurchase agreements are treated as financing transactions under which the counterparty pledges securities (principally U.S. treasury securities) and accrued interest as collateral to secure a loan. The difference between the purchase price that we pay and the resale price that we receive represents interest paid to us and is included in *Other income* on our statements of income. It is our policy to generally take possession of securities purchased under reverse repurchase agreements at the time such agreements are made.

### **Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS)**

Agency MBS are securities that are obligations (including principal and interest) which are guaranteed by the U.S. government, such as Ginnie Mae, or guaranteed by federally sponsored enterprises, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Our investment grade Agency MBS portfolio is invested primarily in fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgage-backed pass-through certificates and hybrid adjustable-rate MBS. Hybrid adjustable-rate MBS have an initial interest rate that is fixed for a certain period, usually three to five years, and then adjusts annually for the remainder of the term of the loan. We structure our investment portfolio to be diversified with a variety of prepayment characteristics, investing in mortgage-related assets with prepayment penalties, investing in certain mortgage security structures that have prepayment protections and purchasing mortgage-related assets at a premium and at a discount.

Non-Agency MBS are securities issued by other companies that are not government-sponsored enterprises and are secured primarily by first-lien residential mortgage loans.

We classify our MBS as either trading investments, available-for-sale investments or held-to-maturity investments. Our management determines the appropriate classification of the securities at the time they are acquired and evaluates the appropriateness of such classifications at each balance sheet date. We currently classify all of our MBS as available-for-sale. All assets that are classified as available-for-sale are carried at fair value and unrealized gains or losses are generally included in *Other comprehensive income (loss)* as a component of stockholders' equity. Losses that are credit-related on securities classified as available-for-sale, which are determined by management to be other-than-temporary in nature, are reclassified from *Other comprehensive income* to *income (loss)*.

The most significant source of our revenue is derived from our investments in MBS. Interest income on our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS is accrued based on the actual coupon rate and the outstanding principal amount of the underlying mortgages. Premiums and discounts are amortized or accreted into interest income over the estimated lives of the securities using the effective interest yield method, adjusted for the effects of actual prepayments based on the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, Accounting Standards Codification, or ASC, 320-10. Our policy for estimating prepayment speeds for calculating the effective yield is to evaluate historical performance, street consensus prepayment speeds and current market conditions. If our estimate of prepayments is materially incorrect, as compared to the aforementioned references, we may be required to make an adjustment to the amortization or accretion of premiums and discounts that would have an impact on future income, which could be material and adverse.

Securities are recorded on the date the securities are purchased or sold. Realized gains or losses from securities transactions are determined based on the specific identified cost of the securities.

**Table of Contents**

The following table shows our investments' gross unrealized losses and fair value of those individual securities that have been in a continuous unrealized loss position at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, aggregated by investment category and length of time (dollar amounts in thousands):

*December 31, 2011*

Description of Securities	Less Than 12 Months			12 Months or More			Total		
	Number of Securities	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Number of Securities	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Number of Securities	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Agency MBS	44	\$ 832,151	\$ (3,358)	304	\$ 589,363	\$ (9,544)	348	\$ 1,421,514	\$ (12,902)

*December 31, 2010*

Description of Securities	Less Than 12 Months			12 Months or More			Total		
	Number of Securities	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Number of Securities	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Number of Securities	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Agency MBS	115	\$ 2,818,632	\$ (37,912)	313	\$ 250,040	\$ (6,498)	428	\$ 3,068,672	\$ (44,410)

We do not consider those Agency MBS that have been in a continuous loss position for 12 months or more to be other-than-temporarily impaired. The unrealized losses on our investments in Agency MBS were caused by fluctuations in interest rates. We purchased the Agency MBS primarily at a premium relative to their face value and the contractual cash flows of those investments are guaranteed by the U.S. government or government-sponsored agencies. Since September 2008, the government-sponsored agencies have been in the conservatorship of the U.S. government. We do not expect to sell the Agency MBS at a price less than the amortized cost basis of our investments. Because the decline in market value of the Agency MBS is attributable to changes in interest rates and not the credit quality of the Agency MBS in our portfolio, and because we do not have the intent to sell these investments nor is it more likely than not that we will be required to sell these investments before recovery of their amortized cost basis, which may be at maturity, we do not consider these investments to be other-than-temporarily impaired at December 31, 2011.

**Repurchase Agreements**

We finance the acquisition of our MBS primarily through the use of repurchase agreements. Under these repurchase agreements, we sell securities to a lender and agree to repurchase the same securities in the future for a price that is higher than the original sales price. The difference between the sale price that we receive and the repurchase price that we pay represents interest paid to the lender. Although structured as a sale and repurchase obligation, a repurchase agreement operates as a financing under which we pledge our securities and accrued interest as collateral to secure a loan which is equal in value to a specified percentage of the estimated fair value of the pledged collateral. We retain beneficial ownership of the pledged collateral. Upon the maturity of a repurchase agreement, we are required to repay the loan and concurrently receive back our pledged collateral from the lender or, with the consent of the lender, we may renew such agreement at the then-prevailing financing rate. These repurchase agreements may require us to pledge additional assets to the lender in the event the estimated fair value of the existing pledged collateral declines.

**Derivative Financial Instruments***Interest Rate Risk Management*

We primarily use short-term (less than or equal to 12 months) repurchase agreements to finance the purchase of our MBS. These obligations expose us to variability in interest payments due to changes in interest rates. We continuously monitor changes in interest rate exposures and evaluate hedging opportunities.

## **Table of Contents**

Our objective is to limit the impact of interest rate changes on earnings and cash flows. We achieve this by entering into interest rate swap agreements, which effectively convert a percentage of our repurchase agreements to fixed-rate obligations over a period of up to five years. Under interest rate swap contracts, we agree to pay an amount equal to a specified fixed rate of interest times a notional principal amount and to receive in return an amount equal to a specified variable-rate of interest times a notional amount, generally based on LIBOR. The notional amounts are not exchanged. We account for these swap agreements as cash flow hedges in accordance with ASC 815-10. We do not issue or hold derivative contracts for speculative purposes.

We are exposed to credit losses in the event of non-performance by counterparties to these interest rate swap agreements. In order to limit credit risk associated with swap agreements, our current practice is to only enter into swap agreements with large financial institution counterparties who are market makers for these types of instruments, limit our exposure on each swap agreement to a single counterparty under our defined guidelines and either pay or receive collateral to or from each counterparty on a periodic basis to cover the net fair market value position of the swap agreements held with that counterparty.

### *Accounting for Derivatives and Hedging Activities*

In accordance with ASC 815-10, a derivative that is designated as a hedge is recognized as an asset/liability and measured at estimated fair value. In order for our interest rate swap agreements to qualify for hedge accounting, upon entering into the swap agreement, we must anticipate that the hedge will be highly effective as defined by ASC 815-10.

On the date we enter into a derivative contract, we designate the derivative as a hedge of the variability of cash flows that are to be received or paid in connection with a recognized asset or liability (a cash flow hedge). Changes in the fair value of a derivative that is highly effective and that is designated and qualifies as a cash flow hedge, to the extent that the hedge is effective, are recorded in Other comprehensive income and reclassified to income when the forecasted transaction affects income (e.g., when periodic settlement interest payments are due on repurchase agreements). The swap agreements are carried on our balance sheets at their fair value, based on values obtained from large financial institutions who are market makers for these types of instruments. Hedge ineffectiveness, if any, is recorded in current-period income.

We formally assess, both at the hedge's inception and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions have been highly effective in offsetting changes in the cash flows of hedged items and whether those derivatives may be expected to remain highly effective in future periods. If it is determined that a derivative is not (or has ceased to be) highly effective as a hedge, we discontinue hedge accounting.

When we discontinue hedge accounting, the gain or loss on the derivative remains in Accumulated other comprehensive income and is reclassified into income when the forecasted transaction affects income. In all situations in which hedge accounting is discontinued and the derivative remains outstanding, we will carry the derivative at its fair value on our balance sheet, recognizing changes in the fair value in current-period income.

For purposes of the cash flow statement, cash flows from derivative instruments are classified with the cash flows from the hedged item.

For more details on the amounts and other qualitative information on our swap agreements, see Note 12. For more information on the fair value of our swap agreements, see Note 6.

### **Credit Risk**

At December 31, 2011, we have attempted to limit our exposure to credit losses on our MBS by purchasing securities primarily through Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. The payment of principal and interest on the Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae MBS are guaranteed by those respective enterprises. In September 2008, both Freddie Mac

## **Table of Contents**

and Fannie Mae were placed in the conservatorship of the U.S. government. While it is hoped that the conservatorship will help stabilize Freddie Mac's and Fannie Mae's losses and overall financial position, there can be no assurance that it will succeed or that, if necessary, Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae will be able to satisfy its guarantees of Agency MBS. In August 2011, Standard & Poor's downgraded both U.S. sovereign debt and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from AAA to AA+. We do not know what affect this will ultimately have on the U.S. economy, the value of our securities and the ability of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to satisfy its guarantees of Agency MBS.

Our adjustable-rate MBS are subject to periodic and lifetime interest rate caps. Periodic caps can limit the amount an interest rate can increase during any given period. Some adjustable-rate MBS subject to periodic payment caps may result in a portion of the interest being deferred and added to the principal outstanding.

Other-than-temporary losses on our available-for-sale MBS, as measured by the amount of decline in estimated fair value attributable to credit losses that are considered to be other-than-temporary, are charged against income, resulting in an adjustment of the cost basis of such securities. Based on the criteria in ASC-320-10, the determination of whether a security is other-than-temporarily impaired (OTTI) involves judgments and assumptions based on both subjective and objective factors. When a security is impaired, an OTTI is considered to have occurred if (i) we intend to sell the security, (ii) it is more likely than not that we will be required to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost basis, or (iii) we do not expect to recover its amortized cost basis (i.e., there is a credit-related loss). The following are among, but not all of, the factors considered in determining whether and to what extent an OTTI exists and the portion that is related to credit loss: (i) the expected cash flow from the investment; (ii) whether there has been an other-than-temporary deterioration of the credit quality of the underlying mortgages; (iii) the credit protection available to the related mortgage pool for MBS; (iv) any other market information available, including analysts' assessments and statements, public statements and filings made by the debtor or counterparty; (v) management's internal analysis of the security, considering all known relevant information at the time of assessment; and (vi) the magnitude and duration of historical decline in market prices. Because management's assessments are based on factual information as well as subjective information available at the time of assessment, the determination as to whether an other-than-temporary decline exists and, if so, the amount considered impaired, is also subjective and therefore constitutes material estimates that are susceptible to significant change.

## **Income Taxes**

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT and to comply with the provisions of the Code with respect thereto. Accordingly, we will not be subject to federal income tax to the extent that our distributions to our stockholders satisfy the REIT requirements and that certain asset, income and stock ownership tests are met.

We have no unrecognized tax benefits and do not anticipate any increase in unrecognized benefits during 2012 relative to any tax positions taken prior to January 1, 2012. Should the accrual of any interest or penalties relative to unrecognized tax benefits be necessary, it is our policy to record such accruals in our income taxes accounts; and no such accruals existed at December 31, 2011. Through 2011, we filed both REIT and taxable REIT subsidiary U.S. federal and California income tax returns. These returns are generally open to examination by the IRS and the California Franchise Tax Board for all years after 2006 and 2005, respectively. During the latter half of 2011, Belvedere Trust Mortgage Corporation and its subsidiaries were dissolved and, accordingly, after the 2011 tax year, we will no longer file taxable REIT subsidiary income tax returns.

## **Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock**

We classify our Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, or Series B Preferred Stock, on our balance sheets using the guidance in ASC 480-10-S99. The Series B Preferred Stock contains certain fundamental change provisions that allow the holder to redeem the preferred stock for cash only if certain events occur, such as a change in control. As redemption under these circumstances is not solely within our control, we have classified the Series B Preferred Stock as temporary equity.

**Table of Contents**

We have analyzed whether the conversion features in the Series B Preferred Stock should be bifurcated under the guidance in ASC 815-10 and have determined that bifurcation is not necessary.

**Stock-Based Compensation**

In accordance with ASC 718-10, any compensation cost relating to share-based payment transactions is recognized in the financial statements.

Restricted stock is expensed over the vesting period (see Note 11).

**Earnings Per Share**

Basic earnings per share, or EPS, is computed by dividing net income available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS assumes the conversion, exercise or issuance of all potential common stock equivalents (which includes stock options and convertible preferred stock) and adding back the Series B Preferred Stock dividends, unless the effect is to reduce a loss or increase the income per share.

The computation of EPS for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 is as follows (amounts in thousands, except per share data):

	Net Income Available to Common Stockholders	Average Shares	Earnings per Share
<b>For the year ended December 31, 2011</b>			
Basic EPS	\$ 116,991	128,601	\$ 0.91
Effect of dilutive securities	1,841	4,158	(0.01)
Diluted EPS	\$ 118,832	132,759	\$ 0.90
<b>For the year ended December 31, 2010</b>			
Basic EPS	\$ 104,735	118,164	\$ 0.89
Effect of dilutive securities	1,720	3,755	(0.02)
Diluted EPS	\$ 106,455	121,919	\$ 0.87
<b>For the year ended December 31, 2009</b>			
Basic EPS	\$ 124,328	105,413	\$ 1.18
Effect of dilutive securities	1,862	3,492	(0.02)
Diluted EPS	\$ 126,190	108,905	\$ 1.16



## **Table of Contents**

### **Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income**

In accordance with ASC 220-10-55-2, comprehensive income is divided into net income and other comprehensive income, which includes unrealized gains and losses on marketable securities classified as available-for-sale, and unrealized gains and losses on derivative financial instruments that qualify for cash flow hedge accounting under ASC 815-10.

### **RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

In April 2011, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update, or ASU, 2011-03, Reconsideration of Effective Control for Repurchase Agreements. One of the relevant considerations for assessing effective control was the transferor's ability to repurchase or redeem financial assets before maturity. Under this criterion, an entity must consider whether there is an exchange of collateral in sufficient amount so as to reasonably assure the arrangement's completion on substantially the agreed terms. In this ASU, the FASB determined that the criterion pertaining to an exchange of collateral should not be a determining factor in assessing effective control and removed this criterion from the consideration of effective control. The FASB concluded that the assessment of effective control should focus on a transferor's contractual rights and obligations with respect to transferred financial assets, not on whether the transferor has the practical ability to perform in accordance with those rights or obligations. This ASU becomes effective for our financial statements beginning with the first quarter of 2012. We do not believe that this ASU will have a material impact on our financial statements.

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-04, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs. ASU 2011-04 supersedes most of the guidance in Accounting Standards Codification Topic 820 (formerly FASB Statement No. 157), although many of the changes are clarifications of existing guidance or wording changes to align with IFRS 13. Additionally, this ASU will require disclosure of any transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy; disclosure when the highest and best use of a non-financial asset differs from its current use; disclosure of fair value by level for each class of assets and liabilities not measured at fair value in the statement of financial position but for which the fair value is disclosed; and disclosure of information about measurement uncertainty in the form of a sensitivity analysis for recurring fair value measurements categorized in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy unless another Codification topic specifies that such disclosure is not required. This ASU becomes effective for our financial statements beginning with the first quarter of 2012. We do not believe that this ASU will have a material impact on our financial statements.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-05, Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Presentation of Comprehensive Income. ASU 2011-05 will supersede some of the guidance in Accounting Standards Codification Topic 220. The main provisions of this ASU provide that an entity that reports items of other comprehensive income has the option to present comprehensive income in either one or two consecutive financial statements: (1) A single statement must present the components of net income and total net income, the components of other comprehensive income and total other comprehensive income, and a total for comprehensive income; (2) In a two-statement approach, an entity must present the components of net income and total net income in the first statement. That statement must be immediately followed by a financial statement that presents the components of other comprehensive income, a total for other comprehensive income, and a total for comprehensive income. The option in current GAAP that permits the presentation of other comprehensive income in the statement of changes in equity has been eliminated. This ASU becomes effective for our financial statements beginning with the first quarter of 2012. We do not believe that this ASU will have a material impact on our financial statements.

In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-11, Disclosures about Offsetting Assets and Liabilities. This requires the disclosure in tabular format in a footnote of the gross amounts subject to rights of set-off, the gross amounts of any set-off and the net amounts shown on the balance sheet. This also requires the disclosure of any agreements subject to such netting arrangements. This will affect all financial instruments such as securities lending agreements, repo agreements, reverse repo agreements, and derivatives instruments. As there are

**Table of Contents**

difference in the offsetting requirements in GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the objective of this disclosure is to facilitate comparison between companies that prepare their financial statements according to those different reporting requirements. As the disclosures are effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013 and for all interim periods within those annual periods, this will become effective for our financial statements beginning with the quarter ending March 31, 2013. We do not believe that this ASU will have a material impact on our financial statements.

In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-12, Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05. Among the provisions in ASU 2011-05 was a requirement to present reclassification adjustments out of accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI) by components in both the statement in which net income is presented and the statement in which other comprehensive income (OCI) is presented (for both interim and annual financial statements). This requirement was indefinitely deferred by ASU 2011-12 and will be further deliberated by the FASB at a later date. ASU 2011-12 does not defer the other requirements of ASU 2011-05. ASU 2011-12 will have the same effective date as ASU 2011-5. We do not believe that this ASU will have a material impact on our financial statements.

**NOTE 2. REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS**

At December 31, 2011, we did not have any reverse repurchase agreements outstanding. During the year ended December 31, 2011, the maximum amount of reverse repurchase agreements outstanding was \$70 million and the average daily amount outstanding was \$5.4 million. These investments are used as a means of investing excess cash. The collateral for these loans was U.S. Treasury securities with an aggregate fair value equal to the amount of the loans. At December 31, 2010, there were no reverse repurchase agreements outstanding.

**NOTE 3. MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES (MBS)**

The following tables summarize our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS classified as available-for-sale as of December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, which are carried at their fair value (amounts in thousands):

*December 31, 2011*

Agency MBS (By Agency)	Ginnie Mae	Freddie Mac	Fannie Mae	Total Agency MBS
Amortized cost	\$ 17,392	\$ 2,645,045	\$ 5,905,423	\$ 8,567,860
Paydowns receivable	0	48,371	0	48,371
Unrealized gains	2	48,740	109,823	158,565
Unrealized losses	(293)	(6,314)	(6,295)	(12,902)
Fair value	\$ 17,101	\$ 2,735,842	\$ 6,008,951	\$ 8,761,894

Agency MBS (By Security Type)	ARMs	Hybrids	15-Year Fixed-Rate	30-Year Fixed-Rate	Floating-Rate CMOs	Total Agency MBS
Amortized cost	\$ 2,010,934	\$ 4,976,389	\$ 1,106,919	\$ 470,493	\$ 3,125	\$ 8,567,860
Paydowns receivable	4,927	43,444	0	0	0	48,371
Unrealized gains	51,030	54,574	15,017	37,939	5	158,565
Unrealized losses	(4,812)	(7,651)	(436)	(3)	0	(12,902)
Fair value	\$ 2,062,079	\$ 5,066,756	\$ 1,121,500	\$ 508,429	\$ 3,130	\$ 8,761,894

**Table of Contents**

	<b>Total Non-Agency MBS</b>
<b>Non-Agency MBS</b>	
Amortized cost	\$ 0
Unrealized gains	1,585
<b>Fair value</b>	<b>\$ 1,585</b>

At December 31, 2011, our Non-Agency MBS portfolio consisted of floating-rate collateralized mortgage obligations, or CMOs, (option-adjusted ARMs based on one-month LIBOR) with an average coupon of 0.54%, which were acquired at par value.

During the year ended December 31, 2011, the fair value of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio declined to approximately \$1.6 million at December 31, 2011 from a fair value of approximately \$4.4 million at December 31, 2010. The detail of this decline is shown in Note 6.

At December 31, 2011, two securities representing the principal balance of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio were rated C by Moody's Investor Service and rated D by Standard & Poor's.

*December 31, 2010*

<b>Agency MBS (By Agency)</b>	<b>Ginnie Mae</b>	<b>Freddie Mac</b>	<b>Fannie Mae</b>	<b>Total Agency MBS</b>
Amortized cost	\$ 19,451	\$ 2,129,836	\$ 5,489,848	\$ 7,639,135
Paydowns receivable	0	14,579	0	14,579
Unrealized gains	0	40,455	84,899	125,354
Unrealized losses	(286)	(21,401)	(22,723)	(44,410)
<b>Fair value</b>	<b>\$ 19,165</b>	<b>\$ 2,163,469</b>	<b>\$ 5,552,024</b>	<b>\$ 7,734,658</b>

<b>Agency MBS (By Security Type)</b>	<b>ARMs</b>	<b>Hybrids</b>	<b>15-Year Fixed-Rate</b>	<b>30-Year Fixed-Rate</b>	<b>Floating-Rate CMOs</b>	<b>Total Agency MBS</b>
Amortized cost	\$ 1,685,741	\$ 4,523,628	\$ 811,687	\$ 613,912	\$ 4,167	\$ 7,639,135
Paydowns receivable	6,069	8,510	0	0	0	14,579
Unrealized gains	26,501	59,149	162	39,519	23	125,354
Unrealized losses	(6,895)	(19,009)	(16,162)	(2,341)	(3)	(44,410)
<b>Fair value</b>	<b>\$ 1,711,416</b>	<b>\$ 4,572,278</b>	<b>\$ 795,687</b>	<b>\$ 651,090</b>	<b>\$ 4,187</b>	<b>\$ 7,734,658</b>

	<b>Total Non-Agency MBS</b>
<b>Non-Agency MBS</b>	
Amortized cost	\$ 689
Unrealized gains	3,705
<b>Fair value</b>	<b>\$ 4,394</b>

## Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

At December 31, 2010, our Non-Agency MBS portfolio consisted of floating-rate CMOs (option-adjusted ARMs based on one-month LIBOR) with an average coupon of 0.51%, which were acquired at par value.

During the year ended December 31, 2010, the fair value of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio declined to approximately \$4.4 million at December 31, 2010 from a fair value of approximately \$4.8 million at December 31, 2009.

F-16

**Table of Contents**

At December 31, 2010, two securities representing the principal balance of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio were rated C by Moody's Investor Service and rated CC by Standard & Poor's.

**NOTE 4. REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS**

We have entered into repurchase agreements with large financial institutions to finance most of our Agency MBS. The repurchase agreements are short-term borrowings that are secured by the market value of our MBS and bear fixed interest rates that have historically been based upon LIBOR.

At December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, the repurchase agreements had the following balances (in thousands), weighted average interest rates and remaining weighted average maturities:

	December 31, 2011		December 31, 2010	
	Balance	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Balance	Weighted Average Interest Rate
Overnight	\$ 0	0.00%	\$ 0	0.00%
Less than 30 days	3,630,000	0.33	3,730,000	0.30
30 days to 90 days	3,965,000	0.38	2,645,000	0.30
Over 90 days to less than 1 year	0	0.00	0	0.00
1 year to 2 years	0	0.00	0	0.00
Demand	0	0.00	0	0.00
	\$ 7,595,000	0.36%	\$ 6,375,000	0.30%
Weighted average maturity	38 days		31 days	
Weighted average term to maturity (after accounting for swap agreements)	436 days		418 days	
Weighted average borrowing rate (after accounting for swap agreements)	1.18%		1.43%	
Agency MBS pledged as collateral under the repurchase agreements and swap agreements	\$ 8,068,829		\$ 6,762,763	

**NOTE 5. JUNIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES**

On March 15, 2005, we issued \$37,380,000 of junior subordinated notes to a newly-formed statutory trust, Anworth Capital Trust I, organized by us under Delaware law. The trust issued \$36,250,000 in trust preferred securities to unrelated third party investors. Both the notes and the trust preferred securities require quarterly payments and bear interest at the prevailing three-month LIBOR rate plus 3.10%, reset quarterly. The first interest payment was made on June 30, 2005. Both the notes and the trust preferred securities will mature in 2035 and are currently redeemable, in whole or in part, without penalty. We used the net proceeds of this private placement to invest in Agency MBS. We have reviewed the structure of the transaction under ASC 810-10 and concluded that Anworth Capital Trust I does not meet the requirements for consolidation. On September 26, 2005, the notes, the trust preferred securities and the related agreements were amended. The only material change was that one of the class holders requested that interest payments be made quarterly on January 30, April 30, July 30 and October 30 instead of at the end of each calendar quarter. This became effective with the quarterly payment after September 30, 2005. As of the date of this filing, we have not redeemed any of these notes or trust preferred securities.

**NOTE 6. FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

As defined in ASC 820-10, fair value is the price that would be received from the sale of an asset or paid to transfer or settle a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants in the principal (or most

---

**Table of Contents**

advantageous) market for the asset or liability. ASC 820-10 establishes a fair value hierarchy that ranks the quality and reliability of the information used to determine fair values. Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value are classified and disclosed in one of the three following categories:

Level 1: Quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Observable market based inputs or unobservable inputs that are corroborated by market data. This includes those financial instruments that are valued using models or other valuation methodologies where substantially all of the assumptions are observable in the marketplace, can be derived from observable market data or are supported by observable levels at which transactions are executed in the marketplace. We consider the inputs utilized to fair value our Agency MBS to be Level 2. Management bases the fair value for these investments primarily on third party bid price indications provided by dealers who make markets in these instruments. The Agency MBS market is primarily an over-the-counter market. As such, there are no standard, public market quotations or published trading data for individual MBS securities. As our portfolio consists of hundreds of similar, but distinct, securities that have each been traded with only one broker counterparty, we generally seek to have each Agency MBS security priced by one broker. The prices received are non-binding offers to trade, but are indicative quotations of the market value of our securities as of the market close on the last day of each quarter. The brokers receive trading data from several traders that participate in the active markets for these securities and directly observe numerous trades of securities similar to the securities owned by us. Given the volume of market activity for Agency MBS, it is our belief that the broker pricing accurately reflects market information for actual, contemporaneous transactions. We do not adjust quotes or prices we obtain from brokers and pricing services. In the limited instances where valuations are received on a security from multiple brokers, we use the median value of the prices received to determine fair value. To validate the prices we obtain, to ensure our fair value determinations are consistent with ASC 820, and to ensure that we properly classify these securities in the fair value hierarchy, we evaluate the pricing information we receive taking into account factors such as coupon, prepayment experience, fixed/adjustable rate, coupon index, time to reset and issuing agency, among other factors. Based on these factors, broker prices are compared to prices of similar securities provided by other brokers. If we determine (based on such a comparison and our market knowledge and expertise) that a security is priced significantly differently than similar securities, the broker is contacted and requested to revisit their valuation of the security. If a broker refuses to reconsider its valuation, we will request pricing from another broker and use the median value of the prices received to determine fair value. If we are unable to receive a valuation from another broker, the price received from an independent third party pricing service will be used, if it is determined (based on our market knowledge and expertise) to be more reliable than the broker pricing. However, the fair value reported may not be indicative of the amounts that could be realized in an actual market exchange.

Our derivative assets and derivative liabilities are comprised of swap agreements, in which we pay a fixed rate of interest and receive a variable rate of interest that is based on LIBOR. The fair value of these instruments is reported to us independently from dealers who are large financial institutions and are market makers for these types of instruments. The LIBOR swap rate is observable at commonly quoted intervals over the full term of the swap agreements and therefore is considered a Level 2 item. The fair value of the derivative instruments' assets and liabilities are the estimated amounts the Company would either receive or pay to terminate these agreements at the reporting date, taking into account current interest rates and the Company's credit worthiness. For more information on our swap agreements, see Note 1 and Note 12.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market data. This is comprised of financial instruments whose fair value is estimated based on internally developed models or methodologies utilizing significant inputs that are generally less readily observable from objective sources. At December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we considered the inputs utilized to fair value the Non-Agency MBS to be Level 3. Historically (prior to December 31, 2008), we had received non-binding indications of value from brokers who make markets in Non-Agency MBS and we also observed market activity in our Non-Agency MBS as well as other similar securities. As the market for Non-Agency MBS became more volatile and less liquid, we received

**Table of Contents**

fewer indications of value on these securities. At December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we were unable to get any brokers who made markets in these securities to provide valuation information on our Non-Agency MBS. Instead, we obtained valuations at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 for our Non-Agency MBS from an experienced independent third party pricing service, whose methodologies are based on broker provided pricing information, as well as indirect observation of market activity. Although we continue to monitor market activity for the Non-Agency MBS in our portfolio, as well as for other similar securities, given the lack of trading activity that we are able to observe, we place more weight on the third party pricing service valuations, as they are both independent and specifically determined. As a result of the lack of valuation information from brokers and our own observation of market activity, we determined that the market for our Non-Agency MBS was inactive. We also believe that the valuations obtained from the independent third party pricing service already take into account the illiquidity of the market for Non-Agency MBS and therefore we do not apply our own liquidity discount when determining their fair value. Based on this information, we consider the fair value measurement of the Non-Agency MBS a Level 3 input at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010.

In determining the appropriate levels, we perform a detailed analysis of the assets and liabilities that are subject to ASC 820-10. At each reporting period, all assets and liabilities for which the fair value measurement is based on significant unobservable inputs are classified as Level 3.

At December 31, 2011, fair value measurements were as follows (in thousands):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<i>Assets:</i>				
Agency MBS(1)	\$ 0	\$ 8,761,894	\$ 0	\$ 8,761,894
Non-Agency MBS(2)	0	0	1,585	1,585
<i>Liabilities:</i>				
Derivative instruments(3)	\$ 0	\$ 96,808	\$ 0	\$ 96,808

- (1) For more detail about the fair value of our Agency MBS by agency and type of security, see Note 3 in the audited financial statements.
- (2) For more detail about the fair value of our Non-Agency MBS, see Note 3 in the audited financial statements.
- (3) Derivative instruments are hedging instruments under ASC 815-10. For more detail about our derivative instruments, see Notes 1 and 12 in the audited financial statements.

Cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, interest receivable, repurchase agreements and interest payable are reflected in our audited financial statements at their costs, which approximate their fair value because of the nature and short term of these instruments.

Junior subordinated notes are variable-rate debt and, as we believe the spread would be consistent with the expectations of market participants as of December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, the carrying value approximates fair value.

A reconciliation of the Level 3 Non-Agency MBS fair value measurements is as follows (in thousands):

	Amount
Balance at December 31, 2010	\$ 4,394
Principal paydowns	(2,913)
Recoveries	2,225
Decrease in unrealized gains	(2,121)
Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ 1,585

**Table of Contents****NOTE 7. INCOME TAXES**

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT and to comply with the provisions of the Code with respect thereto. Accordingly, we will not be subject to federal or state income taxes to the extent that our distributions to stockholders satisfy the REIT requirements and certain asset, income and stock ownership tests are met. We believe we currently meet all REIT requirements regarding the ownership of our common stock and the distribution of our taxable net income. Therefore, we believe that we continue to qualify as a REIT under the provisions of the Code.

Total capital loss carryforwards available to offset future capital gains on our federal REIT return are \$90.4 million. They expire in 2012. Income tax expense (benefit) for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was zero. None of the components of income tax expense are significant on a separately stated basis.

At December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, there were no significant deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities.

The table below presents tax information regarding Anworth's dividend distributions for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011:

**Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock (CUSIP 03747 20 0)**

Declaration Date	Record Date	Payable Date	2011 Total Distribution Per Share	2011 Ordinary Income	2011 Return of Capital	Long-Term Capital Gains
01/20/11	03/31/11	04/15/11	\$ 0.539063	\$ 0.539063	\$ 0	\$ 0
04/13/11	06/30/11	07/15/11	\$ 0.539063	\$ 0.539063	\$ 0	\$ 0
07/21/11	09/30/11	10/17/11	\$ 0.539063	\$ 0.539063	\$ 0	\$ 0
11/17/11	12/30/11	01/17/12	\$ 0.539063	\$ 0.539063	\$ 0	\$ 0

**Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock (CUSIP 03747 30 9)**

Declaration Date	Record Date	Payable Date	2011 Total Distribution Per Share	2011 Ordinary Income	2011 Return of Capital	Long-Term Capital Gains
01/20/11	03/31/11	04/15/11	\$ 0.390625	\$ 0.390625	\$ 0	\$ 0
04/13/11	06/30/11	07/15/11	\$ 0.390625	\$ 0.390625	\$ 0	\$ 0
07/21/11	09/30/11	10/17/11	\$ 0.390625	\$ 0.390625	\$ 0	\$ 0
11/17/11	12/30/11	01/17/12	\$ 0.390625	\$ 0.390625	\$ 0	\$ 0

**Common Stock (CUSIP 03747 10 1)**

Declaration Date	Record Date	Payable Date	2011 Total Distribution Per Share	2011 Ordinary Income	2011 Return of Capital	Long-Term Capital Gains
03/31/11	04/11/11	04/27/11	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.250000	\$ 0	\$ 0
06/30/11	07/11/11	07/27/11	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.250000	\$ 0	\$ 0
09/30/11	10/13/11	10/27/11	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.230000	\$ 0	\$ 0
12/15/11	12/27/11	01/27/12	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.210000	\$ 0	\$ 0



---

**Table of Contents**

**NOTE 8. SERIES B CUMULATIVE CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK**

The Series B Preferred Stock has a par value of \$0.01 per share and a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not declared). The holders of the Series B Preferred Stock must be paid a dividend at a rate of 6.25% per year on the \$25.00 liquidation preference before holders of our common stock are entitled to receive any dividends. The Series B Preferred Stock is senior to our common stock and on parity with our 8.625% Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock, or Series A Preferred Stock, with respect to the payment of distributions and amounts, upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up. So long as any shares of the Series B Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we will not, without the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of the Series B Preferred Stock outstanding at the time, authorize or create, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any class or series of capital stock ranking senior to the Series B Preferred Stock with respect to payment of dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

The Series B Preferred Stock has no maturity date and is not redeemable. The Series B Preferred Stock is convertible at the then-current conversion rate into shares of our common stock per \$25.00 liquidation preference. The conversion rate is adjusted in any fiscal quarter in which the cash dividends paid to common stockholders results in an annualized common stock dividend yield that is greater than 6.25%. The conversion ratio is also subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of certain specific events such as a change of control. The Series B Preferred Stock is convertible into shares of our common stock at the option of the holder(s) of Series B Preferred Stock at any time at the then-prevailing conversion rate. On or after January 25, 2012, we may, at our option, under certain circumstances, convert each share of Series B Preferred Stock into a number of shares of our common stock at the then-prevailing conversion rate. We may exercise this conversion option only if our common stock price equals or exceeds 130% of the then-prevailing conversion price of the Series B Preferred Stock for at least twenty (20) trading days in a period of thirty (30) consecutive trading days (including the last trading day of such period) ending on the trading day immediately prior to our issuance of a press release announcing the exercise of the conversion option. The Series B Preferred Stock contains certain fundamental change provisions that allow the holder to redeem the Series B Preferred Stock for cash if certain events occur, such as a change in control. The Series B Preferred Stock generally does not have voting rights, except if dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive). Under such circumstances, the holders of Series B Preferred Stock, together with the holders of Series A Preferred Stock, would be entitled to elect two additional directors to our board of directors to serve until all unpaid dividends have been paid or declared and set aside for payment. In addition, certain material and adverse changes to the terms of the Series B Preferred Stock may not be taken without the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock and Series A Preferred Stock voting together as a single class. Through December 31, 2011, we have declared and set aside for payment the required dividends for the Series B Preferred Stock.

During the year ended December 31, 2011, there were 14 transactions to convert an aggregate of 332,847 shares of Series B Preferred Stock into an aggregate of 1,154,467 shares of our common stock at a weighted average conversion rate of 3.4685. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we issued an aggregate of 383,409 shares of Series B Preferred Stock, which provided net proceeds to us of approximately \$9.4 million.

**NOTE 9. PUBLIC OFFERINGS AND CAPITAL STOCK**

At December 31, 2011, our authorized capital included 200 million shares of common stock, of which 134.1 million shares were issued and outstanding.

At December 31, 2011, our authorized capital included 20 million shares of \$0.01 par value preferred stock, of which 5.15 million shares had been designated 8.625% Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock (liquidation preference \$25.00 per share) and 3.15 million shares had been designated 6.25% Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock (liquidation preference \$25.00 per share). The undesignated shares of preferred stock may be issued in one or more classes or series, with such distinctive designations, rights and preferences as determined by our board of directors.

**Table of Contents**

On May 14, 2008, we entered into a Controlled Equity Offering Sales Agreement, or the 2008 Sales Agreement, with Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., or Cantor, which was amended by Amendment No. 1 to Sales Agreement on February 8, 2011. On May 27, 2011, we entered into a Controlled Equity Offering Sales Agreement, or the 2011 Sales Agreement, with Cantor to sell up to 20,000,000 shares of our common stock, 1,000,000 shares of our Series A Preferred Stock and 1,000,000 shares of our Series B Preferred Stock. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we issued an aggregate of 5,101,900 shares of our common stock under the amended 2008 Sales Agreement at a price of \$7.20 per share, which provided net proceeds to us of approximately \$36.1 million, net of sales commissions less reimbursement of fees. Cantor, as the sales agent, received approximately \$696 thousand, which represents an average commission of approximately 2.0% on the gross sales price per share. These transactions used the remaining number of common shares available under the amended 2008 Sales Agreement, at which point it expired. All future sales of our common stock, Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock will be issued under the 2011 Sales Agreement. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we issued an aggregate of 590,600 shares of common stock under the 2011 Sales Agreement, which provided net proceeds to us of approximately \$4.4 million, net of sales commissions less reimbursement of fees. Cantor, as the sales agent, received approximately \$90 thousand, which represents an average commission of approximately 2.0% on the gross sales price per share. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we did not issue any shares of Series A Preferred Stock under the amended 2008 Sales Agreement or the 2011 Sales Agreement. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we issued an aggregate of 343,409 shares of Series B Preferred Stock under the amended 2008 Sales Agreement and 40,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock under the 2011 Sales Agreement, which provided net proceeds to us of approximately \$8.4 million and \$1 million, respectively, net of sales commissions less reimbursement of fees. Cantor, as the sales agent, received approximately \$127 thousand and \$10 thousand, respectively, which represents an average commission of approximately 1.43% on the gross sales price per share. At December 31, 2011, there were 19,409,400 shares of common stock, 1,000,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock and 960,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock, respectively, available under the 2011 Sales Agreement.

On October 3, 2011, we announced that our board of directors had authorized a share repurchase program, permitting us to acquire up to 2,000,000 shares of our common stock. The shares are expected to be acquired at prevailing prices through open market transactions. The manner, price, number and timing of share repurchases will be subject to market conditions and applicable U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission rules. From October 3, 2011 through December 31, 2011, we had repurchased an aggregate of 834,075 shares at a weighted average price of \$6.30 per share under this program.

Our Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan allows stockholders and non-stockholders to purchase shares of our common stock and to reinvest dividends therefrom to acquire additional shares of our common stock. On December 28, 2009, we filed a shelf registration statement on Form S-3ASR with the SEC, offering up to 20 million shares of our common stock for our 2009 Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan, or the 2009 Plan. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we issued approximately 7.062 million shares of common stock under the 2009 Plan, resulting in proceeds to us of approximately \$47.78 million. At December 31, 2011, there were approximately 4 million shares remaining under the 2009 Plan.

On December 28, 2009, we filed a shelf registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC, and, on February 26, 2010, we filed a pre-effective amendment thereto with the SEC, offering up to \$600 million of our capital stock. The registration statement was declared effective on March 26, 2010. At December 31, 2011, approximately \$547.5 million of our capital stock was available for issuance under the registration statement.

On November 7, 2005, we filed a registration statement on Form S-8 with the SEC to register an aggregate of up to 3.5 million shares of our common stock to be issued pursuant to the Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation 2004 Equity Compensation Plan. To date, we have issued 2.82 million shares of common stock under the plan. This amount includes 1.015 million shares of unexercised stock options and restricted stock.

---

**Table of Contents**

**NOTE 10. TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATES**

*Management Agreement and Externalization*

At our annual stockholders meeting on May 25, 2011, our stockholders approved the entry by us into a Management Agreement, or the Management Agreement, between us and Anworth Management, LLC, or the Manager. Pursuant to the Management Agreement, we externalized our management function, effective as of December 31, 2011, after which we became an externally-managed REIT. Our day-to-day operations are being conducted by the Manager through the authority delegated to it under the Management Agreement and pursuant to the policies established by our board of directors. The Manager is supervised and directed by our board of directors and is responsible for (i) the selection, purchase and sale of our investment portfolio; (ii) our financing and hedging activities; and (iii) providing us with management services. The Manager will perform such other services and activities relating to our assets and operations as may be appropriate. In exchange for these services, the Manager receives a management fee paid monthly in arrears in an amount equal to one-twelfth of 1.20% of our Equity (as defined in the Management Agreement).

On the effective date of the Management Agreement, the employment agreements with our executives (discussed later in this Note 10) were terminated, and we now operate as an entity with officers and directors, but without employees. In addition, we also terminated our 2002 Incentive Compensation Plan, or the 2002 Incentive Plan (discussed later in this Note 10), as of such date. Our employees became employees of the Manager, and we took such other actions as were reasonably necessary to implement the Management Agreement and to externalize our management function, or the Externalization.

Our officers and employees have previously been granted restricted stock and other equity incentive awards (see Note 11), including dividend equivalent rights, in connection with their service to us, and certain of our employees have agreements under which they would receive payments if the Company is subject to a change in control (discussed later in this Note 10). In connection with the Externalization, the agreements under which our officers and employees have been granted equity awards and would be paid payments in the event of a change in control were modified so that such agreements will continue with respect to our officers and employees after they become officers and employees of the Manager. In addition, as officers of the Company and employees of the Manager, they will continue to be eligible to receive equity incentive awards under equity incentive plans in effect now or in the future.

We lease office space from Pacific Income Advisers, Inc., or PIA, and pay rent at an annual rate equal to PIA's obligation (discussed later in this Note 10). Under an administrative service agreement, PIA provides various administrative services and equipment to us for an annual fee paid quarterly in arrears (discussed later in this Note 10). We will continue to pay for both of these obligations.

*Anworth 2002 Incentive Compensation Plan*

Under the 2002 Incentive Plan, Mr. Lloyd McAdams, our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Joseph E. McAdams, our Chief Investment Officer, Ms. Heather U. Baines, our Executive Vice President, and other executives had the opportunity to earn incentive compensation during each fiscal quarter. The 2002 Incentive Plan required that we pay all amounts earned thereunder each quarter (subject to offset for accrued negative incentive compensation), and we were required to pay a percentage of such amounts to certain of our executives pursuant to the terms of their employment agreements. The 2002 Incentive Plan was tied directly to our performance and was designed to incentivize key employees to maximize return on equity. The total aggregate amount of compensation that has been earned quarterly by all participants under the plan equaled a percentage of net income, before incentive compensation, in excess of the amount that would have produced an annualized return on average net worth equal to the ten-year U.S. Treasury Rate plus 1%, or the Threshold Return. At December 31, 2011, the Threshold Return was 3.05%.

---

## Table of Contents

The 2002 Incentive Plan contained a high water-mark provision requiring that in any fiscal quarter in which net income is an amount less than the amount necessary to earn the Threshold Return, the Company would calculate negative incentive compensation for that fiscal quarter which was carried forward to offset future incentive compensation earned under the 2002 Incentive Plan with respect to participants who were participants during the fiscal quarter(s) in which negative incentive compensation was generated. At December 31, 2011, the negative incentive compensation accrual carry forward had been reduced to zero from a negative \$6.4 million at December 31, 2010.

During the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, eligible employees under the 2002 Incentive Plan did not earn any incentive compensation due to the negative incentive carry forward under the Plan.

Following our entry into the Management Agreement as of December 31, 2011 and in connection with the Externalization, we terminated the 2002 Incentive Plan as of December 31, 2011.

### *Employment Agreements*

Pursuant to the terms of their employment agreements, during 2011, Mr. Lloyd McAdams received an annual base salary of approximately \$945 thousand, Mr. Joseph E. McAdams received an annual base salary of approximately \$715 thousand and Ms. Heather U. Baines received an annual base salary of \$62 thousand.

Under the terms of the employment agreements, a long-term equity incentive structure was established for Messrs. Lloyd McAdams and Joseph E. McAdams. They were eligible to participate in a performance-based bonus pool that was funded based on the Company's return on average equity, or ROAE. ROAE was calculated as the twelve-month GAAP net income available to common stockholders, excluding the effect of depreciation, preferred stock dividends, gains/losses on asset sales and impairment charges, divided by the average stockholder equity less goodwill and preferred stockholder equity. The Compensation Committee of our board of directors, or the Compensation Committee, evaluated various measures and factors of performance in developing this structure and, in its view, ROAE was determined to be the single best indicator of our overall performance and therefore of value creation for our stockholders. This is in part due to the fact that ROAE is a metric of our performance that has been calculated and reported on a consistent basis since our inception in 1998.

As structured by the Compensation Committee, the aggregate amount of this performance-based bonus pool that was available for distribution ranged annually based upon our ROAE in accordance with the following:

if our ROAE was 0% or less, no performance-based bonus was paid.

if our ROAE was greater than 0% but less than 8%, a bonus pool of up to \$500 thousand was available in the aggregate.

if our ROAE was 8% or greater, then the bonus pool available to be paid to both executives in the aggregate equaled \$500 thousand plus 10% of the first \$5 million of excess return and 6% of the amount of the excess return greater than \$5 million.

In order to further align the performance of Messrs. Lloyd McAdams and Joseph E. McAdams with our long-term financial success and the creation of stockholder value, the Compensation Committee also determined that with respect to 2008 and each year thereafter, 25% of the annual performance-based bonus amount allocated for distribution to an executive over \$100 thousand was to be paid in shares of our common stock. In addition, neither executive was permitted to sell or otherwise transfer these shares during the executive's employment with us until the value of his respective stock holdings in the Company exceeds a seven and one-half times multiple of his base compensation and, once this threshold is met, only to the extent that the value of such holdings exceeds that multiple. For the year ended December 31, 2011, the Compensation Committee approved, and the Company issued, an aggregate of 139,620 shares of common stock at the closing price of \$6.28 on December 30, 2011 to Messrs. Lloyd McAdams and Joseph E. McAdams in accordance with the terms of their employment agreements. The total incentive compensation paid to these executives for the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 (including the stock issuance) was approximately \$3.51 million and \$3.05 million, respectively (not including the discretionary incentive compensation as shown below).

## **Table of Contents**

The Compensation Committee, in its discretion, was able to provide additional compensation to each of Messrs. Lloyd McAdams and Joseph E. McAdams beyond the annual performance-based bonus awards earned under the incentive compensation structure in their employment agreements. This additional compensation was provided in consideration of the Company's execution of our business and strategic plans. During the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we paid these executives additional compensation of approximately \$1.68 million and \$1.55 million, respectively.

Following our entry into the Management Agreement as of December 31, 2011 and in connection with the Externalization, the employment agreements of our executives were terminated. Although they are now employees of the Manager, Mr. Lloyd McAdams still serves as Anworth's President, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Joseph E. McAdams still serves as Anworth's Chief Investment Officer and as a Director.

### *Change in Control and Arbitration Agreements*

On June 27, 2006, we entered into Change in Control and Arbitration Agreements with each of Mr. Thad M. Brown, our Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Charles J. Siegel, our Senior Vice President-Finance, Ms. Bistra Pashamova, our Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager, and Mr. Evangelos Karagiannis, our Vice President and Portfolio Manager, as well as certain of our other officers. The Change in Control and Arbitration Agreements grant these officers, in the event that a change in control occurs (as defined therein), a lump sum payment equal to (i) 12 months annual base salary in effect on December 31, 2011, plus (ii) the average annual incentive compensation received for the two complete fiscal years prior December 31, 2011, and plus (iii) the average annual bonus received for the two complete fiscal years prior to December 31, 2011, as well as other benefits. The Change in Control and Arbitration Agreements also provide for accelerated vesting of equity awards granted to these officers upon a change in control.

Following our entry into the Management Agreement as of December 31, 2011 and in connection with the Externalization, we amended the existing Change in Control and Arbitration Agreements to provide that these amended Change in Control and Arbitration Agreements with these officers will be on substantially similar terms, and to provide that should a Change in Control (as defined in the amended Change in Control and Arbitration Agreements) occur, each of these officers will receive certain severance and other benefits valued as of December 31, 2011.

### *Agreements with Pacific Income Advisers, Inc.*

On June 13, 2002, we entered into a sublease with Pacific Income Advisers, Inc., or PIA, a company owned by trusts controlled by certain of our officers. Under the sublease, as amended on July 8, 2003, we lease, on a pass-through basis, 5,500 square feet of office space from PIA and pay rent at an annual rate equal to PIA's obligation, currently \$57.46 per square foot. The sublease runs through June 30, 2012 unless earlier terminated pursuant to the master lease. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we paid \$326 thousand in rent and other operating expenses to PIA under the sublease, which is included in Other expenses on the statements of income. During the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, we paid \$326 thousand and \$331 thousand, respectively, in rent and related expenses to PIA under this sublease.

**Table of Contents**

At December 31, 2011, the future minimum lease commitment was as follows (in whole dollars):

Year	2012	Total Commitment
Commitment	\$ 158,012	\$ 158,012

On July 25, 2008, we entered into an administrative services agreement with PIA, which was amended and restated on August 20, 2010. Under this agreement, PIA provides administrative services and equipment to us including human resources, operational support and information technology, and we pay an annual fee of 5 basis points on the first \$225 million of stockholders' equity and 1.25 basis points thereafter (paid quarterly in arrears) for those services. The administrative services agreement had an initial term of one year and renews for successive one-year terms thereafter unless either party gives notice of termination no less than 30 days before the expiration of the then-current annual term. We may also terminate the administrative services agreement upon 30 days prior written notice for any reason and immediately if there is a material breach by PIA. Included in Other expenses on the statements of income are fees of \$199 thousand paid to PIA in connection with this agreement during the year ended December 31, 2011. During the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, we paid fees of \$262 thousand and \$298 thousand, respectively, to PIA in connection with this agreement.

*Deferred Compensation Plan*

On January 15, 2003, we adopted the Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation Deferred Compensation Plan, or the Deferred Compensation Plan. We amended the plan effective January 1, 2005 to comply with Section 409A of the Code enacted as part of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. The Deferred Compensation Plan permitted our eligible officers to defer the payment of all or a portion of their cash compensation that otherwise would have been in excess of the \$1 million annual limitation on deductible compensation imposed by Section 162(m) of the Code (based on the officers' compensation and benefit elections made prior to January 1 of the calendar year in which the compensation would have been deferred). Under this limitation, compensation paid to our Chief Executive Officer and our four other highest paid officers was not deductible by us for income tax purposes to the extent the amount paid to any such officer exceeded \$1 million in any calendar year, unless such compensation qualified as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m). Each eligible officer became a participant in the Deferred Compensation Plan by making a written election to defer the payment of cash compensation. For the year ended December 31, 2011, none of the participants of the Deferred Compensation Plan elected to defer any compensation.

On December 31, 2011, we terminated the Deferred Compensation Plan in connection with the Externalization and, in accordance with the terms of the Deferred Compensation Plan, the Board of Directors approved and authorized the distribution due to Mr. Lloyd McAdams of \$472,324, and such amount was paid in full on January 30, 2012.

**NOTE 11. EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN***2004 Equity Compensation Plan*

At our May 27, 2004 annual stockholders' meeting, our stockholders adopted the Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation 2004 Equity Compensation Plan, or the Plan, which amended and restated our 1997 Stock Option and Awards Plan. The Plan authorized the grant of stock options and other stock-based awards, as of December 31, 2005, for an aggregate of up to 3,500,000 shares of our registered our common stock. The Plan authorizes our board of directors, or a committee of our Board, to grant incentive stock options, as defined under section 422 of the Code, options not so qualified, restricted stock, dividend equivalent rights (DERs), phantom shares, stock-based awards that qualify as performance-based awards under Section 162(m) of the Code and other stock-based awards. The exercise price for any option granted under the Plan may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the shares of common stock at the time the option is granted. At December 31, 2011, 676,414 shares remained available for future issuance under the Plan through any combination of stock options

**Table of Contents**

or other awards. The Plan does not provide for automatic annual increases in the aggregate share reserve or the number of shares remaining available for grant. We filed a registration statement on Form S-8 on November 7, 2005 to register an aggregate of up to 3,500,000 shares of our common stock to be issued pursuant to the Plan.

A summary of stock option transactions for the plan follows:

	2011		2010		2009	
	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Outstanding, beginning of year	621,100	\$ 12.480	840,325	\$ 12.392	1,184,969	\$ 12.397
Granted	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exercised	(260)	6.700	0	0	(2,644)	4.350
Surrendered(1)	0	0	219,225	12.143	0	0
Expired	(28,360)	11.400	0	0	(342,000)	12.470
Outstanding, end of year	592,480	\$ 12.535	621,100	\$ 12.480	840,325	\$ 12.392
Weighted average fair value of options expired during the year		\$ 11.400		\$ 0		\$ 12.470
Options exercisable at year-end	592,480		621,100		840,325	

(1) On December 27, 2010, Mr. Lloyd McAdams willfully surrendered an aggregate of 219,225 stock options with a weighted average exercise price of \$12.143.

The aggregate intrinsic value of options exercised during 2011 and 2010 and those outstanding at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 are immaterial.

The following table summarizes information about stock options outstanding at December 31, 2011:

Exercise Price	Options Outstanding and Exercisable	Remaining Contractual Life (Years)
\$ 9.45	97,780	0.1
\$11.20	164,000	0.8
\$11.25	10,000	0.8
\$13.80	315,700	1.3
\$ 9.72	5,000	3.6
	592,480	

The following table summarizes information about restricted stock transactions during the year ended December 31, 2011:

Grant	Unvested Shares at	Restricted Shares	Shares Vested	Shares Forfeited	Unvested Shares at	Weighted Average
-------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------	------------------	--------------------	------------------

Edgar Filing: ANWORTH MORTGAGE ASSET CORP - Form 10-K

<b>Date Fair Value</b>	<b>December 31, 2009</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>in 2010</b>		<b>December 31, 2010</b>	<b>Remaining Contractual Life (Years)</b>
\$4.24	77,733	0	15,542	0	62,191	3.8
\$5.93	197,362	0	0	0	197,362	4.8
	275,095	0	15,542	0	259,553	4.6

In October 2005, our board of directors approved the grant of an aggregate of 200,780 shares of restricted stock to various employees under our 2004 Equity Plan. The stock price on the grant date was \$7.72. The restricted stock vests 10% per year on each anniversary date for a ten-year period and shall also vest immediately



**Table of Contents**

upon the death of the grantee or upon the grantee reaching age 65. Each grantee shall have the right to sell 40% of the restricted stock any time after such shares have vested. The remaining 60% of such vested restricted stock may not be sold until after termination of employment with us. We amortize the restricted stock over the vesting period, which is the lesser of ten years or the remaining number of years to age 65.

In October 2006, our board of directors approved a grant of an aggregate of 197,362 shares of performance-based restricted stock to various officers and employees under our 2004 Equity Plan. Such grant was made effective on October 18, 2006. The closing stock price on the effective date of the grant was \$9.12. The shares were to vest in equal annual installments over the next three years provided that the annually compounded rate of return on our common stock, including dividends, exceeds 12% measured from the effective date of the grant to each of the next three anniversary dates. As the annually compounded rate of return did not exceed 12%, the shares will vest on the anniversary date thereafter when the annually compounded rate of return exceeds 12%. If the annually compounded rate of return does not exceed 12% within ten years after the effective date of the grant, then the shares will be forfeited. The shares will fully vest within the ten-year period upon the death of a grantee. Upon vesting, each grantee shall have the right to sell 40% of the restricted stock any time after such shares have vested. The remaining 60% of such vested restricted stock may not be sold, transferred or pledged until after termination of employment with us or upon the tenth anniversary of the effective date.

The fair value of the aforementioned stock-based awards was estimated using the Black-Scholes model with the following weighted-average assumptions:

	<b>2005 Grant</b>	<b>2006 Grant</b>
Assumptions:		
Dividend yield	6.00%	4.00%
Expected volatility	29.00%	28.00%
Risk-free interest rate	4.29%	4.80%
Expected lives	10 years	10 years

We recognize the compensation expense related to restricted stock over the ten-year vesting period. The weighted average remaining term of the two grants is 4.6 years and the remaining amount to be recognized is approximately \$0.9 million. During the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we expensed approximately \$202 thousand and \$202 thousand, respectively, related to these restricted stock grants.

At our May 24, 2007 annual meeting of stockholders, our stockholders adopted the Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation 2007 Dividend Equivalent Rights Plan, or the 2007 Dividend Equivalent Rights Plan. A dividend equivalent right, or DER, is a right to receive amounts equal in value to the dividend distributions paid on a share of our common stock. DERs are paid in either cash or shares of our common stock, whichever is specified by our Compensation Committee at the time of grant, at such times as dividends are paid on shares of our common stock during the period between the date a DER is issued and the date the DER expires or earlier terminates. The Compensation Committee may impose such other conditions to the grant of DERs as it may deem appropriate. The maximum term for DERs under the 2007 Dividend Equivalent Rights Plan is ten years from the date of grant. Prior to 2011, an aggregate of 582 thousand DERs under the 2007 Dividend Equivalent Rights Plan had been issued to our employees and officers. These DERs are not attached to any stock and only have the right to receive the same cash distribution per common share distributed to our common stockholders during the term of the grant. All of these grants have a five-year term from the date of the grant. During the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we paid or accrued \$547 thousand and \$513 thousand, respectively, as compensation expense related to these grants.

Our officers and employees have previously been granted restricted stock and other equity incentive awards, including DERs, in connection with their service to us. In connection with the externalization, the agreements under which our officers and employees have been granted equity awards were modified so that such agreements

**Table of Contents**

will continue with respect to our officers and employees after they became officers and employees of the Manager. In addition, as officers of the Company and employees of the Manager, they will continue to be eligible to receive equity incentive awards under equity incentive plans in effect now or in the future. In accordance with the externalization of our Manager as of December 31, 2011, the DERs previously granted to all of our officers, with the exception of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, were terminated under the 2007 DER Plan and were reissued under the 2004 Equity Compensation Plan under the same amounts, terms and conditions.

**NOTE 12. HEDGING INSTRUMENTS**

At December 31, 2011, we were a counterparty to interest rate swap agreements, which are derivative instruments as defined by ASC 815-10, with an aggregate notional amount of \$3.03 billion and a weighted average maturity of 2.9 years. During the year ended December 31, 2011, six swap agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$475 million matured. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we entered into fourteen new swap agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$845 million and terms of up to five years. We utilize swap agreements to manage interest rate risk relating to our repurchase agreements (the hedged item) and do not anticipate entering into derivative transactions for speculative or trading purposes. In accordance with the swap agreements, we will pay a fixed-rate of interest during the term of the swap agreements (ranging from 1.107% to 5.494%) and receive a payment that varies with the three-month LIBOR rate.

At December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, our swap agreements had the following notional amounts (in thousands), weighted average interest rates and remaining term in months:

	December 31, 2011			December 31, 2010		
	Notional Amount	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Remaining Term in Months	Notional Amount	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Remaining Term in Months
Less than 12 months	\$ 520,000	3.92%	5	\$ 475,000	4.36%	4
1 year to 2 years	375,000	3.32	14	520,000	3.92	17
2 years to 3 years	410,000	2.07	28	375,000	3.32	26
3 years to 4 years	680,000	2.07	42	410,000	2.07	40
Over 4 years	1,045,000	1.98	54	880,000	2.07	56
	\$ 3,030,000	2.51%	34	\$ 2,660,000	3.02%	33

*Swap Agreements by Counterparty*

	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010
	(in thousands)	
Deutsche Bank Securities	\$ 700,000	\$ 725,000
JPMorgan Securities	500,000	0
RBS Greenwich Capital	485,000	390,000
Nomura Securities International	450,000	400,000
Credit Suisse	395,000	545,000
Citigroup	200,000	300,000
Morgan Stanley	150,000	150,000
Bank of New York	100,000	100,000
LBBW Securities, LLC	50,000	50,000
	\$ 3,030,000	\$ 2,660,000



**Table of Contents**

For the year ended December 31, 2011, there was an increase in unrealized losses of \$34.8 million, from \$62.2 million in unrealized losses at December 31, 2010 to \$97 million in unrealized losses, on our swap agreements included in Other comprehensive income (this increase consisted of unrealized losses on cash flow hedges of \$103.2 million and a reclassification adjustment for interest expense included in net income of \$68.4 million).

At December 31, 2011, we had liability derivatives (shown on our audited balance sheets) of \$96.8 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2011, there was no gain or loss recognized in earnings due to hedge ineffectiveness. We have determined that our hedges are still considered highly effective. There were no components of the derivative instruments gain or loss excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness. The maximum length of our swap agreements is five years. We do not anticipate any discontinuance of the swap agreements and thus do not expect to recognize any gain or loss into earnings because of this. On September 18, 2008, we terminated all of our interest rate swap agreements with Lehman Brothers Special Finance, or LBSF, as the counterparty. The notional balance of these swap agreements was \$240 million. The fair value of these swap agreements at termination was approximately \$(1.5) million, reflecting a realized loss. This loss is being amortized into interest expense over the remaining term of the related hedged borrowings. During the year ended December 31, 2011, the amount amortized into interest expense was approximately \$259 thousand and the remaining amount at December 31, 2011 to be amortized was approximately \$249 thousand.

For more information on our accounting policies, the objectives and risk exposures relating to derivatives and hedging agreements, see the section on Derivative Financial Instruments in Note 1. For more information on the fair value of our swap agreements, see Note 6.

**NOTE 13. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

Lease Commitment and Administrative Services Commitment We sublease office space and use administrative services from PIA as more fully described in Note 10.

**NOTE 14. OTHER EXPENSES**

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
Legal and accounting fees	\$ 608	\$ 539	\$ 710
Printing and stockholder communications	219	152	124
Directors and Officers insurance	431	435	457
Software implementation and maintenance	258	276	228
Administrative service fees	199	262	298
Rent	326	326	331
Stock exchange and filing fees	192	230	201
Custodian fees	131	131	163
Sarbanes-Oxley consulting fees	113	85	108
Board of directors fees and expenses	334	305	303
Securities data services	110	108	107
Refund of previous Belvedere Trust expenses	0	(170)	0
Other	364	321	335
Total of other expenses:	\$ 3,285	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,365

**Table of Contents****NOTE 15. SUMMARIZED QUARTERLY RESULTS (UNAUDITED)**

The following tables summarize quarterly results for the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010. Earnings per share amounts for each quarter and the full years have been calculated separately. Accordingly, quarterly amounts may not add to the annual amounts because of substantial differences in the average shares outstanding during each period and, with regard to diluted earnings per share amounts, they may also differ because of the inclusion of the effect of potentially dilutive securities only in the periods in which such effect would have been dilutive. Diluted EPS assumes the conversion, exercise or issuance of all potential common stock equivalents (which includes stock options and convertible preferred stock) and adding back the Series B Preferred Stock dividends, unless the effect is to reduce a loss or increase the income per share.

For the year ended December 31, 2011 (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Interest income net of amortization of premium and discount:				
Interest on Agency MBS	\$ 56,901	\$ 58,978	\$ 54,435	\$ 53,667
Interest on Non-Agency MBS	45	39	33	32
Other income	11	11	14	14
	56,957	59,028	54,482	53,713
Interest expense:				
Interest expense on repurchase agreements	22,112	22,726	21,010	22,127
Interest expense on junior subordinated notes	319	321	320	330
	22,431	23,047	21,330	22,457
Net interest income	34,526	35,981	33,152	31,256
Recovery on Non-Agency MBS	218	678	830	499
Expenses	(3,584)	(3,881)	(3,433)	(3,366)
Net income	31,160	32,778	30,549	28,389
Dividend on Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock	(1,011)	(1,011)	(1,011)	(1,011)
Dividend on Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock	(492)	(450)	(450)	(449)
Net income to common stockholders	\$ 29,657	\$ 31,317	\$ 29,088	\$ 26,929
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.20
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.20
Basic weighted average number of shares outstanding	121,914	127,029	131,886	133,412
Diluted weighted average number of shares outstanding	126,205	131,402	136,099	137,625

**Table of Contents**

For the year ended December 31, 2010 (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
<b>Interest income net of amortization of premium and discount:</b>				
Interest on Agency MBS	\$ 61,151	\$ 54,340	\$ 50,174	\$ 53,866
Interest on Non-Agency MBS	48	60	53	48
Other income	9	19	19	16
	61,208	54,419	50,246	53,930
<b>Interest expense:</b>				
Interest expense on repurchase agreements	23,699	24,264	22,612	23,961
Interest expense on junior subordinated notes	305	322	340	327
	24,004	24,586	22,952	24,288
Net interest income	37,204	29,833	27,294	29,642
Recovery on Non-Agency MBS	0	0	0	270
Write-down of Lehman receivable	0	(674)	0	0
Expenses	(3,955)	(3,348)	(2,955)	(2,812)
Net income	33,249	25,811	24,339	27,100
Dividend on Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock	(1,011)	(1,011)	(1,011)	(1,011)
Dividend on Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock	(430)	(430)	(430)	(430)
Net income to common stockholders	\$ 31,808	\$ 24,370	\$ 22,898	\$ 25,659
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.21
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.21
Basic weighted average number of shares outstanding	116,755	117,541	117,923	120,394
Diluted weighted average number of shares outstanding	120,316	121,101	121,557	124,150

**NOTE 16. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

We have evaluated subsequent events through February 27, 2012, which is the date that our financial statements are issued. For purposes of these financial statements, we have not evaluated any subsequent events after this date.

On January 20, 2012, we declared a Series A Preferred Stock dividend of \$0.539063 per share and a Series B Preferred Stock dividend of \$0.390625 per share, each of which is payable on April 16, 2012 to our holders of record of Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock, respectively, as of the close of business on March 30, 2012.

From January 1, 2012 through February 22, 2012, we entered into two new swap agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$100 million and terms of up to five years.

In February 2012, the Company signed a new sublease agreement with PIA that expires on June 30, 2022 for approximately 7,300 sq. ft. at its same location. The base monthly rent is \$35,367.80 which shall be increased by 3% per annum beginning on July 1, 2013.

**Table of Contents**

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

**Exhibit**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.1	Controlled Equity Offering Sales Agreement dated May 14, 2008 between Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 15, 2008)
1.2	Amendment No. 1 to Sales Agreement dated February 8, 2011 between Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 8, 2011)
1.3	Controlled Equity Offering Sales Agreement dated May 27, 2011 between Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 27, 2011)
3.1	Amended Articles of Incorporation of Anworth (incorporated by reference from our Registration Statement on Form S-11, Registration No. 333-38641, which became effective under the Securities Act of 1933 on March 12, 1998)
3.2	Amended Bylaws of the Company (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 13, 2009)
3.3	Articles of Amendment to Amended Articles of Incorporation (incorporated by reference from our Definitive Proxy Statement filed pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as filed with the SEC on May 14, 2003)
3.4	Articles Supplementary for Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 3, 2004)
3.5	Articles Supplementary for Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 21, 2005)
3.6	Articles Supplementary for Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 30, 2007)
3.7	Articles Supplementary for Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 21, 2007)
3.8	Articles of Amendment to Amended Articles of Incorporation (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 28, 2008)
4.1	Specimen Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference from our Registration Statement on Form S-11, Registration No. 333-38641, which became effective under the Securities Act of 1933 on March 12, 1998)
4.2	Specimen Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 3, 2004)
4.3	Specimen Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 30, 2007)
4.4	Specimen Anworth Capital Trust I Floating Rate Preferred Stock Certificate (liquidation amount \$1,000 per Preferred Security) (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 16, 2005)
4.5	Specimen Anworth Capital Trust I Floating Rate Common Stock Certificate (liquidation amount \$1,000 per Common Security) (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 16, 2005)

**Table of Contents**

**Exhibit**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.6	Specimen Anworth Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Note Due 2035 (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 16, 2005)
4.7	Junior Subordinated Indenture dated as of March 15, 2005, between Anworth and JPMorgan Chase Bank (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 16, 2005)
10.1*	2004 Equity Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference from our Definitive Proxy Statement filed pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as filed with the SEC on April 26, 2004)
10.2*	2007 Dividend Equivalent Rights Plan (incorporated by reference from our Definitive Proxy Statement filed pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as filed with the SEC on April 26, 2007)
10.3*	2009 Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan (incorporated by reference from our Registration Statement on Form S-3ASR, Registration No. 333-164047, which became effective under the Act on December 28, 2009)
10.4	Termination Agreement, dated as of December 31, 2011, between Anworth and Lloyd McAdams, with respect to the Employment Agreement, dated as of January 1, 2002, between Anworth and Lloyd McAdams, as amended (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012)
10.5	Termination Agreement, dated as of December 31, 2011, between Anworth and Heather U. Baines, with respect to the Employment Agreement, dated as of January 1, 2002, between Anworth and Heather U. Baines, as amended (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012)
10.6	Termination Agreement, dated as of December 31, 2011, between Anworth and Joseph E. McAdams, with respect to the Employment Agreement, dated as of January 1, 2002, between Anworth and Joseph E. McAdams, as amended (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012)
10.7	Sublease dated June 13, 2002, between Anworth and PIA (incorporated by reference from our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2002, as filed with the SEC on August 14, 2002) as amended by Amendment to Sublease dated July 8, 2003 (incorporated by reference from our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003, as filed with the SEC on August 8, 2003)
10.8	Purchase Agreement dated as of March 15, 2005, by and among Anworth, Anworth Capital Trust I, TABERNA Preferred Funding I, Ltd., and Merrill Lynch International (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 16, 2005)
10.9	Second Amended and Restated Trust Agreement dated as of September 26, 2005 by and among Anworth, JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Chase Bank USA, National Association, Lloyd McAdams, Joseph McAdams, Thad Brown and the several Holders, as defined therein. (incorporated by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005, as filed with the SEC on March 16, 2006)
10.10*	Change in Control and Arbitration Agreement, dated June 27, 2006, between Anworth and Thad M. Brown (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 28, 2006), as amended by Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation Change in Control and Arbitration Agreement, effective December 31, 2011, between Anworth and Thad M. Brown (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012)



**Table of Contents**

**Exhibit**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.11*	Change in Control and Arbitration Agreement dated June 27, 2006, between Anworth and Charles J. Siegel (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 28, 2006), as amended by Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation Change in Control and Arbitration Agreement, effective December 31, 2011, between Anworth and Charles J. Siegel (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012)
10.12*	Change in Control and Arbitration Agreement dated June 27, 2006, between Anworth and Evangelos Karagiannis (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 28, 2006), as amended by Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation Change in Control and Arbitration Agreement, effective December 31, 2011, between Anworth and Evangelos Karagiannis (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012)
10.13*	Change in Control and Arbitration Agreement dated June 27, 2006, between Anworth and Bistra Pashamova (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 28, 2006), as amended by Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation Change in Control and Arbitration Agreement, effective December 31, 2011, between Anworth and Bistra Pashamova (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012)
10.14	Amended and Restated Administrative Services Agreement dated August 20, 2010, between Anworth and PIA (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on August 20, 2010)
10.15	Management Agreement by and between Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation and Anworth Management, LLC (incorporated by reference from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2012)
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
31.1	Certification of the Principal Executive Officer, as required by Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
31.2	Certification of the Principal Financial Officer, as required by Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
32.1	Certifications of the Principal Executive Officer provided pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.2	Certifications of the Principal Financial Officer provided pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
101**	XBRL Instance Document
101**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101**	XBRL Taxonomy Definition Linkbase Document
101**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Linkbase Document
101**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

\* Represents a management contract or compensatory plan, contract or arrangement in which any director or any of the named executives participates.

\*\* XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language) information is furnished and not filed or a part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of Section 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, is deemed not filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections.